

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form

AUG 31 1989

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Architecture at

Catoctin Mountain Park

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

National Park Service Rustic Architecture

Development of Recreational Demonstration Areas

**C. Geographical Data**

Catoctin Mountain Park (map 1) is located approximately 2.5 miles northwest of Thurmont, and 13 miles east of Hagerstown, in Frederick and Washington counties; Maryland. The 5,700-acre park is roughly coterminous with MD 540 and Owens Creek on the north, MD 77 on the south, and Quirauk School Road on the west. A park road winds horizontally through the lower middle portion of the property, on the south side of which are the cabin camps. The buildings that compose Camp (1) Misty Mount and Camp (2) Greentop are roughly situated between MD 77 on the south and Park Central Road on the north. This mountainous terrain is rocky and thickly forested, bisected by numerous creeks and their tributaries, as well as manmade hiking and horse trails.

☐ See continuation sheet

**D. Certification**

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

John E. Seaman

Signature of certifying official

8/28/89

Date

National Park Service

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.

Patrick Andrews

Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

10/11/89

Date

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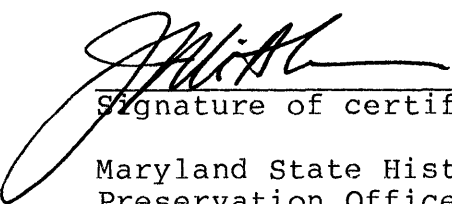
Emergency Conservation Work (ECW)  
Architecture at Catoclin Mountain  
Park

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MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM:

Certification

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

Maryland State Historical  
Preservation Officer

6-23-89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## E. Statement of Historic Contexts

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Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

The camp structures at Catoctin Mountain Park are supported by two historic contexts: the development of Recreational Demonstration Areas within the larger scope of ECW construction projects, and the concurrent development of a style of rustic architecture specifically generated by National Park Service architects.

### The Development of Recreational Demonstration Areas (RDAs)

Three interrelated factors that got their start around the turn of the century led to the definition of new recreational goals in America and gave rise to the development of organized park and campground facilities. The first was a back-to-nature movement that grew up with the establishment of the National Park Service (NPS) in 1916; concurrent to which was the public's increasing amount of leisure time, and the belief that spending it in a natural, non-urban environment was a healthful and relaxing pastime.

The third impetus to the development of park systems was an ability to reach these facilities--the rise of automobility. Autocamping had been popular during the first two decades of the 20th century, either in the form of free municipal camps or in the custom of setting up a tent and stove along the road. By the 1930s it became evident that both practices were inappropriate. The quality of the municipal camps, founded by city fathers to generate local revenue, had greatly deteriorated and they were shut down. Roadside camping, the illegality of squatting on private property and the ongoing rise of auto traffic, left this gypsy-like tradition equally unsavory. The solution discovered by touring motorists was state and national forests.<sup>1</sup>

A 1941 NPS publication, A Study of the Park and Recreation Problem of the United States, reaffirmed the tenets under which that agency had developed for nearly a decade, that the untainted wilderness accessible in organized parklands was particularly crucial to the hassled and corrupt workforce incarcerated in American cities:

Man's loss of intimate contact with nature has had a debilitating effect on him as a being[,] which can be alleviated only by making it possible for him to escape at frequent intervals from his urban habitat to the open country . . . . He must again learn how to enjoy himself in the out-of-doors by re-acquiring the environmental knowledge and skills he has lost during his exile from his natural environment.<sup>2</sup>

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs of the 1930s offered a solution to the dilemma. The Emergency Conservation Work Act (ECW), initiated by FDR and approved by Congress on March 31, 1933, included under its auspices the Civilian Conservation Corps

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<sup>1</sup> Warren James Belasco, Americans on the Road: From Autocamp to Motel, 1910-1945 (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1971), pp. 71, 89, 126-27.

<sup>2</sup> NPS, A Study of the Park and Recreation Problem of the United States (Washington, D.C., 1941), p. 4.

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(CCC); two months later, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) was allocated \$500 million in direct relief money to be spent by state and local agencies. In June 1933, FDR signed the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA), which included a \$3.3 billion allocation for relief through public works to be dispensed by the president.

Concurrently, farmlands near population centers were identified as submarginal from an agricultural standpoint. At the time, however, federal monies could not generally be used for the purpose of land acquisition. In 1934 FDR sought to marry the two situations and established a program to retrieve the submarginal land. It called for the Public Works Administration (PWA) to allocate \$25 million to the Federal Surplus Relief Administration to buy these lands. The money was then transferred to FERA's Land Program, to which interested governmental agencies could apply. In May 1935 the Land Program was transferred to the newly created Resettlement Administration, and the next year it was effectively turned over to the NPS.<sup>3</sup>

Henceforth, the NPS was responsible for surveying public needs, choosing desired locations, investigating the land, securing options on it, and recommending purchase and planning development. Once the land became federal property, WPA laborers began to fulfill a "development plan which [had] been carefully drawn during formative days."<sup>4</sup>

Four types of public facilities were slated: 1) wayside parks, 2) national park and monument expansions, 3) state scenic extensions, and 4) vacation developments near a city. This last category developed as recreational demonstration areas (RDAs), which Conrad L. Wirth, then NPS assistant director, felt was "one of the really successful New Deal programs."<sup>5</sup>

Criteria for an RDA included a land mass of 2,000 to 10,000 acres; a proximity of 50 miles, or a half-day's round-trip, to a population center of 300,000 or more persons; an abundance of water and building material; and generally, an interesting environment.<sup>6</sup> About

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<sup>3</sup> Conrad L. Wirth, Parks, Politics and the People (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980), p. 189; Executive Order 7496, Nov. 14, 1936, confirming action of Aug. 1, 1936, when NPS actually took over responsibility. Ibid, coverleaf page.

<sup>4</sup> H. Ickes, A. Cammerer, R. Tugwell, et al. Recreational Demonstration Projects as Illustrated by Chopawamsic, Virginia (NPS: ca. 1936), p. 3.

<sup>5</sup> Wirth, pp. 176-78.

<sup>6</sup> Wirth, pp. 187-88; Ickes, et al, p. 2.

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400,000 to 450,000 acres of land nationwide were earmarked for RDA development, to be purchased at an average cost of \$10 per acre.<sup>7</sup> Ultimately, 46 RDA projects were created in 24 states, with Catoctin Mountain Park the only facility in the state of Maryland.<sup>8</sup> Work at these sites was to be done "principally by relief labor," and included conservation of water, soil, forest, and wildlife resources, as well as the construction of public-recreation facilities.<sup>9</sup> The federal government established most RDAs with the intention of eventually turning them over to the respective states for management, which occurred in part at Catoctin.

Since RDAs represented a deliberate effort by the federal government to serve an urban audience and perform a civic-welfare function, they were not intended to replace or compete with state parks, which served a greater socioeconomic cross-section of people and were located in less-central geographic areas.

[RDAS] are not national parks, state parks, county parks, metropolitan parks, or forests of any technical classification. They are newcomers to the recreation field--part of a recreational awakening. . . .Land unprofitable to farm due to lack of fertility, erosion, misuse [and] land, which because of its location, attains greater social and economic importance when dedicated to the recreation needs of congested populations.<sup>10</sup>

RDAs provided organized camps--as opposed to facilities aimed at unstructured habitation and leisure--for children, families, social organizations, and especially lower-income groups, because "the organized camp seemed to offer the best solution to the problem of providing vacations and outdoor recreation at low cost to the maximum number of people."<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Ickes et al., p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Thirty-two RDAs were "vacacation" destinations or organized campground facilities; the remaining 14 were roadside facilities or additions to existing state or national monuments. NPS, 1937 Yearbook: Park and Recreation Progress (Washington: GPO, 1937), p. 38.

<sup>9</sup> 1937 Yearbook, p. 2.

<sup>10</sup> Ickes, et al., p. 2.

<sup>11</sup> 1937 Yearbook, p. 38.

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## NPS Rustic Architecture

As its public-recreation programs grew, the NPS recognized the need to formalize design guidelines and improve job-related training of the men. In response, the NPS published Park Structures and Facilities in 1935. A collection of photographs, plans, and analyses of architecture in national, state, and federal parks, it served as a textbook for training new workers in the construction of park architecture.<sup>12</sup> The editor, architect Albert H. Good, offers what has become the definitive statement on rustic architecture prior to World War II:

Successfully handled, [rustic] is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with the natural surroundings, and with the past.<sup>13</sup>

Good advocated unintrusive park design, calling for harmony in building construction and setting through the use of natural materials and paint of natural hues. But by 1938, when the book was rereleased, the taste for rustic architecture that had risen during the late teens had begun to wane in favor of modernism, with its emphasis on simplicity and functionalism, and disdain for romance in building design. The new movement swept through the design professions worldwide, and consequently affected the designs produced by professional architects employed in state and federal offices.

Fewer examples of "exaggerated rustic" were appearing. Many NPS residences built in the late 1930s made only minor concessions to their immediate settings. Quite often these were rather unexceptional wood-frame houses incorporating rustic siding and stone veneer foundations.<sup>14</sup>

The architecture represented at Catoctin is sincerely rustic, however, reflecting the log-cabin building tradition of the mountainous region.

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<sup>12</sup> William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere and Henry G. Law, National Park Service Rustic Architecture, 1916-1942 (NPS, Western Region, Cultural Resource Management, 1977), p. 92.

<sup>13</sup> Albert H. Good, Park and Recreation Structures, Part III: Overnight and Organized Camp Facilities (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1938), p. 62.

<sup>14</sup> Tweed, et al., p. 97.

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The proposed multiple property area occupies the historic boundaries of Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area, originally a 10,000-acre facility. Now called Catoctin Mountain Park (**map 1**) it is composed of 5,700 acres devoted to daytime and overnight recreation. The park is approximately bounded on the north by MD 540 and Owens Creek, on the south by MD 77, and on the west by Quirauk School Road. A single public-access thoroughfare called Park Central Road cuts (east-west) through the lower portion of the property, below which are situated the two cabin camps (**map 2**).

Catoctin Mountain Park is named for its location 1,400 feet above the Monocacy River Valley in the Catoctin Mountains, which occupy the eastern edge of the Appalachian range on the western boundary of the Piedmont Plateau. The park originally included Big Hunting Creek and its Cunningham Falls, which leads into Hunting Creek Lake; these are now contained in the 4,446 acres given to the state of Maryland in 1954 to become Cunningham Falls State Park.

## Historical Narrative

Farming and timber harvesting were the primary economies of Catoctin Mountain residents during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Several sawmills operated in the area, and wood--specifically the abundant chestnut--was used for fuel, railroad ties, staves, and mine supports. Nearby Mechanics Town (now Thurmont) contained an edge-tool and nail factory, several tanneries, pottery, cooperage, and garment factories. The local iron industry was decimated when the Catoctin Furnace converted to coal from charcoal at the end of the century, and closed not long after; concurrent to which ironworks opened in Baltimore and the depression of 1893 further eroded the local economy.<sup>15</sup>

After 1900, sawmills dominated the mountain industries in the production of barrel staves and mining car pins; the chestnut blight eliminated what remained of that species; and poor farming practices and slash fires contributed to the further decline of natural resources in the region. The Catoctin region was part of the 330 square miles of land in Maryland that the state conservation supervisor estimated had been displaced by erosion since Colonial

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<sup>15</sup> Barbara M. Kirkconnell, Dr. Fred Kuss and Dr. Robert E. Kauffman, Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History (Washington, D.C.: NPS, February 1988), p. 6.

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times.<sup>16</sup>

"Rural Maryland seemed to fare [the Depression] somewhat better than the rest of the nation until the end of 1930," but state aid still proved insufficient to ease the economic woes. A survey of Maryland cities during the summer of 1933 convinced the governor that federal aid was necessary, so a special liaison, Frederick P. Lee, applied for Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) funds. Maryland was one of eight states that had not heretofore applied for federal-relief funds.

By 1934 . . . a pro-New Deal Republican was elected governor and promised more cooperation with federal programs. But in general, Maryland officials continued in the mold of [Governor] Albert Ritchie's attitudes of non-cooperation with the federal government while taking handouts.<sup>17</sup>

The Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture was responsible for organizing the submarginal land-retirement program in each state. Locally, this role was filled in 1934 by Dr. Thomas B. Symons of the University of Maryland-College Park; and regionally, by A.W. Manchester, who was based in Vermont. Symons quickly identified the land in the Catoctin area of Frederick and Washington counties, which contained "many submarginal farms and constituted a problem region."<sup>18</sup>

Symons submitted the Catoctin park proposal for consideration in December 1934, and early the next year it was approved by Conrad L. Wirth as Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Project, designated Maryland R-1.<sup>19</sup> In March 1935, the land-acquisition team arrived in Thurmont. Letters were sent to the 80 or so landowners in the 22,000-acre area being studied, explaining the program and offering to purchase acreage, timber, and improvements at a fair price, as well as requests for deed descriptions and a query as to whether or not they would be willing to sell the property.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Charles Byron Marsh, "Soil Erosion" (10 May, 1939) University of Maryland, McKeldin Library, WPA Papers; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 7.

<sup>17</sup> Kirkconnell, et al., p. 8-9.

<sup>18</sup> Weatherwax to A.W. Manchester (14 January, 1935) CMP; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p.14.

<sup>19</sup> Kirkconnell, et al., p. 15.

<sup>20</sup> W.W. Simonds to Dr. Michael Abrams (28 March, 1935) Catoctin Mountain Park; cited in Kirkconnell, p. 18.



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By fall, the master plan for the park was initiated, along with a priority list of desirable parcels. According to the report, there were 50 families in the project area of which eight were making a subsistence living off the land, 26 were cutting timber, and 16 were on relief.

The scope of the project was hindered by setbacks, however. The land-purchase budget was reduced by about 25 percent to \$155,000 and the development budget was cut in half, which necessitated a reduction in the scale of the future RDA. Offers had been acquired on about half of the 10,333 acres, almost all in Frederick County: "The team had been unable to put together a suitable land package in Washington County and that part of the project was abandoned."<sup>21</sup> The land was leased from property owners until the government paid for it in full.

The Catoctin project was redesignated "LD-MD-4." (Under the Emergency Relief Act of 1935 the "LD" RDAs were approved as federal projects with allocations made from WPA funds to the Resettlement Administration, although the NPS provided technical supervision; MD-4 was the number assigned to the project by FDR upon its approval.<sup>22</sup>) Construction was performed with WPA funds and directed by the NPS, beginning in winter 1936, with much of the project phasing devoted to timber harvesting until land acquisition was assured.<sup>23</sup>

Four public-recreation group camps and two picnic areas were planned for the facility: Camp Misty Mount (aka 1-C, coed), Camp Greentop (2-A/2-C), Camp Hi-Catoctin (aka 3-B, boys', Shangri-la, Camp David), and the never-completed Camp 4 (aka G, girls'). A central garage unit (area service group) was built on the site now occupied by Camp Roundmeadow.

Several administrative and design professionals were assigned to the park. Michael Williams was project manager; A.R. Vanston, an inexperienced young man, was named project architect; Orin Bullock, assistant architect; a local engineer, William Renner; J.C. Milson served as landscape architect; and Clinton F. Waesche was hired as labor superintendent.<sup>24</sup> Hundreds of WPA workers were provided with much-needed jobs, from a maximum of 595

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<sup>21</sup> Kirkconnell, et al., p. 21-22.

<sup>22</sup> NPS-ERA, Administration Introduction (publication unknown) CMP; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 22.

<sup>23</sup> Timber Harvest Justification (23 April, 1936) CMP; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 28.

<sup>24</sup> Kirkconnell, et al., p. 27.

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men in May 1936 when intensive logging, clearing, and other unskilled labor was needed, to an average of 250 men of various skill levels as construction continued.<sup>25</sup>

After the building program was complete, CCC camps operated in the park from April 1939 to September 1941: SP-3 during the six-month period 5; SP-7, period 13; and NP-3/SP-7, periods 14-16.<sup>26</sup> The company occupied a camp located at the present Camp Roundmeadow, and was responsible for the construction of water lines, some stone walls, and tree-trimming work. In contrast to the WPA laborers who were transported into the camp work sites, the CCC men lived at the RDA.

Administration of the CCC program was a cooperative effort among the U.S. Departments of War, Interior, Agriculture, and Labor. The Labor Department recruited men in conjunction with each state, while the Army was responsible for the conduct and care of enrollees. During the workday, Agriculture and Interior directed the men. Each man received \$1 per day as well as room, board, and the opportunity for some education. Each camp was ideally composed of 200; the CCC ranks came from a quota of unmarried men (based on state population) age 18 to 25. They enrolled for fixed six-month periods and could re-enlist. CCC men worked on municipal, state, federal, and private projects nationwide. Besides work and a steady income, the CCC charged itself with the education, entertainment, and edification of the men. Academic subjects were taught to combat illiteracy; vocational training aimed at teaching a skill for post-CCC employment; on-the-job instruction augmented in-camp teaching; in addition to which were organized athletics and recreation.

Initially, land was cleared of underbrush and timber for the camp sites, bridges were prepared to support heavy log-carrying vehicles, and an archeological study was made of the Catoctin Furnace (now in the state park).

The first facility to be built was the administrative headquarters and central garage unit--now within Camp Roundmeadow--completed in July 1936. This complex included an administration office, covered bays to house trucks, a tool house-repair shop, grease pit, oil storage building, and blacksmith shop (completed November 1936).<sup>27</sup> While this was under

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<sup>25</sup> T.W. Fergusen Jr. to Williams (10 April, 1936) CMP; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 29.

<sup>26</sup> John C. Paige, The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933-1942 (NPS, Department of the Interior, 1985), p. 190-91.

<sup>27</sup> Various sources, cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 29-30; The administration building (aka Building 1, general store, quarters) currently houses the Catoctin Research Center of Mount St.

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way, architect Vanson and landscape architect Milson designed the cabin camps.

Misty Mount was built in 1937 on 30 acres of land composed of tract numbers 3, 98, and 146. Greentop was built in 1938 on tract numbers 26 and 26a. Hi-Catoctin and the never-completed Camp 4-G were sited on and near tract 96c overlooking the Monocacy River Valley.<sup>28</sup>

These facilities were oriented toward the less-privileged visitors who would not have access to state parks, which accommodated travelers of moderate income or better, "thus throwing the entire burden of providing the low-income groups with recreation on local government agencies. The pleasure to be derived from recreation [in] large natural areas will be denied this large subsistence group unless special means of transportation can be devised."<sup>29</sup> As Catoctin was designed as an organized camp, a genre of recreation born out of the precedents of private and "educational and character-influencing organizations," most campers were bussed in by sponsoring groups.<sup>30</sup>

From the outset, facilities at Catoctin RDA were considered to accommodate the even more specific audience of physically handicapped children--a cause of particular interest to the polio-stricken FDR. From the earliest announcement of the Catoctin project, the Maryland League for Crippled Children (MLCC) lobbied the Resettlement Administration, NPS, and project manager Williams for such a facility there. And although the MLCC could not afford to finance their own camp, it had "the money in a special fund to equip it."<sup>31</sup> Misty Mount was to serve as the permanent MLCC camp, at first, then it was determined that the rugged terrain was too difficult for children in braces or on crutches to overcome; the MLCC used it only that first year while the second camp was under construction. Henceforth the new Camp

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Mary's College and the blacksmith shop (Building 4) serves as a maintenance shed; both are on their original site. The oil shed (Building 5) has been moved to a site near the blacksmith shop. No other structures from this period remain at the park.

<sup>28</sup> Various sources, cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 33.

<sup>29</sup> NPS, "Park Use Study 1937, A Report on Attendance and Use at Eighty-six Selected Parks in Region 1" (Richmond: NPS, 1937), p. 34.

<sup>30</sup> "Dumfries Camps to Aid D.C. Groups," Washington Post (March 1936).

<sup>31</sup> Stanley Hawkins to Lisle (13 October, 1936) CMP; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 34.

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Greentop regularly hosted handicapped children.<sup>32</sup> Camp Misty Mount was then assigned to the YMCA and YWCA organizations.

As Camp Misty Mount was being completed, plans for Camp Greentop were being developed--with some modifications based on observations made during the first season of handicapped-camper occupancy. These included the installation of a bathtub with a grab bar, a swimming pool, and all facilities located not farther than 600 feet from the dining hall--as the younger children "were severely taxed by long distances several times a day." The eight- to 10-person style of cabin was also specified, housing four youngsters on each side of a center leaders' room. Two unit lodges were eliminated from the Greentop plan because the porches and outdoor space were used so much, and these were replaced by additional staff quarters.<sup>33</sup> The deviations from standard NPS camp layouts were ultimately considered flexible enough to oblige other populations. The final plans were approved in early 1938 and it was ready that same year for the first seasons' campers, who named it "Greentop" because of "their appreciation of the abundance of green trees on the top of the mountain."<sup>34</sup>

The development of Camp Hi-Catoctin began while the details of Camp Greentop were still being worked out in 1938. It was slated to be a "three-unit camp for children" according to standard organized-camp plans, with structures constructed of rough "waney board" siding rather than logs. This camp was to be used by boys, and another--Camp 4-G located about 1,400 feet from Hi-Catoctin--would host girls. (Plans for Camp 4-G were initiated in late 1938, but lack of labor, funding, and the World War II crisis that foreshadowed impending U.S. involvement cancelled its continuation.<sup>35</sup>)

By July 1938, units A and B at Hi-Catoctin were well under way, with the site of unit C being discussed. Many organizations came forward as interested sponsors, including one that sought "family" facilities that required the addition of some cabin partitions and coed latrine and wash house orientation. The Federal Camp Council, which occupied Hi-Catoctin during the summers of 1939-41, offered "a wholesome program of recreation amid beautiful surroundings, with opportunities for the development of latent talents, and adequate

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<sup>32</sup> William Renner, interview (15 March, 1987); cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 35.

<sup>33</sup> Stanley Hawkins to Lisle (13 October, 1936) CMP; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 37.

<sup>34</sup> Mary E. Church, "Camping with Crippled Children at Greentop," The Child (May 1941), p. 311-15. U.S. Labor Library; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 41.

<sup>35</sup> Kirkconnell, et al., p. 44.

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provisions for rest and relaxation."<sup>36</sup> After 1941, Hi-Catoctin became part of FDR's World War II retreat. All development of camping facilities at Catoctin ceased at this time.

The Catoctin park has served special-interest groups over the years, as well. During the summer of 1941, for example, British sailors whose ship was in a Baltimore dry dock were bussed to the mountain retreat for a period of rest.<sup>37</sup> Concurrent with the work on Shangri-La during the war, the U.S. Army and U.S. Marines occupied the balance of the park for military exercises, causing much disruption to the environment. And after the war, the Marine Corps used Camp Greentop as a physical rehabilitation facility for men "returning to the U.S. after long periods of combat duty in the tropical islands of the Pacific."<sup>38</sup>

Despite the continuous and rugged use of Catoctin Mountain Park since its beginnings in 1934, the two remaining public-use camps are intact and reflect the principals of architecture and landscape architecture. Although "it is usually . . . necessary to forego any burden of cost that might be solely assessable to 'imagination-stimulation' or 'romantic appeal,'" at Catoctin the materials lent themselves to high-styled rustic ideals.<sup>39</sup>

The three original organized-camp facilities exemplify codified NPS design and layout. A trio of recognizable camp-building typology evolved: administration/service, recreational/cultural, and sleeping quarters. This is reflected in unit camps composed of one- to four-person cabins and eight- to 10-person cabins, a latrine(s) and lodge clustered together like a satellite, around a core of shared structures: dining hall, craft lodge, infirmary, and office. Unit camps are defined as organized camps designed to accommodate 25 to 100 campers, broken into groups of 16 to 32 persons--with 24 the ideal number. The small groups invite personal attention, focused interests, and control of communicable disease.<sup>40</sup>

Small units could handle 24 to 32 persons; medium, 48 to 64 persons in two units; and large, 72 to 96 persons in three or four units. Privacy being a paramount factor, 600 feet is the recommended distance between cabins, except for those occupied by youngsters, where

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<sup>36</sup> Aneta E. Bowden, "Report of Summer Season" (16 December, 1940) CMP; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 45.

<sup>37</sup> Kirkconnell, et al., p. 71.

<sup>38</sup> U.S. Marine Corps request (3 July, 1945) CMP; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 90.

<sup>39</sup> Good, reprint, pp. 3, 5, 8.

<sup>40</sup> Albert Good, reprint "Organized Camp Facilities," p. 3, 5, 8.

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50 feet between cabins and no more than 150 feet to a latrine, are suggested.<sup>41</sup>

The organized-camping units were planned to take advantage of light, prevailing winds and views from the cabins, while site terrain was used to best advantage for the pool and cabin foundations. Trees slated to remain in place were boxed to prevent injury during construction, and workers took equal precautions to protect the topsoil.<sup>42</sup> Horses hauled the logs to the sites rather than using wagons or trucks, to minimize disruption of the landscape.

The design of the structures was taken from Albert Good's Park Structures and Facilities (1935), for which the human and material resources of the area were ideally suited. The public recreation facilities were designed as log cabins, utilizing the fallen chestnut trees and those approved by state foresters for harvest. "Picturesque snags, approximately six per acre were to be left for aesthetic purposes and wildlife consideration."<sup>43</sup> The trees taken could be used in their entirety if squared off, notched and saddled, as opposed to planed into boards, for which only 40 percent of the trees were suited. The logs were pinned on site with locust, and the 4- to 8-inch by 26-inch shingles were rived out of local red oak and laid in random courses. Oak was used for the interior tongue-in-groove floors, and interior trim was fitted out of chestnut, oak, or hemlock.<sup>44</sup>

Three historic structures in the former central garage unit are extant: the administration office (Building 1), blacksmith shop (Building 4), and oil shop (Building 5, though moved from its original site). Due to the radical rehabilitation and new construction in this area, which now serves as the contemporary maintenance area (which is closed to the public) and Camp Round Meadow, however, the context of WPA occupation is irretrievably lost.

In June 1939, the NPS sought legislation that would orchestrate the return of most RDAs to their respective states, a process that continued up to the war. Catoctin Mountain Park, like Chopawamsic RDA (today Prince William Forest Park, also NCR) south of

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<sup>41</sup> Good, p. 6.

<sup>42</sup> Fred T. Johnson to Michael Williams (18 February, 1937); Camp 1-C Justification (no date), CMP; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 32.

<sup>43</sup> Herbert Evison to Williams (9 October, 1936) CMP; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 26.

<sup>44</sup> Justification and Specifications for Camp C-1, (no date) CMP; cited in Kirkconnell, p. 26.

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Washington, was one of four RDA projects that remained in the national park system.<sup>45</sup> "The National Capital Parks are in urgent need of an area qualifying for recreational use of private charity, semi-public and other organizations serving the large population," wrote NPS Director Arno Cammerer in 1935.<sup>46</sup> A more likely motive for keeping Catoctin in the system, however, was for the security measures associated with Camp David.

In 1942 Catoctin was closed to the public, but the greatest advocate of public recreation began making regular visits--President Roosevelt. Doctors grew concerned over his asthma and war-induced stress--particularly during the stifling summer months--and recommended an out-of-doors retreat, a prescription necessarily coupled with administrative concerns of security and the need to be close to Washington. Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes was alerted to the search for a suitable site within 100 miles of the White House, which he in turn delegated to Conrad L. Wirth, then NPS director of recreation and land planning. Three possible sites were named: one in Shenandoah National Park in Virginia; the other two were the unbuilt Camp 4 and Camp Hi-Catoctin in Maryland. Hi-Catoctin was selected after a presidential visit, with unit B lodge to become the retreat's nucleus, to be "revamped" at a cost of \$25,000 to meet FDR's needs. The camp then was renamed Shangri-La, after the fictional mountain retreat in the novel Lost Horizon--named, aptly, by author James Hilton after a site in London dessimated during the German blitzkrieg.<sup>47</sup>

The lodge and other buildings at Shangri-La were substantially remodeled, including the installation of 11-foot exposed-beam ceilings, a bedroom wing, and fire-escape features. Several cabins were were joined under one roof to serve as staff quarters, and a formal entrance was built from "hand-hewn post-and-rail fencing fabricated out of salvage collected from abandoned farms in the vicinity."<sup>48</sup> Protection was generally provided by 20 U.S. Marine sentry posts, and 100 Marines when FDR was in residence; a 9-foot barbed-wire fence wired with an alarm; an intercom between posts and cabins; and a 250-watt receiver station.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Paige, p. 120; the other two are the land adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park and Hopewell Village National Historic Site.

<sup>46</sup> Arno B. Cammerer to C. Marshall Finnan (February 2, 1935).

<sup>47</sup> Kirkconnell, et al., p. 75-76.

<sup>48</sup> A Summary of the Development of "Shangri-La" (1942), p. 23, located in FDR Library; this and other sources cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 78-79.

<sup>49</sup> Michael Rielly to Asst. Sec. Gaston (27 May, 1942), FDR Library; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 80.

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The secure retreat was visited by numerous political personalities in addition to FDR's staff, including British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who described the lodge as "in principle a log cabin with all modern improvements."<sup>50</sup> President Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the name to Camp David, after his grandson, upon assuming the office. And it has since served the American presidents in search of a mountain retreat.

All historic resources at Catoctin Forest Park maintain their integrity and reflect the New Deal period and programs of the late 1930s, with its emphasis on human and natural conservation. And although the construction of rustic architecture essentially ceased with World War II, its tenure fulfilled NPS goals:

It allowed the development of necessary park facilities without needless disruption of the natural scene. It facilitated the separation of the parks from the rest of the world.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Winston S. Churchill, The Second World War, the Hinge of Fate, vol. IV (London: Cassell & Co. Ltd., 1951), p. 712; cited in Kirkconnell, et al., p. 82.

<sup>51</sup> Tweed, et al., p. 106.



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**F. Associated Property Types**

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I. Name of Property Type Public recreation facility/campground

II. Description

All contributing park buildings are distinctively rustic: V-notched chestnut logs pinned with locust and chinked with concrete--in addition to, and in combination with--rough-sawn "waney board" used in vertical and horizontal arrangements. Stone is used for chimneys, steps, and foundations; cedar shingles top the gable roofs. The public-recreation facilities are consistently modest, one-story variations on a rectangular plan with ells and porches. Window treatments include 6/6 and updated sash, 8-light casement, removable screens and hinged wood shutters. Camps Misty Mount and Greentop typify NPS organized-camp layouts of the period. Several small or dormitory camper cabins, a latrine, leaders' cabin and lodge are clustered together as a satellite setting, situated a short distance from a hub of shared camp buildings that include a dining hall/kitchen, infirmary, and nature cabin. This

III. Significance

The historic resources at Camp (1) Misty Mount and Camp (2) Greentop represent the economic-improvement and conservation efforts of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs of the mid-1930s, within the context of state and local significance. These organized cabin camps were among the first projects completed at Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area, established in 1935 by the Resettlement Administration and the National Park Service. They are physically significant for rustic architectural and landscape architectural styling, as well as their role in the development of conservation and outdoor recreation. Built from 1936-38, the camps near Thurmont in Frederick County, Maryland, retain their historic integrity and represent the sole RDA facility established in the state.

IV. Registration Requirements

Requirements for this property type include a cohesive and harmonious arrangement of architectural and landscape architectural features that maintain their historic integrity:

A. Natural landscape features

1. creeks and tributaries
2. mountains, valleys, ridges
3. forest and native vegetation

B. Manmade landscape features

1. public-recreation facilities
2. park roads
3. foot and horse trails

☒ See continuation sheet

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☐ See continuation sheet for additional property types

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**II. Description continued**

arrangement was modified somewhat at Camp Greentop to accommodate the special needs of handicapped campers. The forest and topography is taken advantage of whenever possible, with buildings set into the rocky landscape to attain scenic views as well as some privacy. These facilities have remained predominantly undisturbed by incongruous alterations or new construction, and they are used today for the original purpose of overnight camping for handicapped and underprivileged city children.

**IV. Registration requirements continued****C. Architectural typology**

1. sleeping quarters: cabins
2. administrative/service: dining hall, infirmary
3. recreational/cultural: craft lodge, nature cabin

**D. Architectural styling**

1. NPS "patternbook" sources: plans, elevations
2. indigenous materials: log, stone
3. handcrafted (or simulated) features: hardware, fixtures
4. one-story, horizontal emphasis

## G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

The multiple property listing for ECW Architecture at Catoctin Mountain Park, 1935-38, is based on the comprehensive Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History written by Barbara Kirkconnell, Dr. Fred Kuss, and Dr. Robert E. Kauffman (February 1988). The typology of significant resources is based on National Park Service organization of its public-recreation park structures into three groups: sleeping quarters, administrative/service, and recreational/cultural. The resources represent one property type because they were planned, designed, and constructed by the same organization during the same period, using like materials, and of related architectural styling. Several sources contributed to the identification and evaluation of the architectural resources, including: a March 1953 inventory of park structures; the administrative history by Kirkconnell, et al.; John Paige's administrative history of the NPS and CCC; NPS Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942 by William Tweed, et al.; and Albert Good's definitive 1935/38 Park and Recreation Structures.

☐ See continuation sheet

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☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- ☐ State historic preservation office  
☐ Other State agency  
☒ Federal agency

- ☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

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

## I. Form Prepared By

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