

Chapter 3. Existing Condition and Landscape Analysis

Introduction

1 This chapter presents the existing condition
2 and analysis of integrity for the Big Spring
3 Historic District cultural landscape.
4 Photographs, existing condition matrices
5 and plans, and illustrative analysis diagrams
6 describe the BSHD through an assessment of
7 landscape characteristics.

8
9 Site investigations recorded the existing
10 condition of the cultural landscape in
11 November 2015, and October 2016, for CCC
12 built trails. This assessment was undertaken
13 to understand the cultural landscape as
14 a whole, to identify and document those
15 qualities that contribute to its historic
16 character, and those individual features that
17 contribute to its significance.

18
19 This chapter is organized to present the
20 existing condition assessment and analysis for
21 the study area first, followed by more detailed
22 assessments and analyzes for two landscape
23 character areas—core development character
24 area and Big Spring landscape character area.

25
26 The existing condition of the cultural
27 landscape is evaluated using the following
28 criteria.

29
30 Good – Those features of the landscape that
31 do not require intervention. Only minor or
32 routine maintenance is needed at this time.

33
34 Fair – Some deterioration, decline, or damage
35 is noticeable; the feature may require
36 immediate intervention. If intervention is
37 deferred, the feature will require extensive
38 attention in a few years.

39
40 Poor – Deterioration, decline, or damage is
41 serious; the feature is seriously deteriorated
42 or damaged, or presents a hazardous
43 condition. Due to the level of deterioration,
44 damage or danger, the feature requires
45 extensive and immediate attention.

1 The study area and two landscape character
2 areas are evaluated and analyzed according
3 to a series of landscape characteristics, which
4 include tangible and intangible aspects of the
5 landscape. These characteristics collectively
6 create the historic character of Big Spring
7 Historic District and aid in understanding
8 its cultural importance. The landscape
9 characteristics serve as categories under
10 which individual features are documented
11 and listed. The evaluation and analysis
12 is completed according to the following
13 landscape characteristics.

14
15 Natural Systems and Features are those
16 natural aspects that have influenced the
17 development and physical form.

18
19 Land Use is the organization, form, and shape
20 of the landscape in response to land use.

21
22 Spatial Organization / Topography / Views
23 is the arrangement of elements creating
24 the ground, vertical, and overhead planes
25 that define and create space, including
26 the arrangement of topography, buildings,
27 and vegetation. Topography is the three-
28 dimensional configuration of the landscape
29 surface. Views are features that create or
30 allow a range of vision which can be natural
31 or designed and controlled.

32
33 Cluster Arrangement is the location and
34 pattern of buildings and structures in a
35 landscape and associated outdoor spaces.

36
37 Circulation are features and materials that
38 constitute systems of movement, including
39 vehicular and pedestrian routes.

40
41 Buildings and Structures are three-
42 dimensional man-made constructs.

43
44 Small Scale Features are the human-scaled
45 elements that provide detail and function.

1 Archeological Sites are sites that contain
2 surface or subsurface remnants related to
3 historic or prehistoric land use.

4
5 Vegetation is indigenous or introduced trees,
6 shrubs, vines, groundcovers, herbaceous
7 materials, and natural vegetative cover.

8 **Assessment of Integrity**

9
10 Integrity is the ability of a cultural landscape
11 to convey its significance. It is assessed to
12 determine if the landscape characteristics
13 that shaped the cultural landscape during
14 the period of significance are present
15 as they were historically. Integrity is
16 evaluated according to seven aspects or
17 qualities: location, design, setting, materials,
18 workmanship, feeling, and association. The
19 Big Spring Historic District cultural landscape
20 retains integrity in all seven aspects: location,
21 setting, feeling, materials, workmanship,
22 design, and association.

23 Location, Setting, Feeling

24 Location is the place where the cultural
25 landscape was constructed or where a
26 historic event occurred. Setting is the physical
27 environment of the cultural landscape.
28 Feeling is the cultural landscape's expression
29 of the aesthetic or historic sense of a
30 particular period of time.

31
32
33 Big Spring Historic District retains integrity in
34 location, setting, and feeling. The Rustic style
35 buildings and features remain in their original
36 locations set within the natural landscape of
37 the steep wooded hills and broad river valleys
38 associated with the Current River.

39 Materials and Workmanship

40 Materials are the physical elements that were
41 combined or deposited during the particular

1 period(s) of time and in a particular pattern
2 or configuration to form the cultural
3 landscape. Workmanship includes the
4 physical evidence of the crafts of a particular
5 culture or people during any given period in
6 history or prehistory.

7
8 Contributing features associated with the
9 historic designed landscape retain original
10 workmanship and materials. The Rustic style
11 Entrance Building (HS-432), Museum (HS-
12 420) (HS-420), Pump House (HS-443), Dining
13 Lodge (HS-422), cabins, and shelters retain
14 materials from their original construction by
15 the CCC and WPA. Original materials include
16 wood frame timbers and course cut dolomite,
17 both natural materials acquired from the
18 BSHD. Modern additions, such as latrines
19 and maintenance / storage buildings, do not
20 use the CCC / WPA palette of materials and
21 workmanship.

22 Design

23 Design is the combination of elements that
24 create the form, plan, space, structure, and
25 style of a cultural landscape. Big Spring
26 Historic District retains integrity of design as
27 a historic designed landscape designed and
28 built by the CCC and completed by the WPA.
29 It is an outstanding example of CCC and WPA
30 Rustic style architecture and Naturalistic
31 landscape design. The BSHD is significant
32 for its sensitive design and construction
33 that epitomizes the ideals of subordinating
34 development to natural and scenic character.
35 The use of naturalistic practices of landscape
36 design, and a focus on landscape preservation
37 harmonizes the built features. For the BSHD,
38 this resulted in minimal disruption of natural
39 topography and a blending of man-made
40 structures with natural surroundings.
41 The natural landscape outside the intensive-
42 use areas—core development area and Big

Contributing and Non-Contributing Features

1 Spring—was preserved. A cohesive aesthetic
 2 was attained through the use of on-site
 3 natural materials, expert hand craftsmanship,
 4 and designs adapted for local climate and
 5 regional construction techniques. Subsequent
 6 development has been fairly minimal,
 7 preserving original materials and allowing
 8 the historic character of Big Spring Historic
 9 District to remain intact. Minor modifications,
 10 such as the addition of latrines, storage
 11 buildings, or small scale features, and minor
 12 road reconfigurations have not diminished
 13 the overall integrity of the design.

14

15 Association

16 Association is the direct link between an
 17 important historic event or person and a
 18 cultural landscape. Big Spring Historic District
 19 retains integrity in association as being a
 20 CCC designed and built landscape, and WPA
 21 built landscape. BSHD is the best preserved
 22 example of a functioning CCC camp within
 23 the state of Missouri. Two CCC quarries, a
 24 Fire Tower / Lookout Tower (HS-1404) built
 25 for forest management, remnants of CCC
 26 Camp Haines, and a dump site, as well as the
 27 numerous buildings, structures, roads, and
 28 trails built by enrollees retains the association
 29 with the CCC and WPA.

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1 Contributing features are those individual
 2 elements and characteristics that remain
 3 from the period of significance and contribute
 4 to the integrity of Big Spring Historic
 5 District. Non-contributing features are
 6 recent additions, not built within the period
 7 of significance and do not contribute to the
 8 integrity of the district.

9

10 **Study Area**

11

12 *Contributing features*

- 13 • The Current River
- 14 • Big Spring branch
- 15 • Big Spring
- 16 • Steep hillsides and narrow valleys
- 17 • Hollows, streams and floodplains
- 18 • Views to river and natural areas
- 19 • Peavine Road / State Highway 103
- 20 • State Highway Z
- 21 • Ebb and Flow Road (Spring Loop)
- 22 • County Road Z-206
- 23 • County Road Z-204
- 24 • Fire Tower Road
- 25 • Rocky Ridge Trail
- 26 • Spring Branch Trail
- 27 • Lower and Upper Chubb Trails
- 28 • Chubb Hollow Trail
- 29 • Fire Tower Trail
- 30 • Chilton Trail
- 31 • Tatum Trail
- 32 • Kinnard Loop
- 33 • McSpadden Trail
- 34 • Chilton Loop
- 35 • Water Hollow Trail
- 36 • Long Bay Loop
- 37 • Connector Loop
- 38 • Spring Loop
- 39 • Peavine Pavilion (HS-428)
- 40 • Peavine Pavilion setting
- 41 • May / Winters Quarters (HS-444)
- 42 • May / Winters Quarters Garage
- 43 • Foundation (HS-444A)

- 1 • May / Winters Driveway
- 2 • May / Winters setting
- 3 • Chilton Creek Barn (HS-467)
- 4 • Wildlife Fencing
- 5 • Chubb Hollow archeological site
- 6 • Camp Haines
- 7 • CCC Camp Ruin (HS-702 through HS-710)
- 8 • CCC Road Remnant
- 9 • CCC Dump and Dump Incinerator (HS-432B)
- 10 • CCC Rock Quarry (HS-700)
- 11 • CCC Powder Magazine (HS-701) and Big Spring Dynamite Box
- 12 • Fire Tower Rock Quarry (HS-1404E)
- 13 • Fire Tower / Lookout Tower (HS-1404)
- 14 • Fire Tower Privy Sites #1 (HS-1404C) and #2 (HS-1404D)
- 15 • Fire Tower Stone Retaining Wall (HS-1404F)
- 16 • Fire Tower Radio Shed Site (HS-1404G)
- 17 • Fountains (HS-712) (7)
- 18 • CCC Stone Curbs and Markers
- 19 • CCC Stone Retaining Walls
- 20 • CCC Stone Culverts
- 21 • CCC Stone Water Crossings
- 22 • Native Vegetation
- 23
- 24 *Non-Contributing features*
- 25 • May / Winters Quarters Outbuilding
- 26 • May / Winters Shed
- 27 • Peavine Latrine
- 28 • Peavine Footbridge
- 29 • Interpretive Waysides
- 30 • Site furnishings – benches, picnic tables, grills, trash receptacles, signs, lighting, play equipment
- 31 • Big Spring Branch Vehicular Bridge
- 32 • Water Tower
- 33 • Slough Trail
- 34 • Peavine Trail
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- 1 **Core Development Character Area**
- 2
- 3 Entrance / Museum / Dining Lodge
- 4 *Contributing features*
- 5 • Entrance experience and entrance drive (State Highway 103 / Peavine Road)
- 6 • Entrance Building (HS-432)
- 7 • Entrance Portal Walls (HS-432) and Wood Gate
- 8 • Entrance Drainage Ditches and Culvert
- 9 • Service Road at Entrance
- 10 • Main Parking Area (HS-714)
- 11 • Playfield
- 12 • Dining Lodge and Help's Quarters (HS-422)
- 13 • Stone walk at Dining Lodge
- 14 • Dining Lodge Retaining Wall and Fountain (HS-422A)
- 15 • State Park Museum Building (HS-420)
- 16 • Museum Flagpole
- 17 • Pump House (HS-443)
- 18 • Latrine (HS-423)
- 19 • Dining Lodge Retaining Wall and Abutments
- 20
- 21 *Non-Contributing features*
- 22 • Dining Lodge Stone Staircase
- 23 • Walkway to Boat Dock
- 24 • Boat Dock
- 25 • Walkway to Cabins
- 26 • Lighting – street and pedestrian
- 27 • CCC Commemorative Stone
- 28 • Utility boxes, propane tank
- 29
- 30 Cabins
- 31 *Contributing features*
- 32 • Steep hillside setting and woodland
- 33 • Cabin Road System (HS-401B)
- 34 • Cabin Path System and Stairs (HS-713)
- 35 • Cabins (HS-401 through HS-415)
- 36 • Picnic Shelter (HS-496)
- 37
- 38
- 39 Chubb Hollow
- 40 *Contributing features*
- 41 • Chubb Creek
- 42 • Views to creek and river
- 43
- 44
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- 1 • Chubb Hollow Road
- 2 • Campground Drive
- 3 • Chubb Hollow Open Shelter House (HS-427)
- 4
- 5 • Chubb Hollow Foot Bridge (HS-456) – foundation only
- 6
- 7 • Chubb Hollow Stone Culvert (HS-427A)
- 8 • Chubb Hollow Campground
- 9 • Playfield
- 10
- 11 *Non-Contributing features*
- 12 • Chubb Hollow Latrine (424)
- 13 • Chubb Hollow Foot bridge #1 and #2 (wooden structure)
- 14
- 15 • Chubb Hollow Kiosk
- 16 • Stone Benches (2)
- 17
- 18 Maintenance
- 19 *Contributing features*
- 20 • Maintenance Area Drive
- 21 • Road Remnant
- 22 • Maintenance Shop (HS-417)
- 23 • Maintenance Storage Building (HS-418)
- 24 • Maintenance Garage (HS-419)
- 25 • Cabin #416 / Lower Current District Maintenance Office (HS-416)
- 26
- 27 • Cabin #416 Driveway, retaining wall, and path
- 28
- 29
- 30 *Non-Contributing features*
- 31 • Maintenance Area Flammable Storage Shelter
- 32
- 33 • Maintenance Area Metal Awning
- 34 • Maintenance Fuel Storage Tanks
- 35 • Maintenance Storage Building
- 36 • Paint and Storage Shed (493)
- 37 • Water System Building (478)
- 38 • Loading Dock
- 39
- 40 **Big Spring Landscape Character Area**
- 41
- 42 *Contributing features*
- 43 • Big Spring Stone Dike #3 (HS-711) – North
- 44
- 45 • Big Spring Stone Dike #5 (HS-711) – South
- 46

- 1 • Retaining Wall and Abutments
- 2 • Playfield
- 3 • Peavine Road
- 4 • Steps near Big Spring
- 5 • Stone Retaining Wall
- 6 • Play Equipment
- 7 • Steps to Small Spring
- 8 • Stone Step to Gauging Station
- 9 • Stone Steps to Road
- 10 • Rocky Ridge Trail
- 11 • Big Spring Pavilion (HS-425)
- 12 • Cotton Plaque (HS-472)
- 13 • Boulder Edge
- 14 • Stone Interpretive Pedestal
- 15 • Maple Trees at Peavine Road
- 16
- 17 *Non-Contributing features*
- 18 • Big Spring Picnic Area Loop Drive
- 19 • Big Spring Parking
- 20 • Slough Trail
- 21 • Slough Trail Parking
- 22 • Playfield Parking
- 23 • Big Spring Latrine Parking
- 24 • Boat Ramp and Parking
- 25 • Spring Branch Trail - Parking Area to Interpretive Circle
- 26
- 27 • Spring Branch Trail - Interpretive Circle to Big Spring
- 28
- 29 • Spring Branch Trail - Big Spring Overlook
- 30 • Stone Paving at Parking Areas
- 31 • Big Spring Craft Cabin (458)
- 32 • Big Spring Latrine (476)
- 33 • Boat Ramp Latrine
- 34 • Big Spring Branch Vehicular Bridge
- 35 • Kiosk
- 36 • Wood Parking Barriers
- 37 • Boulders
- 38 • Metal Benches
- 39 • Metal Picnic Tables
- 40 • Trash Receptacles
- 41 • Barbecue Grills
- 42 • Traffic / Parking Signage
- 43 • Transformers
- 44
- 45
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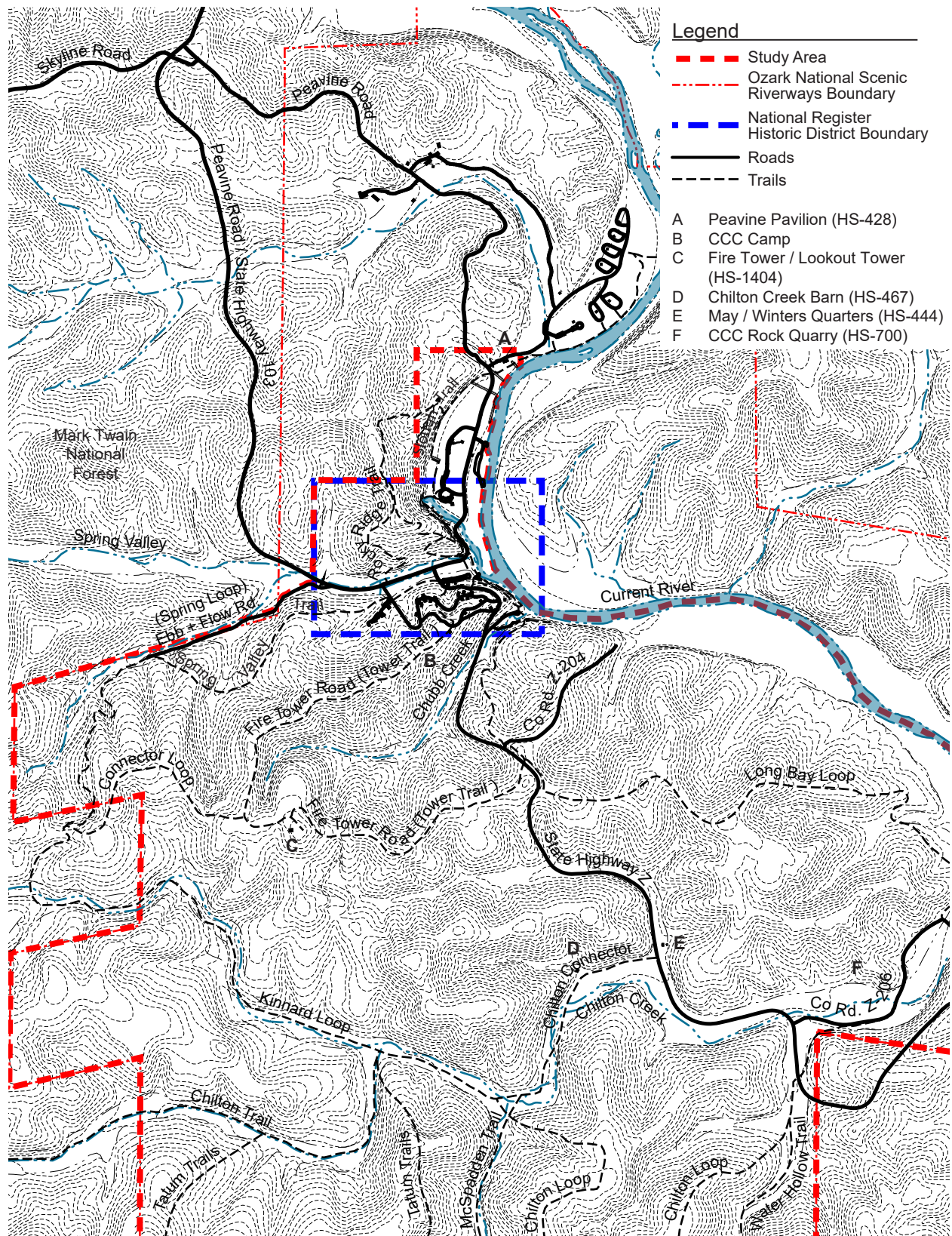
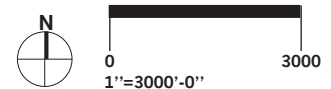


Figure 3-1. The study area encompasses the NRHP historic district and the expanded areas proposed by the 2016 CLI. (Mundus Bishop 2016)



Study Area

1 The study area includes the broader cultural
2 landscape associated with Big Spring,
3 including the distinct areas of the May /
4 Winter Quarters (HS-444) and Peavine
5 Pavilion (HS-428). The road and trail system
6 is included within the study area section, as
7 are two CCC Quarries, CCC Camp Ruins, CCC
8 Dump, the Fire Tower / Lookout Tower (HS-
9 1404), and Chilton Creek Barn (HS-467).

10

11 This section evaluates the existing condition
12 of the study area cultural landscape and
13 documents modifications and changes over
14 time. The evaluation is described through
15 seven landscape characteristics.

16

- 17 • Natural Systems and Features
- 18 • Land Use
- 19 • Spatial Organization / Topography /
- 20 Views
- 21 • Archeological Sites
- 22 • Circulation
- 23 • Buildings and Structures
- 24 • Small Scale Features
- 25 • Vegetation

26

27 The evaluation and analysis is presented as
28 narrative text, complemented by photographs
29 and diagrams. This is followed by matrices
30 describing existing condition.

31

32 Natural Systems

33

34 The study area is located on the Current
35 River in the rugged Courtois Hills region of
36 southeast Missouri. It is characterized by the
37 steep hills and valleys of the Ozark foothills
38 with a 700 foot difference between the valley
39 floors and ridges. The natural systems and
40 features of the study area include the rugged
41 terrain of these steep hills and valleys, created
42 by water systems of the Current River and
43 its floodplain, and Big Spring and Big Spring
44 branch. The variable climate of the Ozark



Figure 3-2. The sub-regions of the Ozarks. Big Spring Historic District is located in the Courtois Hills. (Rafferty, *The Ozarks: land and life*)

1 Highlands and its diverse plant and wildlife
2 communities are integral components of the
3 cultural landscape.

4

5 Geologists date the origins of the Current
6 River to between 60 and 120 million years
7 ago, during the Cretaceous period. Crustal
8 uplifts created the topography of the region.
9 Geology is characterized by sinkholes, caves,
10 and underground drainage. Bedrock consists
11 mainly of dolomite, sandstone and chert that
12 form low mountains.^{3.1}

13

14 The Current River is designated as an
15 Outstanding National Resource Waters
16 because of its exceptional water quality.^{3.2} It
17 begins at Montauk Springs, some 50 miles
18 northwest of Big Spring. Hundreds of springs
19 empty into the Current River and supply more
20 than 90 percent of its water.^{3.3} Springs range

21

22 3.1 Stevens, Donald L., Jr. *A Homeland and a Hinterland: The*
23 *Current and Jacks Fork Riverways: Historic Resource*
24 *Study, Ozark National Scenic Riverways.* Ozark National
25 Scenic Riverways, Van Buren, Missouri, 1991.

26 3.2 This designation has national, recreational, and ecological
27 significance. Stringent federal and state standards are
28 designed to protect against any degradation in the water
29 quality of the Current River. GMP, 169.

30 3.3 Douglas N. Mugel, Joseph M. Richards, and John G.
31 Schumacher. "Geohydrologic Investigations and
32 Landscape Characteristics of Areas Contributing Water
33 to Springs, the Current River, and Jacks Fork, Ozark
34 National Scenic Riverways, Missouri." *National Park*
35 *Service.* Accessed May 2016. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2009/5138/>

1 in volume from a few gallons a day to the
2 largest—Big Spring—that pumps 288 million
3 gallons of water into the Current River daily.^{3.4}
4 The Current River is ideal for recreation, and
5 allows for leisurely float trips.

6
7 The Current River’s floodplain is a diverse
8 and dynamic environment due to the high
9 frequency of flooding. It rises an average of
10 six to ten feet during the yearly rainy season;
11 nineteen feet during a ten-year flood; and
12 more than thirty feet during a 100-year flood.
13 Many of the study area’s visitor facilities
14 are within this zone and at risk during flood
15 conditions.

16
17 Big Spring is the largest spring in Missouri
18 and one of the three largest in North
19 America.^{3.5} Water enters Big Spring through
20 an extensive underground cave system that
21 extends for miles to the north and west. As
22 millions of gallons of water flow from the
23 spring daily, they erode an estimated 173 tons
24 of minerals, giving the water its unique indigo
25 hue.^{3.6} Fifty-five degree water emerges from
26 Big Spring cave and cascades five feet over
27 dolomite ledges to Big Spring branch. This
28 eighty foot wide channel is several feet deep
29 and joins the Current River a quarter of a mile
30 downstream.^{3.7}

31
32 The climate of the region is temperate.
33 Summers are warm with average highs
34 around seventy degrees, accompanied by high
35 humidity. Winters are cold, with averages
36 around thirty-five degrees. Precipitation
37 averages forty-five inches per year,
38 predominately as rain. Flash floods due to

40 3.4 2016 CLI, 214.

41 3.5 Mugal et al. “Geohydrologic Investigations.”

42 3.6 Jeffrey L. Imes, L. Niel Plummer, Michael J. Kleeschulte,
43 and John G. Schumacher. “Recharge Area, Base-Flow and
44 Quick-Flow Discharge Rates and Ages, and General Water
45 Quality of Big Spring in Carter County, Missouri, 2000-04”
46 *National Park Service*. Accessed May 2016. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2007/5049/>

46 3.7 NRHP, 2.

1 heavy rain, causes quick rises and falls of the
2 water elevation in rivers and streams. Storms
3 and tornadoes are common.

4
5 Vegetation is predominately second growth
6 oak hickory forest, with some silver maples
7 and cottonwoods on streambanks. The Ozark
8 National Scenic Riverway contains the most
9 diversified flora of any part of the state of
10 Missouri, including the greatest number of
11 species.^{3.8}

12
13 The study area is an important conservation
14 area with varied wildlife populations unique
15 to the Ozark Plateau, including aquatic,
16 terrestrial and avian, and subterranean
17 species. The fauna is typical of the eastern
18 Ozark region with species common to both
19 the western prairie and eastern deciduous
20 forests. Birds are abundant in the region
21 with excellent opportunities for recreational
22 bird watching. River fish populations
23 include approximately 125 different species.
24 Amphibian and reptile species include
25 twenty-three snakes, eight lizards, eighteen
26 turtles, fourteen salamanders and newts, and
27 thirteen frogs and toads.^{3.9}

28
29 No known threatened or endangered plant
30 species have been recorded in the study area,
31 and two mammals are listed as endangered
32 by the USFWS.

33
34 The Courtois Hills are the most rugged terrain
35 in the Missouri Ozarks. The sharp rises in
36 topography and dense forest limited access to
37 the region until the advent of the automobile
38 in 1920s. American Indians, the first settlers
39 of the region, were extremely mobile and
40 covered large swaths of land looking for

42 3.8 Chastain, R.A., Struckhoff, M.A., Grabner, K.W., Stroh,
43 E.D., He, H., Larsen, D.R., Nigh, T.A., and Drake, J., 2006,
44 Mapping vegetation communities in Ozark National
45 Scenic Riverways—freport to the National Park Service:
46 U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report, 2006.

46 3.9 GMP, 174-177.

1 food to survive. In the floodplain of the
 2 meandering river course, sediment deposits
 3 on river terraces created good habitat and
 4 agricultural land that made the area favorable
 5 for American Indian settlement.

6
 7 The region's oak and pine forests attracted
 8 the lumber industry in the late 1800s, who
 9 built railroads, rail systems, roads and towns
 10 that increased access to the region. After the
 11 lumber companies left, the wagon trails they
 12 built were used to develop roads to support
 13 the rising trend of outdoor recreation. The
 14 picturesque countryside of the Current River
 15 Valley was an ideal location for a state park.
 16 In 1924 more than 4,000 acres was set aside,
 17 making it the largest state park in Missouri at
 18 the time. Flash flooding in 1928 obliterated
 19 many early state park buildings. With the
 20 CCC arrival in 1933, flood protection projects
 21 were prioritized. These included the five Big
 22 Spring Stone Dikes (HS-711) on the slough to
 23 limit flood water from inundating Big Spring,
 24 and rock revetments along the shores of Big
 25 Spring branch and other drainage routes to
 26 protect the banks from erosion caused by the
 27 quick rise and fall of flood waters.

28
 29 The naturally occurring Big Spring and the
 30 Current River were the center of the state
 31 park development. Buildings and structures
 32 to support recreation were built in a
 33 concentrated area in the hollow of Big Spring
 34 branch, preserving most of natural landscape
 35 as a conservation area. The establishment
 36 of the Mark Twain Forest in 1939 further
 37 protected the primitive wilderness that
 38 characterizes the Big Spring natural areas.
 39 The variable climate and location along the
 40 Current River resulted in the popularity of the
 41 area, bringing summer visitors who boat and
 42 swim in the Current River, and recreate in the
 43 broad flat hollows.

44
 45 Analysis of Integrity

46 Today, the natural systems of the Big Spring

1 Historic District – the Current River, Big
 2 Spring branch, and Big Spring remain largely
 3 the same as the period of significance and
 4 contribute to the integrity of the study
 5 area. The distinctive steep forested hillside
 6 and valleys, meandering river, and dense
 7 oak hickory vegetation are important
 8 characteristics that contribute to the
 9 significance of the cultural landscape.



Figure 3-3. Big Spring is one of the largest single-conduit springs in the United States and one of the largest in the world. (Mundus Bishop 2016)



Figure 3-4. The Current River's floodplain is a diverse and dynamic environment due to the high frequency of flooding. (Mundus Bishop 2016)

1 **Land Use**

2
3 The study area is a component of the Ozark
4 National Scenic Riverways, with a mission
5 to conserve and interpret the natural and
6 cultural resources of Big Spring and the
7 Current River. Land uses within the study area
8 include developed visitor facilities, lodging
9 associated with the Dining Lodge (HS-422)
10 and cabins, camping and picnicking at Chubb
11 Hollow, and recreation at Big Spring Pavilion
12 (HS-425) and Peavine Pavilion (HS-428).
13 Resource-based recreation is associated
14 with trails, and river recreation with support
15 facilities such as boat ramps and parking.
16 River recreation includes fishing, john
17 boating, canoeing, tubing, and swimming.
18 Land based recreational uses include hiking,
19 birding, and picnicking. A large portion of the
20 study area is natural forest, with a portion
21 recommended for designation as a wilderness
22 area. Adjacent to the study area on the west
23 side is Mark Twain National Forest.

24
25 Analysis of Integrity

26 The recreational land use of the study area
27 is consistent with that of the historic period.
28 The study area retains integrity and is
29 significant as a recreational area as intended
30 by its development by Missouri State Parks
31 and the CCC and WPA.

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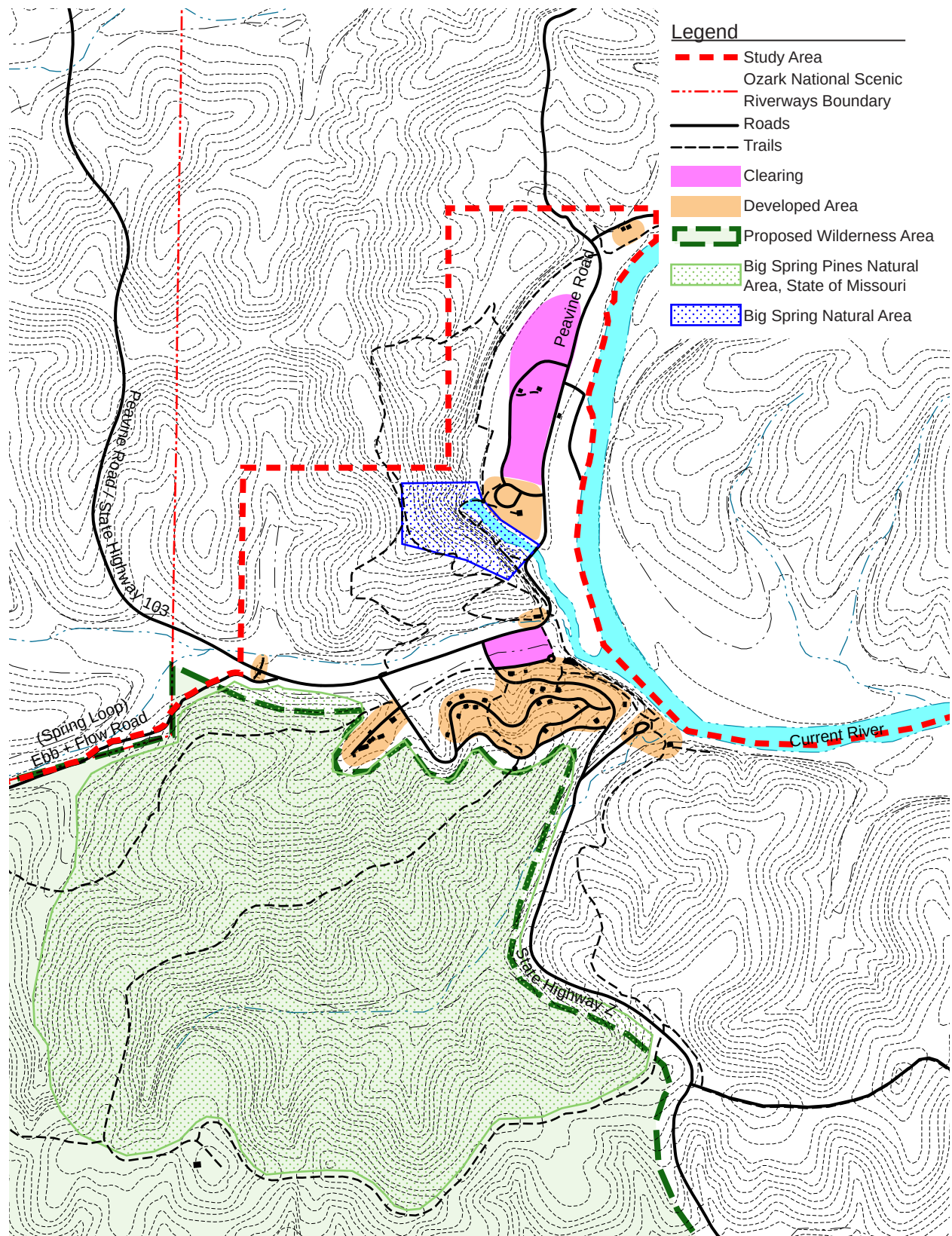


Figure 3-5. The spatial organization of BSHD is defined by forested hillsides, in contrast to two cleared play fields, and building clusters, that preserve the natural areas. (Mundus Bishop 2016)

1 Spatial Organization / Topography / Views

2
3 The study area is set to the west of the
4 Current River and is defined by steep forested
5 hillsides and narrow drainages that divide
6 the study area into discrete spaces. A 700 foot
7 difference in elevation exists between the
8 ridgelines and valley floors, and the wooded
9 landscape provides a sense of enclosure. The
10 enclosed areas are in contrast to park-like
11 areas at lower elevations associated with
12 active uses. These areas include an open play
13 field adjacent the core development area and
14 another located north of Big Spring.

15
16 Built features are generally clustered together,
17 allowing for the preservation of natural areas.
18 Spatially, buildings and most park features
19 were designed and situated in response to the
20 Current River, Big Spring branch, and Chubb
21 Creek. River overlooks and access to the river
22 were key components of the CCC designed
23 landscape, and these components remain
24 today. Roads were constructed in response
25 to the native topography, winding across
26 hillsides, and providing views to prominent
27 buildings, clearings, and Big Spring branch.

28
29 Big Spring is located at the base of a cliff face
30 and hill which rises to the west and frames
31 the western side of the study area. North of
32 Big Spring is a wide flat valley, formed by the
33 floodplain of the Current River, and a large
34 open play field. To the south, the cliff blocks
35 views between the Big Spring landscape
36 character area from the core development
37 area.

38
39 North of Big Spring is a large playfield. This
40 space was originally cleared for farmland
41 prior to development of the state park and
42 has remained essentially unchanged since
43 that time. The Big Spring Picnic Loop Drive
44 was added after the period of significance,
45 and disrupts the size, openness, and views
46 across the field.

1 The Peavine Pavilion (HS-428), to the north
2 end of the study area, is spatially distinct
3 from the remainder of the park. Set on a level
4 terrace above the river, the setting remains
5 essentially unchanged since the period of
6 significance.

7
8 The Museum (HS-420), Dining Lodge (HS-
9 422), and cabins are clustered together on a
10 hillside south of Big Spring. This development
11 was sited to provide views to the river and
12 natural areas, and the forest vegetation used
13 to blend the buildings with the landscape.
14 This arrangement remains unaltered since
15 the period of significance. The Maintenance
16 Area and the CCC Dump are spatially separate
17 from the remainder of the development,
18 intentionally placed to keep these features out
19 of view of visitors.

20
21 The west edge and entrance to the park was
22 designed to be a gateway and threshold into
23 the park. The Entrance Building (HS-432) and
24 adjacent walls were arranged to frame the
25 view and create a pleasant entry experience.
26 The views and structures that define this
27 area remain unchanged since the period of
28 significance. However, the Entrance Building
29 (HS-432) no longer serves as a visitor
30 orientation stop, and the change in building
31 use diminishes the character and experience
32 of the area.

33
34 Chubb Hollow is spatially distinct from the
35 remainder of the park, separated by a steep
36 hillside from the cabins and Dining Lodge
37 (HS-422). Chubb Creek divides the hollow
38 into two sections, north and south. The CCC
39 developed the hollow into a camping and
40 picnicking retreat, and this character and
41 spatial arrangement remains.

42
43 South of the core development area, the May
44 / Winters Quarters (424) is another spatially
45 distinct area. The house, outbuildings, and
46 surrounding landscape have a residential

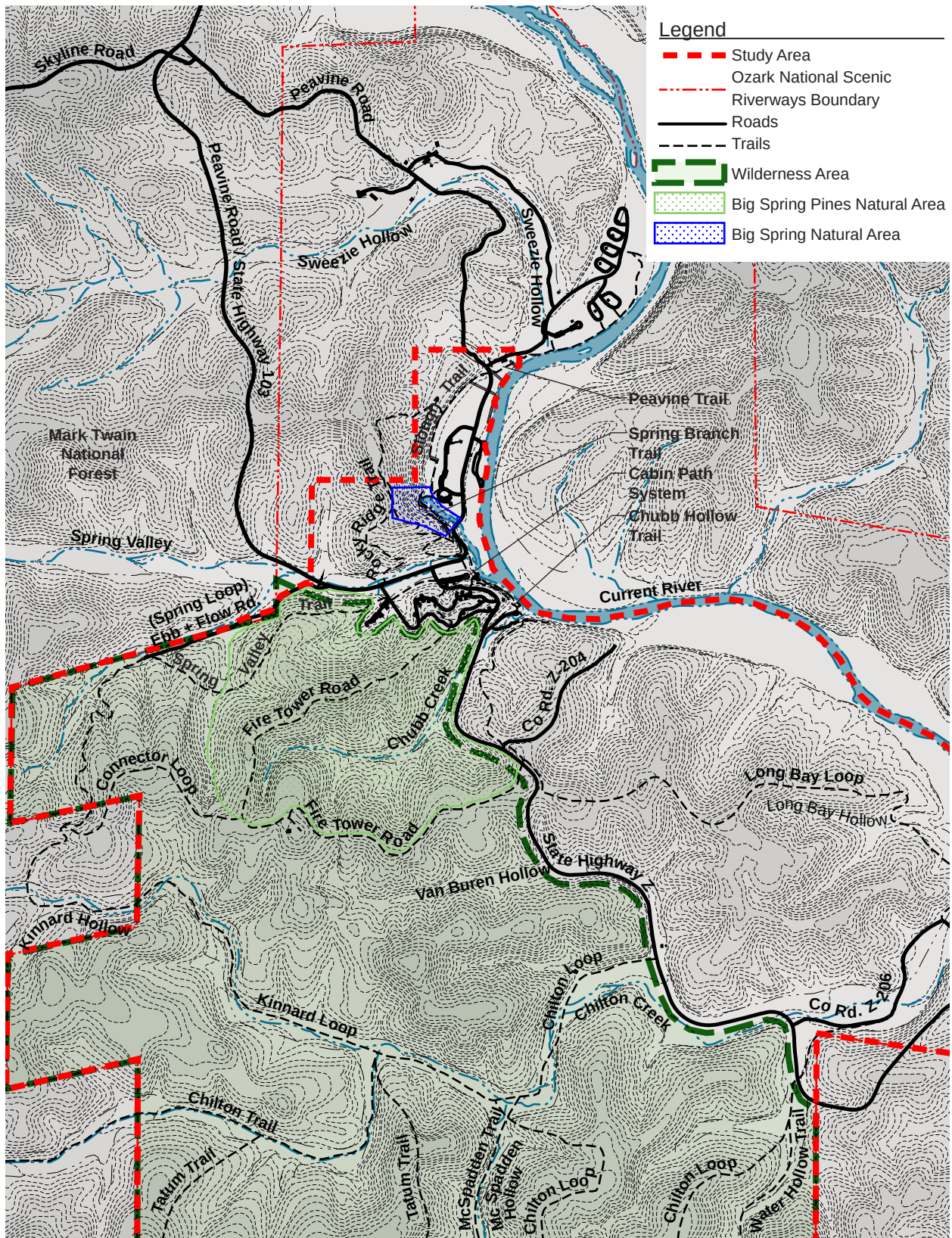
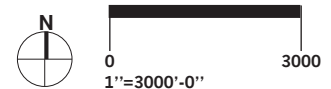


Figure 3-6. The study area is characterized by the steep hills and valleys of the Ozark foothills, with a 700 foot difference between the valley floors and oak hickory forested ridges. (Mundus Bishop 2016)



1 character, with lawn and ornamental plants.
2 The area is spatially separated from the other
3 areas by the surrounding forest. This area has
4 retained its spatial characteristics since the
5 period of significance.

6
7 The Fire Tower Rock Quarry (HS-1404E) is at
8 the far southeast edge of the study area and is
9 characterized by a large clearing, in contrast
10 to the wooded hillside above and below.
11 The large clearing is extant from the 1930s,
12 although vegetation has begun to recolonize,
13 particularly at the quarry edges, which has
14 altered its historic appearance.

15

16 Analysis of Integrity

17 Very few modern intrusions or changes
18 have occurred to the spatial organization,
19 topography, and views since the period
20 of significance, and these characteristics
21 retain integrity. Vegetation has grown and
22 obscured some views, specifically along the
23 Spring Branch Trail, the Fire Tower Rock
24 Quarry (HS-1404E), and Dining Lodge (HS-
25 422). The 1980s modification to the Big
26 Spring Picnic Loop Drive has disrupted the
27 spatial arrangement of the playfield. The
28 1970s realignment of Peavine Road and Big
29 Spring Branch Vehicular Bridge modified the
30 crossing and approach to the branch, making
31 it a less direct approach. The topography
32 of the study area has not been altered
33 since the period of significance, except for
34 natural flooding that has eroded portions of
35 Big Spring branch and Chubb Hollow. The
36 spatial organization, topography, and views
37 are contributing features of the cultural
38 landscape.

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Figure 3-11. Peavine Road / Highway 103 is the main vehicular route and entrance to Big Spring State Historic District. It connects the core development area with Big Spring. (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-12. State Highway Z is the primary north south route through the study area, connecting the cabins to Chubb Hollow, the May / Winters Quarters (HS-444), and CCC Rock Quarry (HS-700). (Mundus Bishop 2015)

1 Circulation

2
3 The study area's circulation system consists
4 of vehicular, pedestrian, and water routes.
5 Most of the roads and trails were built during
6 the period of significance, integrated into the
7 rugged terrain. Today these routes support
8 ongoing recreational uses.

10 Vehicular Circulation

11 Existing vehicular routes include state
12 highways that provide access to the study
13 area, two county roads, internal park roads,
14 and several service drives and parking areas.
15 Peavine Road / State Highway 103 connects
16 the study area to Van Buren. State Highway
17 Z extends from this road to the south to the
18 park's edge. County Road Z-204 provides
19 access to the Current River, and County Road
20 Z-206 accesses the CCC Rock Quarry (HS-700)
21 and is the southern edge of the study area.
22 Park roads facilities, Big Spring Picnic Loop
23 Drive, the Cabin Road System (HS-401B), and
24 Chubb Hollow Road, connect to parking and
25 recreational facilities. Service drives access
26 maintenance and operations areas, and are
27 generally closed to the public such as Ebb and
28 Flow Road (Spring Loop) that accesses the
29 state park dump site. Some double as trails
30 such as Fire Tower Trail that terminates at the
31 Fire Tower / Lookout Tower (HS-1404). A few
32 existing roads were originally built as trails.

33
34 The vehicular circulation system was
35 generally developed by the CCC between 1933
36 and 1937. This work extended earlier roads—
37 Ebb & Flow Road (Spring Loop), Peavine Road
38 and State Highway Z—into a fully developed
39 park system with additional and improved
40 roads connecting access routes to visitor
41 facilities and recreational experiences. The
42 CCC-built work extended Peavine Road to the
43 north, and added the road to the Dining Lodge
44 (HS-422), the Cabin Road System (HS-401B),
45 and Chubb Hollow Road. Big Spring vehicular
46 circulation was developed in the 1970s, as

1 the property to the north was in private
2 ownership during the CCC tenure.

4 Analysis of Integrity -

5 The vehicular circulation remains similar
6 to the original system built by the CCC, as
7 present during the period of significance and
8 retains integrity. Most existing roads follow
9 original 1930s configurations and alignments.
10 Modifications included rerouting and
11 narrowing Peavine Road / State Highway 103
12 in 1940, a minor reroute of State Highway Z
13 in the 1960s. During the 1970s, modifications
14 to roads included rerouting Peavine Pavilion
15 Road, minor changes to the road at the Dining
16 Lodge (HS-422), modifications to parking pull
17 ins and routes at the cabins, and removal of
18 two roads—between the Maintenance Area
19 and Main Parking Area (HS-714) (of which
20 a remnant landform remains), and from the
21 Dining Lodge north to Peavine Road / State
22 Highway 103.

23
24 Additional modifications occurred in 1989,
25 including a complete modification to the
26 big spring picnic loop, which included an
27 expanded parking area and a new connection
28 to Peavine Road that cut through the playfield.
29 Today, many fire roads built by the CCC are
30 recreational hiking trails. These include Ebb
31 and Flow Road (Spring Loop), Connector
32 Loop, Kinnard Loop, Chilton Loop, Chilton
33 Trail, and Partney Trail (Long Bay Loop).

35 Pedestrian Circulation

36 The study area's pedestrian circulation
37 system routes consist of miles of hiking trails
38 in natural areas and walkways associated
39 with parking areas and visitor facilities. The
40 trails are a mix of surfaces including earthen,
41 stone, and stone steps. Two footbridges are
42 associated with these trails, both at Chubb
43 Hollow.

44
45 This system was primarily developed by
46 the CCC in association with the state park



Figure 3-13. State Highway Z follows the natural topography of the rolling hillsides. (Mundus Bishop 2015)



Figure 3-14. Most existing roads follow 1930s configurations and alignments. The road is adjacent to the cabins, above, has been modified with new parking pull-outs. (Mundus Bishop 2016)