

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Spring Lake Recreation Area Historic District; Ozark-St.
Francis National Forest

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Forest Service Road #1602

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Stafford

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Yell code: AR 149

zip code: 71846

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
<u>17</u>	<u>5</u>	structures
		objects
<u>21</u>	<u>6</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Catherine A. Slater

Signature of commenting or other official

9-20-93

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register _____
____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined eligible for the _____
National Register

____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register

____ removed from the National Register _____

____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Outdoor recreation

Current : RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other

Other Description: Rustic

Materials: foundation Stone/Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Stone/Wood other Stone walls and walkways

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1937-1942

Significant Dates: 1937

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with Olin Payne (former area resident), 09/15/93.

Workers of the Writers' Program. *The WPA Guide to 1930's Arkansas*, with a new introduction by Elliot West. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1987 (original copyright 1941).

___ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- ___ Other state agency
- X Federal agency
- ___ Local government
- ___ University
- ___ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 143

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>460830</u>	<u>3890870</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u>462330</u>	<u>3889430</u>
C	<u>15</u>	<u>460710</u>	<u>3889490</u>	D	___	___	___

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

See attached sketch map.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the historic resources historically-associated with the recreation area and a representative amount of the historically-associated surrounding property.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 09/17/93

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1**Summary**

The Spring Lake Recreation Area Historic District (Ozark-St. Francis National Forest) is located on the southern bench of Chickalah (pronounced "Cha-key-la") Mountain in central Yell county. The shallow area in which the lake was constructed lies at the convergence of seven (7) intermittent streams as well as a spring. This area was developed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as a recreation area in the mid-1930s, though its original structures were designed in the Rustic or Rustic Resort style that was typically the signature of Civilian Conservation Corps construction. The total of twenty-two contributing resources include: two (2) swimming platforms, a bathhouse, two (2) picnic pavilions, a dam, fourteen (14) rock-constructed picnic sites, a stone bridge (YE0061; NR-listed 06/21/90) and the 86-acre lake itself (which counts as a site). There are five (5) concrete picnic sites and a chemical flush toilet which are non-contributing resources.

Elaboration

The Spring Lake Recreation Area Historic District (Ozark-St. Francis National Forest) is located on the southern bench of Chickalah (pronounced "Cha-key-la") Mountain in central Yell county. The shallow area in which the lake was constructed lies at the convergence of seven (7) intermittent streams as well as a spring. This area was developed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as a recreation area in the 1930s, though its original structures were designed in the Rustic or Rustic Resort style that was the signature of Civilian Conservation Corps construction in Arkansas and the surrounding region. The total of twenty-two contributing resources include: two (2) swimming platforms, a bathhouse, two (2) picnic pavilions, a dam, fourteen (14) rock-constructed picnic sites, a stone bridge (YE0061; NR-listed 06/21/90) and the lake itself (which counts as a site). There are five (5) concrete picnic sites and a chemical flush toilet which are non-contributing resources.

The dam (YE 0014) is located at the southern end of the lake. It is constructed of native stone in an arc across a natural pass in the south bluff of Chickalah Mountain through which Spring Creek passes. The north side of the dam is a straight drop of forty-five (45) feet from the spillway to the base of the gate aperture for controlling the water level. The top of the dam has a suspended walkway over twelve spillway openings. The walkway is supported by stone pillars which separate the spillways. The walkway is flanked on both sides by balustrade of metal pipes set in two rows, one over the other, which extends the length of the dam some 250 feet. The southern side of the dam is a stately arc which allows the water to drop about 20 feet before being dispersed by a stair system of steps to the base of the dam. At the base of the dam is the

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other outlet for the gate which reforms the convergence of creeks which make up Spring Creek.

Picnic pavilion #1 (YE 0015) is located 600 feet north and east of the dam in the camping portion of the recreation area. The pavilion is constructed of log columns supporting a gabled, asphalt shingle roof. The structure is flanked on each end by large native stone chimneys which can be used for cooking. The floor surface of the structure is composed of native flagstone. The structure has built-in benches on the south side at the east end and along the length of the north side with the exception of the middle which acts as an entrance. This entrance has flagstone steps by which to enter the structure.

Picnic pavilion #2 (YE 0017) is located in the picnic area near the entrance to the recreation area. This structure is also constructed of log columns supporting a large gabled, asphalt shingle roof. This structure has a log balustrade on all four sides with central entrances on each side. The interior of the structure has a set of built-in benches which follow the balustrade on the sides of the pavilion. The floor of the structure is constructed of flagstone, which also forms the base of the structure. On the interior of the pavilion are two built-in picnic tables of log construction.

The bathhouse facility (YE 0016) is located near the end of the picnic area and between the two pavilions. It is of stone and frame construction and is built in the Rustic style typical of Depression-era public works-designed architecture. It has a native stone base which also forms the lower walls of the structure. Between the stone walls and the roof is a frame section covered with a weatherboard siding. The roof is a large gable on hip covered with asphalt shingles. The front or southern facade of the structure features a one bay central front porch which is set up to serve as a concession area. The porch is supported by two large stone columns set on either edge of a stone balustrade which forms the forward edge of the porch. Along the forward edge of the roof line at the junction of the columns are wood brackets. The porch is covered with a hipped roof which intersects the primary gable at the center of the structure. The structure is divided into two large rooms which serve as men's and women's changing rooms with shower and toilet facilities. Centrally located between the two large rooms is a room designed to serve as a concessionaire's area that also extends into the porch area. Each of the changing rooms has an exterior entrance which flanks the porch area on the southern facade. The windows of the structure feature two hopper style windows, one on top of the other. The grounds surrounding the bathhouse facility are landscaped with stone. On the eastern side of the structure is a stone walkway from a parking area on the ridge above the bathhouse. The stone walkway forms a tight horseshoe in front of the bathhouse with the opening of the horseshoe facing the porch of the bathhouse thus forming a small grassy area the width of the porch. The stone walkway then forms a larger walkway extending southeast of the bathhouse toward the beach area. This walk is tiered with several sets of steps to form two grassy areas before reaching the actual beach

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area. All of the rock work is done in native stone.

There are two swimming platforms in the swimming area. The western most platform is swimming platform #1 (YE 0068). This platform is of stone and concrete construction and is constructed in two sections. Section 1, or the northern section, is a 46-foot-long concrete deck supported at the end and mid-way by stone piers. Section 2, or the southern section, is a stone platform on a concrete base and covered on top with a thin layer of concrete. The structure ranges in height from five (5) feet at the northern end to eleven feet six inches (11'6") at the southern end and in width from six feet six inches (6'6") at the northern end to ten (10) feet at the southern end. The structure has one ladder at the northern end and two on the eastern side of section 2.

Swimming platform #2 (YE 0069) is the easternmost swimming platform and is also constructed in two stages using stone and concrete. Section 1, or the northern end, is forty-five (45) feet in length consisting of a concrete deck supported by two (2) stone piers at the northern end and the mid-way point. Section 2, or the southern end, is a stone tower of stone construction. It has a semi-spiral stair case which leads from a small platform connecting sections 1 and 2. The structure ranges in height from five (5) feet to twenty-one (21) feet and in width from six feet six inches (6'6") to nine feet six inches (9'6") on the north and south ends respectively.

Both of the swimming platforms have had what appears to be additional work done to them. Concrete blocks have been placed between the stone piers under section 1 of both swimming platforms to form a wall through which water may pass but people may not. Presumably this was done as a safety precaution.

The picnic sites YE 0070-YE 0073, YE 0078, and YE 0080-YE 0088 are of stone construction. The piers which support the table tops and benches are of stone construction and the benches and table tops are of concrete. Each site is distinguished by a stone outline which establishes the general extent of the site which includes a stone cooking unit and a picnic table with benches. Each site has its own configuration but consists of these elements. The only exceptions to this configuration are YE 0083 and YE 0084. These sites have had the stone cooking unit replaced by an elevated, metal cooking stand. Also at site YE 0084 are two site features. Site feature 1 appears to be standards for a sign of some sort and site feature 2 appears to be a trash receptacle of some sort which is no longer in service.

A number of WPA-constructed walkways, stone walls and other constructed landscape features are included within this district and should be considered contributing resources, though their documentation was not specifically included within the scope of the original survey and thus they

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were not counted.

The non-contributing structures of the district include five (5) concrete picnic sites. These are YE 0074-YE 0077 and YE0079. These sites conform to the basic configuration of the contributing sites but have had the table and bench units replaced by concrete and wood units. Also non-contributing to the district is a chemical flush toilet near YE 0079. This structure was added much later than the original construction of the recreation area.

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Summary

The Spring Lake Recreation Area Historic District (Ozark-St. Francis National Forest) is eligible under Criteria A and C with local significance. It is considered significant under Criterion A by virtue of its direct associations with the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Depression-era public works agency that actually supervised the construction and provided the labor to build it. Under Criterion C it is significant as both the most well-preserved example of a Depression-era recreation area constructed by the WPA in western Arkansas and their most sophisticated interpretation of the Rustic style.

Elaboration

The twenty-two contributing resources that comprise the Spring Lake Recreation Area Historic District (Ozark-St. Francis National Forest) were constructed in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration, and possibly in conjunction with the Farm Resettlement Administration (a.k.a. the Resettlement Administration), which is known to have constructed the associated bridge (YE0061; NR-listed on 06/21/90). The shallow basin that would become Spring Lake was nothing more than an eroded water channel that drained the southern side of the bench that forms Chickalah Mountain; however, it provided a good natural basin for a small shallow recreational lake, and thus its selection for this WPA project.

These resources were constructed within this relatively remote area for the purpose of providing developed recreational facilities for both local residents and tourists. The abundance of natural drainage channels that converge here in this shallow basin, along with the natural spring that surfaces at this site, combined to create a site well-suited to the creation of a recreational lake.

The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 and the subsequent advent of such federal public works programs as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) brought a new recreational area to this rural section of Yell County in 1937. The WPA -- an organization that hired unemployed adult men and women to work on a variety of public projects throughout the nation -- was established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his administration as part of the federal response to the dire economic circumstances brought upon the American people by the Great Depression. The WPA was but one of many such public works organizations instituted by the Roosevelt Administration and managed under the aegis of the umbrella agency in charge of all such public works efforts, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA); other agencies under its direction included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the short-lived Public Works and Civilian Works Administrations (PWA and CWA), and such regional projects as the

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Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Rural Colonization Projects in Arkansas established by the Resettlement Administration at such places as Dyess, Clover Bend and Plum Bayou. Among its various other projects, the WPA constructed a small number of rural recreation areas throughout the state -- though this was not their principal emphasis -- and the Spring Lake Recreation Area was constructed as part of this effort.

The source of the Rustic style employed throughout the construction at the Spring Lake Recreation Area is unclear. While virtually all of the public works agencies in Arkansas during the Depression carried out their construction projects with locally-available materials whenever possible, the design of the various structures at Spring Lake is distinctly reminiscent not only of the materials favored by the CCC, but also of the low, spreading Rustic style that became their trademark. Other known WPA-constructed projects around the state -- including school buildings, courthouses, dams, etc. -- do not uniformly reflect the influence of *any* particular stylistic tradition, apparently relying instead on both materials and construction expertise that were available locally. It is certainly possible that the men working for the WPA were directed by construction supervisors and architects already familiar with typical Civilian Conservation Corps construction, of which there was an abundance in the immediate vicinity by the time this project began (e.g., Mt. Nebo State Park, located approximately eleven miles to the northeast, and the various recreational facilities in the Ouachita National Forest located immediately to the south); and it is also known that the Resettlement Administration had executed a Rustic-influenced construction project on the road running along the western shoreline of Spring Lake, the ashlar-faced stone Spring Lake Bridge (NR-listed 06/21/90). However, no documentation survives directly connecting either of these other public agencies to this WPA project.

Nevertheless, the architecture within the Spring Lake Recreation Area Historic District remains one of the few known examples of an original ensemble of Rustic-style buildings constructed by the WPA and one of the best. The use of thick logs for vertical supports in the picnic pavilions, the overall horizontal emphasis and spreading eaves on the pavilions and the bathhouse, and the heavy, uncoursed fieldstone masonry employed throughout are distinctly characteristic of the Rustic style. Moreover, such designs as that of the bathhouse are particularly successful, as the battered stone walls and spreading, three-dimensional cornice belie the surprisingly regular symmetry of the floor plan.

As such, the Spring Lake Recreation Area Historic District remains locally significant under Criterion A through its associations with the contributions to American social history made by the Works Progress Administration and its associations with the emphasis upon putting the nation's unemployed to work on a variety of projects for the public good. It is also significant under Criterion C by virtue of the recreational area's buildings and structures being remarkably

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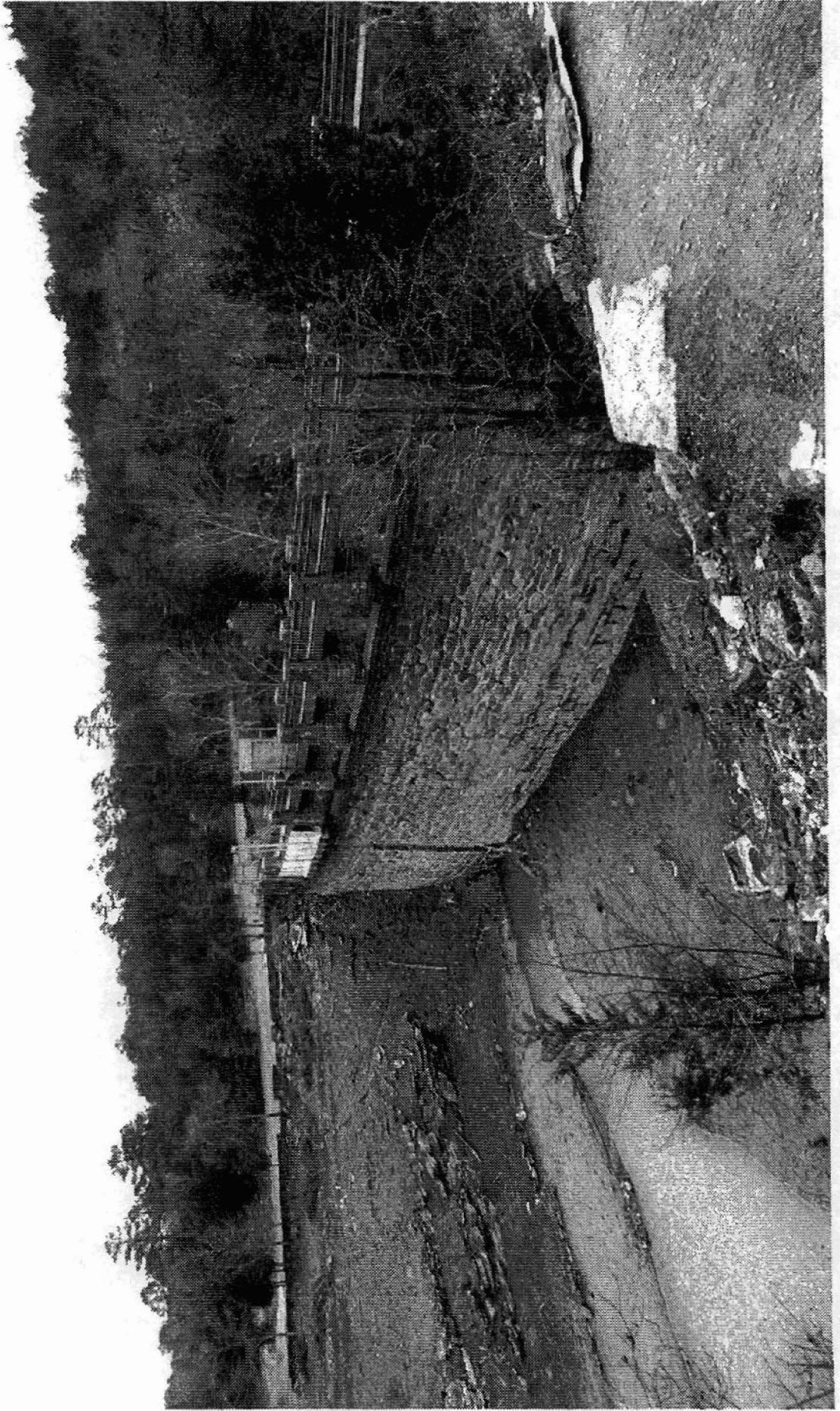
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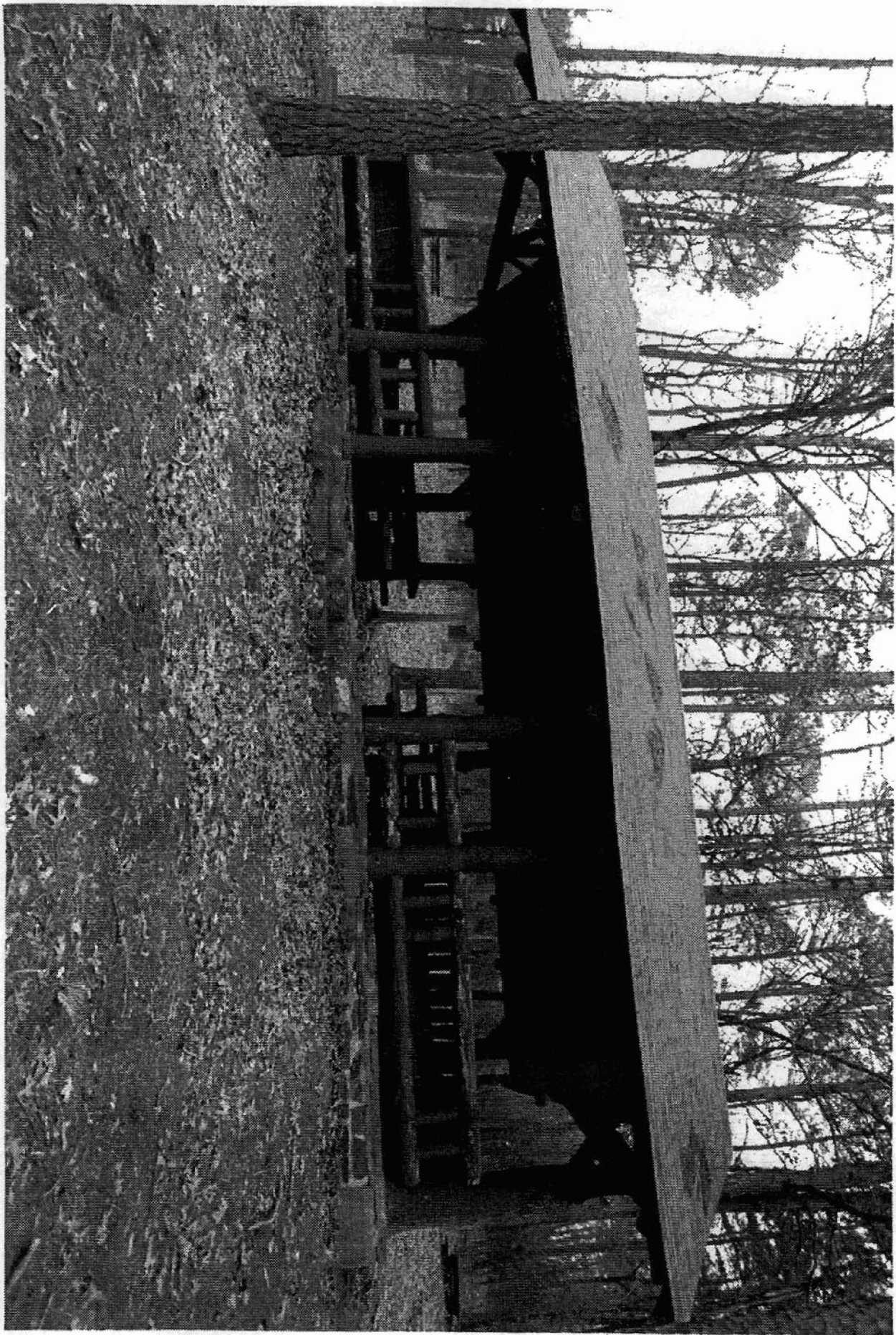
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good examples of the Rustic style of architecture.

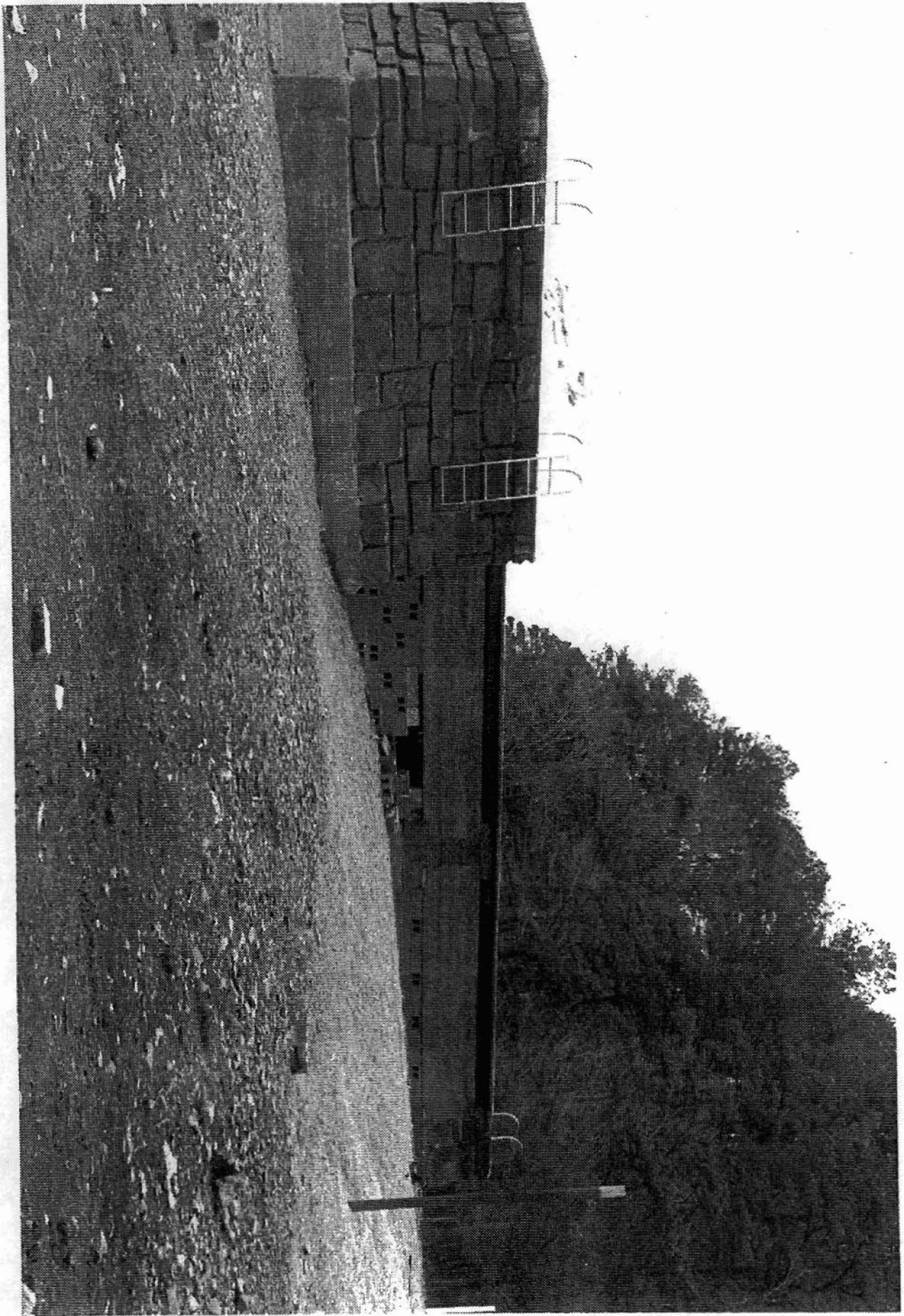


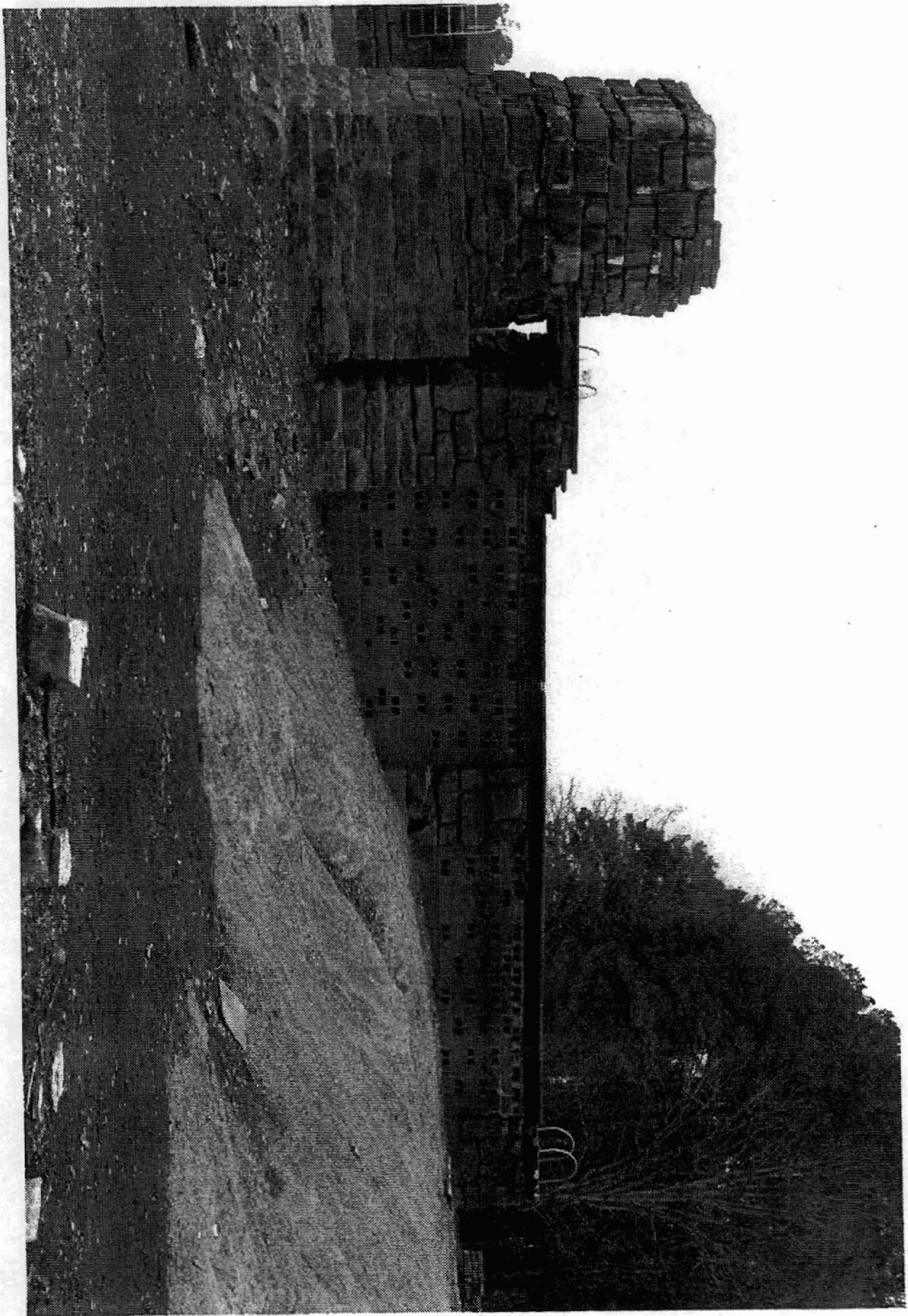














(CHICKALAH MOUNTAIN EAST) SULPHUR 7354 III NE



SPRING LAKE
RECREATION AREA
HISTORIC DISTRICT
STAFFORD, VILL
Co., Arkansas
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B) 15/462330/3889430
C) 15/460710/3889470

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4.6 MI. TO ARK. 22

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Chickalah

Creek

BLUFF

NORTH
MOUNTAIN

Snake

Doolley

Branch

Branch

Branch

Spring

Box

Stafford
Cam

Overit

Yeast
Bottle

Spencer

Spring
Lake

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SPRING LAKE RECREATION AREA HISTORIC DISTRICT

RESOURCE NO	HISTORIC NAME	CONTRIBUTING
YE0103	SPRING LAKE	C
YE0016	SPRING LAKE BATHHOUSE	C
YE0039	SPRING LAKE BRIDGE	I
YE0104	SPRING LAKE CHEMICAL FLUSH TOILET	NC
YE0014	SPRING LAKE DAM	C
YE0015	SPRING LAKE PICNIC PAVILION #1	C
YE0017	SPRING LAKE PICNIC PAVILION #2	C
YE0070	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE # 1	C
YE0071	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE # 2	C
YE0072	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE # 3	C
YE0073	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE # 4	C
YE0074	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE # 5	NC
YE0075	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE # 6	NC
YE0076	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE # 7	NC
YE0077	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE # 8	NC
YE0078	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE # 9	C
YE0079	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE #10	NC
YE0080	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE #11	C
YE0081	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE #12	C
YE0082	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE #13	C
YE0083	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE #14	C
YE0084	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE #15	C
YE0085	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE #16	C
YE0086	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE #17	C
YE0087	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE #18	C
YE0088	SPRING LAKE PICNIC SITE #19	C
YE0100	SPRING LAKE RECREATION AREA HISTORIC DISTRICT	I
YE0068	SPRING LAKE SWIMMING PLATFORM #1	C

RESOURCE NO **HISTORIC NAME** **CONTRIBUTING**

YE0069

SPRING LAKE SWIMMING PLATFORM #2

C