

1 **Vegetation**

2
 3 The vegetation of the core development area
 4 consists of the dense oak hickory forest that
 5 characterizes the hillsides, contrasted by
 6 trees and shrubs of the areas associated with
 7 Museum (HS-420) and Dining Lodge (HS-
 8 422), and mown grasses of open areas and
 9 the playfield. This pattern of dense forest of
 10 oak and hickory trees covering the rugged
 11 topography contrasted by low vegetation
 12 in open areas assists in defining the spatial
 13 organization of the core development area.
 14
 15 During the CCC and WPA work in the 1930s
 16 and 1940s, trees, shrubs and groundcovers
 17 were planted as part of the Museum (HS-
 18 420) and Dining Lodge (HS-422) complex to
 19 create a naturalistic setting that reflected the
 20 surrounding native forest, but were planted
 21 in a pattern and density for an aesthetic
 22 appeal. The hillsides associated with the cabin
 23 development were thinned and vegetation
 24 pruned to provide views. At the edge of the
 25 Current River, the CCC stabilized shorelines
 26 and installed erosion control measures to
 27 protect the river embankments. At Chubb
 28 Hollow, the CCC graded the slopes of Chubb
 29 Hollow and installed erosion protection along
 30 both sides of the steep embankment at the
 31 Chubb Hollow Open Shelter House (HS-427).
 32 During the NPS work of the 1970s, trees and
 33 shrubs at the Museum and Dining Lodge
 34 were removed. Additional CCC plantings were
 35 removed subsequently by concessionaires
 36 and the NPS in order to ease maintenance
 37 operations, and either not replaced or
 38 replaced with a different species in a different
 39 location.

40 41 Analysis of Integrity

42 The vegetation patterns generally remain
 43 similar to the period of significance. However,
 44 the native forest has become more dense
 45 and now encroaches into previously open
 46 areas, and many CCC plantings have been

1 altered or removed. A few original species,
 2 *vinca major* for example, are now considered
 3 invasives. Vegetation at the Dining Lodge
 4 (HS-422) has become overgrown. The loss
 5 of understory vegetation, especially shrubs,
 6 is diminishing the integrity of the setting.
 7 Historically this area was deliberately planted
 8 with shrubs arranged in natural groupings
 9 and the landscape was maintained with a
 10 more manicured appearance than presently.
 11 Some encroachment of native vegetation is
 12 evident, especially near buildings and along
 13 trails. Some trees are in poor health and are
 14 hazardous in high visitor use areas, near
 15 buildings, recreation areas, and trails. Some
 16 invasive species have propagated in natural
 17 areas, threatening the health of the oak
 18 hickory forest.



Figure 3-47. The vegetation around the Dining Lodge (HS-422) helps to blend the building with the landscape. (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-48. The playfield is one of the few areas of maintained, mown lawn. Shade trees have been added at the edges of the lawn. (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-49. The vegetation of the cabin area includes oak / pine forest, found on narrower ridges with acidic soil. (Mundus Bishop 2016)



Figure 3-50. The vegetation today remains similar to the period of significance, however the native forest is more dense and encroaches into previously open areas. (Mundus Bishop 2015)

1 **Entrance Building / Museum / Dining Lodge**

2

3 Spatial Organization

4 The initial impression of Big Spring Historic
5 District begins on the drive from Van Buren
6 along the narrow wooded route of Peavine
7 Road / State Highway 103, which follows the
8 ridges and hollows of the Ozark Highlands. As
9 the road descends a steep hill, the Entrance
10 Building (HS-432) and Entrance Portal
11 Walls (HS-432A) appear, architecturally
12 announcing the gateway into the study area.
13 The single story irregular cut stone building
14 was originally used as a visitor center but
15 has not served this role for some time. The
16 two stone Entrance Portal Walls form a slight
17 arc, embracing the entrance. In front of the
18 building is a flagpole. A stone culvert extends
19 under the north wall, through an arched
20 opening. The building and Entrance Portal
21 Walls are in fair condition, and are scheduled
22 for repair in the near future.

23

24 The stone Entrance Building (HS-432) and
25 Entrance Portal Walls (HS-432A) set into the
26 natural landscape and designed in the Rustic
27 architectural style, are the first glimpse of
28 the distinct architectural aesthetic of the core
29 development area. This aesthetic creates
30 a consistency in site design, buildings and
31 structures, and vegetation.

32

33 Cluster Arrangement and Buildings

34 The main visitor facilities—the Latrine
35 (HS-423), Museum (HS-420), Pump House
36 (HS-443) and Dining Lodge (HS-422)—
37 are organized in a linear arrangement in
38 relationship to the playfield and to the
39 Current River.

40

41 The single story Museum (HS-420) (1936)
42 anchors the western edge of the open space
43 of the playfield, and is set back from the Main
44 Parking Area (HS-714) in alignment with
45 the Dining Lodge (HS-422) to the east. The
46 building faces north, towards the playfield.

1 The setting includes a flag pole, set in front
2 of the building, and a stone culvert to its east
3 side that was part of the original drainage
4 system. An inscribed stone boulder, installed
5 in 2003, commemorates the legacy of the
6 CCC. A propane tank sits slightly behind the
7 building. The smaller Pump House (HS-443)
8 (1936) is just east of the Museum (HS-420),
9 and is set back somewhat hidden from view.
10 It functions as it did historically, and remains
11 connected to the water tower on the southern
12 hillside.

13

14 Located across the playfield on its
15 northeastern edge, and set on a low rise is the
16 Latrine (HS-423) (1935). The building is set
17 within the wooded hillside, somewhat hidden
18 from view, but sited for views to the playfield,
19 visitor facilities and the Current River. Below
20 the rise and along the small creek, large cut
21 stones dry laid against the slope stabilize the
22 embankment, and create a long curved wall
23 (1934 to 1936).

24

25 At the far eastern end of the playfield, is the
26 Dining Lodge (HS-422) (1934 to 1937), set
27 perpendicular to, and above, the Current
28 River. Although this building is the largest
29 structure within the core development area,
30 its mass and scale is diminished by it being
31 tucked into the natural sloping hillside. At
32 the same time, the siting and orientation of
33 the building gives it a commanding presence
34 and stunning views. The initial construction
35 included the Dining Lodge Retaining Wall and
36 Fountain (HS-422A), a cut stone retaining
37 wall that allowed for the building to fit into
38 the hillside and created the service and
39 entrance courtyard. At the center of the wall
40 is a niche with a low raised platform with
41 a circular fountain. The Dining Lodge was
42 initially completed in 1936. In 1937, the
43 building was expanded to the east. At some
44 point the retaining wall was lengthened with
45 a concrete wall, which is in poor condition
46 and is not compatible with the aesthetic of

1 the core development area. The entrance to
 2 the building was shifted from an at-grade side
 3 entrance on the south façade to the terrace
 4 on the east façade. The original terrace was
 5 modified to accommodate the change in use,
 6 and stone steps were added to address the
 7 change in grade. A stone walkway was added,
 8 and the original entrance route was modified
 9 to serve as a service route.

10

11 Circulation

12 The long linear Main Parking Area (HS-
 13 714) connects the Museum (HS-420), Pump
 14 House (HS-443) and Dining Lodge (HS-422).
 15 Originally constructed by the CCC, light
 16 modifications were made to the parking
 17 area by the NPS in 1973, including changes
 18 to the turn-around at the Dining Lodge and
 19 openings in the curb for drainage. Historic
 20 CCC drawings indicate the original intent
 21 to build two walkways and associated
 22 topography along its north and south edges,
 23 which would have connected the Museum
 24 with the Dining Lodge. Neither were built,
 25 although the topography on the north could
 26 accommodate a walkway. Today, pedestrians
 27 use the parking area for a circulation route,
 28 shared with vehicles. The parking area
 29 remains similar to its arrangement of the
 30 1970s, and is in good condition.

31

32 Constructed Waterways

33 Constructed waterways include two ditches at
 34 the Entrance Building (HS-432) and a series
 35 of stone abutments along Big Spring branch to
 36 the Dining Lodge (HS-422) (see Study Area
 37 for description of the abutments)

38

39 The ditches at the Entrance Building (HS-432)
 40 flank either side of the road. They cross under
 41 the Entrance Portal Walls (HS-432A) through
 42 twin stone arches, and then converge to the
 43 east of the Entrance Building and become one.
 44 The ditches were constructed by the CCC in
 45 1934, but have become filled with sediment
 46 over time and do not drain properly during
 47 periods of heavy rainfall.

1 Small Scale Features

2 Contemporary small scale features include
 3 interpretive signs and panels, lighting, a
 4 stone staircase, boat dock, and utilities
 5 including electrical boxes and power lines,
 6 propane tanks, HVAC units and screen fences.
 7 A group of interpretive signs are located on
 8 the original bus pull in at the west edge of
 9 the Main Parking Area (HS-714), where the
 10 topographic form is intact. This location and
 11 the number of signs is very conspicuous and
 12 disrupts the view towards the Museum (HS-
 13 420) from the Big Spring Historic District
 14 entrance. Low-level pedestrian lights at the
 15 Dining Lodge (HS-422) are in disrepair, and
 16 sited in a manner that disrupts the historic
 17 setting. A stone staircase with wood handrails
 18 at the Dining Lodge connects to the boat
 19 dock, built of dimensioned lumber. The size,
 20 scale, material use, and construction of each
 21 conflicts with the simplicity of the original
 22 CCC craftsmanship and use of materials.
 23

24 An electrical line pre-dated the CCC
 25 development of Big Spring State Park,
 26 extending from the west edge and across the
 27 Main Parking Area (HS-714). As the utility
 28 was upgraded, large electrical transformers
 29 were added, placed for convenience of
 30 the utility, including the transformer in
 31 the parking area, and not in respect to the
 32 cultural landscape. Propane tanks serve the
 33 Museum (HS-420), Pump House (HS-443),
 34 and Dining Lodge (HS-422). Unfortunately,
 35 the three tanks are highly conspicuous, and
 36 where screens have been added they are even
 37 more conspicuous. Two are located along the
 38 major trail between the Dining Lodge and
 39 cabins. HVAC units serve the Dining Lodge,
 40 and are located within the service drive
 41 where they are highly conspicuous.

42

43 Vegetation

44 In addition to constructing structures,
 45 buildings, roads, trails, ditches and erosion
 46 control measures, the CCC planted trees,



Figure 3-51. The stone and concrete culvert extends under Peavine Road / State Highway 103. (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-52. The wood gate near the Entrance Building (HS-432) is in poor condition and the remnant road is difficult to discern. (Mundus Bishop 2015)

1 shrubs and groundcovers, transplanted and
2 moved plant material, and thinned vegetation.
3 The CCC-built landscape setting of the
4 Museum (HS-420) and Dining Lodge (HS-
5 422) included informally arranged plantings.
6 Groupings of trees accentuated each building,
7 set in patterns that created backdrops,
8 and orchestrated views to showcase the
9 building's architecture. Understory plantings
10 covered the hillside below the Dining Lodge,
11 complementing the tree groupings and giving
12 a natural base to the building. Several mature
13 trees remain near the Museum and Dining
14 Lodge, and the hillside retains some low
15 groundcovers. However, over time trees have
16 been removed and multiple changes made
17 to plantings in both species and locations
18 making the original planting palette and
19 patterns difficult to discern.

20
21 Low mown grasses characterize the large
22 open space of the playfield, and the areas
23 around the Museum (HS-420), Pump House
24 (HS-443) and Dining Lodge (HS-422). The
25 mown grasses of the playfield remain similar
26 to the period of significance; however the
27 landscape setting of the buildings included a
28 greater variety of species and patterns.

29
30 Analysis of Integrity
31 The Entrance Building (HS-432), Latrine
32 (HS-423), Museum (HS-420), Pump House
33 (HS-443), and Dining Lodge (HS-422), along
34 with their associated original features, cluster
35 arrangement and site contribute to the
36 significance of the core development area.
37 This area retains most of its original features
38 within their original locations, with few
39 modifications. Although some characteristics,
40 such as vegetation, have changed or
41 diminished since the period of significance,
42 the area in its entirety retains integrity in all
43 aspects including location, setting, design,
44 craftsmanship, materials, association and
45 feeling.

46

Matrix 3-6. Core Development Area Matrix - Entrance Building/Museum/Dining Lodge

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Playfield (1934)		Good	Contributing
Topography		Good	Contributing

CIRCULATION			
Vehicular Circulation			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Entrance Drive (Peavine Road / State Highway 103) (1934)	Two-lane, 24' wide asphalt paved. Entrance Drive widens at building, where a cattle guard built of steel railroad ties originally crossed the road (it is non-extant). CCC built drainage ditches extend on both sides of road. Paved pullout on north side of building.	Good	Contributing
Service Road at Entrance Building (1927)	Built as part of Entrance Building (HS-432) construction, the road was originally the equestrian route into the park, accessed by the wood gate. It was needed due to the cattle guard at the road.	Poor	Contributing
Ebb & Flow Road (Spring Loop)	Relocated in 1934 to build Entrance Building complex.	Fair / Poor	Contributing
Cabin Road System (HS-401B) (1934)	re: cabins	Good	Contributing
Main Parking Area (HS-714)	Asphalt paved, 24' wide road with pull-in parking on each side. Stone curb at parking edges with drainage openings (block-outs). Ends in turnaround / drop-off at Dining Lodge.	Good / Fair	Contributing
Boat Ramp / Launch (1974)	Wood ramp with wood guard railings and benches located below Dining Lodge (HS-422) and adjacent to the Current River.	Good	Non-contributing

Pedestrian Circulation			
Entrance Building			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Ebb & Flow Road (Spring Loop) (1934)	Graded road bed that extends from Entrance Drive, just east of Entrance Building (HS-432) south. Extends through woods and connects to Fire Tower / Lookout Tower (HS-1404) site, loops back to connect to cabins.	Fair	Contributing
Dining Lodge			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Stone Staircase and Path	8' wide stone steps with wood hand railings set into hillside, connects Dining Lodge (HS-422) with boat ramp at the Current River. Approximately 26 risers with 24" to 30" wide treads and 9" to 10" riser height.	Fair	Non-contributing
Gravel Walkway to Boat Ramp	Narrow path from stone staircase to boat ramp	Fair	Non-contributing
Entrance Walkway (1936 original)	9' wide path built as stone with concrete overlay connects parking drop-off with front door. Ends at three (3) masonry stone steps with concrete overlay and uneven riser heights and wood railing on one side at building entrance.	Good to Fair; drainage issue at drop-off	Contributing
Low Stone Wall	Parallels entrance walkway, less than 9" height built of granite stone curbing	Good	Unknown
Stone Walk at Dining Lodge	10" wide masonry stone path from service drive to building entrance	Fair; steep	Unknown
Service Drive (1936 original)	12' wide asphalt / dirt / concrete driveway with concrete curb. Connects Main Parking Area (HS-714) with rear building entrance.	Poor, drainage issues	Contributing
Concrete Steps to Propane Tank and Cabins	Seven steps at 4' wide with 6" risers. First riser is 12" height concrete curb (edge of service drive). Steps continue to cabins.	Fair	Unknown
Walkway to Cabins	Near Dining Lodge (HS-422), narrow path with 7 concrete steps, and 15 timber steps and 12" concrete curb	Fair	Non-contributing
Spring Branch Trail	Crushed dolomite surface, extends from stone staircase to Latrine (HS-423)	Fair	Unknown
Lower Chubb Hollow Trail	Crushed dolomite surface, extends from stone staircase to Chubb Hollow	Good	Non-contributing

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES			
Entrance Building			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Entrance Building (HS-432) (1936)	Rustic style building, 20'x16' single story side with gabled roof, and a 7'x14' open cross gable porch. Half-timber construction with irregular coursed cut stone walls, with a cut stone exterior chimney, and an interior bathroom in a rear 4'-5"x 9' projection. Cut stone paving at building entrance. Historically used as visitor center.	Fair	Contributing
Entrance Portal Walls (HS-432A) (1936)	Two cut stone wall sections form an arc, 151'-6" long that extends across both sides of Entrance Drive. Ends terminate in large stone piers. Wire and wood fence extends from south wall to west. Drainage is accommodated through semicircular arches in each wall. South wall extends from, and is attached to Entrance Building (HS-432). North wall includes a wood gate across a foot path / old equestrian road. A cattle guard built of steel railroad ties originally crossed the road between the two walls.	Fair	Contributing
Museum			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
State Park Museum Building (HS-420) (1936)	Single story two room gabled building, 18'x 42' with a 9'x18' extension, with oak half-timber framing and coursed stone infill and gable pediments on curved brackets. Interior has concrete floor, exposed ceiling construction, and ribbon windows of 6-light casements. Entrances have stone thresholds, 58" x 77" in size, and 9" step.	Good to Fair	Contributing
Pump House (HS-443) (1936)	Single story structure, 10' x12' one room building with a 5'x10' coursed cut stone porch, built with half-timber framing with irregular coursed cut stone infill, an asymmetrical gable roof with cedar shingles, and concrete floor.	Good	Contributing

Dining Lodge			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Dining Lodge (HS-422) (1934 to 1936) and Help's Quarters	Single story, Rustic style cross-gabled building, 31'x 122' in size, with half-timber and coursed stone masonry walls and logs in the gable ends. Building has two porches, massive exterior stone chimney. Windows throughout are 6-light casements with 4-light transoms. Large stone terrace on south end has concrete overlay, and is building entrance, with low stone wall and three (3) stone masonry steps with concrete overlay and uneven riser heights.	Good to Fair	Contributing
Dining Lodge Retaining Wall and Fountain (HS-422A) (1936)	130' long retaining wall ranging in height from 8'-6" to 10'-6," wall steps to grade on south end. Built of cut stone set in irregular courses, wall creates the service courtyard. At the building, the wall is stepped back and raised with a circular fountain set in front.	Good to Fair	Contributing
Latrine (HS-423) (1935)	Single story gabled building with gable dormers over the two entrances. Half-timber framing with irregular course cut stone infill. Four light sash windows on continuous wood sill, with concrete floor.	Poor	Contributing

CONSTRUCTED WATERWAYS			
Entrance Building			
Feature	Description	Condition	Contributing / Non-Contributing
Drainage Ditches (1934)	Two ditches at Entrance Building (HS-432); converge and become one.	Fair	Contributing
Dining Lodge			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Stone Abutments (1934)	Layered stone ledges, set into the embankment for stream protection along Big Spring branch, extending from bridge to Dining Lodge (HS-422). Segments removed at the boat ramp at the Dining Lodge.	Fair	Contributing

SMALL SCALE FEATURES			
Entrance Building			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Entrance Portal Walls (HS-432A)	re: buildings and structures	Fair	Contributing
Flagpole		Fair	Contributing
Wood Gate (1934)		Fair	Contributing
Wire and Wood Fence (1934)	Extends from south Entrance Portal Wall (HS-432A) to west, parallel to Entrance Drive	Fair	Contributing
Stone and Concrete Culvert (1934)	Extends under Entrance Drive, just north of Entrance Building (HS-432).	Fair to Good	Contributing
Electrical Box	On east side of south wall, just south of drainage ditch	Good	Non-contributing
Power Line	Public line, extended from Entrance Building (HS-432) to Maintenance Area, to cabins to Dining Lodge (HS-422) from outside source. Transformers remain at Main Parking Area (HS-714) for the Museum (HS-420) / Dining Lodge.	Good	Non-contributing
Museum			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Flagpole	Gray galvanized steel	Good	Contributing
Wood Sign Post	Painted wood	Good	Contributing
Fountain #2 (HS-712) (1934-1937)	CCC built drinking fountain with rough cut stones of a heavy design in the Rustic style, with a stone step attached and a concrete basin set on a stone pad.	Good	Contributing
Stones	One is 11 x 25 inches; and the second is 12 x 28 inches; blasted block stone	Good	Contributing
CCC Commemorative Stone / Monument	Small native stone boulder with bronze plaque, reads as follows: 'THIS WALNUT TREE WAS PLANTED IN COMMEMORATION OF THE LEGACY OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS AND THE MEN WHO REFORESTED OUR NATION'S PUBLIC LANDS. JUNE 21, 2003' (Walnut tree is missing)	Good	Non-contributing
Interpretive Signs	Three interpretive pedestal signs; two wood benches; sign noting interpretive area; crushed gravel walkway and space	Fair	Non-contributing
Propane Tank		Unknown	Non-contributing
Stone Culvert (after 1950)		Good	Contributing

Dining Lodge			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Retaining Wall and Abutments (HS-423A) (between 1934 and 1936)	Large cut stones dry laid against the sides of a creek that flows in front of the Latrine (HS-423). The stone ledges are set into banks in long continuous courses with tight joints.	Fair	Contributing
Flagpole		Good	Contributing
Pedestrian Light		Good	Non-contributing
Low Level Lighting	Uplighting and small bollards occur at front entrance	Very Poor	Unknown
Wood Posts	One post at service drive		Non-contributing
Propane Tank	Silver tank on concrete pad with fence enclosure of wood slats, and gate on one end.	Unknown	Non-contributing
Electrical Transformer	Standard green box, set at curve of drop-off at Dining Lodge.	Unknown	Non-contributing
Wood Footbridge		Good	Non-contributing
Latrine			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Retaining Wall and Abutments (HS-423A) (between 1934 and 1936)	Large cut stones dry laid against the sides of a creek that flows in front of the Latrine (HS-423). The stone ledges are set into banks in long continuous courses with tight joints.	Fair	Contributing



Figure 3-53. The Main Parking Area (HS-714) looking toward the Dining Lodge (HS-422), with the Pump House (HS-443) and Museum (HS-420) to the right, date unknown. (OZAR Archives)



Figure 3-54. The Main Parking Area (HS-714) looking toward the Dining Lodge (HS-422), with the Pump House (HS-443) and Museum (HS-420) to the right. (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-55. Entrance Building (HS-432), 1936. (OZAR Archives)



Figure 3-56. Entrance Building (HS-432). (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-57. Entrance Portal Walls (HS-432A), c. 1936. (OZAR Archives)



Figure 3-58. Entrance Portal Walls (HS-432A). (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-59. East Entrance Portal Wall (HS-432A) arch over ditch during construction, 1936. (OZAR Archives)



Figure 3-60. East Entrance Portal Wall (HS-432A) arch over ditch. (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-61. Latrine (476), date unknown. (OZAR Archives)



Figure 3-62. Latrine (476). (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-63. Museum (HS-420), date unknown. (OZAR Archives)



Figure 3-64. Museum (HS-420). (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-65. Pump House (HS-443), date unknown. (OZAR Archives)



Figure 3-66. Pump House (HS-443). (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-67. The Dining Lodge (HS-422). (Mundus Bishop 2016)



Figure 3-68. Dining Lodge (HS-422). (Mundus Bishop 2016)

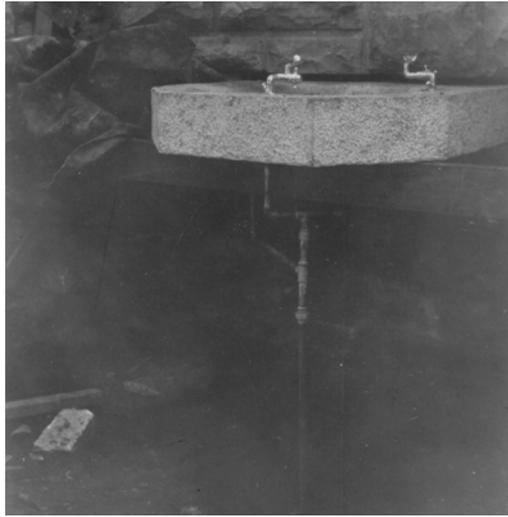


Figure 3-69. Dining Lodge Retaining Wall and Fountain (HS-422A), date unknown. (OZAR Archives)



Figure 3-70. Dining Lodge Retaining Wall and Fountain (HS-422A), date unknown. (OZAR Archives)



Figure 3-71. Dining Lodge Retaining Wall and Fountain (HS-422A). (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-72. Dining Lodge Retaining Wall and Fountain (HS-422A), date unknown. (OZAR Archives)



Figure 3-73. Dining Lodge Retaining Wall and Fountain (HS-422A). (Mundus Bishop 2015)

1 **Cabins**

2

3 Spatial Organization

4 The fifteen cabins are organized as a distinct,
5 informal cluster arrangement in which
6 each is set perched on the hillside, sited to
7 minimize views of man-made features and
8 to maximize views of the natural landscape.
9 The narrow, winding Cabin Road System
10 (HS-401B) connects the cabins in a two-mile
11 looped system. The Cabin Path System (HS-
12 713) consists of several trails built of stone
13 steps and paving connecting the cabins to the
14 road, and to the Museum (HS-420) and Dining
15 Lodge (HS-422) below. The cabins, the Cabin
16 Road System and portions of the Cabin Path
17 System and Stairs were built by the CCC and
18 WPA.

19

20 Cluster Arrangement and Buildings

21 The west grouping of cabins, Cabins #404
22 (HS-404), #405 (HS-405), #406 (HS-406),
23 #407 (HS-407), #408 (HS-408), #409 (HS-
24 409), #410 (HS-410), include seven Rustic
25 style wood framed buildings, set on both
26 sides of the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).
27 Six (Cabins #404, #405, #409, #410, #411,
28 #412) were designed by the CCC architectural
29 foreman Donald A. Blake as 'Type E' cabins,
30 and all have the same architectural style and
31 building footprint. Two (Cabins #404 and
32 #410) have a modified 'Type E' footprint and
33 are slightly larger. Three of these (Cabins
34 #406, #407, and #408) were relocated from
35 the open space below to their current location
36 in 1935. The CCC remodeled them to fit with
37 the rustic architectural style. Four cabins
38 (Cabins #404, #405, #409, #410, #411, and
39 #412) were built in 1938 by the WPA using
40 CCC plans.

41

42 The east grouping includes five cabins, Cabins
43 #401 (HS-401), #402 (HS-402), #403 (HS-
44 403), #411 (HS-411), and #412 (HS-412),
45 set overlooking the Dining Lodge (HS-422)
46 and open expanse of the playfield. Three
47 (Cabins #401, #402, and #403) were the first

1 cabins built by the CCC in 1934. Cabins #402
2 and #403 were built first as 'Type A' cabins
3 with a simple rectilinear floor plan and five
4 rooms. 'Type B' Cabin #401 was built shortly
5 afterwards as a larger 'L' shaped cabin with
6 two stone chimneys. It is the only 'Type B'
7 cabin. The remaining two cabins (Cabins
8 #411 and #412) in this grouping are 'Type E'
9 cabins, built in 1938 by the WPA using CCC
10 building plans.

11

12 Two additional cabins, Cabins #413 (HS-413)
13 and #414 (HS-414), were built by the CCC,
14 and one, Cabin #415 (HS-415), was built by
15 the WPA for use as ranger's house, laundry
16 / restroom, and helper's house, respectively.
17 Instead of being clustered together, they are
18 slightly more isolated due to their use. Cabin
19 #413 is the only cabin on the east side of State
20 Highway Z, overlooking the Current River.
21 Built in 1935, this asymmetrical cross gable,
22 Rustic style wood cabin was likely designed
23 by architect Donald A. Blake; however plans
24 were not found. Cabin #414, built in 1936,
25 is a stone and wood cabin that originally
26 contained men's and women's restrooms
27 and showers, and a laundry room. It is a one
28 and half story building with a basement and
29 three gabled entrances. Cabin #415 is fifty
30 feet uphill from the east grouping of cabins,
31 set within a wide open space on the top of the
32 hill, physically separate from the other cabins.
33 Designed in 1939 as a helper's house, this
34 four room rustic style house is wood-framed
35 and wood-sided with a basement. These three
36 cabins were converted to rental cabins by
37 the NPS in the 1970s. Cabin interiors were
38 modified, while the exteriors retained the
39 original construction.

40

41 The Picnic Shelter (HS-496) is set in a
42 clearing on top of the hill surrounded by large
43 oak and pine trees. The open gabled shelter
44 with a massive stone fireplace is sited with
45 remarkable views of the surrounding valley.
46 Site amenities include CCC built drinking
47 Fountain #3 (HS-712) and two contemporary

1 picnic tables. The Picnic Shelter is in fair to
 2 poor condition.
 3
 4 The cabins are all in fair condition, reflective
 5 of deferred maintenance. Exterior and
 6 interior finishes, including bathrooms and
 7 kitchens, are outdated. Evidence of decay and
 8 rot is prevalent at the cabin bases. Plumbing,
 9 electrical, and mechanical systems require
 10 continual repair, especially during peak
 11 summer usage. Current utility systems do not
 12 adhere to energy efficiency guidelines. The
 13 cabins are accessed by many steps and are
 14 not universally accessible.

15

16 Circulation

17 The Cabin Road System (HS-401B) (1934)
 18 provides access to each cabin, where each has
 19 either a pull-in or a parallel parking space,
 20 originally designed with stone curbs and
 21 retaining walls built by the CCC. Most parallel
 22 spaces are on the downhill side of the road,
 23 while most pull-in spaces are on the uphill
 24 side. The original CCC configuration included
 25 pull-through drives between Cabins #408
 26 (HS-408) and #409 (HS-409). These were
 27 changed to pull-in spaces by the NPS in 1973,
 28 along with other minor modifications. The
 29 configuration of the original parallel spaces
 30 remains the same. Cabins below the road
 31 are accessed by steep stone steps from the
 32 parking spaces. Many of which have been
 33 repaired with concrete and timber. None of
 34 the cabins comply with ABA. New additions to
 35 each cabin setting include level pads of gravel
 36 paving edged with timbers where picnic
 37 tables are set. The geometric form and use of
 38 materials detracts from the historic character.

39

40 Small Scale Features

41 Contemporary small scale features occur at
 42 each cabin including an identification sign,
 43 and two trash receptacles. At a few stone
 44 staircases, contemporary wood railings have
 45 been added. Some stone walls have been
 46 replaced with wood timber retaining walls.
 47 The gathering spaces built of gravel with

1 timber edges, where picnic tables and fire pits
 2 are placed, diminish the integrity of the cabin
 3 setting.

4

5 Vegetation

6 The vegetation surrounding the cabins during
 7 the period of significance was primarily
 8 the oak hickory forest primarily composed
 9 of red and white oaks, with a low native
 10 understory. The forest was significantly
 11 less dense historically than it is today.
 12 Historically, clearings were made around
 13 each cabin, some trees were planted, others
 14 thinned, and some cabins had understory
 15 plantings of ornamental vegetation. Today,
 16 some hackberry trees are near some of the
 17 cabins. The man-made clearings at the Picnic
 18 Shelter (HS-496) and Cabins #414 (HS-414)
 19 and #415 (HS-415), are filling in with the
 20 encroachment of pine trees. Invasive species,
 21 shrubs and grasses, are near buildings and
 22 structures.

23

24 Analysis of Integrity

25 The cabins, Picnic Shelter (HS-496), the Cabin
 26 Road System (HS-401B) with pull-ins and
 27 parallel parking spaces, and trails contribute
 28 to the significance of the core development
 29 area. The cabin and hillside retain original
 30 features within their original locations, with
 31 some modifications. Some features including
 32 original steps and walls have been modified,
 33 and new features such as the gathering areas
 34 of timber and gravel diminish the integrity of
 35 the setting. Minor modifications to the Cabin
 36 Road System (HS-401B) in the 1970s, and
 37 interior remodels of Cabins #413 (HS-413),
 38 #414 (HS-414), and #415 (HS-415) have
 39 minimal impact on the cultural landscape. In
 40 general, these features retain integrity in all
 41 aspects.

42

43 Cabins have stone walls or wood retaining
 44 walls. The cabin identification signs, trash
 45 receptacles, terraces, fire pits, and tables are
 46 all contemporary features.

Matrix 3-7. Core Development Area Matrix - Cabins

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Topography	Cabins are set on a fairly steep hillside on the looped Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Good	Contributing
Woodland	Dense oak hickory forest, predominately mature white and red oaks. Many weedy shrubs and grasses.	Fair	Contributing
Views	Cabins sited to minimize views of constructed features, maximize views of nature.	Good	Contributing

CIRCULATION			
Vehicular Circulation			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Cabin Road System (HS-401B) (1937)	One mile, 12' wide asphalt paved road with gravel parking pull-outs lined with stone curbs and stone retaining walls.	Good	Contributing
Pedestrian Circulation			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Cabin Path System and Stairs (HS-713) (1934)	System of hiking trails with long flights of mortared stone steps to Cabins #401-#407, #411-#413, #422, and #428. The paths connect the cabins to the Dining Lodge (HS-422) with routes from Cabins #401, #404 / #410, and #413.	Fair	Contributing

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Cabin #401 (HS-401) (1934)	<i>Building</i> - CCC built Rustic style with Tudor influences, single story, steep side gable, "type B" stone and timber cabin with five rooms 28'-8" x 28'-9", two exterior stone chimneys, and two screened front porches. Downhill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair (west porch in poor condition, wood rot, loose boards, screens damaged)	Contributing
(1970s)	<i>Parking</i> - Parallel to the Cabin Road System (HS-401B), gravel with stone curb, two trash receptacles, and a cabin identification sign.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Combination of steep stone steps and stone path with wood railing. Concrete threshold at porched entry.	Fair	Contributing
	<i>Path to lodge</i> - Combination of stone and wood steps from the terrace north to the Cabin Road System (HS-401B) and continuing north to the Dining Lodge (HS-422).	Fair	Contributing

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
	<i>Wood timber retaining wall</i> - 5' foot tall	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - Timber edge, stone fire pit with steel grill, and picnic table.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>View</i> - From cabin to Dining Lodge (HS-422).	Good	Contributing
Cabin #402 (HS-402) (1934)	<i>Building</i> - CCC built Rustic style with Tudor influences, single story, side gable, "type A" stone and timber cabin 15'-9"x28', exterior stone chimney, and screened front porch entry. Brown asphalt shingles. Downhill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair	Contributing
(1970s)	<i>Parking</i> - Parallel to the Cabin Road System (HS-401B), gravel with stone curb, two trash receptacles, and cabin identification sign.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Stone steps (23) with some concrete step replacements, and a wood railing.	Poor (needs resetting)	Contributing
	<i>Wood timber retaining wall</i> - 3'tall.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - Timber edge, steel fire pit, and picnic table.	Good	Non-contributing
Cabin #403 (HS-403) (1934)	<i>Building</i> - CCC built Rustic style with Tudor influences, single story, side gable, "type A" stone and timber cabin (12'-6"x28'), exterior stone chimney, and screened front porch entry. Brown asphalt shingles. Downhill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair	Contributing
(1970s)	<i>Parking</i> - Parallel to the Cabin Road System (HS-401B), gravel with stone curb, two trash receptacles, and a cabin identification sign.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Stone steps (21) and wood railing.	Poor (need resetting)	Contributing
	<i>Wood timber retaining wall</i> - 3' tall.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - Timber edge with steel fire pit and picnic table.	Good	Non-contributing
Cabin #404 (HS-404) (1938)	<i>Building</i> - WPA built Rustic style, single story, side gable with intersecting gabled screened front porch entry, modified "type E" timber cabin (15'-2"x30'-8") with four rooms, exterior stone chimney connected to a stone wall (12-18" tall). Downhill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair	Contributing
(1970s)	<i>Parking</i> - Parallel to the Cabin Road System (HS-401B), gravel with stone curb, two trash receptacles, and a cabin identification sign.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Stone steps with stone cheek walls and wood railing. Stone threshold at entry. Top steps rebuilt.	Poor (top steps rebuilt)	Contributing
	<i>Wood timber retaining wall</i> - Tiered, 6-8' tall. Set behind cabin with a wood guardrail on top of wall.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - Timber edge, fire pit, and picnic table.	Good	Non-contributing

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Cabin #405 (HS-405) (1938)	<i>Building</i> - WPA built Rustic style, single story, side gable with intersecting gabled screened porch entry, "type E" timber cabin (12'-6"x28'-3") with four rooms, and exterior stone chimney. Downhill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair	Contributing
(1970s)	<i>Parking</i> -Parallel to the Cabin Road System (HS-401B), gravel with timber wall, wood railing, wood handrail, two trash receptacles, and a cabin identification sign. Grass between timber wall and parking.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Stone steps with stone cheek walls and wood railing. First flight of steps is concrete with stone overlay. Stone threshold with stone steps at both front and rear entries. Wood railing at rear entry.	Fair	Contributing
	<i>Stone wall</i> - At front entry and meets building on both sides.	Fair (some repair)	Contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - Timber edge, fire pit, and picnic table.	Good	Non-contributing
Cabin #406 (HS-406) (Relocated and Remodeled by CCC in 1935)	<i>Building</i> - CCC built Rustic style, single story, side gable with front entry and intersecting gabled screened rear porch entry, timber cabin (12'-6"x28'-3") with four rooms, and exterior stone chimney. Downhill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair	Contributing
	<i>Parking</i> - Parallel to the Cabin Road System (HS-401B), gravel with stone curb, wood guardrail, two trash receptacles, and a cabin identification sign.	Fair (wood guardrail broken)	Non-contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Stone steps with stone curb to stone threshold at front entry. Stone steps at screened porch rear entry.	Fair (some repair)	
	<i>Stone wall</i> - 4' tall. Wood guardrail on top of wall.	Fair (wood guardrail broken)	Contributing
	Stone rubble wall (in between CCC walls)	Poor (failing)	Non-contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - Timber edge, fire pit, and picnic table.	Fair	Non-contributing
Cabin #407 (HS-407) (Relocated and Remodeled by CCC in 1935)	<i>Building</i> - CCC built Rustic style, single story, side gable with intersecting gabled screened back porch, timber cabin (12'-6"x28'-3") with four rooms, and exterior stone chimney. Downhill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair	Contributing
	<i>Parking</i> - Parallel to the Cabin Road System (HS-401B), gravel with stacked rubble wall, wood guardrail, two trash receptacles, and a cabin identification sign.	Fair / poor (wood guardrail broken / stacked rubble wall failing)	Non-contributing

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Ramped with stone cheek wall. Path is steep and slick in wet conditions. Wood railing on both sides of path. Stone steps to stone threshold at front door.	Poor (steep and slick path, masonry failures)	Contributing
	<i>Wood timber retaining wall</i> - 2' to 3' tall.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - Gravel paved with timber edge, fire pit, and picnic table.	Good	Non-contributing
Cabin #408 (HS-408) (Relocated and Remodeled by CCC in 1935)	<i>Building</i> - CCC built Rustic style, single story, side gable with intersecting gabled screened entry porch, timber cabin (12'-6"x28'-3") with four rooms, and exterior stone chimney. Uphill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair	Contributing
	<i>Parking</i> - asphalt paved to cabin along old CCC route with (2) trash receptacles and a cabin identification sign.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - stepped timber walk to terrace. Stone threshold with two stone steps at rear door.	Good	Contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - gravel paved with timber edge, fire pit, and picnic table.	Good	Non-contributing
Cabin #409 (HS-409) (1938)	<i>Building</i> - WPA built Rustic style, single story, side gable with intersecting gabled screened entry porch, "type E" timber cabin (12'-6"x28'-3") with four rooms, and exterior stone chimney connected to low stone wall (30" tall). Uphill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair	Contributing
	<i>Parking</i> - Asphalt spur with two trash receptacles and a cabin identification sign.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Stone path to rear door (30" wide) with two stone steps to stone threshold.	Good	Contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - Gravel paving with timber edge, fire pit, and picnic table.	Good	Non-contributing
Cabin #410 (HS-410) (1938)	<i>Building</i> - WPA built Rustic style, single story, side gable with intersecting gabled screened entry porch, modified "type E" timber cabin (15'-2"x30'-8") with exterior stone chimney connected to low stone wall (30" tall). Uphill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair	Contributing
(1970s)	<i>Parking</i> - Asphalt with gravel between Cabin #409 and #410.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Stone threshold with two stone steps at screened entry porch. Concrete path to rear door (30" wide).	Good	Contributing

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Cabin #411 (HS-411) (WPA 1938 and 1941)	<i>Building</i> - Rustic style, single story, side gable with intersecting gabled screened front porch entry, "type E" timber cabin (12'-6"x28'-3"), exterior stone chimney connected to a stone retaining wall (4' from back of cabin). Uphill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair	Contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Stone steps with stone cheek wall, and wood railing.	Good	Contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - Timber edge, fire pit, and picnic table.	Good	Non-contributing
	Social trail to Cabin #412		Non-contributing
Cabin #412 (HS-412) (1938 and 1941)	<i>Building</i> - Rustic style, single story, side gable with intersecting gabled screened front porch entry, "type E" timber cabin (12'-6"x28'-3"), exterior stone chimney connected to a stone retaining wall (4' from back of cabin). Uphill from the Cabin Road System (HS-401B).	Fair / poor (wood beams and posts need replaced)	Contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Steep stone steps, stone entry walk, and wood railing	Poor (steps need to be replaced)	Contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - Timber edge, fire pit, and picnic table.	Good	Non-contributing
	Social trail to Cabin #411	Good	Non-contributing
Cabin #413 (HS-413) (1935)	<i>Building</i> - Rustic style, single story with basement, asymmetrical cross gable roof with screened front porch entry (2 doors), wood-framed timber cabin (25'x27') with clapboard siding and corner boards, and exterior stone chimney.	Fair	Contributing
	<i>Parking</i> - Looped gravel drive with pull-in parking	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Wood retaining wall</i> - 3' tall	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Concrete pavers</i> - Square pavers (12"x12"), attached at edge of screened porch	Poor (cracked, settling)	Non-contributing
	<i>Terrace</i> - Gravel paved with timber edge, fire pit, and picnic table.	Good	Non-contributing
Cabin #414 (HS-414) (1936)	<i>Building</i> - Rustic style with Tudor influences, one- and one-half story with basement, cross gable, stone cabin (12'-6"x28') with accent timbers, exterior stone chimney, and three gabled entrances.	Fair	Contributing
	<i>Parking</i> - Gravel access drive with gated entry.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Stone steps to (3) entries and basement. Wood railing at south entry.	Fair (missing sign marker)	
	<i>Wood side porch</i> - 16x16.	Good	Non-contributing
	<i>Wood board fence</i> - 6' tall fence restricts access to the basement.	Fair (need basement door)	Non-contributing

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Cabin #415 (HS-415) (1939)	<i>Building</i> - WPA built Rustic style, single story, side gable roof with roof extension over one entry, wood-framed timber cabin (25'x36') with five rooms and a basement. Clapboard siding and corner boards, interior stone chimney, and screened side porch (9'x15').	Fair	Contributing
	<i>Path to cabin</i> - Stone steps (4 steps) to (3) entries.	Good	
	<i>Wood retaining wall</i> - 12-18" tall	Fair	Non-contributing
Picnic Shelter (HS-496) (1935-1939)	Structure - Massive cut-stone irregular coursed chimney with interior fireplace with mantel and iron bracing at hearth (replaced with buff brick). Open gabled roof with brown asphalt shingles and large square posts. Concrete and stone floor (10'x9'). Open view towards river, with large framing trees.	Fair / poor (wood beam / posts need replacement)	Contributing
Fountain #3 (HS-712) (1934-1937)	re: small scale features		
	Two picnic tables	Good	Non-contributing
Dining Lodge (HS-422) (1934-1936) and Help's Quarters	re: Entrance Building, Dining Lodge, and Museum		Contributing

SMALL SCALE FEATURES			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Fountain #3 (HS-712) (1934-1937)	CCC built drinking fountain with rough cut stones of a heavy design in the Rustic style, with a stone step attached and a concrete basin set on a stone pad.	Poor (missing stones, broken and exposed pipes)	Contributing
Utilities	Unmarked, uncovered water / sewer line located west of Cabin #403		

VEGETATION			
Feature	Description	Condition	"Contributing / Non-Contributing"
Forest	Dense oak hickory forest, predominately mature white and red oaks. Many weedy shrubs and grasses.	Fair	Contributing
	Vegetation - Dogwood shrubs		