National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

SEP 1 5 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. 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. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

(Form 10-900a). Type all entries.	•			•
1. Name of Property				
	e Park CCC/	WPA/Rustio	c Style His	storic Resources
other names/site number Whit	<u>ewater Stat</u>	e Park		
2. Location				
street & number off Minnesota H	ighway 74			not for publication N/A
city, town E1ba Township state Minnesota code MN		Winana	Elba	X vicinity 59 zip code 55910
state Minnesota code MN	county	Winona	code 1 (59 zip code 55910
3. Classification				
	tegory of Property		Number of Res	ources within Property
private	building(s)		Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	district		9	buildings
Dublic-local Dublic-State Dubl	site			sites
public-State public-Federal	structure		12	3 structures
	object		8	objects
L) oplect		29	5 Total
Name of related multiple property listing:				ributing resources previously
Minnesota State Park CCC/	WPA/Rustic	Stv1e	listed in the Nat	
Historic Kesources			noted in the ival	ional negister
4. State/Federal Agency Certification)			
Signature of certifying official Nina M. A State Historic Preservation State or Federal agency and bureau Minn	meets the procedu does not meet the chal rchabal Office esota Historia	ral and profession National Regist	nal requirements er criteria. See	set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. continuation sheet. <u>タノテノテラ</u> Date
In my opinion, the property meets Signature of commenting or other official	does not meet the	National Regist	er criteria. L See	Continuation sheet. Date
State or Federal agency and bureau		·		
5. National Park Service Certification	1			
I, hereby, certify that this property is:				
entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register.	Beth !	Bolond		10/25/89
removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)		Signature of the	Kooper	Date of Action
		Signature of the	veahai	Date of Action

rrent Functions (enter categories from instructions) ecreation/Outdoor Recreation
andscape/State Park
terials (enter categories from instructions)
ndation Stone Is Stone/Wood
f Shingle
ו

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheets

Transport of Selection in the

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	7	Page	1
000000			5-	

DESCRIPTION

Whitewater State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources are included within a 563 acre historic district located along picturesque limestone bluffs in the valley of the Whitewater River. The district is defined by the boundaries of the park during its development by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration. The Whitewater State Park Historic District includes 29 contributing elements representing a particularly diverse collection of rustic style resources. These buildings and structures were generally built with native limestone quarried from within the park. Also included in the district are two non-contributing buildings and three non-contributing structures. Architects for the park buildings were from the Central Design Office of the National Park Service and the Design Office within the Minnesota Division of State Parks.

Department of Natural Resources building identification numbers are placed after the name of each building.

Whitewater State Park Historic District

1. Object: Entrance Sign Builder: WPA Architect: National Park Service Date: 1937

The Entrance Sign at the southern boundary of the park rests on a low limestone wall with stepped sides. The wall is approximately 20' long and 5' high and supports the 8' x 4'6" sign which states "Whitewater State Park."

2. Building: Garage 5-124 Builder: WPA Architect: Nielsen Date: 1940

This 37' x 29'6" Garage is constructed with native limestone and contains a two stall vehicle garage, an office, and workshop. The building is set into a small hillside with flanking retaining walls and is covered with a

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	⁷ Page	2	
Coolion nambor	490		

shingle roof. The entrance door is constructed with rough planks and all window openings are four over four light casements. The building was called the "Golf Course Garage" due to its location next to a golf course which had operated in the park.

3. Structure: Stone Curb Architect: State of Minnesota Builder: WPA Date: 1940

The parking lot constructed for a golf course which had been located in the park is defined by a low curb built with limestone. The lot is approximately $175' \times 175'$.

4. Structure: <u>Bridge Abutment</u> Builder: WPA Architect: National Park Service Date: 1936

A limestone abutment is the only surviving element of a massive three arch limestone bridge which crossed the Whitewater River. The bridge was constructed by the Minnesota Highway Department in cooperation with the National Park Service. The WPA transient camp furnished the labor and quarried the limestone for the bridge. The bridge was later removed due to problems with frequent wash-outs during the spring and was replaced by a steel truss bridge which is considered a non-contributing element.

The original bridge received favorable comment from the National Park Service and was featured in the 1938 publication <u>Park Structures and Facilities</u>. Author Albert H. Good commented that "Pleasing in (this) example are the subtle crowning of the parapet silhouette and equally subtle splay of the terminals, so that these suggest rather than actually become wing walls. The arch stones of the double-arched example are very happily scaled and have a face-to-back thickness that is not glaringly disclosing of the concrete inner construction."

5. Structure: <u>Suspension Bridge</u> Builder: Unknown Architect: Dept. of Natural Resources Date: 1974

The Suspension Bridge is a 75' structure with a wooden deck and rails. The bridge crosses the Whitewater River adjacent to State Highway 74 and is considered a non-contributing element.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____7 Page ____3

6. Objects: Picnic Tables Architect: National Park Service Builder: CCC Date: c1935

Structural remnants survive of two Picnic Tables constructed on adjacent hillsides flanking State Highway 74 near the Contact Station. The limestone side supports remain intact with split log seats and table tops long since deteriorated and removed. Presumably, there were many tables of this type located in the park. These two examples probably survive due to their obscure location.

7. Building: <u>Contact Station</u> 5-133 Builder: Unknown Architect: Dept. of Natural Resources Date: 1960

The Contact Station or Office and Information Station is a 48' x 33' structure with a five sided central section with a gable roof flanked by wings to either side covered by flat roofs. A covered portico attached to the south facade is also included. Native limestone is employed in the modern design. The Contact Station is a non-contributing element.

8. Structure: Stone Curb Builder: WPA Architect: State of Minnesota Date: c1938

The parking lot adjacent to the contact station is defined by a low limestone curb. The lot is approximately 500' long and 75' wide.

9. Structure: Retaining Wall
Architect: State of Minnesota

Builder: WPA
Date: c1938

The north edge of the parking lot adjoining the contact station is formed by a Retaining Wall approximately 300' long and 6' high. The wall is constructed with dry laid limestone.

10. Building: Sanitation Building 5-120 Builder: CCC Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1934

The Sanitation Building is a rectangular gable roofed structure built with native limestone. The overall dimensions are 29' x 18' but the walls are extended by seven feet on each end to include entrance screens which rise to a height of 5'6". The screens are 10' wide and enclose the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	7	Page	4
000000			. 490	

entrances which are paved with flagstone. Each doorway is capped with a stone lintel and the gable ends are screened.

11. Building: Shelter Building 5-106 Builder: CCC Architect: Edward W. Barber date: 1934-35

The Shelter Building is a 46' x 28' rectangular structure which rests on a 61' x 43' concrete slab covered with limestone flagging. The shelter may be entered through 16' openings in the end walls or 25' openings in the principal facades which are divided into three bays by 12" square rough hewn posts with brackets. Limestone piers are placed in each corner of the shelter and feature 4' wide window openings with corbelled stonework. Built in benches are located in each corner. The gable roof is supported by six heavy wooden trusses constructed with 12" square timber. This is the only building in the state park system with open gable ends which expose the wooden truss work.

A Monthly Report on Emergency Conservation Work from January 1935 states that "The picnic shelter, which is nearest to completion, begins to show what enrollees actually can do in the way of beautiful and stable construction. The roof, being of heavy timber trusses mounted on limestone piers, indeed harmonizes with the rustic and rugged landscape of this area."

12. Building: <u>Kitchen Shelter</u> 5-126 Builder: CCC/WPA Architect: V.C. Martin Date: 1935-36

This limestone building was originally constructed in 1935 as a small 8'8" x 17' Kitchen Shelter with four cast iron cook stoves. In 1936 the shelter was expanded to a length of 27'8" to include a store room and concession. The concession featured a 9' plank counter supported by stone corbels at the north end and a flagstone floor which ran the full width of the building. During this expansion the four stoves were replaced, possibly with the present grill, and a new gable roof was added.

In 1945 an additional 17' x 17' section was added for the concession and the sale of souvenirs. The plans indicate "Stone masonry to match existing construction; Masonry to be keyed in across construction joints." Wooden doors, hinged at the top, were installed on both sides of the building to enclose the counters. Modifications were again made

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	7	Page	5
~~~				

in 1950 and in 1961 roll up doors replaced the wooden variety. The building is now used as an interpretive center. However, in spite of several remodelings, each addition continued to be constructed with native limestone, the gable roofline was extended, and all windows featured corbelled stonework.

13. Objects: <u>Drinking Fountains</u> Builder: WPA Architect: National Park Service Date: c1938

Four Drinking Fountains are located in the picnic area. Each is constructed with native limestone although each design is distinct.

- A) The fountain adjacent to the Shelter Building is 3' high and 5' wide with flared battered sides. A 15" high semi-circular projection extends from the central section of the fountain.
- B) The fountain near the Kitchen Shelter is 2'5" square at the base and rises to a height of three feet with a slight taper A 18" high projection was designed as a catch basin for a faucet.
- C) The fountain adjacent to the parking lot consists of a low stone wall, 1'6" high, with flared side walls. A semi-circular section projects from the center and the stonework continues to rise another 1'6" to support the bubbler.
- D) The fountain next to the Recreational Dam is a 6' long stone stone wall which is 3' high and features a three sided projection to contain the bubbler.
- 14. Structure: <u>Diversion Dam</u> Builder: CCC Architect: National Park Service Date: 1935

The Diversion Dam is a 140' long masonry dike which diverts the Whitewater River from its original channel. It is constructed with a masonry base, a broken concrete core, and is finished with a 13' high stepped limestone wall along the edge of the river. The opposite side of the dike is riprapped and covered with earth and sod. A sluice gate controls the flow of water from the river. A flood on July 27, 1935 washed out both ends of the dike and these areas were strengthened during modifications made in 1936.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____7 Page ____6

15. Structure: <u>Artificial Lake</u> Builder: CCC Architect: National Park Service Date: 1935

An Artificial Lake is located in a section of the original river channel which had been diverted to the east. The lake was created to form a swimming beach and is approximately 1,000 feet long in its entirety and 175' wide at the widest point.

16. Structure: <u>Dam and Foot Bridge</u> Builder: CCC Architect: Skooglin Date: 1935

The Recreational Dam and Foot Bridge is located at the north end of the lake. The structure is 56'3" long and 8'3" wide and is constructed with concrete foundation walls which are faced with stone. A foot bridge crosses the dam and is flanked by three pairs of stone piers which separate the structure into two distinct sections. At the western end, the piers define a 12' long section with two outlet gates with drums and winches to control the flow of water from the lake. At the eastern end, the piers flank a 20' wide spillway. The walkway above the dam features plank decking and 6" x 6" timber rails which run the entire length of the dam and rest on the stone piers.

On July 27, 1935 a devastating flood washed out both ends of the dam and subsequent repairs included additions to the concrete core and additional riprapping on both sides of the dam. Riprap on the north side of the dam is set in concrete.

17. Building: <u>Bath House</u> 5-125 Builder: WPA Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1938

The Bath House is a 44'6" x 23' gable roofed building constructed with native limestone which provided space for a concession, check room, rest rooms, and storage space. This central portion of the building was flanked by loggias which allowed passage through the width of the building and also provided access to adjoining changing wings. The wings were partially enclosed and consisted of limestone walls 8'4" high. This is the only example in the state park system of a bath house with changing wings constructed completely with masonry.

A concession counter opened on the lake facade and was covered by a canopy supported by four 8" x 8" timber brackets resting on stone

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7	Page7	

corbels. Window openings covered with wooden grills flank the counter opening. The following specifications are noted on the original plans:

- 1) Masonry work to be of local limestone laid random ashlar with flush cut joints -- keep bed joints horizontal.
- 2) All woodwork to be stained with a penetrating creosote.
- 3) Shingles be be 24" royal cedar.

During a 1980 remodeling the walls of the changing wings were razed to the extent that only low 18" high walls remains, roll doors were installed on the north facade, and a new door was installed on the east facade.

18. Structure: Foot Bridge Builder: CCC

Architect: N. Averill Date: 1935 & 1938

This handsome Foot Bridge crosses the Whitewater River joining the east bank of the river with an island formed by a diversion channel for the swimming beach. It connects with a trail system leading over limestone bluffs high above the river.

The Foot Bridge is 86' long and 6'6" wide and rises 12'6" above the Whitewater River. The bridge is constructed with massive 12" x 18" x 30' wooden beams which are connected with steel plates. The bridge deck is composed of 3" x 12" planks, each 7' long. There is a one foot rise in the bridge from each end to the 13'6" level center section which gives the bridge the appearance of a graceful segmental arch. Posts and railings are constructed with 3" x 12" and 6" x 12" timber. The bridge is approached from the west via six limestone steps flanked by flared stone retaining walls which support the bridge railings. The east end of the bridge terminates in a landing paved with limestone and flanked by retaining walls.

Modifications were made to the bridge in 1938, possibly to correct damage inflicted by heavy spring flooding. The river channel was widened and additional riprapping was installed along the river bank under the bridge. The stonework at each end of the bridge may have been installed at this time since it appears the overall length of the bridge was extended as a result of the alterations.

This is the only surviving bridge of this type in the state park system.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____7 Page ____8

19. Structure: Stone Curbing Architect: National Park Service Date: c1938

The parking lot to the north of the picnic area is defined by a low limestone curb. The lot is approximately 300' long and 75' wide.

20. Building: <u>Combination Building</u> 5-130 Builder: WPA Architect: O. Newstrom Date: 1939

The 59' by 30' Combination Building provided space for rest rooms, a laundry, a kitchen shelter, and a utility area. Although the design is basically rectangular, the building takes on an I-shaped appearance due to the placement of the intersecting gable roof. The central section houses the laundry and utility space while the kitchen shelter and rest rooms are located in the respective wings. This center section is constructed entirely with native limestone while the walls of the kitchen shelter are constructed with stone walls which rise only to a height of 4' with board and batten siding placed above. These proportions vary slightly on the rest room section with the stone walls rising 5' up to the sill level with board and batten siding again placed above. The siding extends into all the gable areas.

The rest rooms were remodeled in 1958 and in 1963 showers were installed in the laundry area. Entrances were added to both sides of the building and louvers replaced the center windows. The cast iron cook stoves were also removed from the kitchen shelter and a new concrete hearth installed.

21. Structure: <u>Culvert</u> Builder: WPA Architect: National Park Service Date: 1939

A pathway leading from the Campground crosses a stream which passes through a stone-faced culvert. The stonework is approximately 10' long, 4' high, and in elevation appears to be a small bridge. The stone facing is executed on both sides of the culvert.

22. Structure: <u>Bridge</u> Builder: Unknown Architect: MN Dept. of Transportation Date: c1960s

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	. 7	Page	9
000000	114111001		· ugo	

A modern bridge crosses the Whitewater River near the north entrance to the park. The bridge is constructed with concrete beams and abutments and is considered a non-contributing element.

23. Object: Entrance Sign Builder: WPA Architect: D.G. Chapel Date: 1938

An Entrance Sign near the northern boundary of the park rests on a limestone wall, 33 feet long, with stepped sides. The wall is 15' tall at the highest point and supports the 8' x 4'6" sign which states "Whitewater State Park." A planting key for the area surrounding the sign states that 36 Juniperus Virginiana and 34 Juniperus Pfitzerian were to be planted.

24. Building: <u>Custodian's Cabin</u> 5-123 Builder: CCC Architect: A. Schulz Date: 1935

The Custodian's Cabin is a T-shaped gable roofed building constructed with native limestone. The 50'7" x 31" structure contains a living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bath. The residence is built entirely of stone except for the rear kitchen facade where rough hewn clapboards are employed above the sill line. Notable exterior features include heavy segmental arches over the front and rear bedroom windows and an entrance light which is shielded by a stone canopy. Chipped or broken flue tile was specified for the chimney in order to achieve an optimum rustic appearance.

The living room features a dramatic open beamed ceiling which rises to 14' at its peak. A massive stone fireplace is located along the north facade and is flanked with bookcases and cabinets. The fireplace opening is capped with a segmental arch. A rough hewn mantel runs the entire width of the room.

A small frame entrance of later construction was added to the rear facade.

25. Building: Shed Builder: Unknown Architect: Unknown Date: 1960s

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section n	umber	7	Page	10
-----------	-------	---	------	----

A rectangular shed is located to the rear of the Custodian's Cabin. The frame structure is approximately  $10' \times 7'$  and is covered by a shed roof. The structure is non-contributing.

26. Building: <u>Warehouse & Garage</u> 5-124 Builder: CCC Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1935

This 37' x 29'9" rectangular gable roofed building was designed to provide space for a two vehicle garage and a shop area. The building is constructed entirely of native limestone and featured plank doors and two over two light casements which have since been replaced. The garage is built into a small hillside.

During a 1964 expansion the building was extended to the south and a 29' x 26' double garage was added. The addition rests on a concrete foundation wall faced with limestone.

27. Building: <u>Pump House</u> 5-127 Builder: CCC Architect: National Park Service Date: 1935

The <u>Pump House</u> is a 15'  $\times$  12 1/2' rectangular building constructed with native limestone which is covered with a gable roof. Concrete side walls drop ten feet below grade while all above ground wall surfaces are finished with masonry. Two casement windows are placed on the east facade and one window is located on the south facade opposite the plank entrance door.

28. Structure: <u>Water Supply Tank</u> Builder: WPA Architect: Nielsen Date: 1941

This Water Supply Tank replaced an earlier tank at the CCC/WPA camp. The octagonal concrete tank has a 15'4" diameter and drops 11' below grade. The tank is located on a steep hillside immediately south of the camp site.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____7 Page __11

29. Structure: <u>Bridge</u> Builder: Unknown Architect: Dept. of Natural Resources Date: 1960s

A 30' bridge crosses the Whitewater River near the CCC camp site. Steel beams resting on concrete abutments with wing walls support the bridge deck. The bridge is non-contributing.

30. Structure: Stone Ramp Builder: CCC Architect: National Park Service Date: c1934

This Stone Ramp is located at the end of a hiking trail adjacent to Trout Run Creek. It was used as part of the quarrying operation first by the CCC camp and later by the WPA transient camp. The ramp has the appearance of a stone retaining wall and is approximately 75' long and rises to a height of 7'.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this nationally	property in relation to other properties:  X statewide locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria XA BX	]C	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	C D E F XG	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  Architecture	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Landscape Architecture		
Recreation Government		
GOVETRIBETT	Cultural Affiliation	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
N/A	<u>National Park Servi</u> Civilian Conservati	
	Works Progress Admi	
State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria		

See Continuation Sheets

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	1
		. ~90	

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Whitewater State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources are historically significant for their association with the social, political and economic impact of the Great Depression and the subsequent development of the various Federal Relief Programs which were responsible for their construction. The park was developed by both the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration, two of the most popular and successful programs from the period. Whitewater State Park Historic Resources are also significant for their association with the development of the Minnesota state park system by providing the only state owned recreational facility in southeastern Minnesota.

Whitewater State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources are architecturally significant as an outstanding collection of rustic style buildings and structures featuring native limestone construction. The Shelter Building, Dam, and Footbridge in particular are exceptional examples of rustic design built with stone and timber. The park is also architecturally significant for its ability to represent a particularly well developed and diverse collection of rustic style resources. The landscape design for Whitewater State Park is a notable achievement in master planning which successfully located the various functional areas of the park on a problematic site which included land on both sides of State Highway 74. (Refer to the Statement of Exceptional Significance on page F34 of the Multiple Property Documentation Form.)

Whitewater State Park was established in 1919 in order to protect the natural resources along the scenic Whitewater River valley. 1930s, the park became one of three in the state which was developed by both C.C.C. and W.P.A. transient camps. C.C.C. camp SP-4 first occupied the park on April 28, 1934 and a second camp, SP-9, moved into the park on July 1, 1934. The first camp moved to another location on September 30, 1934 and left SP-9 to begin the large scale development of the park. However, in October 1935 when the state's quota of C.C.C. camps was reduced, the camp was abandoned with park development only partially Fortunately, a W.P.A. transient camp was assigned to the park in February 1936 and progress was able to continue. The camp was housed in the same facility occupied by the C.C.C. at a site within the park just south of the Whitewater River and east of State Highway 74. the camp buildings were retained for group camp purposes after the work During World War II German prisoners of war who programs were completed. worked on local farms were housed in the C.C.C./W.P.A. camp buildings. Unfortunately, the entire camp was destroyed by a tornado in 1953.

Department of Natural Resources. Workin Buildings and Structures at Whitewa Minnesota.	g Drawings and Specifications for ter State Park. St. Paul,
Johnson, Frederick K. "The Civilian Con Youth." Minnesota History. V.48,	servation Corps: New Deal for N. 7. Fall. 1983.
Searle, R. Newell. Whitewater: The Val Foundatin. 1977.	ley of Promise. Minnesota Parks
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	See continuation sheet
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	X State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register	Other State agency Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #	Other Specify repository:
Record #	——————————————————————————————————————
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property <u>563 Acres</u>	
UTM References	
A 1 5 5 7 5 3 4 0 4 8 7 8 6 3 0 B  Zone Easting Northing	1,5     5,7,6     9,3,0     4,8,7,8     6,7,0       Zone     Easting     Northing
	[1 ₁ 5] [5 7 ₁ 5 3 ₁ 8 ₁ 0] [4 ₁ 8 7 ₁ 6 5 ₁ 8 ₁ 0]
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
The boundary for Whitewater State Park C	CC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic
Resources is shown as the heavy line on	the accompanying map entitled
"Whitewater State Park." It is defined to the park boundaries during the period	of significance A portion of
the northwest section of the park is exc	luded due to substantial new
construction. The heavy line is cross-	See continuation sheet
hatched.  Boundary Justification	
The boundary includes the buildings and	structures that have been
historically associated with the propert	y and that maintain historic
integrity. The boundary defines the area	a of the park developed by
the Civilian Conservation Corps and the	Works Progress Administration.
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Rolf T. Anderson	
organization N/A	date September 16, 1988
street & number 3632 Park Avenue South	telephone 612-824-7807
city or townMinneapolis	state <u>Minnesota</u> zip code <u>55407</u>

9. Major Bibliographical References



