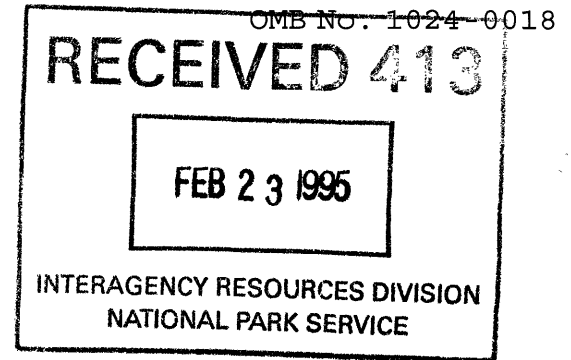


NPS Form 10-900-b  
(June 1991)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form

X New Submission      \_\_\_\_\_ Amended Submission



**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

Jewel Cave National Monument Multiple Property Submission

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

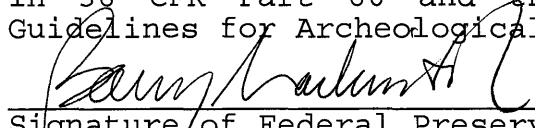
Tourism in the Black Hills, 1890-1944; Creation and Development of Jewel Cave National Monument, 1905-1944; National Park Service Rustic Architecture and Public Works Construction, 1933-1942

**C. Form Prepared by**

name/title: Kenneth W. Karsmizki  
organization: Western History Research      date: Nov 1993  
street & number: 409 West Harrison      telephone: 406-587-2478  
city or town: Bozeman      state: MT      zip code: 59715

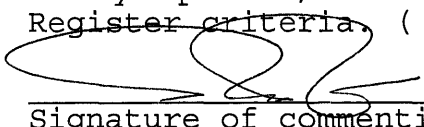
**D. Certification**

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 and Guidelines for Archeological and Historic Preservation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Federal Preservation Officer  
National Park Service

2/15/95  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

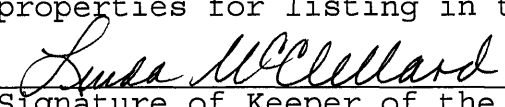
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official  
South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office

1-26-95  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*\*\*\*\*

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 Keeper of the National Register

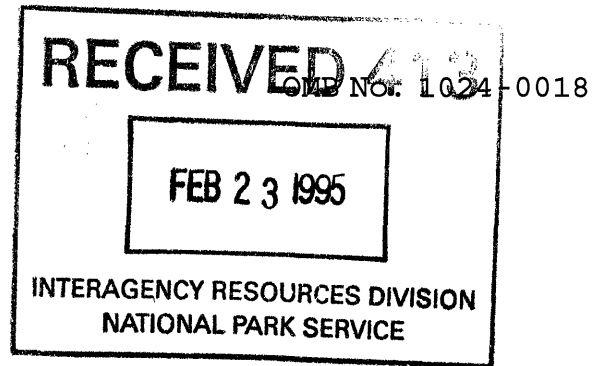
4/04/95  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(June 1991)

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**Historic Resources, Jewel Cave National Monument  
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**E. Statement of Historic Contexts**

The following is a synopsis of the discussion of historic contexts found in Barbara Beving Long's Jewel Cave National Monument Historic Contexts and National Register Guidelines, 1992.

Geography and Geology

Although Jewel Cave is typical of over 100 known caves in the Black Hills, it has been identified as the second longest cave in the nation. Notable formations include calcite crystals in white, yellow, red and gray; colorful sedimentary deposits from black to bright red and yellow; flowstone; cave pearls; cave popcorn; dripstone; frostwork; rare hydromagnesite balloons found only in two or three other caves in the world; and Jewel Cave scintillites. Jewel Cave is a wind cave located in the Pahasapa limestone that surrounds the Black Hills. Wind caves are characterized by the movement of air in and out of the portals as exterior air pressure changes.

This region was formed 60 to 70 million years ago when the North American Continent buckled and formed the domed uplift of the Black Hills. Dramatic geological formations are a distinctive feature of the Black Hills. Notable attractions include Wind Cave National Park, Badlands National Park, Custer State Park, Needles Highway, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and the Mammoth Site National Natural Landmark of Hot Springs. Jewel Cave (1,273.51 acres) is located 13 miles west of Custer, South Dakota at the southwest side of the Black Hills along present Highway 16. Ponderosa pine and spruce forests dominate the mountainous terrain.

**HISTORIC BACKGROUND**

Early History of the Black Hills, Prehistory-1900

Prehistoric people of both the Middle Missouri River valley and the High and Northern Plains cultures visited the Black Hills seasonally for hunting and acquiring stone for tools. Paleoindian sites dating from between 10,000 and 5,000 B.C. include camps at Hell Gap and Agate Basin in the southwest corner of the southern Black Hills. During the Middle Archaic Period (3,500-1,000 B.C.) the McKean Complex people lived throughout the Plains, including the southern Black Hills. These people were excellent bison hunters evidenced by a wide variety of projectile point designs and knives. During the Late Prehistoric Period (A.D. 200-1750), ceramic production was introduced to the Northern Plains, and the bow and arrow replaced the atlatl. Representatives of the Coalescent Tradition used the Black Hills and Badlands seasonally as shown in the many rock shelters containing ceramics. Historic people from

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**(Historic Background- cont'd)**

this Tradition were later known as the Arikara, and the contemporary Middle Missouri Tradition people in North Dakota were known as the Mandan and Hidatsa.

The Kiowa, Crow, Ponca, Cheyenne, and Sioux continued their seasonal use of the Black Hills as Euroamerican settlement pushed the indigenous people westward. The first written record of the Sioux in the area dates from 1640. The Sioux have been associated with the Black Hills through a series of treaties and also through their battle with U.S. troops at the Little Big Horn. Some Native Americans, especially the Sioux, believe the Black Hills area, including caves, are sacred. The hot springs at present Hot Springs, South Dakota were visited by Native Americans for their recuperative qualities and skirmishes were fought for control of them. Caves and hot springs have been linked to Native American mythology.

Early Exploration, 1743-1860s

Beginning in the mid-18th century a variety of traders, scientists and military convoys passed through and around the Black Hills. In 1743 a party led by Francois and Louis La Verendrye saw the Black Hills as France sought to explore and claim vast western territories. Following the Treaty of Paris signed in 1763, Spain temporarily acquired title to lands west of the Mississippi River, France then secured these lands from Spain, then sold them to the United States in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase. Explorers to the area included Lewis and Clark in 1804 (whose maps were the first to show the Black Hills), the Astorian party in 1811, and the Hayden Expedition of 1854. These early explorers primarily skirted the northern Black Hills. However, three years later Hayden returned and entered the Black Hills, at which time Harney Peak was discovered and named. The military sponsored the expedition to gather physical and geological data on the area.

Mining in the Black Hills, 1860s-1870s

Although the Laramie Treaty of 1868 placed the Black Hills in the ownership of the Sioux and forbid Euro-American use, mineral resources of the Black Hills drew people into the area illegally. In 1872, Charles Collins of Sioux City, Iowa organized the Black Hills Mining and Exploration Association. In 1874 a military expedition into the hills led by Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer discovered gold there. A gold rush immediately ensued, and despite the fact that it was Indian land, 11,000 prospectors had populated Custer City by 1876. Prospectors established mining claims, camps, placer mines, and crude roads. In 1877 the Sioux were forced to cede the Black Hills to

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**(Historic Background- cont'd)**

the U.S. government. When news reached Custer of gold discoveries in Deadwood Gulch in 1876, thousands moved into that area. The Jewel Cave vicinity was not a focus of this activity, primarily due to the rich loads found in the Deadwood area.

To capture the market of the gold mining communities, merchants and freight haulers established routes during the 1870s and 1880s from Cheyenne, Wyoming; Sydney, Nebraska; Yankton, Pierre and Chamberlain, South Dakota; and Bismarck and Dickinson, North Dakota. In addition, rail service reached Pierre and Chamberlain in 1880. By 1884 a trail between Custer and Newcastle, Wyoming, called the "Road to Jenny's Stockade" appeared on the Andreas Map. Its route lay just south of the present boundary of Jewel Cave National Monument (JCNM)

Open Range Ranching and Homesteading, late 1870s-1900

With the arrival of the railroad in Rapid City from Chadron, Nebraska in 1886, the permanence of settlement in the area was assured. After the gold rush, cattle and sheep ranching and farming gained prominence. In the 1870s and 1880s cattle and sheep were brought to feeding ranges on public domain land in the Black Hills. Miners, tradesman and Indian agencies provided a strong local market, and the railroad offered access to the national market. The arid environment necessitated large land holdings to sustain livestock and ranchers took advantage of the 1862 Homestead Act, the Timber Culture Act of 1873, the Dessert Land Act of 1877, and the available free public domain grazing land to expands their holdings. Maps from the late 19th century show ranches and homesteads of varying size and duration in the Jewel Cave vicinity, but it remained largely unsettled.

**HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

There are three contexts related to the monument's resources: Tourism in the Black Hills, 1890- 1944; Creation and Development of Jewel Cave National Monument, 1905-1944; and NPS Rustic Architecture and Public Works Construction, 1933-1942. While the first two represent distinct historic trends and patterns, they overlap historically and developmentally. Thus, the narrative which follows covers information related to both contexts.

Tourism in the Black Hills, 1890-1944

Beginning in the 1890s, Wind Cave, located 19 miles southeast of Custer, was promoted as a privately operated tourist business, and specimens from it were sold as souvenirs, setting a precedent for the commercial development of such natural resources. On a smaller scale the original developers of Jewel Cave

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**(Historic Contexts- cont'd)**

sought to capitalize on its natural wonders beginning in the 1900s. Felix Michaud was among the early settlers of the Custer area and his family, especially his sons Frank and Albert, were responsible for the initial discovery and development of the cave as a tourist attraction. On October 1, 1900, Felix, Frank, and Albert Michaud and Charles Bush filed the Jewel Tunnel Claim. The mineral claim was necessary as the cave was on public domain land in the national forest reserve.

The proprietors enlarged the original opening, installed ropes and ladders, and commenced exploring the cave and removing specimens. To accommodate tourists, Frank Michaud built a hotel and a road to it through Lithograph Canyon. The brothers advertised the cave and offered tours for a modest fee. They claimed a trail 1 1/2 miles through the cave had been established by 1907. Specimens were removed and sold at Pilcher's drugstore in Custer, a practice not uncommon for the time. The cave developers worked at the cave four months out of the year and cave tours were sporadic. As the venture continued, Charles Bush's interests were bought out, Bertha Cain was sold partial interest, and the claim was renamed Jewel Lode Claim. In 1910 Albert withdrew from ownership, leaving Frank as the primary claimant.

Late 19th Century Tourism and Caves

The Michauds' development and exploitation of the Jewel Cave reflected American attitudes prevalent in the late 19th century. Unlike attractions such as Niagara Falls with its showy, above-ground display, caves were viewed as something dark and mysterious, filled with religious symbolism and ritualistic meanings. A visitor must be guided through the cave, or would risk being lost or fail to interpret the experience, much the same way a religious leader interprets the religious sphere. The journey through the cave was difficult but ultimately rewarding, as spiritual journeys are. The cave was viewed as both the sacred and the profane by both the developers and the tourists. Though the Michauds sought to protect it and profit from tours through its natural wonders, they pillaged and sold its riches. The tourists reveled in its mysteries, then purchased samples for souvenirs. This dichotomy of the time was well represented at Jewel Cave.

Creation and Early Development of Jewel Cave National Monument, 1905-28  
Jewel Cave Game Preserve, 1905

Beginning around 1905 some area residents began voicing concerns that the caves were being desecrated by the Michauds' management practices. Inspired by developments at Wind Cave, it was suggested that a way to save the cave

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**(Historic Contexts- cont'd)**

was to have the federal government establish a game preserve there, a popular sentiment of the time. An investigation was launched by the Forest Service in response to the concerns of local citizens. The report which ensued noted that the natural resources of the area were of significant economic value for ranching, homesteading, and timber harvesting, and that it would not be in the interest of the Forest Service or the locals to set a large tract of land aside as a game preserve. However, the report did suggest that the immediate vicinity of the cave be declared a "National Monument" due to its scientific interest. With the passage of the Antiquities Act in 1906, a mechanism was in place for preserving areas for their scientific or historic value. Jewel Cave National Monument, comprising 1,280 acres, was established February 7, 1908. It was one of 28 national monuments created in the first five years after the act was passed. This trend indicated a new national awareness of its limited resources and a movement to preserve areas in the public interest.

Jewel Cave National Monument, 1908

Three separate agencies were given responsibility for the early national monuments (Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and the War Department), but all lacked the personnel and appropriations to properly care for them. From 1908 until 1933 Jewel Cave was under the administration of the Agriculture Department's Forest Service. Until 1928 it was not open to the public and there were no appropriations for it. Also during this period the Michaud family continued to pay assessments to keep their mineral claim active and gave all appearance of still owning the property. They appear to have continued giving occasional tours on request and still removed and sold specimens as late as 1916.

Administration and Further Development of Jewel Cave National Monument, 1928-33

Jewel Cave Corporation, 1928-33

With the increasing popularity of the automobile and increased tourism which resulted, local concerns sought to promote the Black Hills as a tourist attraction. As Americans took to the roads, South Dakota worked to improve its highways and provide facilities for auto campers. As part of this concern with attracting auto tourists, the Custer Commercial Club and the Newcastle, Wyoming Lions Club sought to operate the Jewel Cave National Monument. With the aid of South Dakota Congressman William Williamson they succeeded in getting the cave securely locked in 1924 to prevent more looting, and in 1925 Custer citizens outlined a plan to federal officials for

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**(Historic Contexts- cont'd)**

organizing an association for opening the cave to the public. The plan included building a log entrance and providing tour guides for paying tourists. Negotiations between the Forest Service and the Custer area boosters resulted in the Jewel Cave Corporation (JCC), with the understanding that when the federal government had the means to take over the management they would reimburse the corporation for its improvements to the property. Articles of incorporation were drawn up June 15, 1928. Representatives of the JCC contacted Frank Michaud's widow, who relinquished her claim and transferred title that same year. Improvements included stairs in the cave and the opening of more passages. They also improved the road, built a parking lot, and created a foot trail to the cave entrance. Employees gave tours in the summer carrying gasoline lanterns, and worked on maintenance and improvements in the off-season. The JCC operated the monument from 1928 to 1933.

New Deal Programs, 1933-49

With the signing of Executive Order 6166 by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1933, much of the federal government was reorganized. The National Park Service (NPS) within the Department of the Interior became responsible for all national monuments, including Jewel Cave. With the massive amounts of money made available through the Civilian Conservation Corps and other federal relief programs, the NPS at last had the resources to improve the areas under its management. In the initial round of CCC camps, South Dakota was given 13 camps intended to house 3,600 enrollees, the largest per capita in the nation. Sixty percent of the total number had the opportunity to work in the Black Hills.

Jewel Cave National Monument and the National Park Service, 1933-39

The NPS continued the lease arrangement with JCC for providing tours until 1939. Meanwhile, it was officially opened under the management of the NPS in June of 1934. In July of that same year CCC Company 2754, Camp NP-1 was established at Wind Cave National Park. The group worked on improvements both at Wind Cave and at JCNM. In May of 1935, a 25-man side camp was authorized for Jewel Cave, providing cave improvements, landscaping, and building construction. With a careful balance between preserving the natural environment and providing access for public enjoyment, the NPS directed improvements at JCNM. CCC participants improved the cave trail in 1935; built a 3-room ranger cabin (extant) that included public restrooms and lodging for the ranger in residence, completed in 1936; razed the old log hotel the Michauds had built; built a trail down Hell Canyon to the original

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**(Historic Contexts- cont'd)**

entrance and continuing to the highway, including stone steps and retaining walls which were completed in 1939; built a fence around the monument boundary to keep out livestock; and constructed a sewer system, water system, improved parking area, and a campground. The CCC camp was closed in September of 1939.

National Park Service Rustic Architecture and Public Works Construction,  
1933-1942

In any area in which the preservation of the beauty of Nature is a primary purpose, every modification of the natural landscape, whether it be by construction of a road or erection of a shelter, is an intrusion. A basic objective of those who are entrusted with development of such areas for the human uses for which they are established, is, it seems to me, to hold these intrusions to a minimum and so to design them that, besides being attractive to look upon, they appear to belong to and be a part of their settings.

Arno B. Cammerer, Director (1933-1940)  
National Park Service

This philosophy, which appeared in the 1935 Department of the Interior publication, *Park Structures and Facilities*, had governed architecture within the National Park Service since its inception in 1917. The preferred architectural style was referred to as "rustic" architecture. As early as 1842, architects were aware of the influence that surrounding landscape had on architectural design. Andrew Jackson Downing, noted landscape architect of the 19th century, published his ideas on "picturesque" landscape and architectural design in his book, *Cottage Residences*. Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., a student of Downing, emphasized the connection between landscape and architecture by incorporating natural materials, such as native stone, log, and timber, into his designs. As building forms blended to their surroundings, it was apparent that landscaping would become an integral part of architectural design.

With a focus towards preserving pristine lands, the establishment of the first national parks was a response to the romanticism that restructured the American concept of wilderness in the nineteenth century. Beginning with Yellowstone, public lands were reserved for the first national parks.



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**(Historic Contexts- cont'd)**

Under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of the Interior, some park lands were protected and administered by the U.S. Army until the NPS was created in 1916. Stephen T. Mather, an 1887 graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and a Sierra Club conservationist, became the director of the NPS after a lengthy campaign leading to the establishment of the bureau. Horace Albright, appointed Assistant Director of the new bureau, held the same beliefs and ideals as Mather for the conservation and use of the park lands.

Visiting the parks, Mather and Albright believed strongly that the type of architecture constructed in parks should conform to the wilderness character of the areas. Finding different degrees of development in the parks, it was obvious that a variety of architectural styles had been employed in the construction of park structures. Many existing government buildings were small and unassuming, except in some of the earlier parks, such as Yellowstone, where the U. S. Army and the railroad companies had erected permanent structures. Railroad companies employed architects such as Robert Reamer, Mary Colter, and Gilbert Stanley Underwood to design elegant hotels, chalets, and lodges. Old Faithful Inn, constructed by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1903-1904 in Yellowstone National Park and El Tovar, built by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway at the Grand Canyon in 1905, provide outstanding early examples of rustic architecture in the parks. Employing such building materials as native stone and logs, they were harmonious to the surrounding landscape and terrain.

Working with the American Society of Landscape Architects, the NPS demonstrated a commitment to the rustic design philosophy as it formulated its first official statement of policy, issued by Secretary of the Interior Franklin Lane in 1918:

In the construction of roads, trails, buildings, and other improvements, particular attention must be devoted always to the harmonizing of these improvements with the landscape. This is a most important item in our programs of development and requires the employment of trained engineers who either possess a knowledge of landscape architecture or have a proper appreciation of the aesthetic value of park lands.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Cited in Harrison, *Historic Housing in the National Park System*, p. 5

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**(Historic Contexts- cont'd)**

Through the use of engineers and landscape architects, all improvements were to be carried out in accordance with a preconceived plan developed in special reference to the preservation of the landscape. As the terrain and environment varied in the parks, it became apparent that a single architectural style would not be appropriate for all of the parks. Following preconceived design plans, administrative and visitor buildings were stylistically adapted to specific environments.

Architectural designs concentrated on using onsite, natural materials of the same scale as the surrounding landscape and worked at making the buildings look as if they were constructed by frontier craftsmen using primitive hand tools. Often these early designers looked toward the local architectural traditions of the area in which they were building and adapted those styles for use in parks. This organic approach to architecture suitable for park settings became known as rustic architecture or "parkitecture."

By incorporating native materials into design and construction, the subordination of the structure to the environment was achieved in several ways. By situating the structure in an appropriate site, secluded or behind natural vegetation, the constructed materials were less of an intrusion to the environment. Structural elements of the design were important to keep the building in the proper scale and perspective. In high, mountainous areas, such as Yosemite and Yellowstone, an emphasis on overscaling of the materials and size was a predominate design influence so the building would not be dwarfed in the presence of the surrounding trees and rough terrain. In lower, less rugged areas, there was not a crucial need for the design to be oversized. A focus was placed on the choice of building materials and placement of the structure. An emphasis on horizontal lines, as opposed to more conspicuous vertical lines, helped to keep roof lines low and unobtrusive in the non-mountainous terrain.

**Landscape Architecture**

This rustic design philosophy was applied to both architecture and landscape architecture in state and national parks. A naturalistic style of landscaping evolved from the 19th-century English gardening tradition, first applied in the United States to the "pleasure grounds" of the wealthy. Popularized in the mid-19th century by such writings of Andrew Jackson Downing as *Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening*, this style of landscaping became evident in the latter part of the century in city parks, in particular those designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

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(Historic Contexts- cont'd)

Of Olmsted's greatest parks, Franklin Park in Boston, designed in the 1880s, established the precedent for the landscape design of natural areas....Franklin Park established both a precedent and a standard for the design of rustic park structures, use of rockwork and native vegetation, and the arrangement of the country park in relationships to natural features and transportation needs. The Olmsted legacy established a design ethic for the public use of natural areas that would be carried into the 20th century by the landscape architecture profession. It combined with the West Coast influences of Bungalow architecture and Japanese landscape design in the Craftsman architecture of the early 20th century....Through these influences and the growing natural history programs of the national parks, this design ethic was adopted and developed by NPS designers.<sup>2</sup>

During the 1920s, the NPS landscape division grew in size. Its primary function was to design park construction projects that harmonized with the natural and scenic qualities of the park. In 1927, the division came under the direction of Chief Landscape Architect Thomas C. Vint. In *Presenting Nature, The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942*, historian Linda Flint McLelland writes that it was during this era that funds became available for the construction of much-needed roads and trails. In 1926, the NPS signed a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Public Roads, "whereby park designers set aesthetic standards of workmanship, location, and design of roads while bureau engineers provided the latest technology." Civil engineers and landscape architects maintained a similar working partnership with regard to trails. Such professional partnerships that developed in the 1920 continued in the following decade. McLelland writes,

"In the 1930s, through emergency conservation and public works projects, the naturalistic landscape design of the national parks matured and flourished. Master plans became reality as, project by project, work was carried out under the direction of the park's resident landscape architect."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> McLelland, "Yosemite Centennial Symposium Proceedings."

<sup>3</sup> McLelland, *Presenting Nature*, p. 3.

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**(Historic Contexts- cont'd)**

Public Works Programs

By the time that the rustic architecture philosophy had become an accepted element to park planning, the NPS had acquired a great deal of land for public use. Many national parks were instated and visitation rose as the automobile made travel accessible for a large part of the population. To accommodate the influx of visitors, the NPS recognized the need to develop service and information areas, as well as roads and trails. With the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Public Works Administration (PWA), the NPS accomplished a great deal of development and improvement within the national parks, including Jewel Cave National Monument.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, inaugurated into presidential office on March 4, 1933, was faced with the Great Depression and thousands of unemployed citizens. Introduced on March 21, 1933, the Federal Unemployment Relief Act was enacted on March 31, 1933. Encouraged by his long interest in forestry and conservation of natural areas, President Roosevelt proposed to utilize the manpower of 250,000 men in public work projects. In a solution to alleviate the unemployment problem, President Roosevelt established the agency of Emergency Conservation Work (ECW), popularly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps. On June 28, 1937 the Civilian Conservation Corps was formally established as an independent agency. With available labor, the NPS, along with many other government agencies, was able to develop and construct many administrative facilities. As stated by Conrad Wirth, departmental representative on the CCC Advisory Council and subsequently the Director of the National Park Service (1951-1964):

The Civilian Conservation Corps advanced park development by many years. It made possible the development of many protective facilities on the areas that comprise the National Park System. . . [which] benefitted immeasurably by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC also provided the manpower and materials to construct many administrative and public-use facilities . . . restore historic sites and buildings . . . and to do many other developmental and administrative tasks that are so important to the proper protection and use of the National Parks System. The CCC made available to the superintendents of the national parks, for the first time, a certain amount of manpower that allowed them to do many important jobs when and as they arose. Many

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**(Historic Contexts- cont'd)**

of these jobs made the difference between a well-managed park and one "just getting along."

South Dakota's collection of resort architecture is concentrated in the Black Hills. The Black Hills resort buildings date from the 1880s to 1940. Due to the Depression Era public works programs instituted 1933-1942, public buildings date from that period. Rustication is a hallmark of these structures. This rustic design philosophy of NPS architects and landscape architects is strongly reflected in both the historic building and trail at Jewel Cave National Monument. The log Ranger Station (HS-1) is an excellent example of the rustic style of architecture, typical of resort hotels, lodges, cabins, and governmental structures of the 1900-1940 period in South Dakota. The historic trail and cave entrance blend into their natural surroundings, thus carrying out the design philosophy of NPS landscape architects in the 1930s.

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**F. Associated Property Types**

Portions of the following are taken directly from Barbara Beving Long's Jewel Cave National Monument Historic Contexts and National Register Guidelines, 1992.

**RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH TOURISM AND THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF JEWEL CAVE,  
1890-1944**

**Description**

This context could have related property types sprinkled throughout the Black Hills, but for the purposes of this document only those within the confines of JCNM would be considered. Possible examples in the Black Hills could include hotels and other lodging, concession or souvenir stands, restaurants, privately owned tourist attractions, bridges, and other improvements designed to encourage recreation and tourism. A known but razed property at JCNM that fits within this category is the log hotel the Michaud family built.

The unifying feature is that the resources were conceived of and developed as tools for encouraging recreation and tourism in the Black Hills, especially in the Jewel Cave vicinity. Properties designed and developed by the National Park Service are not included. The development efforts were a combination of private initiative (private owners, booster organizations, concerned citizens) and governmental responses (state highway planners, state and federal elected officials). For example, early managers of Jewel Cave (the Michauds and, later, the Jewel Cave Corporation) sought to increase visitorship at the cave through a combination of preservation and modest development about the cave entrance.

Road resources also fit within this category. Recognizing the importance of good access, state officials and local boosters worked together to build and promote good transportation facilities in the Black Hills. In addition to operating Jewel Cave through Jewel Cave Corporation, one of the major goals of the Newcastle Lions Club and the Custer Commercial Club was to secure a modern highway between their communities. With the onset of the auto era, increasing numbers of tourists flocked to the Black Hills. Black Hills proponents improved roads, built bridges, and carved out entirely new routes more suited to the automobile.

A minor bridge, trail, or road, especially if it was not used by the public, would be unlikely to merit National Register listing. Road resources not used by the public would not be expected to rate highly since they play

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**(Associated Property Types- cont'd)**

lesser roles in the recreation and tourism economy. Road resources specifically developed by the National Park Service are not part of this property type; such resources are more properly associated with the development and administration of Jewel Cave as a national monument (see context below).

**Significance**

Tourism constitutes one of the most important economic activities in the Black Hills. Significant examples of this property type call attention to the role of tourism in the Black Hills economy and illustrate the effect of tourism and recreation on area development. The early history of Jewel Cave (before NPS involvement) is a good example of efforts to promote the tourism potential of Black Hills natural resources. Combined private and public efforts to provide improvements, such as better roads and tourist attractions, effectively illustrate this important facet of Black Hills economic development.

At JCNM, eligible properties are locally significant examples of the role of tourism and recreation in the Hills and are significant under Criterion A in the category of entertainment/recreation. They illustrate changing attitudes toward natural resources, private and governmental efforts to capitalize upon these resources, and the importance of tourism and recreational pursuits to the Black Hills economy.

**Registration Requirements**

Eligible properties must be located within the present boundaries of JCNM. Under Criterion A, eligible facilities must be directly associated with tourism or recreation. They must also demonstrate clear and positive patterns of usage related to this topic, not merely stand as an example of the topic. While historical archaeological sites may be found to fall within these registration requirements, consideration of them is beyond the scope of this project.

Under Criterion C, eligible properties within JCNM must embody the distinctive characteristics, types, and methods of construction of the period, especially as they relate to tourism and recreation. The period of significance begins with the 1890s, when intensive efforts to promote the recreational and tourism potential of the Hills were inaugurated, and extends

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to 1944, the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register.

Alterations must necessarily be considered individually. In the case of properties which have been subjected to constant use over the decades, some change is expected. The cumulative effect of the changes--the threshold after which it can be confidently stated that too much of the historic fabric, setting, and association has been obliterated--must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The more modest the design, the more likely that the cumulative effect of a number of small changes over time will exceed acceptable standards for integrity. Numerous small changes might cumulatively destroy its character-defining historic qualities.

Alterations to properties may be acceptable if the changes are at least 50 years old and thus part of the historic fabric. For example, if CCC crews altered the cave entrance in a manner that is virtually sympathetic to the original and to the natural resource, these changes may constitute an important part of the historical qualities of the resource. Whether more than 50 years old or more recent, alterations must be compatible in design, scale, materials, and setting with the original property and be reasonably nonintrusive.

**Property Type: RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION  
OF JEWEL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT, 1908-1944**

**Description**

Significant examples for this property type are directly associated with NPS development and administration of natural resources within the present boundaries of JCNM. Included in the category are properties designed following National Park Service principles ("parkitecture"), and/or are products of Civilian Conservation Corps projects.

The key factor that distinguishes these properties from other governmental improvements is that they are directly and positively related to the development of Jewel Cave as a national monument. The role of the National Park Service in developing, approving, managing, or building them--regardless of the particular federal agency that initially implemented them--is another important factor. The examples at JCNM are likely to date from the monument's pivotal initial period of physical development, the 1930s, but may date from 1908, when the monument was established, to 1944, the end of the



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historic period, as defined by the National Register.

Potentially important properties include the ranger cabin, the cave itself, early entrances, and notable objects (entry signs, retaining walls). Under Criterion C, properties reflecting parkitecture design principles should be of a suitable scale and placement so that they blend well with the natural surroundings. Materials and colors should also be in harmony with the environment. At JCNM, the use of logs and native stone reflects NPS design principles and is therefore an important character-defining feature. Examples should be evaluated for how they convey to the visitor that JCNM is an NPS facility. The presence of character-defining features, the degree of alteration to a particular property, and its location are important factors to consider. Monumentality and artificiality are counter to NPS design principles, and significant examples at JCNM are likely to be modest, harmonious, subtle, or collective in their impact.

Governmental efforts at conserving natural resources imply consideration of the landscape. Changes to the landscape (both above- and below-ground) thus form a part of this property type. The district potential of facilities at JCNM grouped around early cave entrances should be considered. Within that district, a number of landscape features--curbs, extensive stone retaining walls, paths, landscaping--contribute to the overall recognition that one is indeed at an NPS facility.

Utility buildings (especially remote ones) not associated with an important theme related to park development and operation are less likely to rank highly. Location, prominence, function, and representativeness become important consideration in assessing these examples. Roads and trails include resources the public and NPS staff use and also resources generally limited to NPS staff use only. The more public transportation routes, whether simple trails or paved roads, are more likely to rate highly because of their higher visibility.

**Significance**

Federal activities regarding the conservation of natural resources represent a fundamental shift in American responses to the environment. The development of national monuments such as JCNM illustrates NPS policies and principles which balance responsibility for preserving natural resources with public participation and appreciation of them. Important examples illustrate

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**(Associated Property Types- cont'd)**

a key NPS design principle, that of establishing harmony between the built and natural environments.

At JCNM, eligible properties are locally significant applications of federal involvement and are significant in the categories of conservation and entertainment/recreation. The historical development of JCNM illustrates changing attitudes toward natural resources, the role of the National Park Service in conserving them, and the effect federal management has on a natural resource.

**Registration Requirements**

Resources are eligible under Criterion A if they (individually or a district) were intended to enhance public viewing and appreciation of the national monument and its natural resources or to provide for the administration and operation of the facility. These goals are fundamental to the National Park Service's development of JCNM. They must also demonstrate clear and positive patterns of usage to this topic, not merely stand as an example of the topic.

Eligible road resources must have been specifically developed by the National Park Service. Roads and trails are prey to alteration--route re-alignment, erosion, construction of less steep or perilous paths--and these changes need to be taken into consideration. Trails and roads still occupying their original location possess higher integrity than notably altered examples.

Public recreational resources are eligible under Criterion C if they were designed with due regard for NPS design principles. Under Criterion C, eligible properties within JCNM must embody the distinctive characteristics of types and methods of construction of the period as they relate to NPS principles of appropriate park design. At JCNM, significant examples must display such character-defining qualities as log construction, use of local rock, and a scale and appearance in harmony with the surroundings.

Eligible properties must date from between 1908, when JCNM was named a national monument, and 1944, the end of the historic period, as defined by the National Register.

Alterations must continue the application of NPS design principles. Eligible resources must have integrity of location, design, setting, materials and association such that they evoke NPS design principles and qualities.

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**(Associated Property Types- cont'd)**

However, it is expected that buildings intended for public use and enjoyment will see alterations over time, such as provision for access by the handicapped. Changes may also illustrate evolving NPS practices.

Alterations more than 50 years old may be part of the historic fabric. Whether more than 50 years old or more recent, changes must be compatible in design, scale, and materials with the original structure. Alterations must necessarily be considered individually. In the case of properties which have been subjected to constant use over the decades, some change is expected. The cumulative effect of the changes--the threshold after which it can be confidently stated that too much of the historic fabric, setting, and association has been obliterated--must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The more modest the design, the more likely that the cumulative effect of a number of small changes over time will exceed acceptable standards for integrity." (Long 1992: 48-52)

**Property Type: RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH NPS RUSTIC ARCHITECTURE**

**Description**

Significant examples for this property type are directly associated with the NPS Rustic Architecture style. Rustic Architecture includes individual buildings or structures with or without associated outbuildings, or as part as a stylistically related district included with boundaries that are well defined and coherent. Buildings can be used for habitation, park operations, or maintenance operations. The buildings may have been modified or altered to accommodate additional needs that occurred since initial construction. If the historic use of the building is still visibly apparent and has not been compromised, the historic integrity still remains.

Construction materials must be "natural," with the structure being in subordination to the terrain and blending with the surrounding environment. Indigenous stone, with log or wood support or accents, should be used in construction of the structure. The design should be in proper scale to the topography, careful not to be oversized to the surrounding terrain. An emphasis on horizontal stratification, which is less conspicuous than verticality, should be observed in construction. The silhouette of the structure, as well as the pitch of the roof, should be low. The structure and rock construction should be in the proper scale. A variety of size should characterize the rocks, which should be large enough to warrant the

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use of masonry. Generally, larger rocks predominate the base and perimeter of the structure, while the more modest sizes fill the remaining surface. As the entire building is meant to be viewed, the design and construction of the building should render the same attention of the facade to the other elevations. The positioning of the structure on the site is an important element in the plan of the design. The resources should be in subordination to the environment of the area, often shielded or placed behind natural vegetation or rock croppings, away from the view of visitors. Buildings within a district must be arranged to show an obvious consideration of park planning and unity of building design and construction.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The examples of Rustic Architecture in Jewel Cave National Monument, either as individual buildings or of a unified district, are significant under Criterion A for their association with the public works relief agencies of the Great Depression, and under Criterion C for their relationship to the distinctive characteristics that have made park Rustic Architecture such an important facet of early park development. Resources significant under this property type possess local significance for their relationship to the CCC and the historic development of Rustic Architecture.

**REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

Resources in Jewel Cave National Monument identified with this property type may be individual buildings with or without associated outbuildings or a cluster of buildings within a district. All eligible resources must be historically associated with the context National Park Service Rustic Architecture and Public Works Construction and have construction dates that fall within the 1933-1944 period of significance. The resources must retain a high degree of integrity and the design, materials, workmanship and historic feeling must be readily apparent. The design and construction methods of the Landscape Engineering Division and the Branch of Landscape and Design of the NPS, as well as the CCC and LEMs, must be apparent. The resources may have had alterations, but must possess a sufficient amount of historic fabric and workmanship to reflect their historic significance and rustic methodology of materials and construction. Additions or modifications

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must not impair the quality of historic integrity of the individual buildings or those that comprise a historic district. Each resource must retain its essential features that convey its historic function or character during the period of significance. The interiors of these structures must retain the historic appearance of rustic design to be considered significant. The interiors must exhibit a rustic feeling and character that possible alterations have not compromised. Additions or modifications must not have impaired the integrity of the historic interior fabric. All resources should be in their original location or in a similar setting that they were in during the period of significance. Although a relocated building does not necessarily warrant loss of integrity or eligibility, the location of the building should be in sympathetic surroundings as location and environmental setting were important elements in NPS designs and the overall Rustic design philosophy. Within a historic district, the majority of the resources must be contributing, with the historic elements that comprise the district intact and apparent. The exception to the National Register criteria for this property type is if the resource is less than fifty years of age and possesses design and architectural features that are considered to be outstanding and unique contributions to NPS Rustic Architecture.

The period of significance begins in 1933, when the implementation of NPS Rustic Design philosophy was carried out under Depression Era public works programs, and extends to 1944, the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register.

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**G. Geographical Data**

Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer County, South Dakota

**H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

The historic resource study (Long 1992) upon which identification and evaluation of JCNM was based employed the following methodology:

Research methods were a blend of the broad with the particular. General research helped set the stage for understanding specific developments at the facility. Cultural manifestations such as American responses to wilderness, attitudes toward recreation, the development of tourism, and the role of the automobile provided a broad overview within which to assess the facility. The historical development of the Black Hills region, including mining, ranching, and other agricultural aspects, were contexts for understanding pioneer settlement uses and patterns that could have affected the present facility.

Over the years several WCNP superintendents actively supported collecting historical data on WCNP and JCNM. The result is an excellent, well organized historical library located in the interpretive center. A wealth of information was available there--some of it contradictory--but much of it extremely useful. This collection eliminated the need to visit some of the libraries and archives initially considered important. Holdings at the National Archives in Washington D.C. and at the South Dakota Historical Society in Pierre supplemented the WCNP collection.

Because the WCNP superintendent was responsible for JCNM beginning in 1933, annual reports and other data sometimes contained information about Jewel Cave. In addition, JCNM has a small collection of useful information, including a taped reminiscence of Ira Michaud, son of one of the cave's discoverers.

Research into the records of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, National Park Service, and the Department of the Interior revealed that Jewel Cave National Monument experienced a lengthy period of "benign neglect." The monument was seldom, if ever, referred to in official documents and records, especially between 1908, its date of establishment, and 1933, when the NPS assumed responsibility. Such silence was understandable since the cave was not open to the public and changes to it were minor during most of this period.

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**(Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods- cont'd)**

The key contexts for understanding the historical development of JCNM were essentially those outlined in the research design: early land use, establishment of the national monument, and evolution of JCNM, especially under the NPS. The impact of tourism and the role of the automobile appeared as more dominant themes than initially envisioned. What emerged as the unifying factor were the themes of private use of natural resources, efforts at public conservation of these resources, and changing attitudes toward them.

The typology for the property types was in general based on associations with the contexts discussed in this document. The standards of integrity outlined in the registration requirements sections were based on National Register standards for assessing alterations. Research literature was used to assess the potential for the presence of examples of the property types. (Long 1992: 53-54)

Methods for the inventory of individual historic structures at Jewel Cave National Monument involved research at a number of resources including: the National Park Service's Technical Information Center, Denver, Colorado; the NPS property files, Denver, Colorado and at Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota; the Wind Cave National Park historical files, WCNP; the South Dakota Cultural Center, Pierre; the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City; the South Dakota Highway Department, Pierre; the National Archives Civil Archives Branch, Washington, D.C.; and the National Archives Architectural and Cartographic Branch, Alexandria, Virginia. Each of these resources will be briefly discussed below in an effort to identify the relevant material found in the archival holdings. In addition to the documentary research several trips to WCNP and JCNM were made to describe and photograph the individual features included in the inventory.

The National Park Service's Technical Information Center (TIC), Denver, Colorado was visited early in the inventory process. It was assumed that the TIC would be the primary resource for documentary evidence of structural developments at the parks. The information at the TIC is completely inventoried and this inventory is accessible in the form of a computerized data base. With the help of TIC staff it was easy to access and receive a printout of the information specifically related to WCNP and JCNM. This listing of reports, drawings, publications, and maps was reviewed and

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specific items which appeared to be relevant were requested. The materials were available either in microform or as hard-copy documents. The various sources of information were individually reviewed and pertinent data abstracted from the documents. Although all of the records provided some important information, the most critical documents were the architectural drawings of the individual structures. These drawings were the original architectural plans for the structures. In some cases drawings for alterations were also found in the collection. A comparison of the drawings with the extant structure was pivotal in describing and evaluating the structures.

Property files related to each of the inventoried structures were found in the NPS's property department in the office of the National Park Service's Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, Colorado and in the files held at WCNP. Although, in many cases, there was identical information contained in the files at each location there was often pieces of information found in the property files held in one location that was not repeated in the files held in the other location. This suggests that a comprehensive effort to research these buildings required a review of the property files in both locations. It was also found that in some cases the information contained in the property files was not accurate. A comparison of architectural drawings, related historical information, and the property files resulted in the most accurate description of the individual structures.

As noted above, the staff of WCNP has been developing historical files held in the library at the park. These historical files provide supportive documentation necessary for a broad understanding of park development. Often, there are specific files or entries which detail the construction of or alterations to individual structures. Of particular interest in the historical files held in the WCNP library are the annual reports of the park's superintendent. A review of these annual reports provided information necessary in establishing a context within which to understand the development of the park as a whole. In addition it was also possible to find information which directly related to individual structures. This information which related to individual structures often identified alterations which did not appear in other sources.



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**(Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods- cont'd)**

Research in the South Dakota Cultural Center, Pierre, and the South Dakota School of Mines, Rapid City, was often of a very general nature. In some cases photographs of the park were found in the collections and published articles held at each location included other photographic images which were not seen in the photographic collection at WCNP.

The holdings of the National Archives, Civil Archives Branch, Washington, D.C. were examined on two different occasions. Although there were extensive records held at the National Archives which could be of use to this research effort, limitations dictated by time and funding constraints forced the documentary research at the National Archives to be narrowly focused. Research at the National Archives focused on Record Group 35, Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Division of Investigations and Camp Inspection Reports and Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service. In RG79 it was found that the Monthly Narrative Reports were very informative. In the National Archives, Architectural and Cartographic Branch, the RG79 included the Master Plans for the various national parks. These were most helpful in terms of site plans which showed proposed and approved plans for the parks.

An integral part of the methods included the actual inventory of individual structures within the study area. Jewel Cave National Monument was visited on several occasions. These visits were conducted to complete the following tasks: meet staff and complete site orientation prior to research; complete inventory of buildings included in the survey and review documents held at the park; revisit the park after draft inventory forms were completed to tie up loose ends; and finally to present the findings of the building inventory to park staff. An important part of the on-site research included an examination of the WCNP photographic collection and discussions with park personnel. The park staff has maintained a very good collection of photographs which document individual structures and the park as a whole as part of an evolving resource. These photographs are a valuable resource in documenting the architectural history of the parks.

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