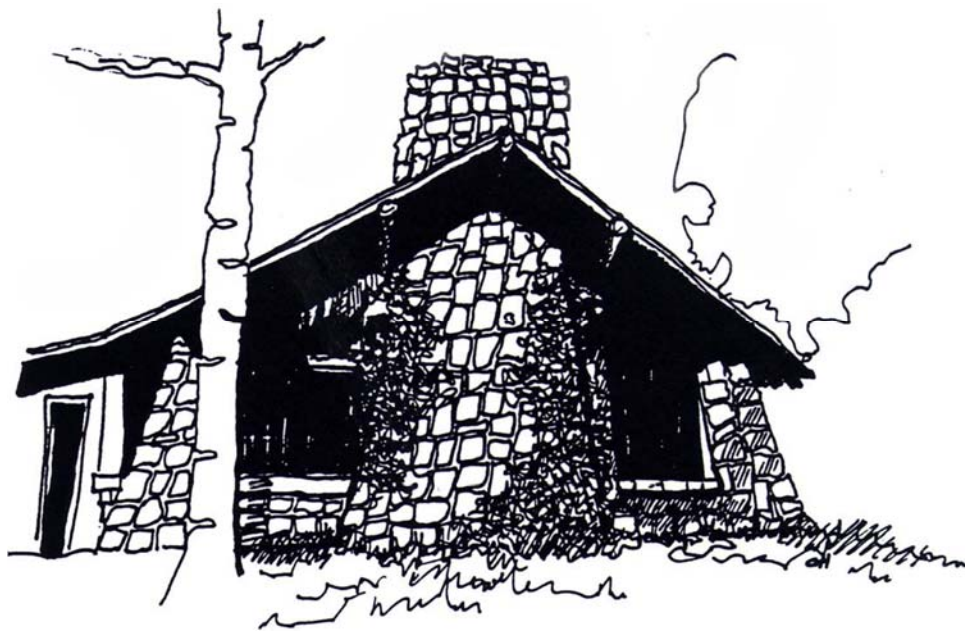




ARKANSAS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942

By Sandra Taylor Smith



*Ogden Hall, Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District
Lake Sylvia
Perry County, Arkansas*

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A Historic Context Written and Researched
By Sandra Taylor Smith

Cover illustration by Cynthia Haas

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The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is the agency of Arkansas Heritage responsible for the identification, evaluation, registration and preservation of the state's cultural resources. Arkansas Heritage is a division of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism.

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The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program CCC Project

The initial survey of structures constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Arkansas was conducted in 1986 through a subgrant and focused exclusively upon recreational facilities. That survey targeted the known CCC-constructed recreational facilities throughout the state, though it focused on the five CCC-constructed parks in the Arkansas State Park system as the core of the survey.

Upon subsequent review and evaluation, it was determined by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) staff that this survey was neither exhaustive -- relative to each site surveyed -- nor dependably accurate, especially with respect to floor plans. In 1989, the Ouachita National Forest, United States Forest Service, approached the AHPP regarding the idea of executing a Memorandum of Agreement that proposed the execution by the AHPP staff of both a full survey of Camp Ouachita, the CCC-constructed Girl Scout camp within the Ouachita National Forest in Perry County, and the subsequent preparation of a National Register nomination for the USFS, in exchange for a specific cost-sharing commitment from the Ouachita National Forest. That agreement was later expanded to include a survey of all CCC-built structures located in the Ouachita National Forest. When the AHPP agreed to this proposal it was decided that a re-survey of all the previously surveyed CCC-constructed structures, conducted by the AHPP survey staff, was necessary in order to obtain reliable survey data from which a state-wide, National Register multiple-property nomination could be prepared.

A consultant, Sandra Taylor Smith, was hired to prepare the historic context that would be required for this nomination format. Given the history of the CCC as a social and conservation organization of national scope, the spatial limits of the state's borders and the temporal limits of 1933-1942 (the years in which the CCC was formally legislated and operational) were clear and logical. The general focus of the survey effort up until that point in time had been upon recreational structures (and not upon other such CCC-constructed structures as fire control and forest management facilities), largely due to the fact that this category included the vast majority of CCC construction statewide; therefore it made sense to limit the scope of this first historic context to recreational construction only, especially considering the fact that other historic contexts covering other types of CCC-construction could be added at a later date.

With respect to physical integrity, the standard National Register guidelines of a minimum of 51 percent were applied in determining eligibility. This resulted in several CCC-constructed structures throughout the state park system being determined ineligible, largely due to substantial re-siding and removal of original wall and roof materials that took place during the mid-1970's when thermal efficiency became the overriding concern, particularly with the cabins. Yet it should also be noted that several cabins were determined eligible that had undergone substantial window replacement, largely due to the fact that in all such cases, this was virtually the only change to the original structure, the remainder of which retained its historic appearance. As might be expected, the landscape features and site work have remained largely intact, since such concerns were limited only to standing structures that provided shelter.

Recreational Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942

The structures, objects, and buildings associated with the recreational facilities in Arkansas built by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1942 are significant in their association with the New Deal policies of President Franklin Roosevelt. This period of history is marked by the unprecedented intervention of the federal government in the national economy and welfare of its citizens. The federal government rapidly and effectively enacted legislation which brought about relief, recovery, and reform of the bankrupt economy and depleted national resources and is generally considered one of the turning points in American history.

These facilities are also significant in their representation of the Rustic style of architecture indicative to the CCC. Their design reflects the objective of maintaining a close, organic relationship with the natural setting, which was typical of recreational facilities constructed under federal auspices during this period.

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CCC: DEVELOPMENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps was only one of the New Deal programs set into action during Franklin D. Roosevelt's first 100 days in office in 1933. The CCC along with the other New Deal programs including the Works Projects Administration (WPA), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and the National Youth Administration (NYA) were often referred to as Roosevelt's "alphabet soup" programs. But more than any other New Deal agency, the CCC is considered to be an extension of Roosevelt's personal philosophy.

The theoretical beginnings of Franklin Roosevelt's plan to establish what would become the Civilian Conservation Corps can be traced back to long before the decade of the Great Depression. For many years there had been ravaging of the American land; soil had been planted without regard for preventing erosion; lumber companies had cleared thousands of acres of forests; a series of dramatic floods in the 1920s had devastated lands in the mid-section of the country; dust storms had literally blown away top soil in the farming belt. In addition to the disasters occurring to the land, economically the financial base of the United States had collapsed with the stock market crash on October 29, 1929. America was in a crisis.

In establishing emergency relief programs during his first frantic 100 days in office, President Roosevelt depended strongly on the advice of a well-known cadre of experts known as the "Brain Trust"; yet when it came to the issue of the future of the land itself, Roosevelt himself was an expert. From the conservation-minded policies of his distant cousin Theodore Roosevelt's presidency, Franklin Roosevelt had fought to protect soil and forest against private waste and greed. He knew the extent of the damage to the American land and was aware of the areas of vulnerability to the environment. At the root of Franklin Roosevelt's belief that the natural resources of the country were in danger was his personal experience on the family farm at Hyde Park. After years of being farmed, Roosevelt once said of his land, "it has just plain run out- and now I am putting it into trees in the hope that my great-grandchildren will be able to try raising corn again - just one century from now." For a time, Roosevelt planted twenty thousand to fifty thousand trees a year on the estate. He called the forest "the most potent factor in maintaining Nature's delicate balance in the

organic and inorganic worlds." "The forests", he said, "are the 'lungs' of our land, purifying our air and giving fresh strength to our people."

Franklin D. Roosevelt, upon election as a New York state senator in 1910, was appointed to the New York State committee on forests, fish and game which had been formed as a result of the growing concern about natural resources. As chairman of this committee, Roosevelt was afforded the opportunity to voice his concerns about the forests and other natural resource issues and became even more aware of the extent of forest abuse generated by private and public forestry. When Roosevelt was elected governor of New York in 1929, he was able to effect more legislation concerning environmental issues. As early as 1931, he proclaimed a Conservation Week in New York State to promote greater public awareness. Also while governor, Roosevelt set about emergency legislation in an attempt to deal with growing unemployment in the state. In his last year as governor of New York, Roosevelt had set 10,000 unemployed people to work on reforestation and strongly encouraged other states to participate in similar programs. California was another state that had adopted a labor-corps system. Established in 1931 in an attempt to relieve the surplus labor problem created by the influx of immigration from other states in the farming belt, the principal function of the California camps was assisting in fire control in the state's forests.

By the time Roosevelt accepted the Democratic nomination for the presidency of the United States in July 1932, he was convinced that the federal government would have to step in to facilitate states in their growing economic, unemployment, and conservation problems. He was dismayed that unlike most of the leading nations of the world, America in the early 1930s had yet to create a national policy for the development of land and water resources. During the presidential campaign Roosevelt presented the possibility of using a million men in forest work across the nation, a plan that was met with skepticism by staunch "Hooverites" who felt the idea was unrealistic.

On March 4, 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt said in his inaugural address to the nation "This nation asks for action, and action now...We must act, and act quickly." This need for action was difficult to understate. In March 1933, the national income was less than half of what it had been four years before. Thirteen million Americans were desperately seeking jobs (roughly 25 percent of the population). The system for sheltering and feeding the unemployed was breaking down everywhere across the country under the growing burden. In fact, the first major decision made by the new President was to issue an order for an immediate bank holiday and banks across the country closed their doors.

Against this background, there was little resistance to President Roosevelt's proposed corrective programs. At this point the country was desperate and it seemed that the only hope lay in governmental leadership. Roosevelt seemed to deal with the nation's problems with a holistic approach. He recognized the need for balance in agriculture, industry, and banking, and many of his programs were a form of insurance to prevent financial disasters from recurring.

One of the best known and most successful of these programs was the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Act, which was presented to Congress on March 21, 1933. Roosevelt himself first called the program the "Civilian Conservation Corps" and it was popularly known as the CCC. The name was officially changed to the Civilian Conservation Corps on July 28, 1937.

This Act proposed to put 300,000 unemployed young men to work in the forests. It was decided to have the Labor Department recruit the men and the War Department administer and direct the camps and camp

activities which included physical conditioning of the men, transportation, and camp construction. The Agriculture and Interior Departments were to organize and supervise the work projects. Initial reaction was mixed. Some cabinet members felt that it might be dangerous to collect large groups of jobless and presumably resentful men in the woods. Arguments were made that the plan would mean the militarization of labor and the reduction of wages to a subsistence level. Others felt the idea was too similar to the labor camps Adolf Hitler was establishing in Germany and was an attempt to legalize a system of forced labor. However, within ten days opposition eased and the bill establishing the ECW was passed by Congress on March 31, 1933. Roosevelt issued immediate orders for the CCC to begin; having 250,000 men in the camps by June was the goal.

(B) THE MECHANICS OF THE CCC

As laid out in the bill establishing the CCC, applicants were to be physically fit unmarried young men between the ages of 18 and 25 (October 1, 1935, the age requirements were changed from 17-28). Policy forbade discrimination by color, race, creed, or politics. However blacks and other ethnic minorities encountered difficulties. Black camps were segregated from white camps in 1933 and although the NAACP formally objected, there were indications that integration was not enforced. Another widespread minority group consisted of Mexican-American enrollees. No definite policy existed regarding this minority as it did with blacks; however, discrimination was reported in some southwestern camps. Under the direction of the Office of Indian Affairs, more than 12,000 Native Americans were put to work on Indian reservations.

All men who applied for the CCC had to have been unemployed at least six months. No man on probation or parole was eligible. These men were to represent families on public relief rolls and have dependents to which proper allotment could be made. The monthly salary of the CCC enrollee was \$30.00. Out of this amount \$25.00 was sent to a designated family member at home, leaving the enrollee \$5.00 to spend as he chose. In addition to the monthly cash allotment, enrollees were provided with living quarters, food and clothing, medical care, and hospitalization. Enlistment was for six months but the Department of Labor announced in September 1933 that re-enrollment was possible.

Although the majority of the CCC force was to be made of young men, called Juniors, two other groups of men were accepted in smaller quantities. The act establishing the CCC provided for a maximum of 30,000 enrollees to be selected from veterans of World War I, known in the CCC as the "Veterans." Another group enrolled in small quantities were local experienced men, called "LEMs," who were chosen to provide the needed expertise in their particular fields, particularly those areas related to conservation and construction.

On April 7, 1933, the first man was selected and enrolled for CCC work. The first Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established in Luray, Virginia, on April 17. By the middle of June, 1933, 1,300 camps had been established; by the end of July more than 250,000 young men together with an additional 25,000 World War I veterans and 25,000 local experienced men had been assembled and placed in 1,468 forest and park camps extending throughout the United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Alaska, and the Virgin Islands. In a 1935 report by the Assistant to the Director of Emergency Conservation Work, it was stated that the enrollment had grown to include 545,000 young men, 55,000 war veterans, 14,800 Indians, 2,400 Puerto Ricans, 1,212 in Hawaii, 325 men in Alaska, and 200 in the Virgin Islands.

(C) THE CCC CAMPS

The CCC camps were set up to consist of approximately 200 men each. Most CCC camp sites were undistinguishable from surrounding land. Camp sites were chosen by the Army with the advice of a Forest Service or National Park Service representative. The CCC District Directors supervised the work in various states and their staffs evaluated work projects and recommended future projects. Field inspectors moved from one camp to another, submitting reports to the district offices every ten days concerning progress and quality of the work accomplished. The National Park Service Washington office made the final determination on new state park projects.

The first task performed by enrollees was to clear a camp site under the direction of regular Army officers. Tents were used as living quarters until it was possible to construct more permanent buildings. In some cases, particularly in warmer climates, tents were used for the camp's duration. Generally there were 36 tents used to house a 200 man camp with five men per tent. Site plans differed for each camp and depended largely on the available supplies and terrain. However, some elements of the camp site were always consistent. A flagpole and administration office were usually the first visual indications of the camp. Officers' barracks were in straight rows in front of enrollees' tents. Tents were staked closely together with cinder or gravel paths running between the tent rows. Other buildings found in a typical 200-man camp included latrines, hospital and infirmary, showers and washroom, kitchen and mess unit, administrative unit, garage and shop. There were also what were called "side camps," popularly known as "spike" or "fly" camps which were set up on temporary basis and limited to twenty men in areas with unusually rough topography and lack of roads. Side camp projects included construction of lookouts on peaks accessible only by trail, establishment of firebreaks on ridgelines, disease and insect treatment, and some forest fire prevention.

In November 1933, plans for CCC camps with lumber buildings were accepted. A press release described the construction effort saying "Forty Thousand carpenters, working in 46 states and utilizing 300 million feet of lumber, are rushing to complete a record-breaking camp construction program for the Civilian Conservation Corps. On over 1,400 camp sites, a total of nearly 15,000 buildings are being constructed." Locally hired labor was preferred for construction of these camp buildings. In a memorandum issued by the ECW in February 1934, it was stated that "enrollees of the CCC will not be used in the construction of camp buildings of a permanent or semi-permanent nature except in an emergency which does not permit obtaining other labor." It was viewed that using local labor in construction of the camp buildings was good public relations and assisted in the acceptance of the CCC camps by nearby communities. Also, in using local labor to work on the camp sites, the CCC enrollees had more time to spend on the intended conservation and recreational development goals of the program. In 1935 the CCC began using "portable" buildings which could be dismantled, moved and re-erected at a lower cost. Later many of these buildings were used by the Army in camps for World War II recruits. The actual CCC camps were not intended to be permanent and today very few of these camp buildings are left standing.

(D) THE CCC IN ARKANSAS

The Civilian Conservation Corps was in the forefront of the New Deal programs established in Arkansas in the 1930s. Immediate relief to the state's citizens and economy was felt as a result of the CCC projects set up

in Arkansas. And, as Franklin Roosevelt intended, the benefits of economic and employment relief provided by the CCC was equaled by its preservation and development of the state's natural resources.

On a national level, the Civilian Conservation Corps was divided into nine Corps districts. Arkansas was within the Seventh Corps Area with headquarters in the Federal Building in Omaha, Nebraska. The Arkansas district headquarters were located at East 25th Street and the Rock Island Railroad in Little Rock. Subdistrict offices were located in Russellville, Arkadelphia, El Dorado, and Little Rock. Enrollees were selected by County Welfare offices. Once selected, the enrollees were sent to Camp Pike (now Camp Joe T. Robinson) in North Little Rock for processing before assignment to their CCC camp site.

The first CCC project approved in Arkansas was at Eagleton. The first campsite occupied in the state was at Crystal Springs. The number of camps in Arkansas varied from time to time as there were cutbacks in the program, then reinstatements. In 1935, at its peak in Arkansas, there were 65 CCC camps, but by 1937, the number of camps had been cut back to 38. Nationally, many CCC enrollees were relocated to camps a considerable distance from their homes. Many of these relocated enrollees however, were from urban areas and had to be displaced to work in rural areas. Many Arkansas CCC companies were allowed to remain in the largely rural state since there were so many forest and recreation projects underway. The average number of Arkansas companies in other states ranged from eight to 20 during the nine years of the CCC. Likewise, a number of out-of-state CCC companies worked in Arkansas camps.

Although the Civilian Conservation Corps provided labor for work projects in park areas as well as forest lands, the greatest legacy left in Arkansas by the CCC was their work in the development of state parks. Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872 but there were no additional national parks created until 1890. [It should be noted that one of the first steps toward the preservation of public land by the federal government was taken in Arkansas in 1832 with the creation of the Hot Springs Reservation.] The National Park Service had been established in 1916, but it was not until a National Conference of State Parks in Des Moines, Iowa in 1921 that an organized national effort was begun to establish state parks and forests for recreation and conservation purposes. The theory was that both the national government and state government had a responsibility to provide the public with outdoor recreation opportunities. The prosperity of the 1920s and wide-spread use of the automobile for transportation brought about the demand for outdoor recreation.

Up to the 1920s most of the national parks were in the western states. Standards were very high for properties proposing National Park status. Stephen T. Mather, the first director of the National Park Service, stated that the national park system was made up of areas of incomparable scenic grandeur which were of national importance and interest. At that time only one area of a particular type was considered for inclusion in the National Park System, each representing the highest example of its type. Along this vein of lofty park standards, Mather declined the application of Petit Jean Park in Arkansas as a national park. However, Mather encouraged its development as a state park. Consequently, Petit Jean became the first state park in Arkansas as created by a special act of the Arkansas legislature in February 1923.

Since there was no state parks system in Arkansas in 1923, the administration of Petit Jean Park was placed under the State Highway commissioner. In 1927, Act 171 was approved by the Arkansas General Assembly forming a seven-member state park commission. It was not until a former state parks commissioner, Carl Bailey, became governor in 1937, that an act was passed creating a permanent state park commission with an executive director and the authority and funding to proceed with constructive work in Arkansas park development. Governor Bailey's bill was one that had been recommended by the National Park Service and

tailored to fit the needs of Arkansas parks.

Thus when the CCC began in 1933, there was virtually no established park system in Arkansas. Petit Jean, Mt. Nebo, and Arkansas Post were the only parks in the state, but none were developed. Petit Jean was one of the more extensive CCC park projects accomplished in Arkansas. The CCC work there encompassed a broad range of work: such projects included the construction of a bathhouse, boat dock, cabins, lodge, culverts, and trails. The work accomplished by the CCC at Petit Jean features a good cross-section of the many types of CCC work done throughout the state. In 1937, the Petit Jean company won second place for the "most nearly ideal camp in the Seventh Corps Area." The veterans' company that worked on Petit Jean was judged by a visiting CCC official in 1934 as having the highest morale and best CCC camp in Arkansas. The official was quoted as saying "Co. #1781 stands out as a striking demonstration of what art and nature can do to make delightful surroundings."

Other outstanding examples of CCC work in state parks and forests are found throughout Arkansas. State parks at Devil's Den, Crowley's Ridge, Mt. Nebo, Lake Catherine, and Buffalo Point were all extensively developed by the CCC, as well as many municipal park areas. A successful project in which the State Park Commission, National Park Service and the WPA coordinated efforts provided a detailed description of recreational facilities in Arkansas in 1940. This included maps, photographs, and charts of these facilities. Today, many less dramatic and spectacular areas than those first state parks developed by the CCC and WPA are now also a part of the State Park System.

The administration and operations of the Arkansas parks and forests have historically been virtually identical. Functionally, their difference lay in the intended use with forests developed for recreational purposes but functioning for the preservation of trees, while parks were to preserve a uniquely scenic area and were intended primarily for recreational use.

Like the parks, forests were a later area of government intervention. In 1876, Congress directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to create a position for a forestry agent to assess the condition of the nation's forests. In a short time it was determined that the forests needed strict management. In 1881 the Division of Forestry was created within the Department of Agriculture and established reserves to help preserve forests. In the 1890s seventeen forest reserves were created by President Benjamin Harrison and were designated as national forests by 1907.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission had been created in 1931 but there was no funding for its operation. In May 1933, Arkansas became the 41st state in the nation to institute a forestry program. In 1933, Arkansas had two national forests set aside: the Ouachita National Forest, established in 1907, and the Ozark National Forest, established in 1908. By the early 1930s these forest areas were threatened due to drought and lack of fire protection. In the nineteenth century Arkansas included approximately 32 million acres of timberland; hardwood forests in the northern portions and pine woods in the southern regions of the state. By 1930, the state forests had been depleted to 22 million acres. The conservation work accomplished in Arkansas by the CCC was particularly significant since it stopped the potential loss of the vast areas of the state covered in forest.

Approximately 37 percent of all CCC camps in the nation were devoted to forest lands. In Arkansas, CCC forest camps, foot and truck trails, picnic areas, camp grounds, and observation towers were among the projects completed. The fire-protection plan built by the CCC involved strategically placed observation

towers in the forests. Additionally, CCC personnel worked thousands of man-hours fighting fires.

According to State Forestry records, the CCC constructed 80 observation towers, built four district forester's headquarters and ran 4,000 miles of telephone lines in Arkansas forests. The CCC is also credited with the establishment of tree nurseries and mapping of types of timber found in the state, providing the Forestry Commission with an accurate map of types of timberstands.

(E) SOCIAL & EDUCATIONAL IMPACT OF THE CCC

The broad results achieved by the Civilian Conservation Corps in its nine-year span were far reaching. The immediate intended results of removing people from relief rolls and major improvement and conservation of the land were achieved successfully. Of all the New Deal programs, Roosevelt was said to have considered the CCC the most successful.

A major benefit that went hand in hand with the elimination of the large numbers of young men on governmental relief was the direct financial benefit to their families. By the mid-1930s, \$160 billion of CCC enrollees' cash allowances had been allotted to their families. More than four million people directly benefited from the CCC monthly checks. The ability to get off of relief and support their families was a source of self-confidence for the young men enrolled in the CCC.

A report from the Department of Labor in 1935 advised that their records "reflect the fact that the CCC men returned to their homes definitely benefited physically and mentally; their out-look toward the future brighter; their sense of self-reliance and their ability to adjust themselves to economic conditions stronger." The positive effect of outdoor life, healthy food, and regular habits enforced in the CCC was estimated by the War Department to have brought about an average weight gain of twelve pounds per enrollee.

Each camp wrote and published a newsletter. The names of the camp papers alone are testament to the healthy and positive attitude of the enrollees. The papers reflect a sense of humor particularly in their titles such as "The Voice of Satan" from the Devil's Den camp, "Quack Quack" from the wetlands camp in St. Charles, "Fair Park Breeze" from Little Rock's Fair Park camp and "Dirt Dauber" from Harrison's CCC camp, just to mention a few. These newsletters indicate normal and healthy social attitudes toward CCC camp life. Although there was an underlying vein of homesickness, most of the papers inferred that the men were relieved to have the work and income resulting from their CCC enrollment.

The educational benefits of the CCC were innumerable. In March 1934, President Roosevelt decided to include education as one of the objectives of the CCC. Qualified male teachers were selected and sent to each camp as educational advisors to the Army personnel and to the superintendent of the work projects. Although limited at first, camp programs were established that eventually developed into practical educational activities. Arkansas was nationally noted for its educational programs. It is reported that more than 2,000 Arkansas enrollees learned to read and write in the CCC. Eighth-grade diplomas could be obtained by enrollees doing required amounts of work in the camps; high school centers allowed credits to be earned, and correspondence courses were available to all enrolled personnel. College centers were also established near three of the state colleges. Any enrollee in the Arkansas CCC was allowed to attend college while at the camps. Additionally, more than 5,000 Arkansans completed American Red Cross first-aid courses.

In Arkansas, agricultural education programs in the CCC camps were operated through cooperation of the Extension Service and State Vocational teachers. All Arkansas CCC camps had agricultural projects. The agricultural skills learned in the camps had far-reaching benefits in the state.

The obvious skills concerning land conservation, forest work, and construction methods were supplemented with woodworking, surveying, and many other marketable skills. The federal government set up a national employment plan to place camp alumni who qualified by virtue of their CCC experience.

The government believed that for the CCC program to be completely successful it was important for the communities near the camps to benefit from and accept their presence. At first, skeptical Arkansans were wary of the government camps set up in their area. Some of these feelings led to satirical references to the WPA standing for "We Piddle Around" or the CCC as the "Brigade of Shovel Leaners." Many Arkansans recall rumors that these "labor camps" were accomplishing nothing and were just an exercise in governmental control.

Fortunately most communities and the CCC camps developed a healthy respect for each other, largely due to their economic ties. In part, the enrollment of Local Experienced Men was designed to alleviate potential hostility of nearby communities. The CCC was on hand to immediately respond to natural or man-made disasters such as fighting fires and aiding flood victims. Supplies and materials for the camps were purchased from local merchants, and local contractors were able to bid on construction projects within the camps. Moreover, local merchants profited from enrollee spending. Some communities actively sought CCC projects to be placed in their area. Local newspapers around the state carried articles reporting on progress at "their" CCC camps, and when cutbacks or shutdowns were made in camps it was front-page news. The CCC camps in the Arkansas district actively sought local acceptance of their existence. Some CCC companies hosted tours through recreational areas they had developed. Citizens were invited to "open-house" activities at the camps on weekends. Groups of farmers interested in soil conservation or local businessmen interested in construction methods often visited the camps.

A particularly good example of the cooperation between federal government programs and local government was the development of a Girl Scout Camp in Perry County, Arkansas. Here the county government, National Forestry Service, and a local Girl Scout organization combined efforts to secure a suitable location for a scout camp. WPA and CCC labor cleared land, erected a dam creating a lake of recreational value, and constructed a lodge and cabins for the Girl Scouts. Although now abandoned by the Girl Scouts, this camp on the edge of a man-made lake is one of the most intact and representative reminders of the success of New Deal public work projects in the state.

(F) ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY OF THE CCC

The architecture of the Depression era buildings constructed by the New Deal programs, specifically the WPA and the CCC, is in itself of important historical significance. Although WPA buildings represent a certain ruggedness in their design and use of native materials, they tend to be more refined in their appearance than the buildings attributed to CCC construction. CCC-constructed structures were almost always found in park and forest settings, while WPA buildings were more often constructed for community use and tended to be in more urban settings. Although WPA labor was brought in to help with the construction in several of the forest and park projects in Arkansas, the influence of the National Park Service design known as the Rustic style of architecture was dominant in these structures. Indigenous to park areas,

the Rustic style is often referred to as "Parkitecture." By the 1930s, this style was an accepted concept for use in parks. The Rustic style is characterized by the effort to harmonize with the natural setting using local indigenous materials; in Arkansas, natural stone and timber particularly. The pavilions, lodges, cabins, and other buildings constructed by the CCC in Arkansas recreational areas reflect this emphasis upon non-obtrusiveness with respect to the natural setting.

The CCC camps were allotted a certain amount of money for each construction project. It was specified that no large machinery was to be purchased for construction use. For this reason, the structures were built by hand, relying mostly on manpower, and seem somewhat crude due to the lack of modern construction tools and machinery. The result is that the CCC structures in these recreational areas of Arkansas' forests and parks appear to have been hand-crafted by local artisans.

The Rustic-style structures built by the CCC are characterized by a design related to the natural landscape and expressed in the use of materials natural to their setting and in scale and proportion to the physical features of their particular site. An important element in Rustic design is to create buildings that were subordinate to the setting, rather than an intrusion dominating the scene. The nonintrusive concept was carried out through the use of horizontal lines, low silhouette, organic forms and scale, proportion, and texture of the building materials. Attention was paid to many details on these structures, assuring its harmony with the surroundings. Plans by the National Park Service required attention be paid to the details of all aspects of the park development, including culvert design and trail and road patterns. The quality of craftsmanship in these structures was high, as the CCC standards for work were high. While the CCC accomplished much work directly involving natural resources, the Rustic-style structures they constructed in Arkansas's forests and parks are the strongest tangible evidence of the accomplishments and success of the CCC.

As an American architectural movement, the Rustic style as we know it is an expression largely confined to the period 1933-1942. Its beginnings are derived from Adirondack camp designs from the early twentieth century and its end is marked by the World War II period as such labor-intensive projects were economically unfeasible and the necessary expertise in stone masonry and log building was no longer abundantly available during and after the war years.

(G) CONCLUSIONS

The work accomplished by the CCC was estimated by the Agriculture Department to have "pushed forward conservation progress from ten to twenty years." Likewise, the Department of the Interior reported that "through Emergency Conservation Work (CCC), the development of the nation's recreational areas has been advanced further than would have been possible in ten to twenty years under the old order that prevailed prior to the initiation of the CCC."

There were more than 150 types of work projects performed by the CCC, which fell under ten broad headings:

1. Forest Culture
2. Forest Protection
3. Erosion Control
4. Flood Control

5. Irrigation & Drainage
6. Transportation Improvement
7. Structural Improvements
8. Range Development
9. Aid to Wildlife
10. Landscape and Recreational Development

The Civilian Conservation Corps ceased operations as of June 30, 1942, after nine years of service. It is estimated that six million man-days of conservation work were accomplished. In Arkansas, the CCC erected 446 buildings, constructed 6,400 miles of road, built eight dams, laid 250 miles of fence, erected 86 lookout towers in forests, planted 19,463,745 trees, and strung 8,600 miles of telephone line in addition to their work in the development of recreational facilities.

The impact of New Deal work programs, including the WPA and most particularly the CCC, whose broad objectives were to alleviate a national economic and natural resource crisis, are best represented in the distinct architectural legacy of the physical resources constructed by these programs in Arkansas forests and parks.

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National Register Nominations of CCC Structures Through This Context

ASHLEY COUNTY

Crossett Experimental Forest Buildings 2, 8, and 6, ca. 1939-40, near Crossett

CARROLL COUNTY

Lake Leatherwood Dam and Recreational Facilities, 1938-40, near Eureka Springs

CONWAY COUNTY

Petit Jean State Park Cabins 1, 6, 9, and 16, ca. 1935, Petit Jean Mountain
Administrative Office, ca. 1935, Petit Jean Mountain
Culvert No. 1, ca. 1935, Petit Jean Mountain
Water Treatment Building, ca. 1935, Petit Jean Mountain
Office Headquarters, ca. 1935, Petit Jean Mountain
Concrete Log Bridge, ca. 1935, Petit Jean Mountain
Mather Lodge, ca. 1935 with later additions, Petit Jean Mountain
Lake Bailey-Roosevelt Lake Historic District, ca. 1935-37, Petit Jean Mountain
Blue Hole Road Historic District, ca. 1935, Petit Jean Mountain

GARLAND COUNTY

Iron Springs Shelters 1 and 2, ca. 1933, near Jessieville
Iron Springs Dam, ca. 1930, near Jessieville
Forest Service Headquarters Buildings 1-6, ca. 1933-39, Hot Springs
Camp Clearfork Dam, ca. 1935, Crystal Springs
Camp Clearfork Buildings 1, 2, and 11, ca. 1940, Crystal Springs
Camp Clearfork Shawnee, Mohawk, and Choctaw Cabins, ca. 1940, Crystal Springs
Camp Clearfork Men's Restrooms/Bath, ca. 1940, Crystal Springs
Camp Clearfork Cabin 5, ca. 1940, Crystal Springs
Camp Clearfork Caretaker's House, ca. 1940, Crystal Springs
Camp Clearfork DeSoto Hall, ca. 1940, Crystal Springs

GREENE COUNTY

Crowley's Ridge State Park Dining Hall, ca. 1935, near Walcott
Crowley's Ridge State Park Bathhouse, ca. 1935, near Walcott
Crowley's Ridge State Park Bridge, ca. 1935, near Walcott
Crowley's Ridge State Park Amphitheater, ca. 1935, near Walcott
Crowley's Ridge State Park Comfort Station, ca. 1935, near Walcott
Crowley's Ridge State Park Culvert 1, ca. 1935, near Walcott

HOT SPRING COUNTY

Lake Catherine State Park Cabins 1 and 2 and Nature Cabin, 1935, near Shorewood Hills
Lake Catherine State Park Retaining Walls 1-5, 1935, near Shorewood Hills
Lake Catherine State Park Culvert 4, 1935, near Shorewood Hills
Lake Catherine State Park Bridge 2, 1935, near Shorewood Hills

LOGAN COUNTY

Jack Creek Bathhouse, ca. 1936, near Cold Springs

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Collier Springs Shelter, ca. 1939, near Womble
Crystal Springs Camp Shelter, ca. 1939, near Womble
Crystal Springs Dam, ca. 1939, near Womble
Charlton Bathhouse, ca. 1938, near Mount Ida
Charlton Spillway/Dam, ca. 1938, near Mount Ida
Womble District Administrative Site House 1, ca. 1940, near Mount Ida

PERRY COUNTY

Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District, 1936-38, Lake Sylvia

POLK COUNTY

Shady Lake Dam, ca. 1938, near Mena
Shady Lake Bathhouse, ca. 1936, near Mena
Shady Lake Caretaker's House, ca. 1940, near Mena
Shady Lake Picnic Pavilion, ca. 1938, near Mena
Tall Peak Fire Tower, ca. 1938, near Mena
Bee Mountain Tower, ca. 1938, near Mena
Bard Springs Picnic Shelter, ca. 1936, near Athens
Bard Springs Bathhouse, ca. 1936, near Athens
Bard Springs Caddo District Dams 1 and 2, ca. 1936, near Athens

SCOTT COUNTY

Cold Spring, ca. 1936, near Cold Springs
Powder Magazine, ca. 1935, near Cold Springs
Poteau Work Center Residence No. 2, ca. 1938, near Waldron
Poteau Work Center, ca. 1939, near Waldron

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Devil's Den State Park Historic District, ca. 1936, near Winslow

YELL COUNTY

Mount Nebo State Parks Steps, Retaining Wall and Directional Stones, ca. 1935, near Dardanelle
Mount Nebo State Park Nebo and Gum Springs, ca. 1935, near Dardanelle
Mount Nebo State Park Nebo Springs Trail and Nebo Steps Trail, ca. 1935, near Dardanelle



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942

By Sandra Taylor Smith

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