NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

416

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Paris Mountain State Park Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 2401 State Park Road — not for publication ___
city or town Greenville — vicinity x
state South Carolina code SC county Greenville code 045 zip code 29609

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally x statewide ___ locally.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds — 3/26/98
Signature of certifying official — Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register — Edson H. Beall — 4.30.98
___ 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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

___ private
___ public-local
_x_ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

___ building(s)
_x_ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
24	10	buildings
		sites
26	9	structures
		objects
50	19	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Resources of South Carolina State Parks

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
RECREATION AND CULTURE	Outdoor Recreation
LANDSCAPE	Park
LANDSCAPE	Conservation Area

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
RECREATION AND CULTURE	Outdoor Recreation
LANDSCAPE	Park
LANDSCAPE	Conservation Area

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th, Early 20th Century
American Movements
Other: Rustic Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Stone, Concrete
roof	Asphalt, Wood Shingle
walls	Wood: Weatherboard
	Stone
other	

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 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 a grave.
____ D a cemetery.
____ E a reconstructed building, object,or structure.
____ F a commemorative property.
____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
Conservation
Enterntainment/Recreation
Landscape Architecture
Architecture

Period of Significance
1888-1945

Significant Dates
ca. 1888
1936
1940

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Civilian Conservation Corps
U.S. Forest Service

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1275 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	370480	3869640	3	17	374320	3866410
2	17	374280	3868700	4	17	375320	3866340

x See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Albert Hester

organization _____ date 25 May 1997

street & number 6660 Poinsett Park Rd. telephone 803-494-3561

city or town Wedgefield state SC zip code 29618

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name State of South Carolina c/o Dept. of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

street & number 1205 Pendleton St.,Suite 107, Brown Bldg. telephone (803) 734-0122

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29201

Paris Mountain State Park is located on the outskirts of the City of Greenville in the Piedmont of South Carolina. The 1,275 acre park is heavily forested, and dominated by the steep hillsides of Paris Mountain and by the waters of Mountain and Buckhorn Creeks. The majority of the parks contributing resources were developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and are expressive of the rustic style of park architecture and landscape design. Buildings and structures in the park were built using local materials, such as rubble stone and rough hewn logs, in a manner that harmonized with the natural environment. Indigenous construction techniques were typically used by the CCC and the park designers in order to evoke a romantic pioneer past. Roads, paths, and buildings were all designed to blend into, rather than stand out in, the natural landscape. Curvilinear and low horizontal lines dominate construction. Whenever possible, the CCC removed ornamental non-native plant species and replaced them with native plants in a technique known as landscape naturalization.

The CCC structures are grouped into three main areas, all surrounding or close to lakes. The most concentrated development occurs along the south side of Lake Placid. This section of the park includes picnic spots, the bathhouse, swimming area, amphitheater, athletic field, and park administrative buildings. The area around Sulphur Springs and Mountain Lake includes trails, picnic areas, and the archery range. Hidden deep within the park is the Buckhorn organized group camp, which consists of a lodge and camper cabins. All of these areas are joined by park roads, which serve to unify the overall park design.

In general, the historic appearance of the park remains largely unaltered. Of the seventy extant man-made elements of the park, approximately seventy percent were constructed during the period of significance. Only three of the original buildings have been moved. Most alterations to the buildings are limited to enclosures, porch additions, and roofing material changes. Non-contributing buildings constructed after the period of significance are located mainly in areas separated from previous development.

The landscape of Paris Mountain State Park is clearly distinct from that of the surrounding area. While suburban development has grown up outside the boundaries of the district, the park remains predominantly undeveloped, essentially a natural area. Because the parks design generally faces inward, outside development has not harmed the integrity of the historic district.

Picnic areas

There are a total of five contributing picnic areas in the park. These are the shelter #1 complex, shelter # 3, shelter #4, the Sulphur Springs complex (shelters #5 and #6), and shelter #7. The shelter #1 complex, constructed by the CCC in 1936, is representative of these five.[1] It is

[1]"1936 Project Map, Paris Mountain State Forest Park," Records of Paris Mountain State Park, Chief Historian's Office, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Columbia, South Carolina.

part of a small picnic area that includes a stone latrine, a drinking fountain, three stone cooking grills, and a foot bridge that crosses the nearby creek.

Shelter #1 (park inventory number S-1) is t-shaped in plan and built of rough hewn logs and rough rubble masonry. The foundation is solid concrete with a veneer of stone. Squared log pillars support a cross gabled roof that is covered in wood shingles and open on the gable ends. The shelter is one story in height and open on all sides except for a projecting bay formed by the hearth and exterior stone chimney; notched logs make up the exterior walls of this enclosed bay. Exterior decorative elements include heavy squared log rails, H shaped balustrades, and craftsman style exposed rafter tails. The interior floor of the structure is composed of brick, and the hearth opening is arched in shape and topped with a rustic wooden mantelpiece. Rustic wood benches are fixed permanently in place along the interior sides of the structure. The squared timbers of the shelter bear marks that give the wood the appearance of being hand-hewn with an axe.

The latrine (PM-26) is a rectangular building, one story in height, with a front-to-end gable roof. It is also constructed of rough rubble masonry, and besides the park bathhouse, is the only building in the park that has exterior walls built completely of stone. The roof is covered with wooden shingles, and gable ends are enclosed with wooden slats. Decorative elements include craftsman style exposed rafter tails and knee brackets located under the roof eaves.

The stone drinking fountain is identical to six others that are found in the park. It is an obelisk approximately two and one half feet high constructed of native stone set in cement. The plumbing of the fountain projects from the cement top and is capped with a faucet. The grills at shelter #1 are representative of typical Paris Mountain grill construction. They are approximately one foot high and made of cemented native stone lined with fire brick. There are a total of nine of these style grills still extant at Paris Mountain. Adjacent to two of the grills are circular trash can racks, also about one foot in height, and also constructed of stone and concrete.

The nearby footbridge, which spans a small creek, is located to the west of shelter #1. It is approximately fifty feet in length and stands approximately fifteen feet above the creek. The treadway is constructed of wood, as are the waist high railings. The most dramatic feature of the bridge is its rough rubble masonry support pillars and abutments.

The original wooden roof shingles of both the shelter and the latrine were replaced with composition shingles at some point between 1949 and 1995. However, in 1995, park management carried out a restoration effort in which the wooden shingles were replaced and deteriorating wooden timbers were saved using wood putty and epoxy pumped into rotted areas. A split rail fence and new plantings were added to the site at the same time in order to prevent soil erosion. As of March 1997 park management was also attempting to replace the plumbing of the drinking fountain.[2]

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[2]James Taylor, Superintendent of Paris Mountain State Park, Interview by Author, 19 February 1997.

Shelter #1 is representative of the other contributing picnic areas in the park. Shelters #4, #6, and #7, built between 1936 and 1940, also incorporate similar rustic style architectural features. Even though shelter #4 was given a concrete floor in 1948, and shelter #6 was moved from the Lake Placid area to Sulphur Springs in 1949, both retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Two other shelters, #3 and #5, built between 1948 and 1950, are derivative of previous rustic style construction, and therefore are contributing properties.[3]

Park Roads

The main park road is a representative example of CCC road construction at Paris Mountain. Built by the CCC in 1936, it is a crucial design element in the parks overall plan that serves to connect the various developed recreational areas. Features associated with the main park road include the park entry portal, two bridges, several culverts, and five parking areas.[4]

The main park road is approximately two and a half miles in length, and two lanes in width. Originally unpaved, its curvilinear design closely follows the contours of Paris Mountains steep hillsides. In many places the CCC had to blast through sizable sections of rock in order to create a flat road surface. In other places, embankments of local stone taken from the nearby mountain were used to support the roads. Though no documentary evidence exists that the Paris Mountain CCC road builders used bank blending, a technique in which disturbed areas adjacent to the road were replanted with native flora, the current appearance of the roadside suggests that this was done. Mountain laurel and rhododendron shrubs grow in profusion in many areas along the road, especially in areas where the soil was cut away. Culverts that allow for drainage under the road were built of native stone joined with concrete.

The Park entry portal, also made of local stone, consists of two walls that flank the roadway. Wooden signs are affixed to the walls on either side and bear the inscription Paris Mountain State Park. The two bridges along the main road are of concrete slab construction and are supplied with corrugated pipe railings. Naturalized stone abutments support the concrete slabs. The stonework is indicative of CCC construction, and both bridges appear on park plans dating from the period of 1936-39. A small parking area in front of the Superintendents residence and two medium sized parking areas associated with the bathhouse include rustic stone walls and steps.

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[3] Annual Report of the South Carolina Forestry Commission, 1948-1949, 102, South Carolina State Library, Columbia, South Carolina; Eddie Miller Building Inventory Cards, Ca. 1949, Records of Paris Mountain State Park, Chief Historian's Office, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Columbia, South Carolina; "Paris Mountain to Have Two New Picnic Shelters," 13 April 1948, Greenville Piedmont.

[4] "Paris Mountain--History Notes," 1,6, Records of Paris Mountain State Park, Chief Historian's Office, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Columbia, South Carolina.

The CCC also constructed a large oval shaped parking lot that serves the bathhouse.[5]

Other roads built by the CCC at Paris Mountain include a road to Camp Buckhorn, one to the old fire tower site, and the spur road near the Superintendants residence. Alterations to the roads have been limited to paving (with the exception of the firetower road), and the addition of a stone entry portal on the Camp Buckhorn road (added after the period of significance).

Park Residences

There are two CCC-constructed staff residences currently extant in the park. The superintendents residence complex is representative, and is made up of three buildings and surrounding landscaping, all developed during the period 1936 to 1940.[6] The structures are all property types associated with park administration, and include the superintendents residence, an office, and a small storage building.

The superintendents dwelling (PM-1) is irregular in shape, and is of frame construction built on a stone veneered solid concrete foundation. The exterior walls are covered with weatherboard siding except for the central section, which is built of stone. The dwelling is a single story in height and is topped with a lateral gable roof covered with composition shingles. The central section includes a single story enclosed porch with a shed roof. An exterior end chimney, and an interior central chimney, both made of stone, are visible from the exterior. Decorative elements include craftsman style exposed rafter tails and knee brackets. This building is similar to the other CCC-built dwelling in the park, the Park Rangers residence (PM-2). A foremans dwelling, and the fire warden's house, built by the CCC, are no longer extant. A non-contributing mobile home, located near the park campground, is the third existing residence.

The park office (PM-31) is located directly behind the superintendents dwelling. Originally built as a garage, it is rectangular in shape with a lateral gable roof of composition shingles.[7] This structure was altered after the period of significance, and is thus non-contributing. The storage shed (PM-62) is square in plan, and is located on the hillside above the office. It bears a shed roof with composition shingles, and is covered with board and batten siding. Old park inventory numbers affixed to the building (#9-4) indicate that it originally served as a chicken house for

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[5]" 1936 Project Map, Paris Mountain State Forest Park"; "Development Plan of Day Use Area, Paris Mountain State Park," 1939, Records of Paris Mountain State Park, Chief Historian's Office, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

[6]Aerial Photograph of Paris Mountain, Greenville County, ASV-13-35, 1938, Thomas Cooper Map Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina; "Development Plan of Day Use Area, Paris Mountian State Park," 1939.

[7]"Development Plan of Day Use Area," 1939.

the fire wardens house which was built by the CCC and located at the far end of the park.

Consequently, it seems likely that this structure was moved, though it is not clear when this occurred.[8]

Landscape features surrounding the the complex include a curving pathway that connects the dwelling with the main park road, a paved spur road that leads to the office, a small parking area, and two low stone walls. A long stone lined drain, or french gully is also part of the overall landscaping.

Park Lakes

Lake Placid is the man-made feature that forms the core of the park design. It is one of three lakes in the park that were constructed by the Paris Mountain Water Company and used as reservoirs for the city of Greenville. The Lake Placid complex includes the stone dam, the CCC built lakeside nature trail, and a diving platform. All of these structures are property types associated with recreation and conservation.

Lake Placid was originally built as Reservoir #2 by the Paris Mountain Water Company between 1888 and 1898. It is constructed of coursed ashlar topped with blocks of squared granite. A central spillway allows excess water to flow over the top and front on the dam and into the stream below. Two other reservoirs, built by the Paris Mountain Water Company between 1888 and 1904 using similar construction techniques exist in the park. These are the Mountain Lake and Lake Buckhorn reservoirs.[9]

The Bathhouse Complex

The bathhouse complex is adjacent to the main park road and is located on a steep hillside above Lake Placid. It consists of the bathhouse, the swimming area, and extensive landscaping.

The dominant feature of the complex is the bathhouse itself (PM-25). Constructed by the CCC in 1936, it is rectangular in plan and one story in height with its front elevation facing the lake.[10] It is a frame building sheathed in rough rubble masonry, with a solid concrete foundation. The roof is a lateral gable type with a shed roof extension that covers an open porch running the full length of the front elevation. The porch roof is supported by large rough cut native stone pillars. Originally, the porch included a low

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[8]Eddie Miller Building Cards, ca. 1949.

[9]Archie Vernon Huff, Jr., Greenville: The History of the City and County in the South Carolina Piedmont (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1995), 192; "General Plan of Paris Mountain Reservoir No. 2," 1898, Records of Paris Mountain State Park, Chief Historian's Office, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

[10]"1936 Project Plan, Paris Mountain State Forest Park."

rustic wooden rail, however, this was replaced with a low stone wall sometime around 1943.[11] Roofing material was originally wooden shingles, but is now composition shingles. The gable ends are enclosed and covered with painted wood shingles. A stone drinking fountain, identical to the one described in the section on the Shelter #1 complex, is also located on the porch, and forms part of the stone wall.

The main alteration to the bathhouse occurred in 1945 when a square rubble stone addition was added on the west side and connected to the main structure by a breezeway.[12] This addition, which was used as a concession building, also incorporates a lateral gable roof, with gable ends covered in wood shingles. The architectural style and construction of the concessions addition is identical to the original core structure.

The bathhouse and swimming area are surrounded by extensive landscaping that includes an intricate network of paths, steps, drains, and low stone walls. The original landscaping done by the CCC was completed by 1940, and was later expanded by park management between 1943 and 1948. Original features included the french gully drains, a stone drinking fountain located on the hillside above the bathhouse, and a rhododendron lined path located to the east of the bathhouse. A brick path encircles the bathhouse and appears to be part of the original CCC landscape work. Two paths once extended downhill to the swimming area, however, these were replaced in 1943 with an elaborate system of rustic stone steps and low stone walls. Finally, in 1948, paved walkways were added that connect the bathhouse to the main park road.[13]

Amphitheater

The amphitheater at Paris Mountain, located to the west of Lake Placid along Mountain Creek, was completed by the CCC in 1940.[14] It consists of a large semi-circular seating area carved out of the hillside above the creek, a level stage area, and two rubble stone fire rings.

The seats are long, curved, rubble stone walls, approximately one and a half feet in height, that follow the concave shape of the hillside and are spaced in even rows. They are capped with smooth concrete slabs which provide the seating surface. The fire rings are circular, and approximately two feet in height. They are positioned at either side of a flat earthen stage at the base of the hillside. Large hemlocks growing behind the stage serve todefine the area and provide a natural backdrop. The 1939 park plan shows that a curved reflecting pool was proposed for the area between the stage and the seating.

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[11]Photograph of Bathhouse porch, n.d., Records of Paris Mountain State Park, Chief Historian's Office, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

[12]"Paris Mountain--History Notes," 8.

[13]"Paris Mountain--History Notes," 4; Annual Report of the South Carolina Forestry Commission. 1948-1948, 102.

[14]"Paris Mountain--History Notes," 3.

Exploratory excavations of the stage area indicate that the proposed pool was actually constructed and later filled in. The walls of the pool appear to have been built of rubble masonry in typical CCC fashion.[15] This alteration, which occurred sometime after the period of significance, resulted in the removal of a major design feature. However, the amphitheater should still be considered a contributing resource because the alteration is reversible.

Another structure associated with the amphitheater is a small arched vehicle bridge that allows access to the site. It is built of coursed ashlar and incorporates a nine-foot arch over Mountain Creek. The stone work is indicative of Paris Mountain Water Company construction; the bridge also appears on the 1898 plan of Reservoir #2.[16]

Camp Buckhorn Complex

This large organized group camp was developed in the area surrounding Lake Buckhorn between 1936 and 1937.[17] Resources of the complex include the lodge, a staff cabin, a paved parking area, nine camper cabins, a latrine, a fire ring/council circle, Lake Buckhorn, a lakeside trail, and landscaping. Camp Buckhorn is located in a mountain cove separated from the rest of the park by several miles of undeveloped woodland and one of the spurs of Paris Mountain. Because of its location and forested setting it has a feeling of seclusion.

The lodge (PM-100) is a T-shaped building built on a steep hillside, with a partial basement. Exterior walls above the basement level are covered with board and batten siding; the basement walls are of rough rubble construction. The lodge has a cross-gabled roof and three porches, one of which is supported by rough rubble masonry piers. This porch, on the southern elevation, has a front to end gable roof, as does the smaller front elevation porch. A third porch, also on the front elevation, is enclosed and was added after the period of significance. Porch detailing consists of squared wooden support posts, heavy squared rails, and H-shaped balustrades. An interior chimney built of native stone projects from the gabled roof, which was originally covered with wooden shingles. Decorative elements include craftsman brackets and rafter tails, and H-shaped porch balustrades. Changes to the building after the period of significance have been limited to the removal of shutters, the addition of an enclosed porch

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[15]Brodie Davis, Maintenance Foreman at Paris Mountain State park, Interview by Author, 26 March 1997; Photograph of Amphitheater, n.d., Records of Paris Mountain State Park, Chief Historian's Office, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

[16]"General Plan of Paris Mountain Reservoir No. 2," 1898.

[17]"Paris Mountain--History Notes," 1.

on the front elevation, and the replacement of the wooden shingles with composition roofing.[18]

The staff cabin (PM-120) is located nearby the lodge and also faces the parking area. It is a square shaped frame building, one story in height, with an engaged porch. Exterior walls are covered with board and batten siding. The cabin stands on rough rubble masonry piers. The roof is a front to end gable type, originally covered with wooden shingles. Detailing is limited to the typical craftsman style decorations and heavy porch posts and rails. The only exterior alteration to this building is the change in roofing materials from wooden to composition shingles.

The nine camper cabins (PM-121 to PM-129) are all identical, with the exception of two cabins which have exterior stone chimneys on the rear elevations. These small buildings are square in shape, with stone foundations, board and batten siding, engaged porches, and lateral gable roofs. Gable ends are covered with weatherboard siding. Stone steps lead up to the entrance porches, which incorporate decorative elements identical to those on the lodge and staff cabin. The original wooden shingles have been replaced with composition roofing. The latrine, built by the CCC, is square in shape, with a front-to-end gable roof. It stands on a concrete foundation. Alterations have been limited to replacement of the original board and batten siding.

The cabins are separated physically from the lodge and staff cabin by a small creek and several low stone walls. They are set in a grove of mature mixed hardwoods which contribute to the overall feeling of rusticity. All of the cabins face towards the southeast and have a view of Lake Buckhorn. An open grassy area is located between the cabins and the lakeshore, as is a stone drinking fountain. The trail, a small stone bridge, and the council circle are all located along the lakeshore. All of the rustic stone walls at Camp Buckhorn were constructed by park staff after the period of significance.[19]

Trails and recreational features

Paris Mountain State Park includes a number of features designed by the CCC specifically for outdoor recreation. These include two lakeside trails, three hiking trails (Mountain Lake, Camp Buckhorn, and Sulphur Springs trails), a fire ring, bonfire, and stone picnic table at Sulphur Springs, an athletic field, and an archery range.[20] All of these features

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[18]Photograph of Camp Buckhorn Lodge, ca. 1950, Records of Paris Mountain State Park.

[19]Mike Foley, Chief of Resource Management, State Parks Division, Interview by Author, 7 April 1997.

[20]"Paris Mountain--History Notes," 1-8; Map of Paris Mountain State Park, n.d. [but probably ca. 1942], Records of the State Forestry Commission, Civilian Conservation Corps Files, General Files 1934-1942, Box 1, Folder #6, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina.

are contributing resources, with the exception of the archery range, which has deteriorated. During the course of a field survey the archery range could not be precisely located, and should be considered altered.

Statement of Significance

Paris Mountain State Park, located in Greenville County, South Carolina, is significant for its association with the establishment and development of a system of state parks in South Carolina. As one of sixteen state parks constructed in the state by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Paris Mountain is expressive of the conservation, recreation, and design ethic of the early twentieth century state parks movement. Specifically, Paris Mountain is significant for its association with early utilitarian conservation efforts in South Carolina before the 1930s, and the establishment of local recreational parks during the Great Depression. Paris Mountain State Park also reflects the rustic style of park architecture and landscape design. The property meets National Register criteria A and C within the statewide historic context of the establishment and development of the South Carolina State Parks.

The first efforts to preserve the natural resources of Paris Mountain occurred in 1888, with the formation of the Paris Mountain Water Company. During the last three decades of the nineteenth century, the city of Greenville experienced a building and population boom brought on by the rapid growth of the textile industry. As the citys population grew, so did its need for clean water, and it was not long before local residents turned to Paris Mountains watershed for their water supply. The mountains mineral springs had long been considered healthful and pure; in fact, as early as the 1830s, wealthy planters came to resorts in the area to take advantage of the waters wholesome qualities. In 1887, a group of local businessmen incorporated the Paris Mountain Water Company, with the purpose of building a water system for the citys use. In that year they began to acquire the land on the northwest side of Paris Mountain along Mountain and Buckhorn Creeks, and by 1888 the Company had completed construction of two reservoirs, a pipeline, and pumping facilities. The system delivered its first water to the city in the same year. By 1904, two other reservoirs were completed, one of which is located outside the boundaries of the Paris Mountain State Park. Though the water system was sold by the company in 1917, it continued to function as a water supply for the city until the formation of the state park in 1935.[21]

The Water Company purchased far more land than it needed just to construct the reservoirs. Altogether, it acquired fifteen hundred acres, which included all the land surrounding the head waters of the creeks above the reservoirs. This insured that the company held legal title to the riparian rights of the creeks, and could effectively protect the purity of the water supplied to the city. In effect, by protecting the watershed, the Paris Mountain Water Company indirectly preserved other natural

[21]Archie Vernon Huff, Jr., Greenville: The History of the City and County in the South Carolina Piedmont (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1995), 92, 185-187, 192, 209-210; "State Park on Paris Mountain," Greenville Times (Greenville, S.C.), 7 April 1935; Linda Friddle, comp., Famous Greenville Firsts (Greenville: Metropolitan Arts Council, 1986), 80.

resources on their land, such as timber, soil, wildlife, and open space. While Paris Mountain was not formally dedicated as a conservation area, the motivations for its protection were similar to those that led to the creation of more famous parks. For example, concern that logging, farming, and resort development of the Adirondack mountains would result in damage to the regions watershed led the state of New York to designate, in 1885, over seven hundred thousand acres of land in central New York State as a forest preserve. Though the Adirondack Forest Preserve had undeniable scenic qualities, it was its water resources that galvanized a constituency for its protection. During the 1880s, many other natural areas were being protected for similar utilitarian reasons across the country. The work of the Paris Mountain Water Company was part of this growing utilitarian conservation movement.[22]

However, conservation in the area did not end with the Paris Mountain Water Company. In 1935, Paris Mountain State Park was established when the city of Greenville and the local Chamber of Commerce deeded 1125.4 acres of the watershed to the state of South Carolina. The only stipulation made by the city was that the land be used for state park purposes; essentially, it was to be developed for public recreation. Out of the original four reservoirs, one was retained by the city as part of its water system, and the other three were used to form the core of the new state park. In fact, the design of the new state park was largely defined by the presence of the three lakes, two of which served as focal points for the parks group camp and swimming beach.[23]

Paris Mountain State Park was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and designed cooperatively by the South Carolina Commission of Forestry and United States Forest Service.[24] Work commenced in the fall of 1935, and by June of 1936, U.S. Forest Service CCC camp S-90 had constructed a bathhouse, parking area, caretakers house, picnic area, and two miles of unpaved road. By June of 1937 the CCC company had razed one undesirable structure, built two vehicle bridges on the road, three

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[22]Deed Book 33, p. 556, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Greenville County Office Building, Greenville, S.C.; Friddle, Famous Greenville Firsts, 80; Frank Graham, Jr., The Adirondack Park: A Political History (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1978), 70-71, 80-89, 96, 105-197; Alfred Runte, National Parks: The American Experience, 2nd ed. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987), 68-70.

[23]Deed Book 181, p. 313, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Greenville, S.C.; Huff, Greenville, 347; "State Park on Paris Mountain," Greenville Times, (Greenville, S.C.), 7 April 1935.

[24]For a summary of the activities of the Civilian Conservation Corps in South Carolina, and for a discussion of the place of Paris Mountain in the development of the South Carolina state park system, see "Historic Resources of South Carolina State Parks," Multiple Property Listing, National Register of Historic Places, State Department of Archives and history, Columbia, South Carolina.

additional picnic shelters, and the park entrance portal.[25] Additionally, the CCC planted twenty acres of trees and shrubs around the picnic area, and laid fifteen hundred feet of pipeline. The park officially opened on June 1st, 1937, and at that time facilities also included the Camp Buckhorn group camp, another two miles of road to the new camp, swimming facilities, concession stand, and trails.[26]

The CCC camp at Paris Mountain was abandoned in September of 1940, and the national CCC program dissolved in June of 1942. As a result, federal funding and manpower for park development disappeared. However, the South Carolina Forestry Commission continued to expand park facilities through the 1940s in a manner that was in keeping with previous CCC construction. These post-CCC developments included extensive rustic style landscaping around the bathhouse in 1943, an expansion of the bathhouse building, and construction of two master picnic shelters between 1948 and 1950. One shelter is located in the Sulphur Springs picnic area, and the other is near the athletic field. These buildings and landscape features, while they fall outside of the period of significance for the historic district, should be considered as contributing resources because they are derivative of typical CCC construction.[27]

As a recreation park, Paris Mountain is a product of the American state and national parks movement that began in the nineteenth century and reached a period of intense activity during the 1930s. Initially, parks such as Yosemite and Yellowstone were set aside primarily because of their outstanding natural and scenic beauty, and secondarily for resource protection and recreation. Later parks, especially the state parks developed as part of the New Deal in the 1930s, were designed with a special emphasis on outdoor recreation. The New Deal planners of state parks believed that cooperative recreation and proximity to nature could better the lives of all Americans, especially the lives of the poor, the disabled, and those living in rural or industrial districts. As a result, many of the state parks developed between 1933 and 1942 included features designed to bring people together, either informally or in organized groups. These communal recreation facilities often included organized

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[25]"Paris Mountain--History Notes," 6, Records of Paris Mountain State Park, Chief Historian's Office, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Columbia, S.C. The undesirable structure may have been the Water Company's engineer's cottage, which was located near the present day bathhouse. See Plan of Reservoir no. 2, 1898, Records of Paris Mountain State Park, Chief Historian's Office, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Columbia, S.C.

[26]"Paris Mountain--History Notes," 1, 6-7.

[27]"Paris Mountain--History Notes," 3-4, 8; "Paris Mountain to Have Two New Picnic Shelters," Greenville Piedmont (Greenville, S.C.), 13 April 1948.

group camps, outdoor amphitheaters or fire rings, large picnic shelters, athletic fields, campgrounds, recreation buildings, and bathhouses.[28]

Paris Mountain State Park incorporates many of these New Deal cooperative recreation facilities. Most obvious of these is the group area, Camp Buckhorn, which was developed in 1936 for the use of the underprivileged children of the industrial section of the state.[29] This camp includes nine bunkhouses, a staff cabin, a community fire ring, and a lodge/dining hall. Children that stayed in the camp would eat together, share sleeping cabins, and recreate together as part of an organized group. Other examples of facilities designed to bring people together in the park are the large amphitheater, built circa 1940, and the two smaller campfire rings (one at Sulfur Springs picnic area and one at Camp Buckhorn). These structures are products of the New Deal planners interest in outdoor theater and community recreation, synthesized with the unique American image of the pioneer campfire.[30] Here, park visitors could gather as a group for educational programs, special events, performances, storytelling, or singing. Almost all of Paris Mountains New Deal recreation facilities are designed for group, rather than solitary, recreation, as is evidenced by its bathhouse and swimming area, athletic field, archery range, barbecue pit, and picnic shelters.

Paris Mountain State Park is also significant because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of rustic style park architecture and landscape design. The rustic style is described by Linda McClelland in Presenting Nature: The Historic Design of the National Park Service, 1916-1942 as a combination of a number of late nineteenth and twentieth century styles, ranging from the landscape design of Andrew Jackson Downing, Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot, to the Adirondack Great Camp, prairie, and craftsman styles of architecture. These influences were gradually blended by designers from the 1870s to the 1930s, and used in national parks and forests, state parks, and private resorts. By 1938, National Park Service landscape architect Albert Good defined rustic architecture as a style that through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past.[31] More intangibly, the rustic style attempted to present romantic and

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[28]Runte, National Parks, 29; Phoebe Cutler, The Public Landscape of the New Deal (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985), 70-75

[29]"Paris Mountain--History Notes," 1.

[30]Linda Flint McClelland, Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916-1942 (Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1993), 145-148, 265.

[31]McClelland, Presenting Nature, 258-259. McClelland provides a succint listing of rustic design characteristics on pages 271-276.

intriguing settings that encouraged outdoor recreation and the exploration of natural areas.

Many of the structures of Paris Mountain State Park exhibit the characteristics of the rustic architectural style. Picnic shelters were often constructed of squared logs, rough hewn and occasionally dovetailed together. In other cases, unfinished, stripped logs were left in the round and used for pillars, rafters, and decorative features. The park bathhouse and the foundations of the buildings at Camp Buckhorn consist of naturalized rockwork that was constructed of rough rubble masonry. Most stone was taken out of the nearby mountainside.[32] Many of the structures were originally roofed with wood shingles, and sided with rough sawn weatherboard. All of the park structures are a single story in height, and often are built into hillsides. Paris Mountains buildings are typically long and low, with low pitched roofs, and an emphasis on horizontal lines. Decorative elements are rare and were kept simple. When these are present they are either made of naturalized native stone or logs, or, as is more often the case, are craftsman style roof eave decorations. These include the characteristic decorative wood knee brackets at gable ends, and exposed rafter tails. All of these architectural characteristics are in keeping with the traditional park rustic style used in the 1930s.

The overall plan of the park also embodies characteristics of rustic style park landscape design. Facilities were organized into dense groupings, a design approach which maximized the amount of open, undeveloped, natural land. Altogether, three major developed areas are separated by undeveloped land but connected by the park road and a system of walking trails. This design allowed park planners to develop the area for recreational use, while still preserving the aesthetic values of its natural scenery. The CCC at Paris Mountain also made use of landscape naturalization techniques; this typically consisted of transplanting native trees and shrubs into areas disturbed by development, with the goal of blending man-made construction with surrounding natural features.[33]

Individual features such as paths, rock walls, drains, drinking fountains, bridge abutments, culverts, road embankments, and cooking grills, were typically built out of native stone in such a manner as to blend in with natural surroundings. Paths, steps, and rock walls built by the CCC and the South Carolina Forestry Commission between 1933 and 1944 serve to connect buildings to the surrounding landscape. The designers of Paris Mountain State Park generally made walls and paths curvilinear, reflecting the topography of the parks hillsides. Most importantly, the landscape features created at Paris Mountain tend to avoid right angles orlong straight lines. The road itself follows the local topography

[32]"Paris Mountain--History Notes," 4, 14.

[33]"Paris Mountain--History Notes," 6-7. For a discussion of landscape naturalization techniques used by the CCC, see McClelland, Presenting Nature, 149-154.

closely and is curvilinear, a characteristic of rustic style road design. The park amphitheater at Paris Mountain is almost a textbook example of rustic style outdoor theater design, particularly in its setting on the hillside above Mountain Creek. For rustic park designers, the perfect ideal [for outdoor theaters] is formed by a river terrace where the curvature has a moderate radius. Such sloping concave banks make the best sites.[34] The amphitheater at Paris Mountain appears to have been purposefully placed in one of these ideal locations.

Though not built by the CCC as park structures, the dams and reservoirs of Paris Mountain also are in keeping with rustic style design characteristics, and as such can be considered contributing resources. Though built by the Paris Mountain Water Company between 1888 and 1904, the three reservoirs were incorporated into the 1930s plan of the park as central design elements. The dams of the earlier two lakes are similar in construction; both are built of coursed ashlar, and both have central spillways in which water cascades down the front of the dam. The effect of the design is that both downstream faces of the dams have the appearance of being waterfalls, especially the Mountain Lake dam, in which water falls approximately seventy-five feet to the creek below. The dam at Lake Buckhorn, which may have been one of the later dams built in 1904, is constructed of earth and faced with concrete on the lake side. It appears that at one time the upper surface of the dam was covered with rough rubble stone, a form in keeping with the rustic style. Additionally, the spillway at Lake Buckhorn is curved in shape, and turns into a naturalized stone waterfall at its downstream end.

Several archeological sites relating to the early settlement and land use of the area have been discovered within the boundaries of the park. These may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D, but are not included in this nomination because they fall outside of the period of significance and are not contextually related. The site of the original CCC camp may also be of archaeological significance. Though none of the twenty-five original buildings are extant, archaeological investigations may shed light on the nature of CCC camp life and its associated material culture.[35]

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[34]McClelland, Presenting Nature, 264-265.

[35]"Historical Record of CCC Camp Buildings, " Camp S.C. S-90, Record Group #77, National Archives, Suitland, Maryland. Robert Morgan, US Forest Service archaeologist at Francis Marion National Forest, supplied me with photocopies of this material.

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_____ Eddie Miller Building Inventory Cards, 1949.

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_____ Paris Mountain--History Notes.

_____ Paris Mountain State Park Photograph Collection, 1939-54.

_____ 1936 Project Map, Paris Mountain Forest Park, Greenville County, S.C.

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Geographical Data

Additional UTM References

5) 17 375350 3865140
6) 17 374240 3865180
7) 17 369920 3867580

Verbal Boundary Description
The historic district boundaries are the same as the current legal boundaries of Paris Mountain State Park. These are shown on the attached tax map.

Boundary Justification
The present day boundary of Paris Mountain State Park is inclusive of all the land developed for recreation by the Civilian Conservation Corps at Paris Mountain during the period of significance. These same boundaries also include the three Paris Mountain Company reservoirs that the CCC incorporated into the park's design.

Photographs of Paris Mountain State Park Resources

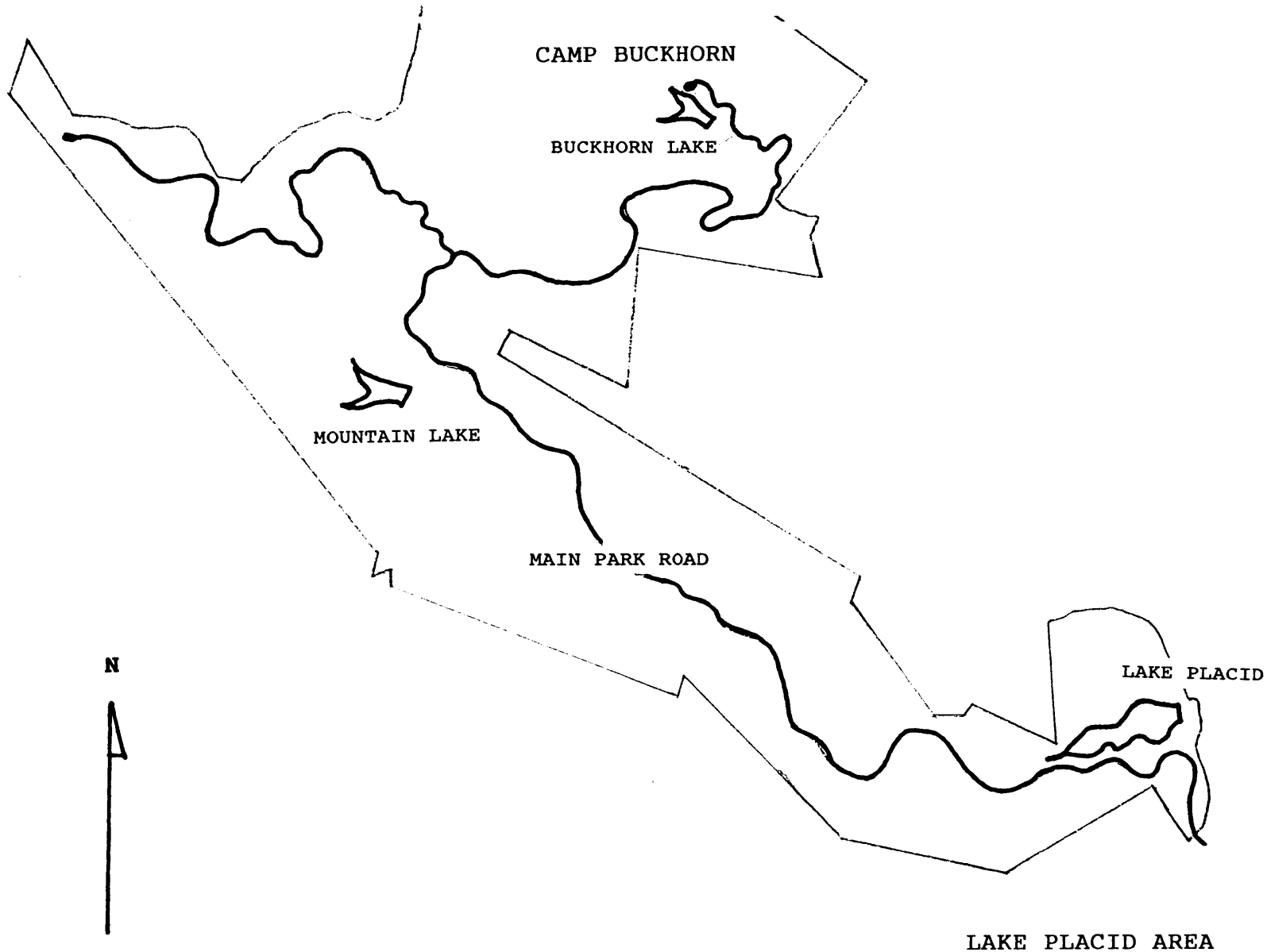
The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of property: Paris Mountain State Park Historic District (Historic Resources of South Carolina State Parks multiple property submission)
Location of property: Greenville County, South Carolina
Photographer: Albert Hester
Location of negatives: SC Department of Archives and History, Columbia, SC
Date of Photographs: February and March 1997

Additional information for each photograph as follows:

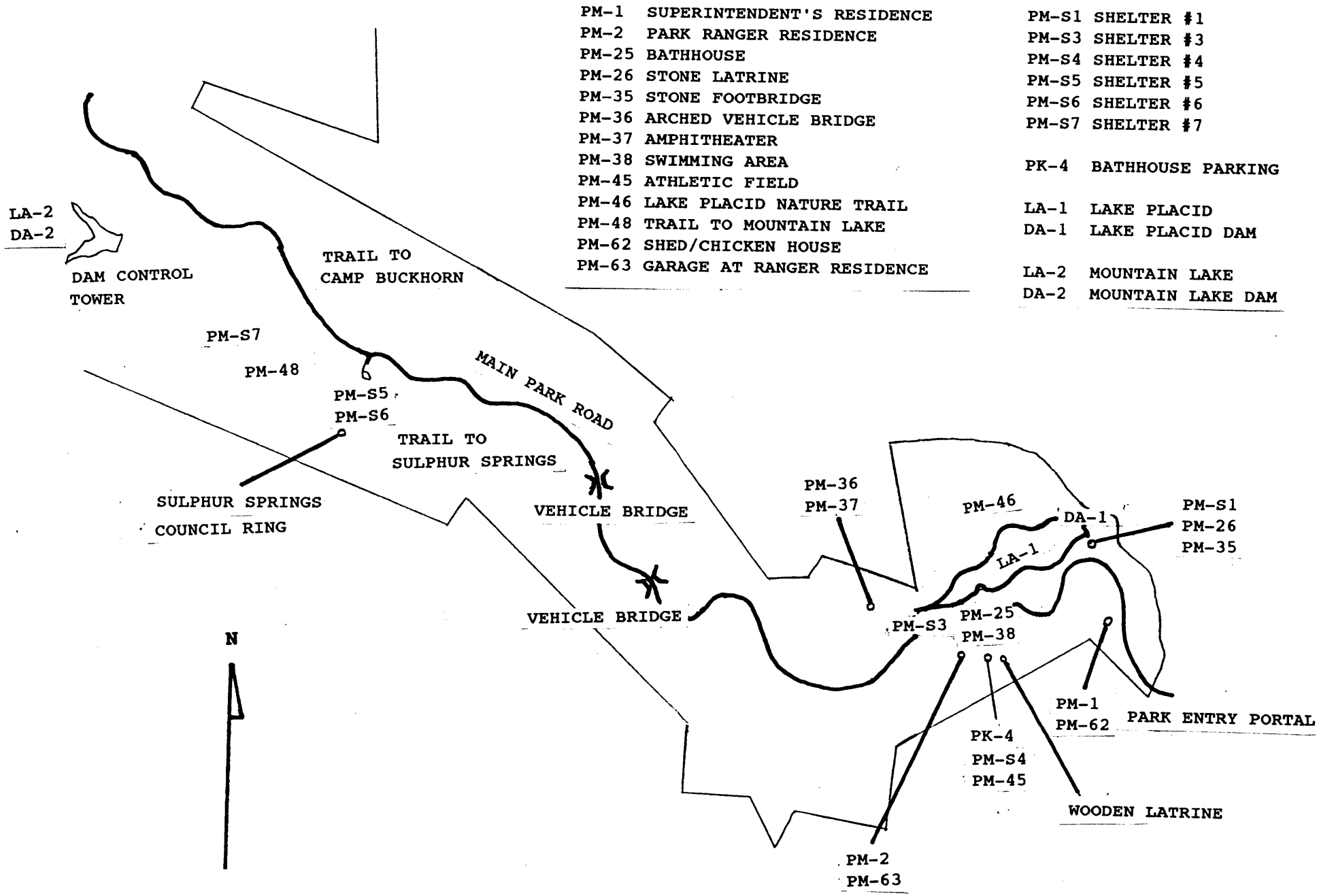
1. Park entry portal. Looking northwest.
2. Main Park Road, near superintendents residence. Looking southeast.
3. Vehicle bridge, Main Park Road.
4. Superintendents residence. Oblique view, looking south.
5. Superintendents residence. South (rear) elevation.
6. Shelter #1. Oblique view, looking northeast.
7. Stone Latrine (near Shelter #1). Oblique view looking east.
8. Footbridge (near Shelter #1). View looking east.
9. Bathhouse. Oblique view of east (side) elevation.
10. Bathhouse. Front (north) elevation
11. Latrine near maintenance shop. Looking east.
12. Bathhouse landscaping. Looking east
13. Shelter #4. Looking east.
14. Shelter #6. Oblique view looking southeast.
15. Shelter #6 architectural detail.
16. Mountain Lake dam control tower. Looking south.
17. Mountain Lake dam. East face of dam, looking southwest.
18. Shelter #7. Looking northwest.
19. Camper cabin, Camp Buckhorn. West (rear) elevation.
20. Camp Buckhorn lodge. Oblique view, looking northwest.
21. Camp Buckhorn lodge, architectural detail.
22. Buckhorn Lake spillway. Looking east.
23. Drinking fountain, Camp Buckhorn. Looking northeast.
24. Council circle, Camp Buckhorn. Looking south.
25. Lake Placid dam. East face of dam looking northwest.
26. Amphitheater. Looking east.

PARIS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
BASE MAP

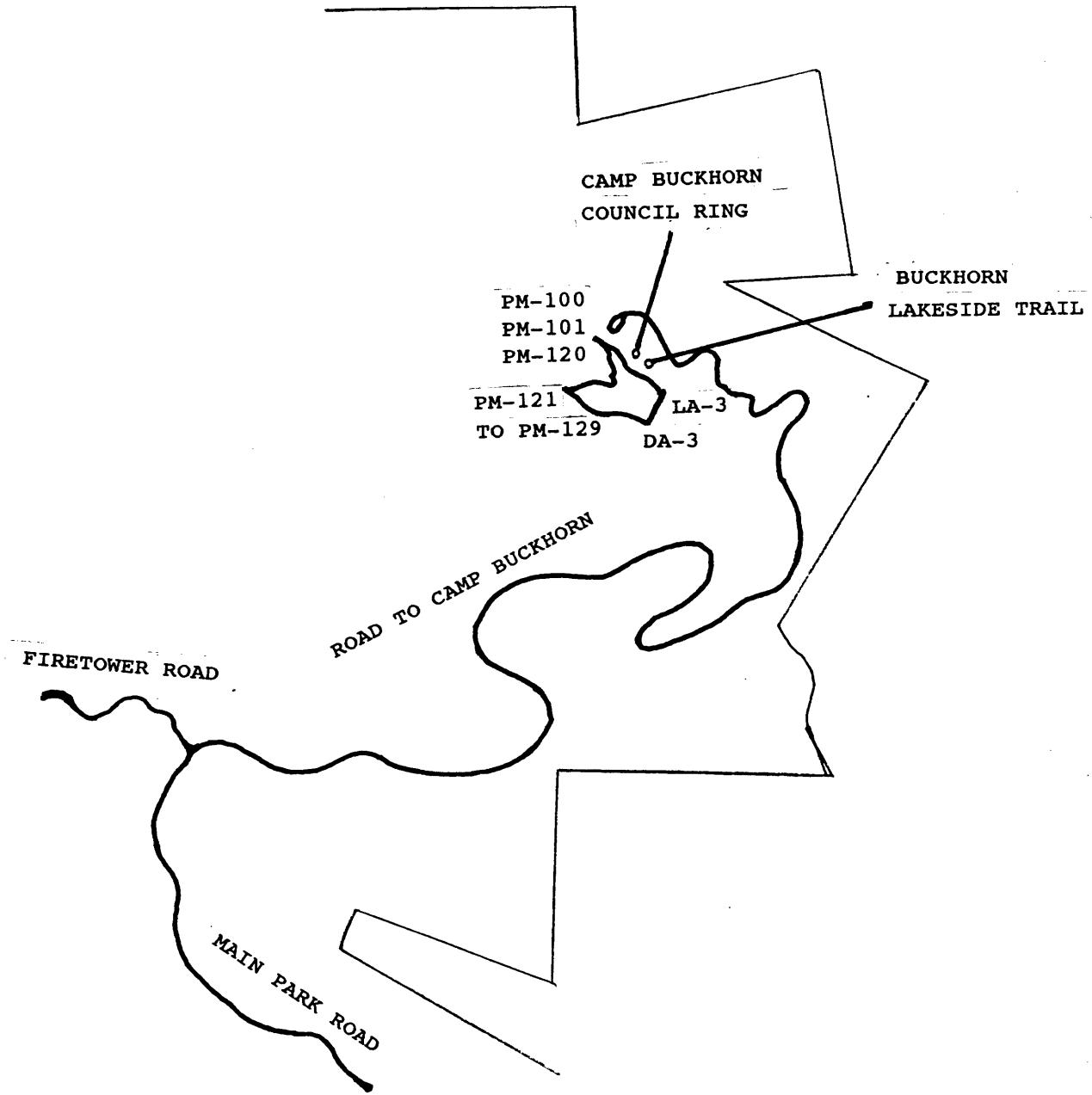


LAKE PLACID AREA

PARIS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES
DETAIL MAP: LAKE PLACID AREA



PARIS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES
DETAIL MAP: CAMP BUCKHORN



LA-3	LAKE BUCKHORN
DA-3	LAKE BUCKHORN DAM AND SPILLWAY
PM-100	CAMP BUCKHORN LODGE
PM-101	CAMP BUCKHORN LATRINE
PM-120	CAMP BUCKHORN STAFF CABIN
PM-121	TO PM-129 CAMPER CABINS

The following properties **contribute** to the Paris Mountain State Park Historic District:

PM-1 Superintendent's Residence
PM-2 Park Ranger Residence
PM-25 Bathhouse
PM-26 Stone Latrine
PM-35 Stone Footbridge
PM-36 Arched Vehicle Bridge
PM-37 Amphitheater
PM-38 Swimming Area
PM-45 Athletic Field
PM-46 Lake Placid Nature Trail
PM-48 Trail to Mountail Lake
PM-62 Shed/Chicken House
PM-63 Garage at Ranger Residence
PM-100 Camp Buckhorn Lodge
PM-101 Camp Buckhorn Latrine
PM-120 Camp Buckhorn Staff Cabin
PM-121 Camper Cabin #1
PM-122 Camper Cabin #2
PM-123 Camper Cabin #3
PM-124 Camper Cabin #4
PM-125 Camper Cabin #5
PM-126 Camper Cabin #6
PM-127 Camper Cabin #7
PM-128 Camper Cabin #8
PM-129 Camper Cabin #9
PM-S1 Shelter #1
PM-S3 Shelter #3
PM-S4 Shelter #4
PM-S5 Shelter #5
PM-S6 Shelter #6
PM-S7 Shelter #7
PK-4 Bathhouse Parking
LA-1 Lake Placid
DA-1 Lake Placid Dam
LA-2 Mountain Lake
DA-2 Mountain Lake Dam
LA-3 Lake Buckhorn
DA-3 Lake Buckhorn Dam
Main Park Road
Road to Camp Buckhorn
Firetower Road
Park Entry Portal
Wooden Latrine (behind shop)
Vehicle Bridge (on Main Park Road)
Vehicle Bridge (on Main Park Road)
Sulphur Springs Council Ring
Mountain Lake Dam Control Tower
Trail to Sulphur Springs
Trail to Camp Buckhorn
Buckhorn Lakeside Trail
Camp Buckhorn Council Ring

The following properties **do not contribute** to Paris Mountain State Park Historic District:

Fee Station
Rest Station near Bathhouse
Boat Landing (Altered)
Comfort Station #1 (Built ca. 1970)
Mobile Home near Campground
Archery Range (Altered)
Shop (Built in 1954)
Trailside Kiosk at Sulphur Springs
Pumphouse at Camp Buckhorn
Water System (Altered)
Entry portal on Camp Buckhorn Road
Camp Buckhorn Rd. Bridge (Altered)
Footbridge to Amphitheater
50 Site Campground (Built ca. 1970)
Comfort Station #2 (Built ca. 1970)
Shelter A
Shelter B
Rest Station near Shelters A and B
Park Office (altered)