

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY 28 1986

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic State Parks in Tennessee Built by the CCC and WPA between 1934-1942 TP

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number See Registration Forms N/A not for publication

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
Thematic	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
Group		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Tennessee Department of Conservation

street & number 701 Broadway

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of state TN 37219-5237

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. See Continuation Sheet

street & number N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle State Parks Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1983-1984 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Department of Conservation

city, town Nashville state TN 37219-5237

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Standing Stone State Rustic
Park Historic District Item number 5 Page 2

Location of Legal Description

Overton County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Livingston, Tennessee 38570

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good **YAM**
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

See Multiple Property Documentation Form

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ history
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) recreation, entertainment
Specific dates	1934–1942	Builder/Architect	CCC, WPA, NPS	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See Multiple Property Documentation Form

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Multiple Property Documentation Form
See Registration Forms

10. Geographical Data See Registration Forms

Acreage of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name N/A

Quadrangle scale N/A

UTM References N/A

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Registration Forms -
See Multiple Property Documentation Form

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries See Registration Forms

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James B. Jones, Claudette Stager, Historic Preservation Specialists

organization Tennessee Historical Commission

date February 1986

street & number 701 Broadway

telephone 615/742-6723

city or town Nashville

state TN 37219-5237

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert E. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 5/23/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Cheryl S. [Signature]

date 7/8/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

See Continuation sheet for other listings date 7/8/86

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

Standing Stone State Rustic
Park Historic District

Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

"Estimate of Proposed Work Considered Necessary to be Started After June 30, 1938 to June 30, 1939 to Provide a Well Rounded Project." Project LD-TN-9. March 15, 1938.

Standing Stone Forest Development Map, 1938. Located at Tennessee Department of Conservation, Nashville.

NA See Continuation Sheet

MAY 29 1972

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM**

This form is for use in documenting property types relating to one or more historic contexts. See instructions on How to Complete National Register Forms (revised 1985). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets and identify the section being continued. Type all entries.

A. NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING

State Parks in Tennessee built by the CCC and WPA between 1934-1942

B. ASSOCIATED HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Development of Tennessee State Parks between 1934-1942

C. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Based on survey information collected in 1983, state parks in Tennessee were found to be located in the following counties: Anderson, Benton, Campbell, Chester, Dickson, Hamilton, Hardin, Henderson, Lake, Marion, Overton, Pickett, Shelby, Union, Van Buren, and Wilson. See continuation sheet

D. CERTIFICATION

See NRHP Inventory-Nomination Form (10-900)

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements consistent with the National Register criteria for the listing of related properties. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Evaluation and Registration.

Signature of State or Federal historic preservation officer

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

Date

E. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

State Parks in Tennessee built by the CCC and WPA between 1934-1942

Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

Major efforts at implementing the development of state parks in Tennessee and elsewhere occurred in the 1930s as a result of New Deal/Depression era relief programs, when the federal government provided leadership and funding and established a cooperative effort with the states to develop state recreation areas. As a result of federal involvement, the acreage within state parks nationwide increased 67½% and many states established agencies to administer parks. The Tennessee Valley Authority, a New Deal agency organized in 1933, was an early catalyst to the development of state parks in Tennessee. The agency developed seven of the first state parks in Tennessee on land under its jurisdiction and helped establish the Tennessee State Planning Commission and the Department of Conservation. Other federal agencies working in cooperation with the state to develop state parks included the Department of Agriculture and Interior.

Although a few state parks had been in existence since the late nineteenth century, it was not until January, 1921 when a group of about 200 individuals, under the direction of the National Park Service (established in 1916), met in Des Moines, Iowa at the first National Conference of State Parks that an organized national effort was begun to establish state parks and forests for recreation and conservation uses. The movement to develop state parks was an outgrowth of the development of the national park system and the belief that not only the federal government but state government had a responsibility to provide the public with recreation opportunities. The early emphasis for state parks planning was on scenic or wilderness conservation and preservation of the area in a natural state; the recreational use of the area and recreational facilities were of secondary importance.

At the time of the first national conference, Tennessee, along with twenty-eight other states, had no state parks. There had been state legislation passed in 1899 that created municipal parks and consideration was given to creating a state park system in 1919 but it was not until 1925 that the Tennessee General Assembly established the State Park and Forestry Commission as the agency responsible for the acquisition of land for use as state parks and forests. The Commission's work primarily involved assisting in the establishment of the great Smoky Mountains National Park, although in 1933 it did acquire the land that would become Pickett State Park and Forest.

Prior to the establishment of the Tennessee State Planning Commission and the Department of Conservation, the State Forester worked in conjunction with various federal agencies to develop state forest areas for recreational use. Montgomery Bell State Park, Reelfoot Lake State Park, and Pickett State Park were all originally developed under the aegis of the State Forester with help from the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The State of Tennessee, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the National Resources Board - a New Deal era agency organized to assist states to create their own planning boards - worked together to develop the legislation passed in 1935 as the State and Regional Planning Act. This act created the Tennessee State Planning Commission and empowered it to formulate a land use program that included the development of state parks. The Commission promoted land use zoning and prepared several studies including the Park, Parkways, and

X See continuation sheet

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Recreational Area Study, which was part of a cooperative attempt between the states and federal government to plan for the recreational needs of the nation.

When the federal government began working with the states to implement the emergency relief programs of the 1930s it discovered that most states had no recreational plans. In 1936, Congress passed an act to encourage cooperation between the states and various federal agencies in planning parks and recreation facilities. This resulted in the Park, Parkway, and Recreational Area Study Act of 1936. The National Park Service, using Civilian Conservation Corps funds, collaborated with the states in making comprehensive surveys of recreational resources. The resulting studies were used as a basis for recreational development by establishing legislation, classifying areas, and setting development priorities. An important function of the study was as a guide for the allocation of federal funds including the placement of Civilian Conservation Corps Camps. If a state park or recreation area was not listed in the statewide plan, the appropriateness of placing a camp in that area was questioned. Forty-six states conducted surveys, thirty-seven completed surveys and twenty-one published them, including Tennessee.

The Tennessee State Planning Commission published its final Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Study in 1939. The report contained a discussion of the types of and uses of federal, state, county, and municipal recreation areas. Recommendations included expanding facilities and access roads in most parks, developing recreation programs, and the addition of four recreation areas in specified sections of the state. Over one million acres of land were then in use for recreational purposes and recreation/vacation spending in Tennessee in 1937 was estimated to be \$62,450,000. While most of the acquisition and development of parks had been financed by the federal government (over \$10 million vs. \$60,000 spent by the state), this spending was expected to end shortly. Only states with effective statewide recreation organizations were expected to receive minimal additional funding.

The Tennessee Valley Authority was established in 1933 to develop hydroelectric power, control floods, and improve navigation along the Tennessee River. In addition, the agency had the authority to reforest and develop natural resources on land under its jurisdiction. The Tennessee Valley Authority developed land for recreation use near artificial lakes created by the damming of the Tennessee River and then leased the property to local or state agencies. The Civilian Conservation Corps, Work Projects Administration, and local agencies worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority to provide recreation facilities on the sites. By 1938, five areas which would become state parks were under development by the Tennessee Valley Authority. These included lands adjacent to Pickwick Lake, Cove Lake, two areas near Norris Lake, and Harrison Island in Chickamauga Lake. The agency eventually deeded most of its recreation areas to the state.

Since only two states under the Tennessee Valley Authority's jurisdiction had departments of conservation with divisions that administered recreational development, the agency drew up a model state conservation law, conducted surveys of recreational resources, and organized regional meetings to discuss recreation development with state planning boards. The Tennessee State Planning Commission Board participated

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in these meetings and as a result drafted a proposal to abolish the State Parks and Forestry Commission and create a Department of Conservation. In 1937, the State Government Reorganization Act created the Department of Conservation, with a Division of State Parks and a Division of Forestry, as part of the executive branch of state government. The act defined parks:

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, that for the purposes of the Tennessee Department of Conservation the term 'park' shall mean and include any and all areas of land, heretofore or hereafter acquired by the State, which by reason of having natural and historic features, scenic beauty or location, possesses natural or potential physical, aesthetic, scientific, creative, social, or other recreational values; and is dedicated to and forever reserved and administered by the state for recreational and cultural use and enjoyment of the people.

Be it further enacted, that every park under the provisions of this Act shall be preserved in a natural condition so far as may be consistent with its human use and safety and all improvements shall be of such character as not to lessen its inherent recreational value.

The Tennessee Valley Authority cooperated with the new department in its continuing efforts to develop recreation areas, eventually turning over management and ownership of most of its recreational areas to the state. (Other federal agencies did the same). In 1938, the new Division of State Parks administered four parks, including Harrison Bay State Park, the former Harrison Island area of the Tennessee Valley Authority. It also administered Booker T. Washington State Park (from Tennessee Valley Authority), Cumberland Mountain State Park (from the United States Department of Agriculture) and T.O. Fuller State Park (from Shelby County). The Division was working with the Resettlement Administration, a New Deal federal agency, to operate four Land-Use Areas as state parks (Chickasaw State Park, Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Standing Stone State Park, and Natchez Trace State Park) and with the Tennessee Valley Authority at Cove Lake State Park and with the Division of Forestry at Pickett Forest State Park. In 1939 the United States Department of Agriculture leased its Land-Use Areas to the Division of State Parks. The Division also became involved in construction and administration of several other parks. By 1939 the Division of State Parks was administering seven recreation areas out of a total of thirty-one recreational areas in the state. The remaining areas were administered by federal or other state agencies, such as the Division of Forestry. In 1939 the State of Tennessee spent only \$97,066.03 on state parks while the federal government spent approximately \$1,000,000.00.

X See Continuation Sheet

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As part of its continuing efforts to help Tennessee develop recreation areas in the late 1930s, the Tennessee Valley Authority entered into a cooperative agreement with the Department of Conservation that gave the state agency the authority to develop recreation plans on Tennessee Valley Authority's lands and to prepare a ten year recreation plan. In 1943 the Tennessee Valley Authority was providing technical assistance and a monthly stipend to the Department of Conservation to aid in coordinating recreation development between the agencies. A total of seven state parks were begun on Tennessee Valley Authority lands. These are Harrison Bay State Park, Booker T. Washington State Park, Cove Lake State Park, Paris Landing State Park, Big Ridge State Park, Norris Dam State Park and Warriors Path State Park.

In addition to the Tennessee Valley Authority, several other federal agencies were involved in the development of state parks in Tennessee during the 1930s and early 1940s. Between 1939 and 1942 Tennessee received over \$3,000,000.00 in federal funds for recreational construction while spending only \$100,000 in state funds. In addition, over seven million dollars had been expended by the National Park Service and Civilian Conservation Corps to develop parks in Tennessee. Other agencies working in the state to develop parks included the United States Forest Service, the Resettlement Administration, and the Work Projects Administration. The Civilian Conservation Corps, Work Projects Administration and National Park Service provided planning and manpower while the Resettlement Administration and United States Forest Service provided land.

Recreation Demonstration Areas were established to promote the advantages of recreational uses on submarginal agricultural lands. In 1934, the Public Works Administration allocated twenty-five million dollars to the Federal Surplus Relief Administration to purchase submarginal agricultural lands. The money was administered by the new Land Program of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration for allocation to federal agencies interested in reusing the land. The National Park Service became involved in the program as the administrator of the Recreation Demonstration Areas. If scenic natural features existed on these lands they were emphasized but if there were no such features the land was reforested and lakes were created for recreational uses. Eventually the National Park Service established forty-six Recreation Demonstration Areas in twenty-six states with Tennessee acquiring four of them. The ideal size of these areas was between 2,000 and 10,000 acres and they were to be located within fifty miles of population centers. In May, 1935, the Land Program was transferred to the newly created Resettlement Administration. This agency acquired submarginal agricultural lands, resettled the occupants elsewhere, and developed new towns. In 1936, the Recreation Demonstration Area program was transferred to the National Park Service which then cooperated with the Resettlement Administration to acquire and administer land. The National Park Service had always intended to turn over the Recreation Demonstration Areas to the states but it was not until 1942 that it was legally allowed to do this. In Tennessee, the four Recreation Demonstration Areas - Fall Creek Falls State Park, Montgomery Bell State Park, Shelby Forest State Park, and Watauga State Park (now a municipal park)-were deeded to the state

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in 1943 and 1944.

Land-Use Areas were developed as state parks in Tennessee with the cooperation of the United States Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service, Farm Security Administration, and the Resettlement Administration. Like Recreation Demonstration Areas, Land-Use Areas were established on submarginal agricultural lands. The lands were acquired from the United States Department of Agriculture through the United States Forest Service for redevelopment, reforestation, and erosion control. Five areas in Tennessee were acquired through the Land-Use program, although one park-Cumberland Mountain State Park-was developed separately as part of the Cumberland Homesteads by the Farm Security Administration. Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Natchez Trace State Park, Chickasaw State Park, and Standing Stone State Park were developed as Land-Use Areas. Much of each Land-Use Area was reforested or preserved as forests while only small sections were developed as parks. When the lands were leased to the state in 1935, the administrative duties were split between the Division of State Parks and Division of Forestry. In 1955 all four parks were deeded to the State.

Several other state parks were developed in the 1930s, but they were acquired from private or non-federal sources. These include Pickett Forest State Park, T.O. Fuller State Park, Chucalissa Archaeological State Park, and Reelfoot Lake State Park. What the development of most of these parks and those acquired from the Tennessee Valley Authority and through the Land-Use Area and Recreation Demonstration Area programs have in common is that the trails, roads, and park structures on these lands were constructed by personnel of the Civilian Conservation Corps and Work Projects Administration. Federal agencies, in cooperation with the states, designed the work projects for parks to protect and preserve the natural resources while developing the areas for recreational use by the public.

The Civilian Conservation Corps Relief and Reforestation Act was enacted in March of 1933. It provided for the employment of single young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five years old with dependant relatives. Work involved road construction, conservation and reforestation, and construction of park facilities. A Civilian Conservation Corps Advisory group comprised of members from the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Labor, and War was organized to help implement the program. The Departments of War and Labor were involved in the initial mobilization while Agriculture and Interior were directly involved in the implementation of the work program, supplying technical advisors and plans. The states were divided into several administrative corps areas. Tennessee, parts of North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi were included in the Fourth Corps Area, District C. After the Department of Labor selected candidates, the respective corps area would process them. A military officer headed each camp and was responsible for the initial processing and physical conditioning of the enrollees, administering funds, and purchasing some equipment. Although the military was responsible for the enrollees in camp,

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whatever agency the enrollee was working for (Interior, Agriculture or a state agency) was responsible for the young men once they were out of the camps and working. The enlistment term was six months and no one was allowed to enlist for more than four terms. Enrollees earned thirty dollars per month and sent twenty-five dollars home. Camps averaged 150-200 enrollees with seven to ten supervisors. Enrollees were given physical training and recreation opportunities. Many were illiterate so programs were developed in the camps to teach basic educational and vocational skills.

The National Park Service/Department of the Interior was responsible for the establishment of Civilian Conservation Corps camps on both federal and state lands. Prior to 1933, direct federal government involvement in state park development and construction had been minimal. Because the National Park Service would be directly involved with the states in the establishment and administration of Civilian Conservation Corps camps and in the building and planning of parks, guidelines for cooperation between state and federal agencies were established in April, 1933. By September, 1933, 1,520 camps had been established nationwide, 105 of which were on state park lands. By October, 1933, District C, Fourth Corps had thirty-three companies. The first Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Tennessee was Camp Cordell Hull in Unicoi County. Established in May, 1933, it was comprised of companies #1955 and #1475.

Nationwide, Civilian Conservation Corps camp level was at its highest in 1935 when there were 2,916 camps, including 475 on state park lands. The number of camps in Tennessee ranged from 31 in 1933 to a high of 77 in 1935 to a low of ten in 1942, as the program was being phased out. Approximately 70,000 young men from Tennessee served in the Civilian Conservation Corps in this state and elsewhere. By 1941 the Civilian Conservation Corps in Tennessee had constructed 98 lookout towers, 3,959 miles of forest telephone lines, 1,469 miles of roads and 387,208 check dams. Camp personnel had planted 36,091,000 trees for erosion control, 26,939,000 trees for reforestation, and 554,457 hardwood seedlings. Almost 260,000 man days were spent fighting or preventing fires. Most of Tennessee's state parks were developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. These include Pickett, Reelfoot Lake, Frozen Head, Norris Dam, Grundy County Lakes and Recreation Area, Big Ridge, T.O. Fuller, Nathan Bedford Forest, Booker T. Washington, Harrison Bay, Cove Lake, Pickwick Landing and Cumberland Mountain State Parks.

Another New Deal Relief Agency, the Work Projects Administration, was also involved in building parks in Tennessee. The Work Projects Administration provided adult men and women employment on publicly funded projects as diverse as writing state histories to performing manual labor. It eventually expended four billion dollars in relief throughout the United States. Unlike the Civilian Conservation Corps program, the Work Projects Administration enrollees were not sequestered in camps but lived in the community. Standing Stone, Cedars of Lebanon, Chickamauga, Meeman Shelby, Fall Creek Falls and Natchez Trace State Parks were developed by the Work Projects Administration. Beginning in 1938,

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the Work Projects Administration provided recreation leaders to some of the state parks. These individuals organized recreational and educational programs in the park areas and local communities.

In addition to supervising the construction of state parks, the federal government provided plans for parks and park structures. Standards and guidelines for park structures and layout were developed by the National Park Service. In planning the parks, the location of administration facilities, camps, cabins, trails, signs, furniture, and roads was as important as the construction of a single structure. Ideally each park was planned to have a sufficient type and number of manmade buildings and structures to accomodate the proposed recreational uses of the area without diminishing the natural or scenic qualities of the park. Buildings were to be constructed on a scale compatible with the landscape and be constructed from materials native to the area. In Tennessee, most park structures were constructed of wood and stone, including Crab Orchard sandstone (native to Tennessee). Because all four sides of park buildings were visible, care was taken to design all elevations of a building. The rustic quality of the structures resulted from the use of native materials, the original designs, and the craftsmanship of the builders.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, as World War II approached, federal relief programs began to be phased out. In 1942 there were only 487 Civilian Conservation Corps camps, 70 on state parks. Military officers who had been administering camps were called to active duty and the Civilian Conservation Corps was placed under the Federal Security Administration. In early 1942, Congress enacted legislation to end the Civilian Conservation Corps program and the only funds allotted were for liquidation of the agency. Corps supplies and equipment were given to various military agencies. Many young men who had learned mechanics in the camps enlisted in non-commissioned ranks while former corps technical supervisors were given commissions. As a result of this, plans for additional park and recreation development activity in Tennessee was suspended.

By 1941 park attendance in Tennessee had decreased 30% and personnel were hard to hire. Although the State Planning Commission had planned to revise its 1936-1939 Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Study, no action was taken until the post World War II years, when development of State parks in Tennessee was renewed.

F. ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

I. Name of Property Type: State Parks in Tennessee built by the CCC and WPA between 1934-1942.

II. Description:

The multiple property listing "State Parks in Tennessee built by the CCC and WPA between 1934 and 1942" has only one property type, a park district. Various resources necessary for the control, supervision, and maintenance of the park and resources used for recreation and camping, are located within the district. All of the components of the park are functionally and aesthetically interrelated. Each individual resource is an integral part of the larger park plan; it is the plan itself that determines the character, size, and location of each resource. Types of resources or components of the park include: entrance buildings or shelters, checking stations, roads and trails, barriers and low walls,

III. Significance:

State park districts in Tennessee are significant under National Register criterion A because of their association with the development of state parks and the establishment of the Department of Conservation, which was organized to administer the parks. Prior to the federal government providing leadership and funding to construct recreational facilities, Tennessee had no state parks or any organization to develop and administer them. The federal government provided most of the land for the parks and provided a labor pool to construct the parks, while the state was responsible for the administration and long-term planning of the parks. Several federal agencies and New Deal programs cooperated with Tennessee in the establishment of the state park system. The Tennessee Valley Authority was instrumental in the development of the parks, providing land and recreation plans. Additionally, the Authority helped establish the Tennessee State Planning Commission and the Department of Conservation. The Department of Agriculture, through Land-Use Areas and Recreation Demonstration Areas, also provided land for state parks. By developing plans and

IV. Registration Requirements:

The registration requirements for listing the property type state parks districts in the National Register under criterion A are that they must have been constructed between 1934 and 1942 by personnel of the Civilian Conservation Corps or Work Projects Administration. Many, but not all, state parks are on land given to Tennessee by the federal government. All of the parks are administered by the State of Tennessee and remain in use as state parks. In the areas of conservation and recreation the park districts are significant as representations of organized efforts to combine the preservation of the natural environment with the development of recreation. Park districts are significant in the area of politics and government because their development resulted in the establishment of the Tennessee State Planning Commission and the Department of Conservation. Because the construction of the parks was undertaken by personnel of the Civilian Conservation Corps and Work Projects Administration as part of a nationwide effort to ease unemployment during the Depression, the park districts are significant in the area of social history.

X See continuation sheet

N/A See continuation sheet for additional property types

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Individual resources in the park exist today essentially as when they were constructed, although most have undergone minor alterations such as the change from wood shingle to asphalt shingle roofs, internal modernization, and some window modifications. Few additions have been built onto the park buildings. Since the integrity of all four sides of a building is important, major additions can cause an individual property to lose integrity. Contributing resources in the district are significant to the historic and architectural development of the district, possess compatible design elements, and maintain the scale, use, and texture of the district. Non-contributing resources disrupt the texture of the district, have been considerably altered, or do not fall within the period of significance.

State parks constructed between 1934 and 1942 that may meet the registration requirements are: Nathan Bedford Forest, Montgomery Bell, Pickwick Landing, Meeman-Shelby, Reelfoot Lake, T.O. Fuller, Cedars of Lebanon, Standing Stone, Pickett, Fall Creek Falls, Cumberland Mountain, Harrison Bay, Booker T. Washington, Cove Lake, Big Ridge, Norris Dam, Paris Landing, Chickasaw, and Natchez Trace state parks.

NA See Continuation Sheet

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II. DESCRIPTION

trail steps and shelters, administration buildings, comfort stations, bridges, dams and check dams, lakes or ponds, boathouses, swimming pools, picnic shelters, amphitheatres, cabins, tent camps, group camps, lodges, bathhouses, rest rooms, superintendent's residences, maintenance buildings, and restored historic structures. Smaller park components include picnic tables, drinking fountains, signs, cookstoves, fireplaces, and furniture.

State parks were constructed between 1934 and 1942 by personnel of the Civilian Conservation Corps and Work Projects Administration, as part of the federal government's response to alleviate unemployment during the Depression. Designs for parks and individual resources within them follow plans and guidelines formulated by the National Park Service. While focus of parks is on the natural scenery, the design of resources in the park is based on the idea that they are necessary for the development of recreational use of the park. Therefore, not all man-made structures should be considered intrusive but can enhance the appeal of parks. The rustic style park architecture blends the man-made properties to the geographic area where they are built by the use of the appropriate scale, native materials, and unifying elements such as trails, low stone walls, and landscaping.

When the parks were constructed in the late 1930s and early 1940s, the ideal was to locate them within fifty miles of a major population center or less than a day's trip. Because of the availability of land from the federal government, many of the state parks in Tennessee were built in more remote areas. Damming of rivers for hydroelectric power by the Tennessee Valley Authority created lakes which the Authority leased to the state, along with surrounding lands, for development as recreation areas. For this reason, many state parks in Tennessee contain man-made lakes. Reforested land from the Recreation Demonstration Area and Land-Use Area programs was also obtained for use as state parks. These were developed both as state parks and forests, although the forests were usually administered separately.

Park facilities are designed to be built by labor intensive construction methods and to utilize native materials, resulting in buildings and structures harmonious to the environment. The texture of the construction materials used is such that the buildings have a hand-tooled appearance; straight lines and sophisticated ornamentation are avoided. As a result, while the park facilities are designed by the professional staff of the National Park Service, they appear as though constructed by artisans and craftsmen.

Most buildings in Tennessee state parks are one or two stories in height with rectangular plans and gable roofs. Originally the roofs were sheathed in wood shingles but most are now covered with asphalt shingles. Screened windows, porches, open sides, and stone fireplaces are found on many park buildings. Rock faced coursed stone, including local Crab Orchard sandstone, and wood-as weatherboard, waney edged siding, or logs are the predominant building materials on all park facilities. Logs are peeled and stained or painted in natural colors (gray, brown); wood shingles and boards receive similar treatment. Because most parks in Tennessee

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are located in forested areas, the scale of the building siding is heavier than if they had been constructed in barren areas. Not only is the scale of each individual resource in relationship to the environment important but the components of each building must have similar proportions. Stone foundations and chimneys must be constructed in a scale compatible to the type of siding and roof material used.

The pattern of trails and roads and the proximity of resources to each other is as important as the design and placement of individual buildings and structures. Buildings are situated so that they blend with the landscape but are readily accessible to the public or park employees. Cabins, tents, and group camps are comprised of several buildings clustered together in a picturesque, somewhat secluded area while administration buildings and refectories are situated in heavily travelled locations with space for visitors and parking. Maintenance buildings and staff residences are best located away from areas generally frequented by park visitors. Site modifications are ideally kept to a minimum but shrubbery, foliage, and stone can be used to enhance the setting near a building and help it blend into the environment.

Cabins are one type of resource constructed in state parks. They are considered the temporary property of the renter but are still part of the park used by the general public, therefore, screening and placement are important to give the renter a sense of privacy. Most cabins are equipped with kitchens, baths and fireplaces. Some were originally constructed with no bath; group bathhouses were built nearby. Designed at a time when the average family size was four or five people, the cabins sleep four or six individuals. Built-in cabinets, bunk beds, and some furniture are extant in many cabins.

Group camps were designed to be used by various organizations yet be tailored to serve one specific organization at a time. This type of resource includes living quarters for boys and girls, bathhouses, centrally located dining halls and kitchens, community buildings and residences for the staff. Usually situated in a cluster pattern sometimes near a beachfront, the camps are designed to accommodate between twenty-four and ninety-six campers, housed in groups of four or eight. Smaller groups are too small to be economically feasible and larger groups of children are hard to supervise. Group cabins are generally constructed of wood and each cabin is situated to afford exposure to light and good air circulation.

Tent and trailer camping areas are designed in a similar clustered manner as the group camps, taking into account automobile accessibility. Another type of park building is a community building. Larger in scale than cabins, these buildings have many windows for light and ventilation and are used for a variety of functions.

An important resource in the park district is the entrance, which can be as simple as a prominent sign or a more elaborate attendant's building. It is one of the few areas in the park designed to be free of landscaping. Entrances act both as an invitation to the park and a deterrent to entry when the park is closed after certain hours.

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Barriers, guard rails, and trail steps are relatively small features that can detract from the park if not designed correctly, but can also act as unifying elements. Stone walls, rocks, and wood fences help keep traffic on the roads. They should be low and simple in style, so that they blend into the surrounding areas. Long unbroken stretches of barriers detract from the scenery. Trail steps can facilitate hiking without being obtrusive and are built only where necessary. Trail shelters, usually open sided lean-tos, are placed along trails for places to rest. Road crossings, culverts, check dams, small bridges are other small structures that can enhance the appearance of a park.

Overall, Tennessee state parks remain in good condition, although some individual structures have been demolished and wood deterioration has occurred in others. Most areas of the parks have remained in continuous use since they were constructed. New structures have been built in the state parks since 1942 as the need for additional facilities arose.

NA See Continuation Sheet

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III. SIGNIFICANCE

- guidelines for parks and initially supervising the Civilian Conservation Corps and Work Projects Administration Labor pools, the Department of the Interior had a major impact on the growth of state parks in Tennessee during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Because of the use of Civilian Conservation Corps and Work Projects Administration personnel, the development of state parks presents an excellent example of cooperative efforts between the state and federal government to alleviate unemployment during the Depression.

State park districts in Tennessee are significant under National Register criterion C as the best and most intact representation of a distinct grouping of resources designed in the rustic style of park architecture of the 1930s. The parks were planned as a group of functionally and aesthetically related buildings and structures. Plans that determined the patterns of trails and roads and the arrangement of buildings helped to integrate the buildings to the natural landscape. Although the resources in the park were designed to appear as if constructed by local artisans, they resulted from designs and guidelines formulated by the National Park Service. Built by personnel of the Civilian Conservation Corps and Work Projects Administration, the buildings were constructed of naturally finished native materials, such as wood and stone, and resulted in resources with a high degree of quality and craftsmanship.

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IV. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Under National Register criterion C the registration requirements for state parks districts are that they must have been constructed using native materials in the rustic park style of architecture formulated by the National Park Service during the 1930s. The park districts are significant in the area of architecture as the best and most intact collection of rustic designs used for recreation facilities built in Tennessee between 1934 and 1942. The park plan, including trails, roads, and scenery, is an important aspect of the district.

Although not yet fifty years old, the state park districts are of exceptional importance in Tennessee because of the extraordinary impact that New Deal programs had on the construction and planning of recreation facilities and the establishment of the Department of Conservation. No organization existed to administer the parks prior to the federal government's involvement. Government programs provided a major source of employment in Tennessee during the Depression, with over 70,000 young men from the state enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps program alone. In addition, during the late 1930s and early 1940s, the federal government spent over ten million dollars to acquire and develop state parks in Tennessee, while the state spent only \$60,000.00. With the onset of World War II, many New Deal programs were no longer funded, military personnel who were involved with the Civilian Conservation Corps were called to active duty, and young men formerly employed in building parks entered the service. When funding for the Civilian Conservation Corps program ended in 1942, no further development of state parks in Tennessee occurred until the post war years. Architecturally, no more comprehensive collection of rustic park architecture exists in Tennessee than in the state parks constructed during the Depression era.

While an entire park need not be intact to be eligible for listing in the National Register, individual park buildings or structures are subordinate to the overall plan of the park and, therefore, one building or structure alone would probably not be eligible unless it were of outstanding architectural or engineering significance. Within a park, the pattern of trails and roads and placement of buildings must be substantially intact in order for the park district to be eligible. Because of extensive intrusions in some state parks, the park district might encompass a group of buildings representative of the larger park plan. An area containing a community building or administration building, cabins, trails and trail shelters, and an entrance structure, but surrounded by new buildings or buildings and landscapes that have been severely altered, can have retained enough integrity of materials, setting, and location to reflect its historic associations and, therefore, be eligible.

As the use of the state parks continued to increase over the years, old buildings deteriorated and new buildings were constructed in the parks. When new buildings or structures are scattered throughout the park and do not lessen the sense of time and place of the park district, the area can be eligible. An area that contains more new, non-contributing resources or altered resources than contributing resources will not have sufficient integrity to retain its historic associations.

G. SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

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Discuss 1) the basis for determining the geographical and temporal limits of property type, and 2) the methods used to determine the requirements for listing related properties in the National Register.

The identification and evaluation of resources was accomplished by comparison with Park and Recreation Structures, 3 vols. (Washington: NPS/CCC, 1938) as well as through oral history interviews with CCC veterans, many of whom built the park facilities in question. Historical research at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Technical Library in Knoxville, the Tennessee State Library and Archives also provided a further measure of evaluative and identification criteria. Finally, the Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of State Parks provided extant and original drawings of resources within its Facilities Management branch.

The survey was conducted from June, 1983 to January, 1984 by the Division of State Parks. Although much reforestation work was done by various New Deal agencies, because forests are not primarily considered recreational in nature, only park facilities

X See continuation sheet

H. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Coleman, Bevely R. A History of State Parks in Tennessee. Nashville: Department of Conservation, 1968.

X See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation related to this property type:

<u>X</u> State historic preservation office	<u> </u> Local government
<u>X</u> Other State agency	<u> </u> University
<u> </u> Federal agency	<u> </u> Other

Specify repository: Tennessee Department of Conservation

I. FORM PREPARED BY

name/title	James B. Jones, Claudette Stager - Historic Preservation Specialists				
organization	Tennessee Historical Commission	date	February 1986		
street & number	701 Broadway	telephone	615/742-6723		
city or town	Nashville	state	Tennessee	zipcode	37219-5237

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G. SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

originating from federal programs of the 1930s and the 1940s were surveyed. Indeed, while some state parks in Tennessee are located within forests, they are administratively and functionally separate. Therefore, all Tennessee state park facilities identified as originating from the labor of the CCC or WPA, under the direction of the National Park Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, or United States Department of Agriculture were visited. All such facilities, as well as the ruins of a few CCC camps, were surveyed according to procedures established by the Tennessee Historical Commission.

The period of significance for thematic context and property type is 1934-1942, the years in which various federal agencies in cooperation with the state of Tennessee created what would become Tennessee's first state parks. These resources, their thematic context, and period of significance are addressed in the THC/SHPO's comprehensive planning study unit, "Tennessee's First State Parks." Since parks were the result of economic pressures and governmental action, Tennessee's first state parks appeared in all three of the state's distinct geographic regions at the same relative time. The geographical limits of parks are based upon political and economic forces of the Depression, not upon those of topography, while plans for park facilities are the product of National Park Service designs and specifications.

NA See Continuation Sheet

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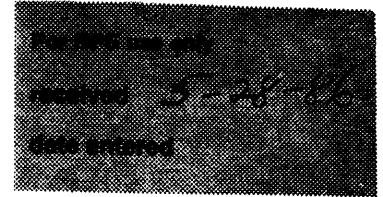
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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name State Parks in Tennessee Built by the CCC
and the WPA between 1934-1942 TR
State TN

Cover ~~Substantive Review~~

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Pickett State Rustic Park
Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

[Signature] 7/8/86
[Signature] 7/8/86

2. Standing Stone Rustic Park
Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

[Signature] 7/8/86

3.

Keeper

Attest

4.

Keeper

Attest

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10.

Keeper

Attest