

1843

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Maquoketa Caves State Park Historic District
other names/site number Morehead Caves State Park; Burt's Cave

2. Location

street & number County Road No. 428 not for publication
city, town Maquoketa vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Jackson code 097 zip code 52060

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>	sites
<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
		objects
	<u>19</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857-1942
CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks, 1933-1942

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 10/31/91
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

entered in the National Register
[Signature] 12/20/91

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/state park

LANDSCAPE/state park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Same

Same

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone; concrete

walls limestone; weatherboard

roof wood shingle

other

OTHER/Park Rustic

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Conservation

Period of Significance

1932-1942

Significant Dates

1932-1939

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

John R. Fitzsimmons; Central Design Office
Lincoln Jorgensen; CCC Camp PE 68; WPA labor

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 111 acres

UTM References

A Zone Easting Northing

C

B Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

legal park boundaries as of 1942

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Conard
organization PHR Associates date May 30, 1991
street & number 275 Crescent Park Dr. telephone 712/657-3347
city or town Lake View state Iowa zip code 51450

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Section 7: Physical Description

The historic area of Maquoketa Caves State Park encompasses approximately 111 acres of land acquired in three parcels between 1921 and 1940. These three parcels constitute the eastern portion of the park and include all of the park structures, most of which were built between 1932 and 1939. Between 1961 and 1981, an additional 161 acres were added west of the historic park area, and this portion is dedicated as a nature preserve. Visitors coming from Maquoketa, located seven miles southeast, enter the park at the northeast corner. A surfaced road less than one-half mile in length loops through the upper part of the park providing vehicle access to many nature and cave trails as well as to newer picnic areas and campgrounds. However, this park was built to be experienced primarily on foot, and so it has generally remained. In the center of the park is a steep ravine with sheer limestone cliffs ranging from 10 to 75 feet high. Foot trails snake around the tops of the cliffs to overlooks, which offer views of the valley and caves below. Other trails lead to cave entrances which are connected by underground passages.

There are fifteen structures in the park. Nine of them are associated with the 1932-1939 development period and contribute to the historic character of the park. Six of them are noncontributing structures, either because they have lost historical integrity or were built after 1942. The determination of contributing and noncontributing elements is based in part on the findings of a previous MPDF study, *CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks, 1933-1942* (McKay, 1990), the results of which are incorporated into this nomination. The McKay study evaluated five structures, and the site numbers assigned to them at that time remain unchanged here.

Contributing structures include three CCC overlook shelters (MAQ-01,-02,-03), entrance portals (MAQ-06), the custodian's residence (MAQ-07), the shelterhouse/concession building (MAQ-08), the stone picnic circle (MAQ-09), and two stone latrines (MAQ-10,-11). These structures are further described below. Since the park is significant, in part, because it exemplifies the broad pattern of state park development in Iowa, additional discussion of the construction process will be found in Section 8. Noncontributing structures include CCC/WPA cave improvements (MAQ-04), the CCC/WPA trail system (MAQ-05), the park ranger's residence (MAQ-12), a picnic shelter (MAQ-13), and two wood-frame latrines (MAQ-14,-15). Thirteen prehistoric archaeological sites identified in 1980 but not yet fully evaluated for NRHP eligibility are also counted as noncontributing elements at this time.

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The cave improvements and the trail system were evaluated in 1989 and found to be lacking in historical integrity. This evaluation concurs. It is doubtful that much remains of the cave improvement work (MAQ-04) done in the 1930s, since the stone floor, sidewalk, and parts of the retaining walls were destroyed by floodwaters in 1939. The floors were replaced in 1952 and again in 1983. Damaged walls have been repaired and repointed more than once. Sidewalks were added in 1969 and 1983. Steps were added in 1969, and handrails in 1970. The trail system (MAQ-05) has also been altered, and when evaluated in 1989 many sections were found to be in deteriorated condition. Pathways had eroded, some of the stone borders had been scattered, stone slab steps had subsided, and newer railings, concrete steps, and steel steps had been intermingled with CCC and WPA elements. While modifications to the cave structures and the trail system do not compromise the historic setting to any appreciable degree, the structures themselves are no longer distinguishable as CCC and/or WPA resources.

The park ranger's residence (MAQ-12) situated at the east entrance is a modern structure which is noncontributing by virtue of age. The same is true of an open-walled picnic shelter (MAQ-13) located on the western edge of the historic park area, and two wood-frame latrines.

*Contributing Structures:*Overlook Shelters (MAQ-01,-02,-03)

Three hexagonal shelters are located in the park. All three were built by CCC Camp PE68 in 1934. They measure from 21.5' to 23' in diameter and are simply built, consisting of a hexagonal pyramid roof supported by peeled log posts. The roof construction is the most structurally complex element. Peeled log rafters are braced against and radiate from a center support, and the rafters are covered with wood shingles over wood plank sheathing. Overlooks 01 and 02 have flagstone floors; 03 has a concrete floor. Each of the overlooks shows some signs of deterioration, but they all have excellent historical integrity.

Entrance Portals (MAQ-06)

The entrance portals at the east gate are of a stylish asymmetrical design, vaguely Art Deco in motif, and constructed of dressed limestone in regular ashlar. The south portal is a simple low wall measuring 19'8"x2'8" and 2' high, set into the natural slope. The

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north portal consists of a rectangular monument measuring 8'10" high and approximately 5' long, set flush left on a stone plinth that is 8'2" in length and 5'2" wide. A signboard centered on the monument contains "Maquoketa Caves State Park" in rustic lettering. The portals were constructed in 1938-39 under WPA Projects #3599 and #3790, and the stone is said to have come from a local quarry. The structures do not appear to have been modified in any manner.

Custodian's Residence (MAQ-07)

The custodian's residence was designed by State Landscape Architect John Fitzsimmons and constructed by Lincoln Jorgensen of Delmar. Construction began in late 1932 and was completed in the summer of 1933. The building stone came from a local quarry owned by D.W. Saanders. The building is a one-and-a-half-story cottage with attached garage, set on a raised stone foundation and basement story. In plan it is a variation of gable-and-wing layout, the footprint of the house being a rectangle measuring 18'4"x30' against which a rectangular garage measuring 22'5"x20'4" has been set perpendicularly. The house itself is constructed of rusticated limestone blocks and has a steeply pitched intersecting gable roof with three dormers arrayed symmetrically along the south front facade. A centrally placed front entrance is flanked by wood-frame windows recessed into the stone wall and ornamented with louvered shutters and weathered beam lintels. Fenestration on the left consists of the original, paired 4/4 wood sash windows; on the right by a single-pane plate glass replacement window – the most serious alteration. Fenestration elsewhere consists mainly of 4/4 wood-sash windows. Two exterior stone chimneys are centrally placed at the roof ridge on the east and west sides. The exterior walls of the garage wing and the dormers are clad with uneven 8" rough siding. Minor alterations include replacement of the original wood shingle roof with asphalt shingles, replacement 1/1 wood-sash windows, a replacement front entry door, and what appears to be a replacement wood-panel overhead garage door.

Shelterhouse and Concession (MAQ-08)

The Central Design Office in Des Moines prepared plans for the shelterhouse and concession building in April of 1938, and it was constructed under WPA Project 3790. Construction began in August, and the building was completed that fall. Limestone for

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the structure came from the David McCullough quarry, nine miles northwest of the park. The shelterhouse portion of the structure is a rectangle measuring 32'x20', and the concession wing on the north side measures 25'x15'7". An interior stone chimney is placed at the juncture of these two sections. The building is constructed of dressed limestone blocks laid in irregular courses and set on concrete footings. The interior fireplace design has a handsome Art Deco quality with the cut stones of a segmentally arched firebox alternating dark and light colors and an oversized keystone supporting an elevated stone mantel. Originally the east and south walls of the shelterhouse portion could be enclosed with hinged bi-fold doors hung between 14"x14" wood posts. The doors have been removed, leaving blocky posts exposed, which gives the building a rather clumsy appearance on the southeast corner. The west rear wall is set into a natural slope, which is prevented from eroding on the north side by a stone retaining wall abutting the building; this feature was part of the original design.

Picnic Circle (MAQ-09)

The picnic circle is a rounded retaining wall of rough-cut limestone built into a natural slope. It is approximately 50' in diameter (the circle is not perfect), with the walls of the ring rising incrementally from ground level on the west to a height of 7'4" against the hillside on the east. Two stone fireplaces have been built into the wall along the back. A flight of eight stone steps provides access from the hillside along the northerly edge. Mature deciduous trees around the perimeter provide a canopy of shade. A drinking fountain constructed of cut limestone blocks is located adjacent to the picnic circle. It measures 25"x28"x37" high and is tucked into the slope with a short retaining wall on one side and a flight of three stone steps on the other. The circle with its appurtenant structures most likely was built under WPA Project 2599 in 1938.

Stone Latrines (MAQ-10,-11)

There are two rectangular pit vault latrines in the park, each measuring about 10'6"x12'6". The walls are constructed of rusticated limestone laid in more-or-less regular courses. Their gable roofs are constructed of peeled log rafters and purlins. The roof of one latrine is still covered with wood shingles; the other roof has structural members exposed. These are the most rustic looking of all the stone structures in the

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park. They are no longer in service, and as a result are deteriorating, but the design and materials remain unaltered.

In 1980, Impact Services Inc. investigated the park for archaeological as well as historic architectural resources. That study, conducted under the direction of Kathleen A. Roetzel, located thirteen prehistoric sites in an area of the park that roughly corresponds with the historic district boundaries. These sites ranged from erosionally disturbed, single artifact sites to undisturbed cave and valley sites. Two sites were tested for National Register eligibility. Site 13JK51, a narrow wooded ridge on the western rim of south Raccoon Creek, yielded a low density of artifactual material, and the principal investigator concluded that "the lack of diagnostic artifacts makes it difficult to place this site into a specific chronological or cultural sequence at this time."¹ Site 13JK56, also known as Ice Cave, located on the south branch of Raccoon Creek above the valley floor, yielded a wide range of prehistoric cultural material including flakes, stone tools, Madison Cord-Imprinted ceramics, bone fragments, bone tools, and shell. This site was determined to have "high [National Register] potential for its ability to contribute meaningful data in the understanding of the prehistory of the park area and the region in which it is located."² Several other of the thirteen identified sites displayed preliminary evidence to suggest they might be eligible for the National Register, but no further testing was done. As a result of the investigation, general boundaries for a National Register district were proposed, but no nomination was prepared.

1 Kathleen A. Roetzel, et al. *An Archaeological and Architectural Historical Survey of Maquoketa Caves State Park, Jackson County, Iowa*, Volume I: Technical Report (Mankato, MN: Impact Services Incorporated, 1980), p. 80.

2 Roetzel, p. 100.

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Section 8: Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

Maquoketa Caves State Park is significant under National Register Criteria A and C. The importance of the state park system within the conservation movement in Iowa is fully discussed in Subsection IV of Section E, "Parks."** First known as Morehead Caves or Burt's Cave, the area was among the first to be selected as a state park site, largely to protect unusual geologic features. Its history reveals the full spectrum of land acquisition and improvement strategies employed by the State Board of Conservation and its successor, the State Conservation Commission. The park also contains outstanding examples of Park Rustic architecture, reflecting the evolution of that style in Iowa from John D. Fitzsimmons's early designs for the State Board of Conservation through the era of Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration construction. The importance of the Civilian Conservation Corps is addressed in a separate multiple property document form, "CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks, 1933-1942" (McKay, 1990). The period of significance established for the park is 1932-1942. Although land acquisition began in 1921, the process was not considered complete until 1931 and the first permanent park structures were erected in 1932. The 1980 Roetzel study indicates that the district also has potential for eligibility under Criterion D. However, further testing is required to determine specific site boundaries and characteristics.

Criterion A

Under Criterion A, Maquoketa Caves State Park is significant as one of the first state parks to be established in Iowa. The Maquoketa Women's Club was instrumental in securing an option on the first parcel of land purchased, and this involvement is of particular historical interest because it reflects the kind of role the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs played in the parks movement in Iowa. Indeed, the entire process of land acquisition and development illuminates the manner in which Iowa's state park system evolved. Local communities and individuals either donated land or assisted with land purchases, and then the State undertook development, largely with funding from New Deal programs. Maquoketa Caves State Park aptly represents the broad pattern of state park building. It is particularly well-suited as an example of this process because the park structures reflect a combination of State Board of Conservation projects and federal projects accomplished with CCC and WPA funding.

* Within the Conservation Movement in Iowa MPS

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The subterranean limestone caves north of the town of Maquoketa were acknowledged state park material almost from the beginning. According to tradition, the Fox and Sac tribes held councils in what became known as Dancehall Cave, and later the Sioux used the area. These historic ties are reflected in the name "Maquoketa." Two derivations have been suggested for the word. One comes from the Fox words "Mako", meaning bear, and "keta", meaning river. The other suggested derivation comes from the Sioux words "Maqua", meaning medicine, and "keto", meaning place. Regardless of which etymology is correct, any prehistoric cultural group occupying the area most likely would have attached special meaning to these unique geologic formations. Early Euro-American explorers and settlers certainly were entranced by the caves, and visitors carved their names on the cave walls as early as 1835. By the 1860s the caves had become a popular spot for exploration, picnics, parties, and dances. The area was more than a local recreation spot, though; tour groups came from all over eastern Iowa to see what was described as "one of the greatest curiosities of the west."

In 1868 a dance floor was built north of Natural Bridge. Later a pavilion was constructed. By some accounts the pavilion was used until the 1920s, and a 1933 general development plan for the park indicates that the structure was still standing at that time, located in the general vicinity of the present-day shelterhouse and concession building.

Visitors continued to frequent the caves throughout the 19th century, but by the mid-1870s unrestricted use had begun to take its toll. In 1876, the *Maquoketa Record* reported that the place was "rather less attractive than it was 25 years ago when nature held full sway. Some of the large trees in the vicinity have been destroyed, the main cave is impassable from mud and water, and cattle have been allowed to roam at will through the old dance hall." By the turn of the century, the area's popularity as a recreation spot had declined, apparently because its natural splendor had been seriously degraded.

Degraded or not, the caves remained a special place to local residents. Shortly after the Holdoegel state parks act passed and the State Board of Conservation was organized, a local movement emerged for the purpose of making Morehead Caves, as they were known then, into a state park. In March 1919, Mrs. A.J. House of the Fine Arts Club of Maquoketa wrote a letter to the Board of Conservation asking that Morehead Caves be placed on the list of state parks. During the summer of 1919, three of the Board members -- Dr. Louis Pammel, Edgar R. Harlan, and Joseph Kelso -- visited the site and reported favorably on its inclusion in the

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state park system. Kelso was then authorized to negotiate with the landowner, William Morehead.

It took another year and a half to effect the first land purchase, in part because the landowner wanted to retain concession rights. During the summer of 1920, members of the Board of Conservation again visited the site and met with local supporters, who wanted a number of improvements, including a dam and lake, a permanent access road, and removal of debris blocking the cave passages. At its meeting of July 16, 1920, the Board of Conservation recommended the purchase of 25 acres and requested local assistance. The Board then requested that the Executive Council set aside \$10,000 for land acquisition on December 3, 1920. At this point, the local Federated Women's Club stepped into the picture and secured an option to purchase 16.95 acres of William Morehead's land, this parcel containing the main caves and Natural Bridge. The State purchased the land in April for \$7500. Reporting the purchase, the Board secretary E.R. Harlan noted that "the caves and caverns constitute rare phenomena exhibiting the great erosive and dissolving power of running water."

The initial purchase represented a beginning, but the parcel contained only a portion of the resources desired for park purposes. In 1924, the Board began negotiations to acquire additional acreage south of the park, but it was not until 1931 that terms could be agreed upon with the landowner, Walter Morehead. When the Board and Morehead finally reached agreement, the Board called for local support and set a figure of \$2000 to be raised at the local level. Up to this point, there had been no local monetary contribution or donation of land. The Board of Conservation felt the site was important enough to foot the entire bill for the initial land purchase; but as a matter of policy it expected local communities, which benefited from increased numbers of visitors, to chip in. The unenviable task of arm-twisting fell to Frank Ellis, honorary park custodian and chairman of the local park board. He went straight to the point in an appeal published by the local newspaper:

The State Board of Conservation has worked in our behalf under discouraging circumstances. They tell me that this is the only park in Iowa where the local community did not give something, either in a complete park grounds or in money, and it has been hard for them to go before the executive council and say that the state should add more land to that wonderful park near Maquoketa, or that the state should build suitable buildings for the park and they need a custodian house and concession stand, when they have no signs of interest in the park from the people of Jackson county.

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Funds were immediately forthcoming. The Maquoketa Chamber of Commerce and the local Isaak Walton League chapter assisted Ellis with fundraising, and contributions from community organizations as well as individual donors soon met the \$2000 goal. In return, though, local supporters pressed the Board of Conservation to improve the park with a custodian's house, a concession stand, and a better road to the park. In May of 1931 the Executive Council authorized the purchase from J. Walter and Thurza Morehead, and the State acquired an additional 67.67 acres for \$6200. In addition, by petition of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, a hard-surfaced road to the park, seven miles in length, was scheduled to be added to the state primary road system. This was done in 1932.

During the 1920s, the Board's policy was to spend money on land acquisition rather than on park improvements. In keeping with this policy, few improvements were made to the park until after the second parcel was acquired in 1931. In 1923, one latrine was constructed in the park to accommodate picnickers and campers. Debris was cleared from the caves in 1924, and a guard rail was installed. In 1928, the Board of Conservation paid an official visit to the park. At that time the name was changed from Morehead Caves State Park to Maquoketa Caves State Park. The Board also decided that the park needed six large picnic tables, ten iron settees, three park stoves, and steps leading from the roadway to the caves. There is no indication in the Board minutes, however, that any of these amenities were provided.

With the purchase of additional land in 1931, however, the Board responded to local pressure and began planning improvements. State Landscape Architect John Fitzsimmons produced conceptual drawings for the custodian's residence in July 1931; but final building plans were not ready until October 1932, and the Board approved them at its November 1 meeting (see attachments). Construction began the following year; and Bruce Davis, the newly appointed custodian moved into the house in the summer of 1933. Its completion seems to have marked a milestone, inasmuch as the park was then formally dedicated on October 13, 1933. Mrs. Margo Frankel, Chairwoman of the Board of Conservation, presided, and Governor Clyde L. Herring accepted the park for the State.

A new phase of park development began in 1933 when CCC Company 2617 was assigned to National Forest Service Camp PE68 at Maquoketa, locally known as Camp Hawkeye. Work plans prepared for Camp PE68 in October 1933 indicate that the first priority was to clear the mud and debris from the cave passages and to cut a new channel for Raccoon Creek flowing

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through Dancehall Cave. Other planned projects, in order of priority, included entrance portals at both the east and west gates, picnic grounds, a concession building, a shelterhouse, three overlook shelters, a waterline extension, reforestation, and nature trails. Subsequent plans combined the concession with the shelterhouse, which, according to the plans was built on the site of the old pavilion (see attachments).

An undated map work plan indicates that a second CCC company established as Camp PE76 was also scheduled to help construct the water line, foot trails, public campground facilities, shelter, stream improvements, fencing, and latrines. Information compiled for Maquoketa Caves State Park under *CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks, 1933-42* (1990) does not mention this camp and it is not listed among those established in Iowa as of 1935, so it is possible that the work was shifted back to Camp PE68.

In any case, by mid-1936 the CCC had improved and enlarged the main cave passage, constructed trails, and erected three hexagonal picnic shelters. Presumably the stone latrines which are located in the park were also built during this period, although research conducted for the 1990 *CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks* study could not confirm these as CCC structures. Convict laborers from Anamosa State Prison reportedly aided the CCC crews. There were plans to close the Maquoketa CCC camp in the spring of 1936, but it remained open until May 1937. Camp personnel, however, were primarily involved in assisting area farmers with soil erosion control projects during the last year.

Work continued on the park under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration. Project WP #3599 was approved in March of 1938. Under this project, which was completed in May 1938, 20 relief workers built 830 linear feet of stone trails, planted 5000 trees, built 285 feet of guard rails, sodded 170 square yards, cleaned and repaired two caves (completing work begun by the CCC), and dressed the stone for entrance portals at the east gate. Project WP #3790 superseded Project #3599 and work continued until April 1939. During the second WPA project, the work crew constructed the shelterhouse, finished the east entrance portals, built a retaining wall with fireplaces (the picnic circle), constructed picnic and parking facilities, and built additional trails. Unfortunately, high water in 1939 left new deposits in the caves and damaged much of the work accomplished by CCC and WPA workers. In 1940, two additional projects were approved: a WPA project to build a logcatcher, and a National Youth Authority project to clear debris from the underground passage. The record does not indicate whether the last two projects were ever implemented

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A third parcel was added to the park in 1940, when the State purchased 26.46 acres north of the existing park from Harris and Agnes Penrose for the sum of \$1851. Shortly after this parcel was added, park expansion was suspended for the duration of World War II.

Work on the caves resumed in 1948 to repair the flood damage sustained in 1939. Repairs were completed in the early 1950s with the aid of prison laborers. Work included cleaning debris from the main passage and repairing the cave floors and steps. Two more parcels of land were added in 1961 and 1976. The park road was paved in 1962. In 1968, 422' of sidewalk in the main cave and a new picnic shelter were constructed. Additional sidewalks and steps were added in 1969; handrails were installed in 1970. Flood damage in 1982 required additional remedial work in the caves.

Criterion C

The historic structures in Maquoketa Caves State Park are significant under Criterion C as outstanding examples of Park Rustic architecture in the Iowa state parks system. The custodian's residence is of particular significance because it was designed by John Fitzsimmons, who served as the State Landscape Architect under the Board of Conservation during the 1920s and early 1930s. Relatively few substantial park improvements were constructed by the State Board of Conservation between 1919 and 1933, when the federally funded building program began. The custodian's residence was one of them, and its survival in substantially unaltered form gives it unusual stature among state park structures. Under Fitzsimmons's direction, the Central Design Office operating out of the Iowa State College Extension Service produced several interesting rustic designs for park buildings and other structures during the 1920s and early 1930s. These designs are part of the emerging rustic architectural style that the National Park Service promulgated as appropriate for parks during the 1930s. In addition to the Fitzsimmons-designed cottage, the park contains a particularly diverse and interesting collection of rustic style structures associated with both the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration, giving the park an unusually rich architectural mix that is nicely blended with the natural landscape. These structures not only reflect the state's well-planned use of federal programs during the 1930s, which resulted in a remarkably extensive park system by 1940, they also exemplify the aesthetics and landscape design principles of the Park Rustic tradition.

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Section 9: Bibliography

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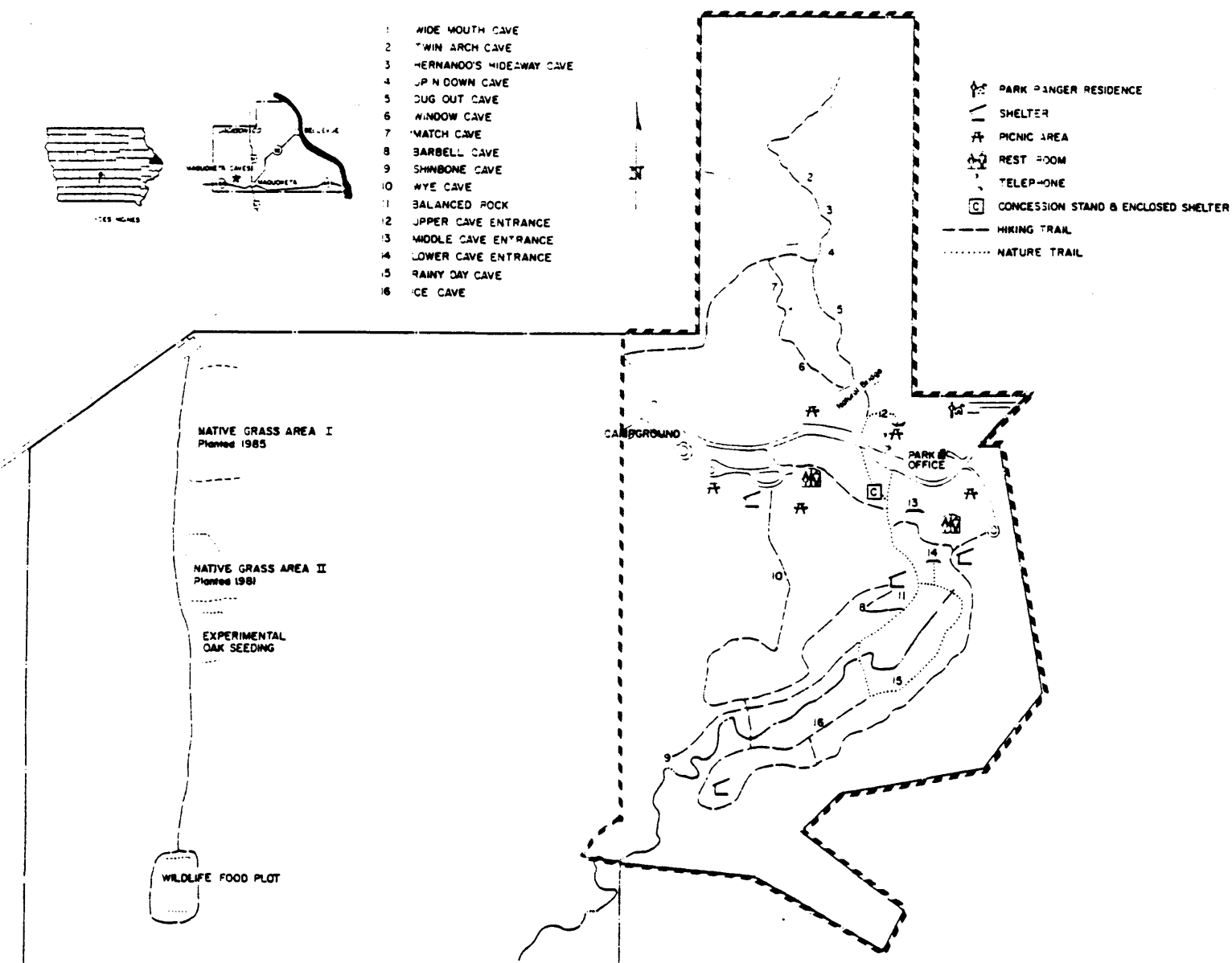
Section 10: Geographical Data

Boundary Description: The historic portion of Maquoketa Caves State Park comprises three separate parcels which form an irregular tract of 111.08 located in Section 6, T-84N, R-1E. This acreage covers approximately half of the park on the east side, as shown below. The tract is bounded on the west by newer park lands, and on the north, east, and south by privately owned farmland.

Boundary Justification: These boundaries represent the extent of park holdings as of 1942.

- 1 WIDE MOUTH CAVE
- 2 TWIN ARCH CAVE
- 3 HERNANDO'S HIDEAWAY CAVE
- 4 UP N DOWN CAVE
- 5 DUG OUT CAVE
- 6 WINDOW CAVE
- 7 MATCH CAVE
- 8 BARBELL CAVE
- 9 SHINBONE CAVE
- 10 WYE CAVE
- 11 BALANCED ROCK
- 12 UPPER CAVE ENTRANCE
- 13 MIDDLE CAVE ENTRANCE
- 14 LOWER CAVE ENTRANCE
- 15 RAINY DAY CAVE
- 16 ICE CAVE

- PARK RANGER RESIDENCE
- SHELTER
- PICNIC AREA
- REST ROOM
- TELEPHONE
- CONCESSION STAND & ENCLOSED SHELTER
- HIKING TRAIL
- NATURE TRAIL



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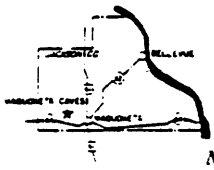
Maquoketa Caves State Park Historic District Contributing and Noncontributing Structures

Contributing

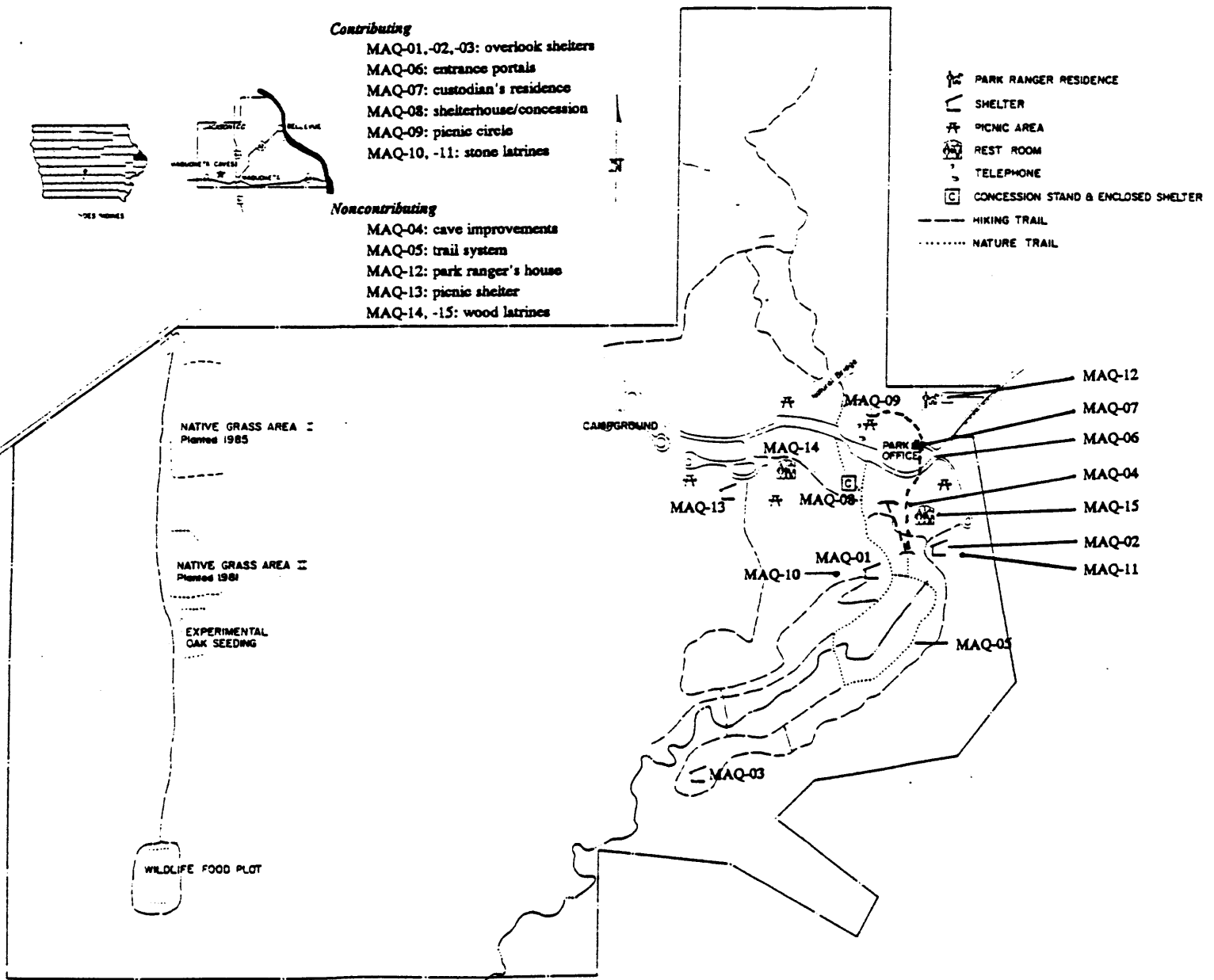
- MAQ-01, -02, -03: overlook shelters
- MAQ-06: entrance portals
- MAQ-07: custodian's residence
- MAQ-08: shelterhouse/concession
- MAQ-09: picnic circle
- MAQ-10, -11: stone latrines

Noncontributing

- MAQ-04: cave improvements
- MAQ-05: trail system
- MAQ-12: park ranger's house
- MAQ-13: picnic shelter
- MAQ-14, -15: wood latrines



- PARK RANGER RESIDENCE
- SHELTER
- PICNIC AREA
- REST ROOM
- TELEPHONE
- CONCESSION STAND & ENCLOSED SHELTER
- HIKING TRAIL
- NATURE TRAIL



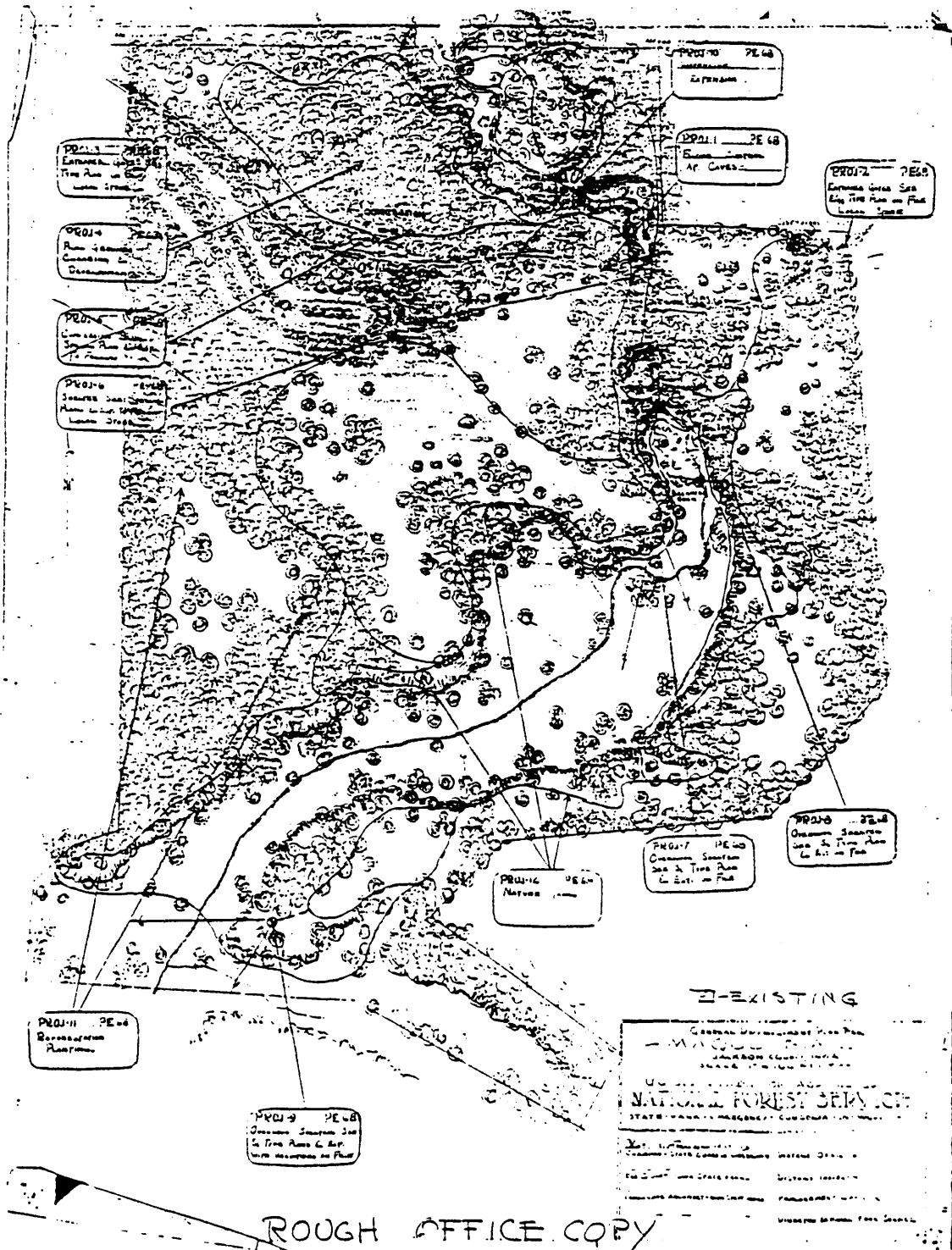
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Proposed CCC Work Plan, October 1933
Maquoketa Caves State Park
Source: Fitzsimmons Collection, ISU College of Design



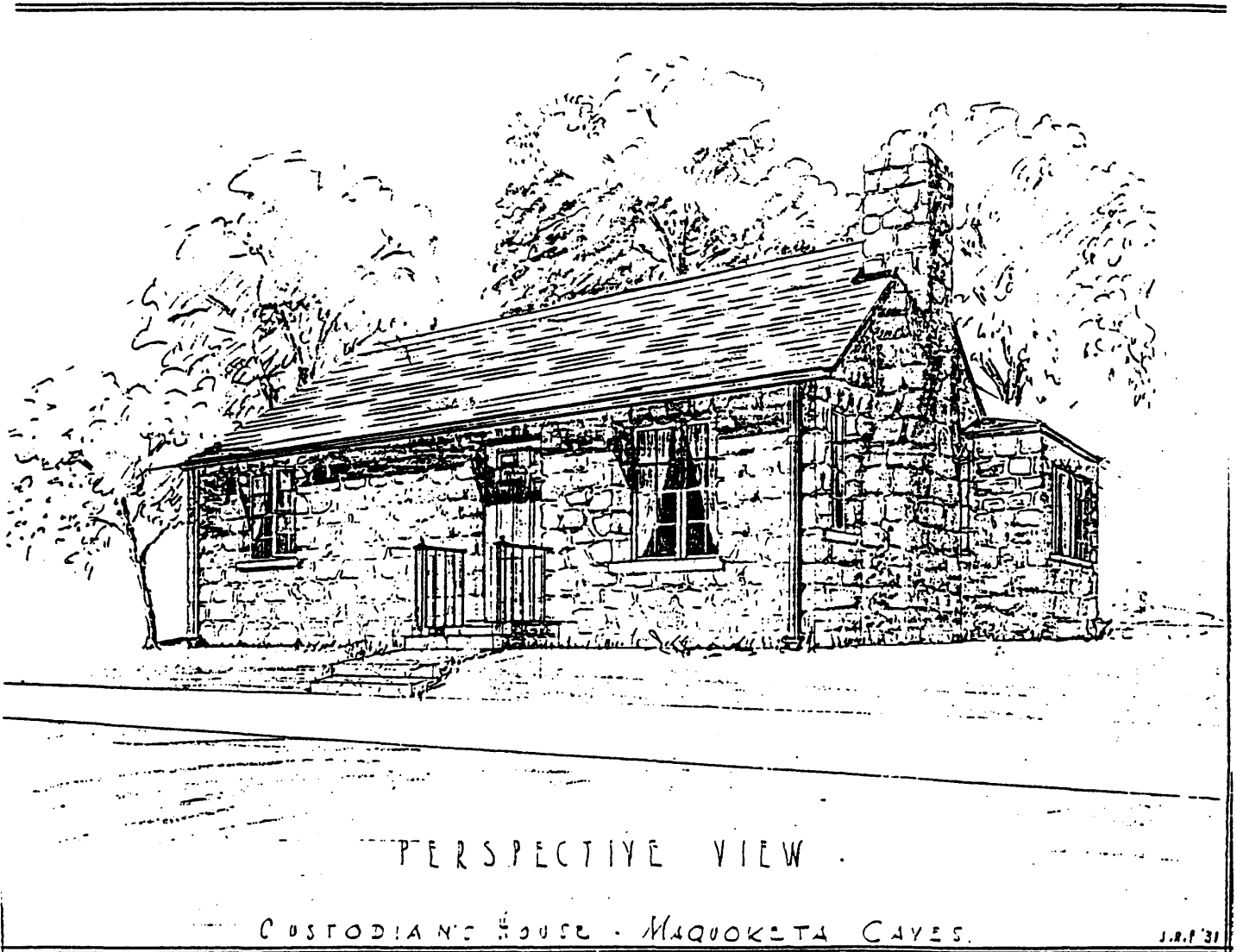
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*First Conceptual Drawing of Custodian's House (not built)
Maquoketa Caves State Park, John R. Fitzsimmons, 1931
Source: Fitzsimmons Collection, ISU College of Design*



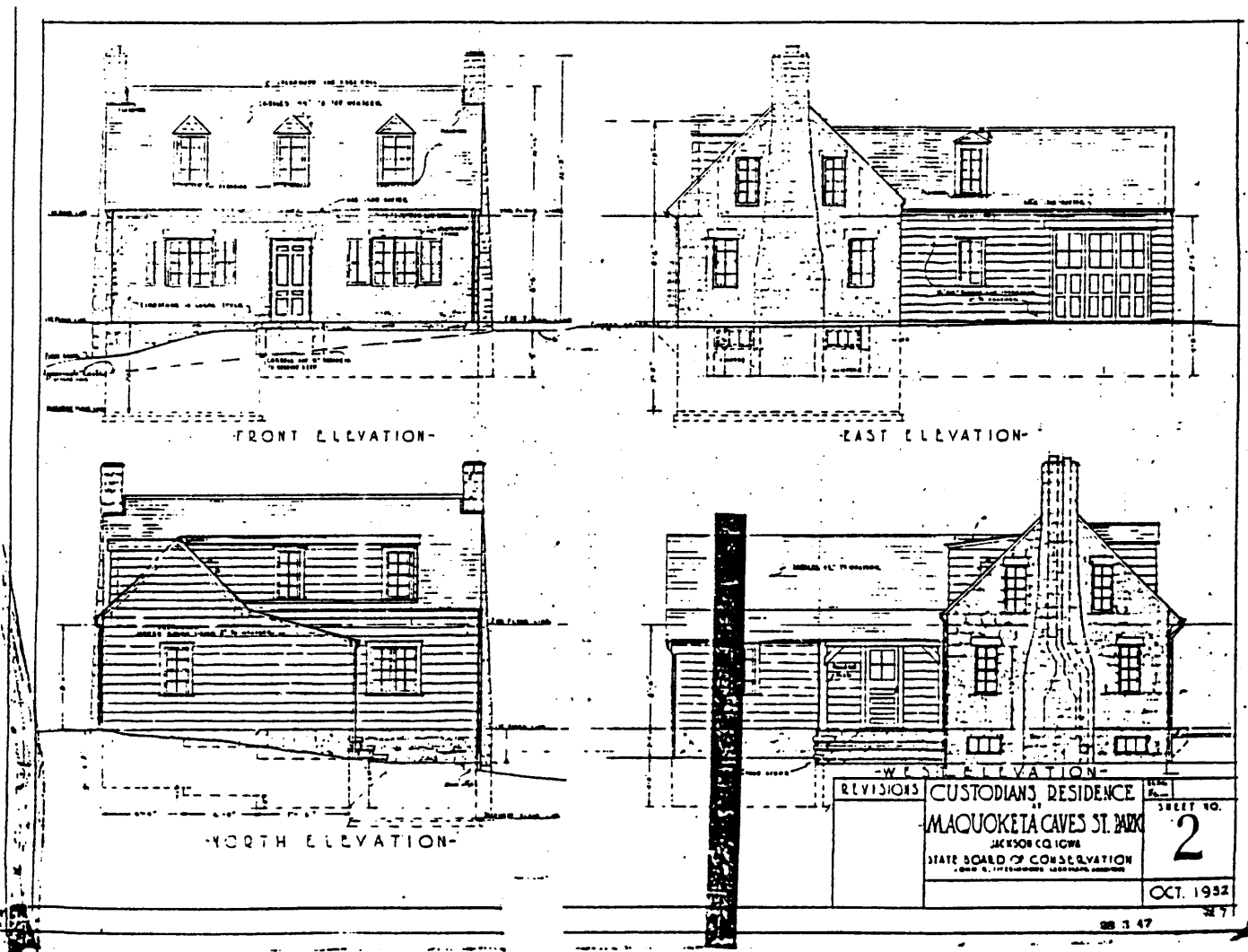
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*Elevations for Custodian's House as Built
Maquoketa Caves State Park, John R. Fitzsimmons, October 1932
Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources*



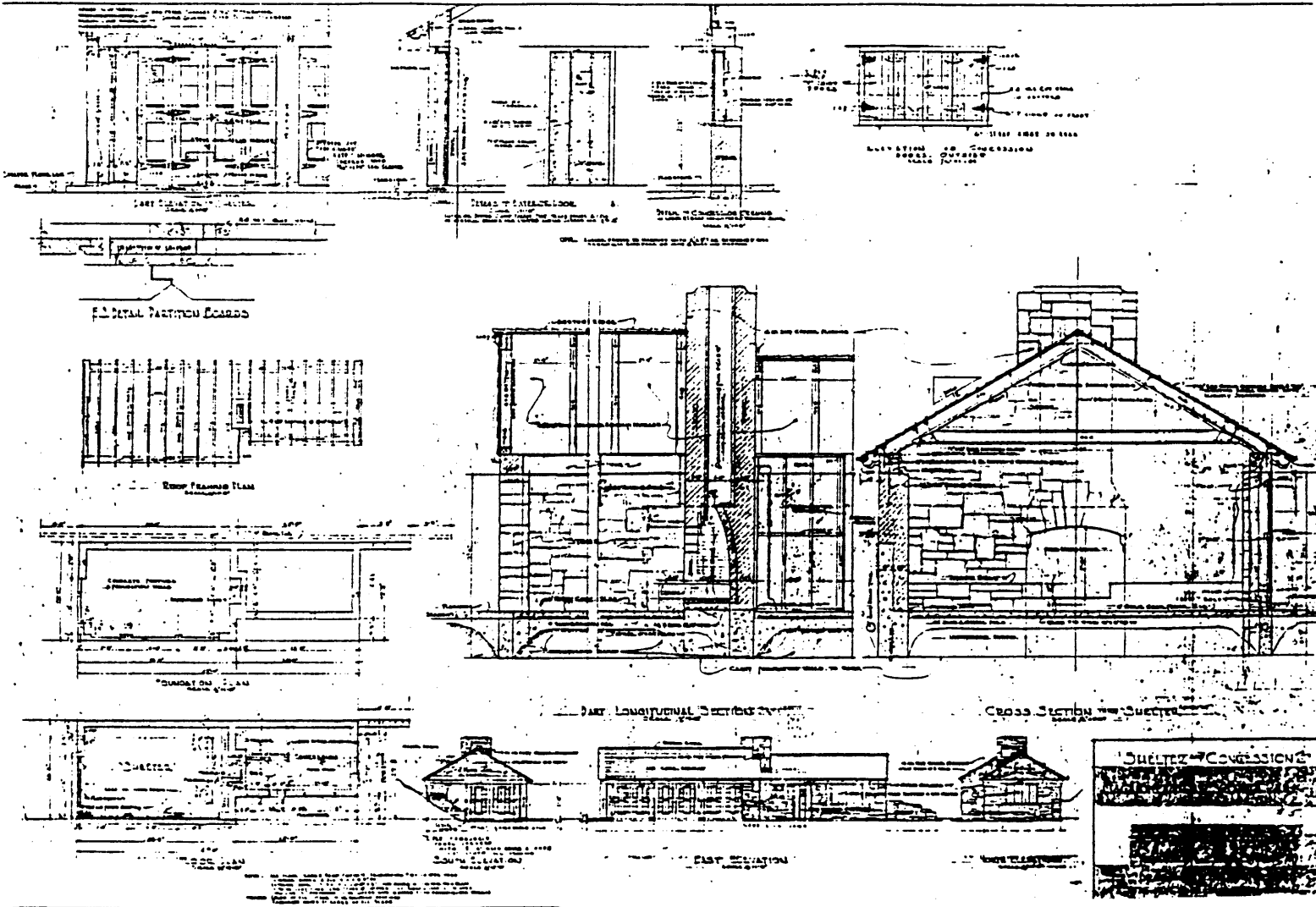
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Elevations, Floor Plan, and Details
Shelterhouse and Concession Building, Maquoketa Caves State Park
Central Design Office, Des Moines, 1938
Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources



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Section 10: Geographical Data

UTM References

- A. 15 683825/4665740
- B. 15 684080/4665745
- C. 15 684240/4665200
- D. 15 684300/4664860
- E. 15 684030/4664740
- F. 15 684100/4664520
- G. ~~15~~ 683650/4664680
- H. 15 683720/4665340