NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Shady Lake Recreation Area Historic District

Other names/site number: PLØ100, PLØ101, PLØ102, PLØ103, PLØ284, PLØ285, PLØ287, PLØ288, PLØ289, PLØ290, PLØ291, PLØ292, PLØ293, and PLØ294

Name of related multiple property listing: "Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933 to 1942."

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: Forest Service Road No. 38

City or town: Athens State: Arkansas County: Polk

Not For Publication: [ ] Vicinity: [X]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___**national** ___**statewide** X **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X **A** ___**B** X **C** ___**D**

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria.

Stacy Hurst 8-6-15

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Director and State Historic Preservation Officer, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: ☐

Public – Local ☐

Public – State ☐

Public – Federal ☒

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☐

District ☒

Site ☐

Structure ☐

☐

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
3		sites
4		structures
	1	objects
7	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 6

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture (outdoor recreation)
Transportation/road-related (vehicular)
Transportation/pedestrian-related (trail)
Landscape
Industry/Processing/Extraction (waterworks-dam)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture
Transportation/road-related (vehicular)
Transportation/pedestrian-related (trail)
Landscape
Industry/Processing/Extraction (waterworks-dam)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
_Other: Rustic Architecture

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: _stone, wood/logs, concrete

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Shady Lake Recreation Area Historic District is located in the southern portion of the Ouachita National Forest. The nominated district consists of extant buildings, structures, and landscape features in the Shady Lake Recreation Area that were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1935 and 1940. The U.S. Forest Service originally developed the area for recreational purposes, employing CCC enrollees from nearby Camp F-4 (Camp Shady). The central recreational and landscape element of the area is Shady Lake. In October 1935, the CCC began the Shady Lake Dam project to create Shady Lake. By July 1937 crews completed most of the heavy machine work for dam building, bridge erection, and road construction. With the large projects completed at Shady Lake, the U.S. Forest Service focused on the development of recreation amenities. The CCC resources in the nominated district were constructed in the Rustic style. As an American architectural movement, the Rustic style was largely confined to the period spanning 1933 to 1942. The style is characterized by a design related to the natural landscape and expressed in the use of materials natural to their setting, as well as in scale and proportion to the physical features of their site. The nominated district embodies the distinctive construction elements, design, and materials associated with the nation's CCC-built parks and recreational areas. The nominated district includes ten contributing architectural resources, three contributing sites (landscape), and one non-contributing object (sign). Shady Lake's CCC-era resources possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

Setting

Shady Lake Recreation Area Historic District is located on Forest Service Road No. 38 in the Ouachita National Forest Recreation Area, Polk County, Arkansas. The nominated historic district is nestled in the forested Ouachita Mountains in the southern portion of the national forest. Some of the most rugged and highest peaks surround Shady Lake Recreation Area. In this section of the state, the region is well-watered, though there were no natural lakes and very few streams of sufficient size to provide boating, swimming, or fishing in the 1930s. The U.S. Forest Service selected this isolated area for its primitive forest, its botanical species, the existing Forest Road No. 38, and its location at the junction of the northern and middle forks of Blaylock Creek.[1] The U.S. Forest Service built the Shady Lake Dam to create a 25-acre lake, which remains the focal point of the recreational area. Scenic views are afforded of the lake throughout the recreational area. The CCC incorporated the natural undisturbed setting and topography in the layout for the recreational area. Further, the high mountainous character of the terrain affords a cooling breeze. Indigenous trees and native stones were used in the construction of Shady Lake's resources. The area is botanically diverse and rich in Shortleaf Pine, Mountain White Oak, Walnut, Dogwood, Hawthorn, Hickory, Red Oak, Holly, Magnolia, Azalea, Huckleberry, and other species.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Shady Lake Bathhouse (PLØ102) is the largest building in the Shady Lake Recreation Area and prominently sited on the northeastern shoreline of the lake. The one-story bathhouse has log and wood construction. It has an irregular plan consisting of three sections connected by short covered walkways. Set on a continuous concrete block foundation, the log building has novelty siding. Each section of the bathhouse has a gabled roof covered with composition shingles. The end blocks serve as male and female changing rooms while the middle section contains a concession and picnic area. Restrooms have louvered windows. The rear of the middle section has six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. A concrete step path leads to the northern side of the central block. Furniture inside of the open central public space includes half-log benches, braced log wood seats, and a ping-pong table. Shady Lake Bathhouse (PLØ102) is an individual National Register of Historic Places listed resource.

Shady Lake Caretaker's House (PLØ101) is a one-story wood frame building set on a continuous stone foundation. It has an irregular plan consisting of a side-gabled main block and intersecting gabled-roof "T"s on the northern and southern sides. The building has a gabled roof covered with composition shingles. Exterior walls are sheathed with novelty siding. Fenestration is single, paired, and triple with one-over-one, double-hung sash. Louvered vents are in the apexes of the gable ends of the main section. The southern "T" has an interior brick chimney. A single entrance door with stone stoop is located on the western side of the northern "T." The southern side has a screened porch that overlooks the northwestern end of Shady Lake. The porch has an entrance and stone stoop on its eastern side. A single door entrance

[1] Foster, Clayton J. *Region Eight Ouachita National Forest Arkansas Division Mena Ranger District Preliminary Master Plan Base Map Caretakers Sub Unit Report Shady Lake Recreational Area (*Mena, Arkansas Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture 1938 [rev. 1939]), 1-5.

is set in the right bay of the southern side. Shady Lake Caretaker's House (PLØ101) is an individual National Register of Historic Places listed resource.

Shady Lake Picnic Pavilion (PLØ100) is a one-story, open-air pavilion located on a hill above the northern shoreline of the eastern portion of Shady Lake. It has a rectangular plan and a roughly north to south orientation. The Rustic-style pavilion has a gabled roof covered with composition shingles and a concrete slab on grade foundation. The gable ends incorporate traditional king post trusses. Six large log columns on the northern and southern sides of the structure support the roof. The structure has a log balustrade along its perimeter with a central opening on the northern side. Half-log benches and braced square-sawn picnic tables are located inside the pavilion. The CCC-constructed pavilions were built with picnic furniture; however, it is unknown if the furniture in the pavilion today is original. Though surrounded by woods, the pavilion offers a scenic view of Shady Lake. Shady Lake Picnic Pavilion (PLØ100) is an individual National Register of Historic Places listed resource.

Shady Lake Dam (PLØ103) is an arched-type dam constructed of cast concrete. Located on the Saline River, the arch-type dam measures approximately 150 feet in length and 45 feet high. Constructed of 550 yards of concrete, the dam has an average thickness of 4.5 feet. The spillway and stilling pool are on the southern side of the dam. The structure is situated between two rock walls which form the riverbank and holds the water to form Shady Lake. Shady Lake Dam (PLØ103) is an individual National Register of Historic Places listed resource.

Shady Lake CCC Bridge #1 (PLØ284) spans the South Fork of the Saline River on the eastern edge of Shady Lake. The structure is a single-span bridge measuring approximately 40 feet long by 20 feet wide. A corrugated steel culvert supports the arched span. The bridge and guardrails are mostly constructed of native fieldstone. The bridge is traversed by a gravel road. Guardrails on each side of the bridge have four square posts connected by three slightly shorter and thinner panels. Shady Lake CCC Bridge #1 (PLØ284; 1936) is an individual National Register of Historic Places listed resource.

Shady Lake CCC Bridge #2 (PLØ285) spans the South Fork of the Saline River on the northern edge of Shady Lake. The structure is a double-span bridge measuring approximately 60 feet long by 20 feet wide. Each arched span is supported by a corrugated steel culvert. The bridge and guardrails are mostly constructed of native fieldstone. The bridge is traversed by Polk County Road 604, it is a gravel road. Guardrails on each side of the bridge have seven square posts connected by three slightly shorter and thinner panels. Shady Lake CCC Bridge #2 (PLØ285; 1936) is an individual National Register of Historic Places listed resource.

Shady Lake Diving Dock (PLØ287) is a freestanding structure in Shady Lake. The rectangular-shaped platform is a reinforced concrete slab with chamfered edges and measures 6 feet thick, 22.42 feet long, and 12.42 feet wide. It has four 2-foot square reinforced concrete and stone supports. The 7-foot tall supports are set on 10-inch high concrete footers. The dock has a ladder on the swimming area side. A row of wood pylons delineates the swimming area.

Shady Lake Grassy Beach (PLØ288) is sited on the northeastern side of Shady Lake, at the foot of the bathhouse. The 30,000-square foot beach was surfaced with approximately 4 inches of coursed stone base covered with 6 inches of selected bed grade over an area encompassing the waterline to the edge of the foot trail in front of the bathhouse.[2] At the waterline, the beach has a 6-foot deep concrete retaining

[2] Ibid.

wall and a circular concrete retaining wall in the lake, which was built as a swimming pool. A row of wood pylons and a diving dock delineate the swimming area. The grassy beach is surrounded by woods. Nine metal and wood benches are located along the edge of the beach near the tree line.

Shady Lake Amphitheater (PLØ289) is located in a secluded area north of Saline Creek, to the northeast of Shady Lake CCC Bridge #2 (PLØ285; 1936). The amphitheater has a nearly half-bowl plan with two sections of seats and a central aisle. Each section has seven rows of heavy plank-on-concrete pier seats. Other features of the amphitheater include a gravel floor, screen, wood lecture stand, and campfire circle. The amphitheater is encircled by forest trees.

Original Shady Lake Trail (PLØ290) consists of an approximately 2.03-mile discontiguous extant section of trail laid out by the U.S. Forest Service and built by CCC enrollees around Shady Lake (PLØ292) as listed below.

- northernmost trail: 0.06 miles
- Valuable Forest Trail/Interpretive Trail: 0.5 miles
- Old Historic Trail on eastern lake bank: 0.53 miles
- CCC Bridge #1 to Shady Lake Dam/Overlook: 0.28 miles
- Shady Lake Dam/Overlook to Saline River: 0.66 miles

The northernmost trail section extends approximately 0.06 miles down the lakeshore and connects with the section of trail now known as the "Valuable Forest Trail/Interpretive Trail." The Valuable Forest Trail/Interpretive Trail section begins just south of the Shady Lake CCC Bridge #2 (PLØ285) and loops around Saline Creek. It has a northeast to southwest orientation. CCC constructed features on the Valuable Forest Trail/Interpretive Trail include two collapsed footbridges, a plank-on-stone bench, and stone steps. Footbridge #1 is located at the trail's eastern end on the western side of Forest Service Road No. 38. Footbridge #2 is sited at the eastern side of the trail southwest of Shady Lake CCC Bridge #2 (PLØ285). The pedestrian bridges are constructed of mortared stone masonry. Both footbridges only retain their stepped bridge approaches. Interpretive signs about the natural environment were placed on the trail in the 1970s.

The 0.53-mile Old Historic Trail section begins at CCC Bridge #2 and extends south to Shady Lake. The trail continues along the northeastern shoreline of the lake to CCC Bridge #1 (PLØ284). A small collapsed footbridge consisting of a stone rubble pile and two stone piers marks the northern end of the trail segment.

From the eastern tip of the lake, the trail continues 0.28 miles west along on the southern shoreline to Shady Lake Overlook (PLØ293). Steps lead from the eastern end of the dam to the southernmost portion of the trail. The eastern section of trail south of the dam is presently covered in novaculite debris from recent construction work on the entrance road. From the western side of the dam, the trail extends north at the base of a hill on the western lakeshore. The northern end of the original western trail segment included in the nominated district boundaries terminates at the confluence of the Saline River and Shady Lake.

In the 1970s, the U.S. Forest Service expanded the Shady Lake Trail (now 3.2 miles) to its current layout and length. As such, sections of the original trail were incorporated into the 1970s trail system. A new

trail section was laid out to the east of Shady Lake at that time. The Original Shady Lake Trail (PLØ290), as presented in the nominated district, includes only intact extant-sections of the CCC-built trail around the Shady Lake shoreline and the Valuable Forest/Interpretive Trail section.

Shady Lake (PLØ292) is a human-made 25-acre lake located at the junction of Saline River and Blaylock Creek. The lake is the primary landscape feature of the Shady Lake Recreation Area. It is surrounded by the dense woods of the Ouachita National Forest. Features associated with the lake include a delineated swimming area, a grassy beach, and a diving dock.

Shady Lake Overlook (PLØ293) is perched above Shady Lake Dam (PLØ103) at the southern end of Shady Lake, on the western side of Forest Service Road No. 38. The Rustic-style overlook is constructed of native rubble stone and small boulders. Mortar was used inside the main walls and parapet wall. It has a rectangular plan and a flagstone floor laid on sand. Entranceways punctuate the northern and southern walls of the overlook. The overlook has flagstone entrance steps, which connect the structure with Shady Lake Trail.

Shady Lake CCC Culvert (PLØ294) consists of a stone culvert with a stone-lined drainage ditch. The culvert is located on the road leading from the Shady Lake Entrance Sign (PLØ291) to CCC Bridge #2 (PLØ284) at the sharp curve immediately north of the Shady Lake Bathhouse (PLØ102). The culvert consists of a box-shaped culvert with vertical stone walls (east) measuring approximately 5-x-3 feet. It has mortared stone masonry. The headwall is on the western side. A dry-laid, stone-lined drain extends from the headwall in an east-southeast to west-northwest orientation for approximately 115 feet to Shady Lake (PLØ292).

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Shady Lake Entrance Sign (PLØ291) is located at the main entrance to the Shady Lake Recreation Area. The entrance sign retains its original rectangular-shaped stone pylon. In ca. 2000 the original wood sign was replaced.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

[ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

[ ] B. Removed from its original location

[ ] C. A birthplace or grave

[ ] D. A cemetery

[ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

[ ] F. A commemorative property

[ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Architecture
Entertainment/Recreation
Landscape Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance
1935 to 1940

Significant Dates
1935 to 1940

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Civilian Conservation Corps

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The period of significance is 1935 to 1940 as defined by construction dates for CCC building projects for the creation of Shady Lake Recreation Area. The Shady Lake Recreation Area Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with local significance for its association with the work of the CCC in Polk County. The U.S. Forest Service originally developed the area for recreation purposes employing labor from CCC Camp F-4 (Camp Shady).

The Shady Lake Recreation Area Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance as a highly intact, good example of CCC-constructed facilities. The CCC resources in the nominated historic district were constructed in the Rustic style, which is characterized by a design related to the natural landscape and expressed in the use of materials natural to their setting.

Because of the nominated historic district's association with the CCC, it is being nominated within the historic context "Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933 to 1942."

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

NINETEENTH-CENTURY HISTORY OF AREA[3]

Settlement in Polk County began in ca. 1830 near Dallas, a town located approximately 3 miles from present-day Mena. Pioneers mainly from Illinois, Tennessee, and Kentucky constructed log cabins in the remote and mountainous countryside where they endeavored to earn a living from abundant wild game and timber resources. On December 30, 1844, the Arkansas General Assembly approved the formation of Polk County from parts of Sevier County, with the county seat at Dallas. The county government remained in Dallas until 1898, when residents voted to relocate the seat to the newly-platted town of Mena.

Polk County's rugged terrain made travel challenging in the nineteenth century. Expansion of transportation infrastructure has played a significant role in the county's history. In the nineteenth century, Dallas served as a major stagecoach stop on Long's Trail, which connected the Butterfield Overland Express trail to the north and traveled west into what is now Oklahoma. Such trails provided main access routes into Polk County until August 19, 1896, when the Kansas City, Pittsburgh, and Gulf (KCP&G) Railroad constructed a line through the area. Prior to the establishment of the line, the KCP&G Railroad platted the town of Mena and sold lots along the proposed railroad route. Incorporated on September 18, 1896, Mena became the county's largest city, which was created by the establishment of railroad transportation through Polk County.

[3] Historical information for this Statement of Significance section was obtained from the National Register of Historic Places nominations prepared by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Pumphrey, 2010.

The automobile appeared in Polk County shortly after the completion of the KCP&G Railroad line. The area's horse and buggy roads required improvements with the popularity of this new form of transportation. By 1916, the county had a number of primitive highways, including what would become U.S. Highway 71, which connected the towns of Acorn, Mena, Cove, and Wickes. While this early highway closely followed the railroad line, other highways branched off to places such as Ink, Board Camp, and Shady. State crews maintained about 120 miles of Polk County highway by 1930, though none were paved; they were either gravel, graded earth, or unimproved. In 1931, the county built its first paved highway, which was a 6-mile stretch between Mena and Acorn surfaced with bituminous material. In 1936, when crews began construction at Shady Lake Recreational Area, total highway mileage and paved mileage had not changed over the previous five years.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

Highway construction in Polk County remained stagnant in the early 1930s. The newly formed CCC started to build or update other infrastructure in the area. The federal government established the CCC in 1933, when the United States was in the height of one of the worst economic depression in its history. At that time, the country's unemployment rate was 25 percent of the civilian workforce, in contrast to the 3 percent unemployment rate in 1929. Young people were jobless at a rate even higher than that of the general population, which prompted concern among many of the nation's legislators about the potential risk posed by large numbers of unemployed youth. Upon his election in 1932, President Franklin D. Roosevelt quickly proposed a new federal program to put young Americans to work. Roosevelt utilized this new program to promote his strong conservation ethic. On March 31, 1933, President Roosevelt signed the Federal Unemployment Relief Act, which set up the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW), as the official name of the CCC.

ECW's immediate goal was to put Americans to work. The regional legislation stipulated applicants had to be fit single men aged 18 to 25. Enrollment was expanded to men aged 17 to 28 in 1935. The men had to have been unemployed for six months and not be on probation or parole. Of their $30 a month salary, $25 was sent home to their families on public relief rolls. Workers only kept the remaining $5 of their monthly pay. The federal government furnished enrollees with shelter, food, clothing, medical care, and hospitalization. Applicants enrolled for a six-month term with the possibility of re-enrollment. The first camp began operation on April 17, 1933, in Luray Virginia, making the ECW the only Roosevelt emergency relief program to begin operation in his first 100 days. By July 1, CCC camps across the country employed 34,000 young men. At the agency's peak in 1935, the number swelled to 505,782 men housed in over 2,000 camps. When U.S. Congress appropriated funds to terminate the CCC on July 2, 1942, enrollment had declined to approximately 80,000 workers. The CCC ceased operations as of June 30 that year. In total, an estimated 6,000,000 man-days of conservation work were accomplished.

The impact of the New Deal work programs including the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and, specifically, the CCC, whose broad objectives were to alleviate a national economic and natural resource crisis, is best represented in the distinct architectural legacy of physical resources constructed by these programs in Arkansas forests and parks. 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 nearly 19,500,000 trees, and strung 8,6000 miles of telephone line in addition to their work in the development of recreational facilities.[4]

[4] Sandra Taylor Smith, *The Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933–1942* (Little Rock: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1992), 14.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS RUSTIC ARCHITECTURE[5]

The predominance of the U.S. Forest Service in the CCC program resulted in a uniformity of the types of buildings constructed on its lands. CCC-constructed resources were almost always found in park and forest settings, while WPA buildings were more often constructed for community use and found in more urban settings. The influence of the National Park Service design, known as the "Rustic style" of architecture, dominated CCC projects. By the 1930s, the Rustic style was an accepted concept for use in parks. The style is characterized by the effort to harmonize with the natural setting by employing local indigenous materials. In Arkansas, the CCC used natural stone and timber in the construction of buildings and structures. Pavilions, lodges, cabins, and other buildings constructed by the CCC in Arkansas' recreational areas reflect this emphasis on non-obtrusiveness with respect to natural setting. Building and structures were built by hand and appear somewhat crude due to the lack of modern construction tools and machinery in their construction.

The Rustic-style structures constructed by the CCC are characterized by a design related to the natural landscape and expressed through the use of materials indigenous to their setting and in scale and proportion to the physical features of their particular site. A key element in Rustic design focused on creating buildings that were subordinate to the setting, rather than an intrusion dominating the landscape. The CCC implemented this nonintrusive concept by the use of horizontal lines, low silhouettes, organic forms and scale, proportions, and textures of the building materials. Under National Park Service design plans, CCC projects required attention to details of all aspects of the park development including culvert design as well as trail and road networks. The quality of work for such resources was high for the National Park Service and CCC. In Arkansas, the CCC accomplished much work directly involving natural resources though the Rustic-style structures they constructed in the state's forests and parks. The structures are the strongest tangible evidence of the accomplishments and success of the CCC.

As an American architectural movement, the Rustic style is traditionally recognized as an expression largely confined to the period from 1933 to 1942. The style's beginnings derived from Adirondack camp designs popular in the early twentieth century. World War II marked the end of the Rustic style, as such labor-intensive projects were economically unfeasible. Further, the necessary expertise in stone masonry and log building was no longer available in large numbers during the war post-war years.

SHADY LAKE RECREATIONAL AREA

In 1931, the Arkansas Forestry Commission was created despite a lack of available funding for its operation. In May 1933, Arkansas became the 41st state in the nation to institute a forestry program. Two national forests were previously set aside in the state by that time: the Ouachita National Forest, established in 1907; and the Ozark National Forest, established in 1908. By the 1930s, the two forest areas were threatened due to drought and lack of fire protection. From the nineteenth century to 1930, the state's timberland depleted from 32,000,000 acres of timber to 22,000,000 acres.[6] Conservation work accomplished by the CCC in Arkansas was significant as the CCC prevented the potential loss of the vast areas of the state covered in forest. Approximately 37 percent of CCC camps in the nation were devoted to forests. In Arkansas, the CCC completed numerous projects such as CCC forest camps, foot and truck trails, picnic areas, campgrounds, and observation towers.

[5] Smith, 12-13.
[6] Ibid., 10.

The CCC played a significant role in Arkansas during the 1930s. Nationwide, the CCC was organized into nine districts with Arkansas under the jurisdiction of the Seventh CCC District based in Omaha, Nebraska. Arkansas District headquarters were established April 4, 1933, at East 25th Street and Rock Island Railroad in Little Rock. Sub-districts were formed for the northwestern, northeastern, western, and southern regions of the state. Each sub-district oversaw various camps. Established on May 1, 1933, the 741st Company at Crystal Springs was the first CCC camp established in the state. Arkansas had 65 camps at the height of the CCC presence in the state in 1935.

Organized on the same day as the Crystal Springs Camp, the 742nd Company, located 16 miles southeast of Mena, was the second CCC camp organized in Arkansas. Situated in the mountains of the Ouachita National Forest, the camp was named Shady after a town that once existed 2 miles to the west. On June 15, 1933, 200 CCC recruits erected tents and began construction on their new camp. The recruits completed the work on July 11, 1933, and began fieldwork the next day.

Camp Shady's project district covered roughly 133,920 square acres, in which CCC workers engaged in firefighting and the construction of improved roads, bridges, dams, and other infrastructure. During the first two years they cleared underbrush from 12,026 acres of pine forest in an effort to reduce fire hazard. Camp Shady crews also built 89 miles of U.S. Forest Service roads, including Shady Truck Trail No. 25, West Boundary Truck Train No. 176, Sugar Tree Truck Trail No 56, Brushy Truck Trail No. 30, Standing Rock Truck trail No. 168, Two Mile Truck Trail No. 173, and Cove Truck Trail No. 129. In addition to forest maintenance and road construction, crews constructed 16 low water bridges, one dam, and two campgrounds.

One of the CCC's most significant contributions to Polk County, as well as the rest of the nation, was the development of recreational infrastructure. Automobiles manufactured between 1908 and 1927 made car travel affordable for middle-class Americans, which ultimately expanded the mobility of the country's population. Federal and state governments rushed to improve rugged thoroughfares while hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and other roadside amenities materialized across the country. Auto tourism emerged as a favorite pastime for many Americans with families enjoying road trips into the nearby countryside or across the nation. As such, a demand for the creation of national parks, state parks, municipal parks, national forests, and other scenic areas developed. The CCC skillfully embraced the task by developing America's scenic areas with buildings, pavilions, roads, and bridges in their trademark Rustic architectural style.

The major tourist area developed by enrollees at Camp Shady was the Shady Lake Recreation Area in the Ouachita National Forest. When the CCC formed, the National Park Service approved the recreational development, which was largely limited to national and state parks. On February 7, 1935, CCC Director Robert Fechner approved a memorandum authorizing his crews to complete recreational work in state and national forests. Two days later the Camp Shady newsletter, *Flashes from Shady Gap,* announced the construction of a dam that would form a 25-acre lake at the junction of Saline River and Blaylock Creek. By October a crew of 25 men had surveyed the dam site and cleared about 5 acres around the proposed lake. Shady Lake would provide an ample watershed of approximately 10 square miles and a year round supply of constant cold water.

Construction on the Shady Lake Dam commenced in January 1936. By the end of the following month, crews had cleared the bottom of the basin of the proposed lake. Construction activities for the dam included hauling sand and rock to be used in the concrete, and preparation of the foundation by jackhammering and blasting into the surrounding novaculite bedrock. Excavation continued until April 23, when crews poured the first stage of concrete, which they allowed to cure before pouring the

next section. On July 10, 1936, CCC men poured the 33rd and final stage of concrete at the Shady Lake Dam. The lake did not fill to capacity until November.

With only final details remaining to be completed on the dam, crews began construction on a road that would encircle the newly formed lake and service its recreational facilities. Workers constructed two bridges along the road, one spanning the East Fork of the Saline River and one spanning the South fork of the Saline River. The U.S. Forest Service hired James F. Harp of Hot Springs to provide technical assistance during construction of the bridge headwalls, which began in July or August 1936. Mr. Harp, along with a Mr. Outler, were placed in charge of the crew building the Shady Lake CCC Bridge #1, the single-arched bridge over the South Fork of the Saline River. The bridge was completed by December 1936. By July of the following year, crews had finished most of the heavy machine work such as dam building, bridge erection, and road construction. With the large infrastructure projects finished, the U.S. Forest Service focused more on the development of recreation amenities like campgrounds, parking areas, fireplaces, wells, trails, and beaches.

Original drawings of the recreation area plan document the extant resources as well as other amenities and features that were either removed or not constructed. The U.S. Forest Service originally planned a boathouse east of the picnic pavilion and set aside an area on the northern side of the lake for future construction of summer homes; both were never constructed. A diving dock and a boat dock were built instead of a boathouse, as the U.S. Forest Service deemed the lake too small to warrant construction of such a structure. The boat dock was affixed to the lake bank to accommodate eight boats. Work began on the boat dock on December 16, 1938, and was completed on March 7, 1939.[7] Built at a cost of $510.93, the boat dock consisted of masonry piers above water and concrete piers below water (the boat dock is no longer extant).

Another revision included the relocation of the caretaker's cottage to its present location instead of at the northern portal of the recreation area. The northern location would have placed the caretaker at a great distance from the center of the recreation area's activity. According to the master plan, a two-car garage and a wood shed were included in the plan for the four-room caretaker's house. The function of the caretaker covered the assignment of camping space, distribution of fuel wood, maintenance of sanitation and water supply, registration, issuance of fishing and other permits, rental of cabins, supervision of concessions, and general policing of the public and special use areas.[8]

In August 1937, the forest supervisor reported the ground construction work was short at Shady Lake and building construction to that point was held up due to shortage of funds.[9] Completed work at Shady Lake by that time included the following: "floating" diving deck; the beach; 25 camp ground fireplaces; two parking areas; all of Boulder Barrier and all of Camp Ground Road. The campground parking spurs, the camping area, and surfacing were also completed. The 30,000-square foot beach was surfaced with approximately 4 inches of coursed stone base and covered with 6 inches of selected bed grade encompassing an area from the waterline to the edge of the foot trail in front of the bathhouse. Forest Supervisor Nelson noted in the memorandum that they wanted to start construction on the bathhouse, but they were waiting on plans for the building. By October 21, the Forest Supervisor at Ouachita National Forest received

[7] Mena Ranger District, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Document, Project Specifications: Boat Dock Affixed to Bank to Accommodate 8 Boats (Mena Arkansas: Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture) .

[8] Clayton J. Foster. *Region Eight Ouachita National Forest Arkansas Division Mena Ranger District Preliminary Master Plan Base Map Caretakers Sub Unit Report Shady Lake Recreation Area* (Mena, Arkansas: Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1938 [revised 1939]), 10.

[9] A.L. Nelson. Memorandum for the Regional Forester (Hot Springs, Arkansas: Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, 1937 [August 26]).

notification that the plans for the bathhouse, picnic shelter, and combined water tower and pumphouse were forthcoming in November.[10]

During 1938, the U.S. Forest Service completed Project Specification forms for proposed work at Shady Lake. These forms offered information on building materials, estimated costs of construction, and start and completion dates for construction work. However, not all of the forms provide the same level of information. The following is a list of the estimated costs for a few of the structures that were slated for construction: bathhouse, $5,262.27; picnic pavilion, $919.21; and boat dock, $510.93.

Construction at Shady Lake continued into 1939. Other improvements noted in an April 15, 1939 revision to complete the development of Shady Lake Recreation Area required completion of work by June 30 of the same year. Work specific to the western side of the lake included brush and fallen tree removal, remodeling of steps to conform to standard 6-inch rises and 15-inch treads, installation of steps where the grade was over 12 percent and some thinning and removing of branches and small trees to create vistas from bench locations. A footbridge was to be installed across the small creek and 15 half-log benches were to be placed at designated locations on the trail. The U.S. Forest Service anticipated the entire trail was to be completed before June 30, 1939.[11] Other work to be completed entailed constructing a ramp near the single-arch bridge, and adding other elements to the recreation area, such as horseshoe courts, a sand box, garbage pits, seats, and ten half-log benches for the beach.[12] A trail was constructed from the recreation area turnaround to the overlook. Half-log benches were installed at the overlook and on the trail between the overlook and the single-arch bridge.

Initially, traffic from the south was curtailed by the unimproved condition of the connecting roads in that direction. Approximately 75 percent of visitors entered through the northern portal in the early years of the recreation area.[13] In 1939, enhancements were made to the southern entrance to daylight the approach on the right from the south by removing a sufficient number of small trees and branches to permit clear vision of the portal. A stone pylon-type sign was erected at the southern entrance. Today, the southern entrance serves as the primary entrance to the recreation area.

The 3.2-mile long Shady Lake Trail achieved its current layout when the U.S. Forest Service made improvements to the trail in the 1970s. Although the trail system was significantly expanded at that time, extant portions of the Original Shady Lake Trail (PLØ290) system constructed by CCC-era workers remain intact around Shady Lake (PLØ292). Particularly, original sections of the trail leading from the dam overlook to the Shady Lake Bathhouse (PLØ102) area remain visible. Additionally, sections of original trail are visible between the Shady Lake Bathhouse (PLØ102) and the footbridge south of CCC Bridge #2 (PLØ284). In several areas, the original and "new" (i.e. ca. 1970s) trail sections overlap. Original CCC-trail features were mostly retained on extant sections of the original trail. Other late twentieth-century improvements included the expansion and reconstruction of the recreation area's road network and the removal of the northern entrance.

[10] Memorandum for Supervisor, Ouachita National Forest (Atlanta, Georgia Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, 1937 [October 21]).
[11] Foster, 13.
[12] Ibid., 15-16.
[13] Ibid., 10.

Shady Lake Recreation Area continues to serve as a popular tourist attraction in the Ouachita National Forest. According to the National Forest Service, the recreational area presently offers the following:

- five camping loops;
- 97 camping units;
- group camping unit;
- group picnic unit;
- playground;
- amphitheater;
- volleyball, horseshoes, and ping pong;
- water hydrants, flush toilets, and warm-water showers;
- swimming area and diving platform;
- boat and fishing dock;
- interpretive trail (0.5 mile); and
- hiking trail (3.2 miles) and mountain biking.

Amenities like these at Shady Lake attract an estimated 1,250,000 visitors to the Ouachita National Forest each year. Without the efforts of the 742nd Company at Camp Shady, who built the dam, bridges and other infrastructure at the site, the Shady Lake Recreation Area would not exist today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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_____. National Register of Historic Places, Shady Lake Caretaker's House, Athens, Polk County, National Register, #93001098. Little Rock: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1991.

_____. National Register of Historic Places, Shady Lake Dam, Athens, Polk County, National Register, #93001099. Little Rock: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1991.

_____. National Register of Historic Places, Shady Lake Picnic Pavilion, Athens, Polk County, National Register, #93001100. Little Rock: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1991.

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_____. Shady Lake Recreational Area Picnic Area Sub Unit "B, Plan No. 102. Mena, Arkansas: Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1937.

_____. Shady Lake Recreational Area Sub Unit "C" Dam Area, Plan No. 104. Mena, Arkansas: Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1937.

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Foster, Clayton J. *Region Eight Ouachita National Forest Arkansas Division Mena Ranger District Preliminary Master Plan Base Map Caretakers Sub Unit Report Shady Lake Recreation Area.* Mena, Arkansas Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture 1938 (revised 1939).

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Nelson, A.L. Memorandum for the Regional Forester. Hot Springs, Arkansas: Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1937 (August 26).

Pumphrey, Clint. National Register of Historic Places, Shady Lake CCC Bridge #1, Athens, Polk County, National Register, #10000841. Little Rock: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2010.

_____. National Register of Historic Places, Shady Lake CCC Bridge #2, Athens, Polk County, National Register #10000842. Little Rock: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2010.

Smith, Sandra Taylor. *The Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942: An Administrative History*. Little Rock: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1992.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
_X_ 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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
_X_ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

---

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ___51.2 acres_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude:	Longitude:
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
4. Latitude:	Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [x] NAD 1983

0. Zone: 15	Easting:	405317.2341	Northing: 3802941.9624
1. Zone: 15	Easting:	405338.8694	Northing: 3803074.9797
2. Zone: 15	Easting:	405403.7755	Northing: 3803094.2111
3. Zone: 15	Easting :	405427.8147	Northing: 3803178.3486
4. Zone: 15	Easting:	405596.8910	Northing: 3803431.5624
5. Zone: 15	Easting:	405695.4520	Northing: 3803486.0514
6. Zone: 15	Easting :	405748.3385	Northing: 3803454.8003
7. Zone: 15	Easting:	405720.2926	Northing: 3803395.5034
8. Zone: 15	Easting :	405627.3408	Northing: 3803374.6694
9. Zone: 15	Easting:	405476.6946	Northing: 3803007.6697
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11. Zone: 15	Easting :	405665.0023	Northing: 3802691.95388
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16. Zone: 15	Easting :	405714.6835	Northing: 3802581.3732
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19. Zone: 15	Easting :	405463.0724	Northing: 3802365.8210
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28. Zone: 15	Easting :	405247.5202	Northing: 3802957.1873

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Beginning near the confluence of the North Fork of the Saline River and Shady Lake (PLØ292), then turn south toward the northern end of Shady Lake on the eastern side of the North Fork of the Saline River; thence follow the western segment of the Original Shady Lake Trail (PLØ290), on the western shoreline of Shady Lake south to south of Shady Lake Dam (PLØ103); thence turn east on the southernmost segment of Original Shady Lake Trail; thence turn north to Shady Lake Overlook (PLØ293); thence follow the Original Shady Lake Trail along the southeastern shoreline of Shady Lake to the South Fork of the Saline River and the CCC Bridge #1 (PLØ294); thence follow the Historic Trail Section of the Original Shady Lake Trail north on the eastern lakeshore to the eastern side of Shady Lake Picnic Pavilion (PLØ100); thence continue northwesterly to the eastern side of the Shady Lake Bathhouse (PLØ102); thence proceed northwest to the CCC Culvert (PLØ294); thence follow Original Shady Lake Trail (Interpretive Trail segment around Blaylock Creek) to the northern lakeshore; thence continue southwesterly to the northern side of the Caretaker's House (PLØ101); and thence proceed southwest to the point of the beginning at the West Fork of the Saline River (*note bene*: the boundaries include one discontiguous non-contributing resource, Shady Lake Entrance Sign (PLØ291), at the main entrance to the recreation area on Forest Service Road 38).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundaries for the Shady Lake Recreation Area Historic District encompass all fourteen CCC-era historic resources.

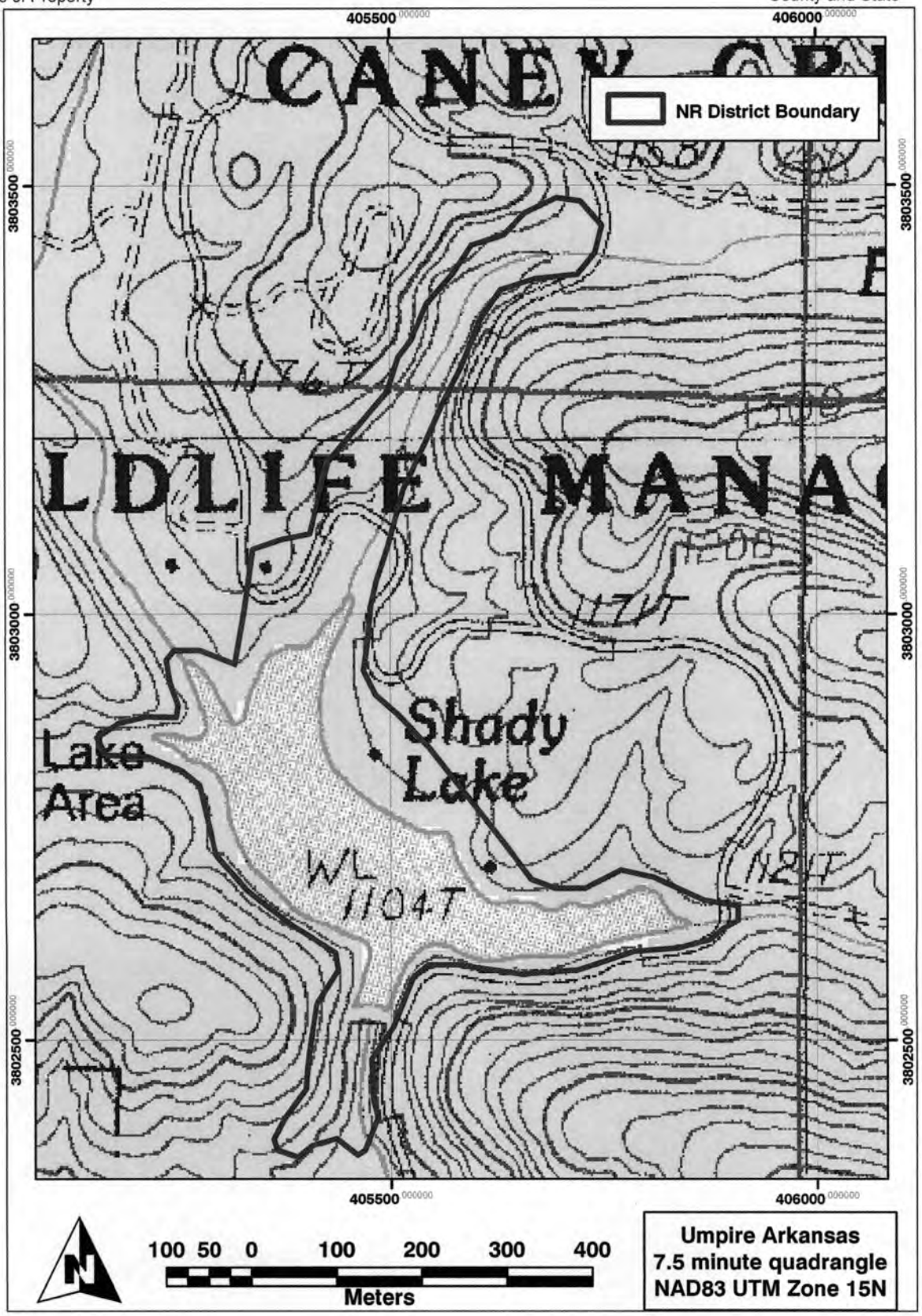
11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Christine M. Longiaru, Architectural Historian
organization: Panamerican Consultants, Inc.
street & number: 91 Tillman Street
city or town: Memphis state: TN zip code: 38111
e-mail: memphis@panamericanconsultants.com
telephone: 901-454-4736
date: November 20, 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)


405500
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NR District Boundary
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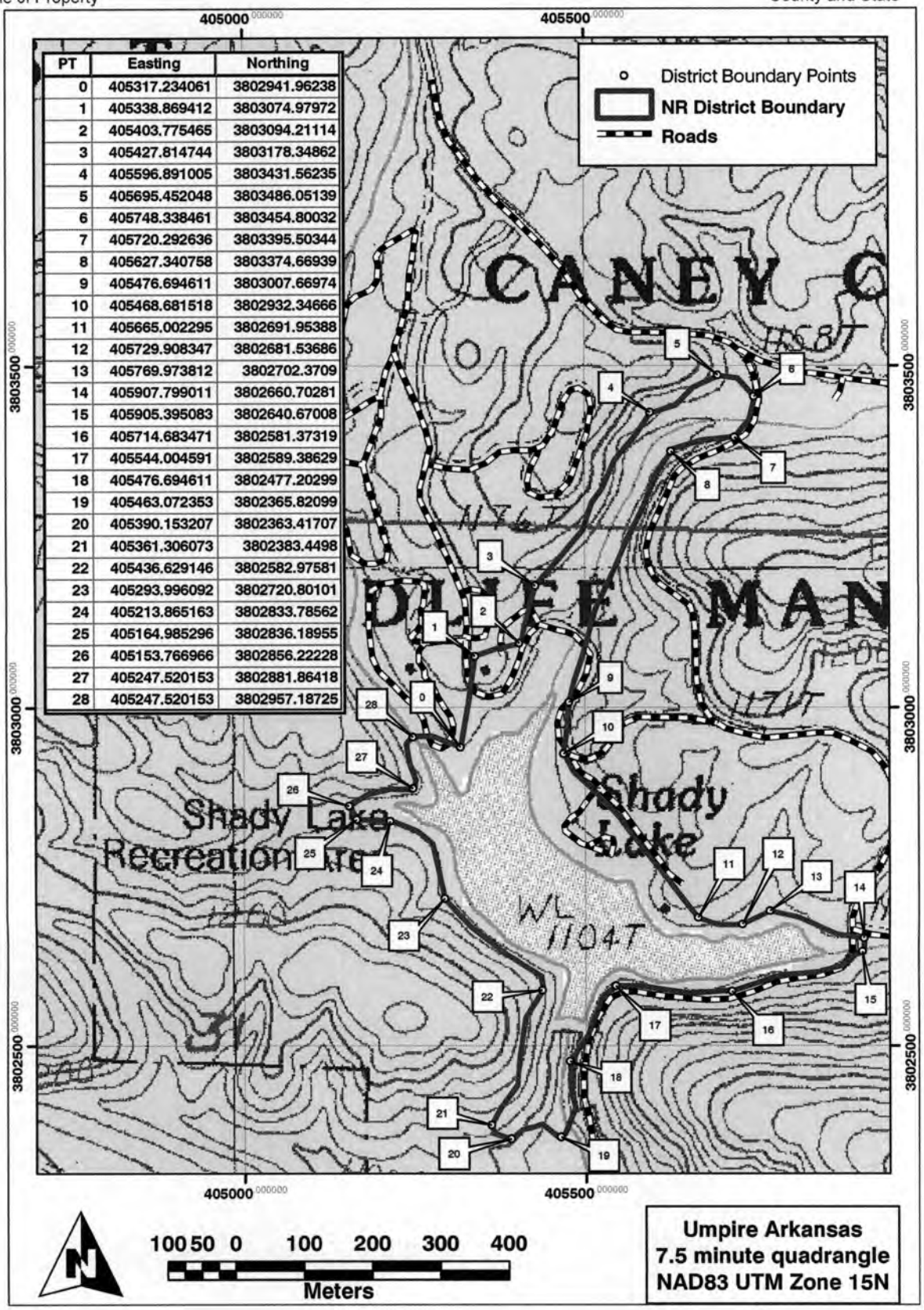
Meters
Umpire Arkansas
7.5 minute quadrangle
NAD83 UTM Zone 15N



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3	405427.814744	3803178.34862
4	405596.891005	3803431.56235
5	405695.452048	3803486.05139
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9	405476.694611	3803007.66974
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26	405153.766966	3802856.22228
27	405247.520153	3802881.86418
28	405247.520153	3802957.18725

Photographs

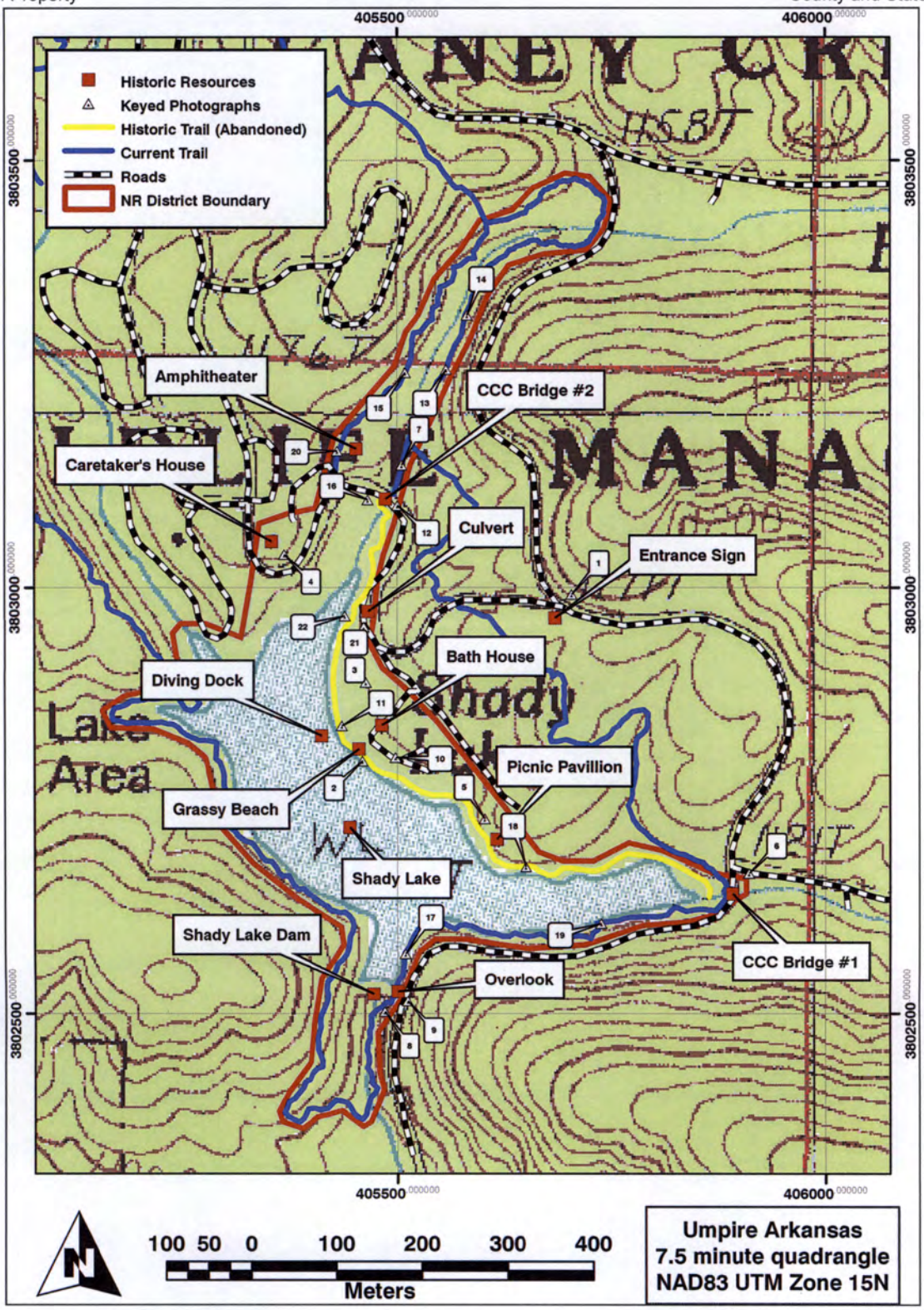
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600-x-1200 pixels (minimum), 3000-x-2000 pixels preferred, at 300 pixels per inch (ppi) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Shady Lake Recreation Area Historic District
City or Vicinity: Athens
County: Polk
State: Arkansas
Photographers: Angie Clifton (Nos. 1 to 17) and Eric Albertson (Nos. 18 to 22)
Date Photographed: June 24, 2014 and September 19, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION
0001	Entrance and entrance sign (left) to Shady Lake Recreation Area, facing southwest
0002	Shady Lake Bathhouse, south elevation, facing north-northeast
0003	Shady Lake Bathhouse, north (left) and west elevations (right), facing south
0004	Shady Lake Caretaker's House, south (left) and east (right) elevations, facing northwest
0005	Shady Lake Picnic Pavilion, north (left) and west (right) elevations, facing southeast
0006	Shady Lake CCC Bridge #1, east elevation, facing west-southwest
0007	Shady Lake CCC Bridge #2, north elevation, facing south
0008	Shady Lake Dam, south side, facing west-northwest
0009	Shady Lake Overlook and Dam, facing northwest
0010	Shady Lake Grassy Beach, facing west
0011	Shady Lake Diving Dock, facing southwest
0012	Original Shady Lake Trail (Interpretive Trail) sign at south end of CCC Bridge #2, facing northeast
0013	Original Shady Lake Trail (Interpretive Trail), facing northeast
0014	Original Shady Lake Trail (Interpretive Trail), facing southwest
0015	Original Shady Lake Trail (Interpretive Trail) steps, facing northeast
0016	Original Shady Lake Trail (Interpretive Trail), collapsed bridge at west end, facing southeast
0017	Original Shady Lake Trail, facing east
0018	Original Shady Lake Trail facing west
0019	Original Shady Lake Trail facing north
0020	Shady Lake Amphitheater, facing east
0021	Shady Lake CCC Culvert, facing west-southwest
0022	Shady Lake CCC Culvert, facing west-southwest



Sketch map of the Shady Lake Recreational Area Historic District showing National Register of Historic Places district boundaries, keyed photographs, and historic resources (map courtesy of the Ouachita National Forest Service).

Photo 1 of 22.

Photo 2 of 22.

Photo 3 of 22.

Photo 4 of 22.

Photo 5 of 22.

Photo 6 of 22.

Photo 7 of 22.

Photo 8 of 22.

Photo 9 of 22.

Photo 10 of 22.

Photo 11 of 22.

Photo 12 of 22.

Photo 13 of 22.

Photo 14 of 22.

Photo 15 of 22.

Photo 16 of 22.

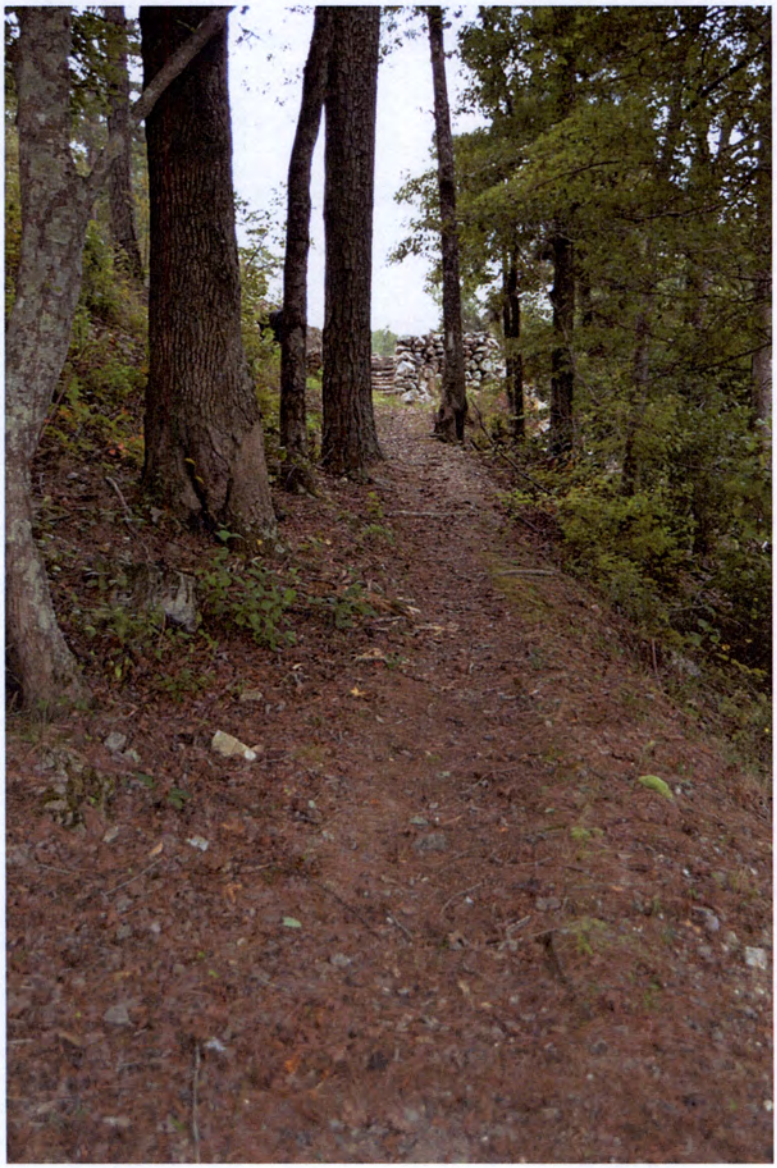


Photo 17 of 22.

Photo 18 of 22.

Photo 19 of 22.

Photo 20 of 22.

Photo 21 of 22.

Photo 22 of 22.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.