National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2004

Revised: 1/2025



Fort Necessity's CCC Picnic Area

Fort Necessity National Battlefield

Table of Contents

Introduction

General Information

Concurrence Information

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Uses

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Fort Necessity's CCC Picnic Area

Resource Classification: Component Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 300169

Parent Landscape: 300002

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Fort Necessity National Battlefield

Alpha Code: FONE

Park Organization Code: 4160

Park District: FONE

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Picnic Area is located in Fort Necessity National Battlefield (NB) in southwestern Pennsylvania, authorized in 1932. The park was originally established in 1931 as the Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site to commemorate the 1754 Battle of Fort Necessity (also known as the Battle of Great Meadows) and George Washington's progression as a military officer and leader. That same year, 311 acres of land around the 2-acre parcel became part of Fort Necessity State Park. In 1961, Congress established the 313-acre Fort Necessity National Battlefield, after which almost 600 acres were added through purchases and donations. Today, the park's three units capture the story of the opening engagements of the French and Indian War, each of which George Washington played a role in. Additionally, the park interprets the development and operation of the National Road, the first federally-constructed interstate highway in the United States.

The 210-acre CCC Picnic Area is situated in a wooded upland valley in the western part of the park. The picnic area was developed in 1935-1937 as a collaborative effort between CCC and the Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Waters, Bureau of Parks, when the land was part of the state park. The paved Gist Road, the historic entrance drive, tracks around a half a mile to a traffic circle, where a one-way gravel loop road encircles the primary picnic site that features two wood picnic shelters, numerous stone water fountains and fireplaces, restroom, and parking lot. Picnic tables and metal grills dot the grounds, set out amongst maintained lawns and under tall deciduous trees. The picnic area also includes pine and spruce plantations planted by the CCC on abandoned farm land. Other CCC features include stone bridges, drainage features, and a stone pump house. Remnant site features are also hidden in the woods, including ruins of a shelter house and restroom, underground reservoirs, road traces, and a small campground. A loop hiking trail connects to other park trails.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The CCC Picnic Area is significant at the state level under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the areas of Conservation, Recreation/Entertainment, and Politics/Government for its associations with the Civilian Conservation Corps, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its rustic-design features that harmonize with the surrounding landscape. The period of significance is 1935-1937, the time span in which CCC enrollees occupied Camp SP-12 in

the park and developed the picnic area. Criterion D, applied to properties that have yielded or are likely to yield information important in prehistory or history, may be applicable in the picnic area, though no archaeological research has been conducted. Future research will clarify whether Criterion D is applicable.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The historic integrity of the Fort Necessity's CCC Picnic Area is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1935-1937, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2024. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. The overall landscape of rolling hills, perennial and intermittent streams, and diverse forests represent historic patterns of natural systems and features. Land use remains focused on recreational picnicking and hiking. Historic spatial organization is still evident through the road and trail systems, and in the primary picnic site that contains picnic spots clustered around ravines and under tree canopies. Associations with the Civilian Conservation Corps are evident through extant wood picnic shelters, two underground water reservoirs, a stone pump house, roadways with drainage swales and stone culverts, two bridges/culverts, pine plantations, and rows of Norway spruce. The CCC's embrace of rustic design is also evident in stone-constructed fireplaces, water stations, and drinking fountains.

Since 1937, some landscape characteristics and features at the CCC Picnic Area have changed, especially the now-mature pine and spruce plantations that equal the heights of the successional forests. The number of picnic sites has dropped from three to one, with the park directing its efforts to the what was the largest of the three. Within this picnic site, the two historic picnic shelters are currently closed due to their poor conditions, and use of the historic stone fireplaces scattered around the grounds is prohibited. Modern steel grills have been installed instead. Parking for the site, which was historically located to the west, is now located within the site. The original restroom has been removed and replaced with a self-contained facility at the parking lot. Original wood picnic tables have been replaced with more durable recycled plastic tables, and accessible tables have been placed adjacent to the parking lot. Southwest of the primary picnic site are the ruins of a third CCC picnic shelter, and remnants of a group campground developed in the early in the 1960s and abandoned in the 1970s.

Condition:
The CCC Picnic Area is in overall "fair" condition. Gist Road and the Picnic Area Loop Road are in good condition, but several culverts and gutters are not functioning as designed. The poor condition of the two picnic shelters and many of the stone drinking fountains and fireplaces, along with a culvert/pedestrian bridge, require maintenance. The park plans to rehabilitate the two shelters and three wood footbridges in FY 2025. The site's deciduous and coniferous vegetation is mature but appears to be stable. The wooded canopy allows dappled light to sustain groundcovers of grass and moss, which is also aided by the lack of heavy or sustained foot traffic.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

In the Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS-CL), Fort Necessity National Battlefield is comprised of one landscape, which includes most of the Main Unit as well as the Braddock's Gravesite Unit and Jumonville Glen Unit. The CCC Picnic Grounds is a component landscape within the Main Unit.

Landscape Type:

Historic Designed Landscape

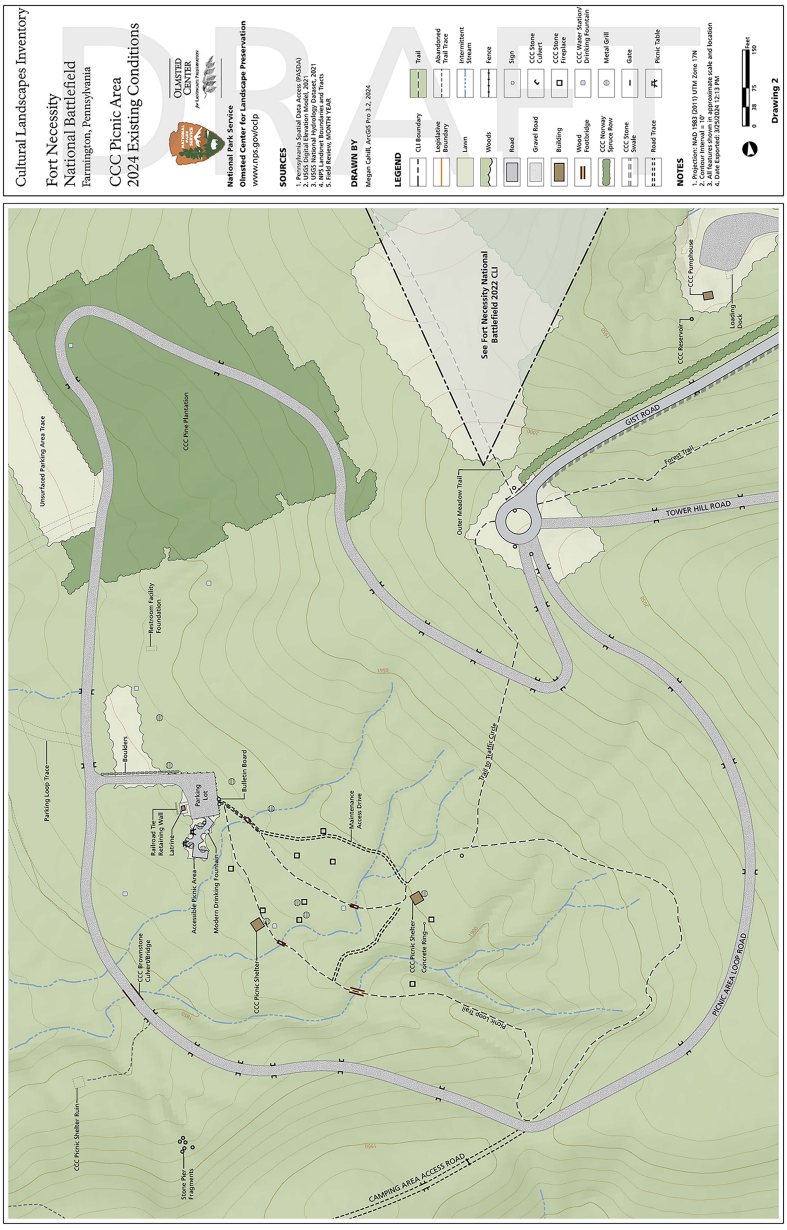
Other Names:

Other Name:	Civilian Conservation Corps Picnic Area	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Fort Necessity	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Fort Necessity National Battlefield	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Fort Necessity State Park	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site	**Other Name Type:**	Historic

Site Plan



Site map, Drawing 1, 2025.



Site map, Drawing 2, 2025.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 03/16/2004

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The original CLI for the CCC Picnic Area was approved by the superintendent on March 16, 2004. Fieldwork for the inventory was conducted in May 2003, by Nancy J. Brown, Cheryl Sams, and Joshua Shields. Further historic research was performed and the report written by Shields, which was edited by Brown. Shields
prepared the existing conditions maps, which were edited by Brown and Sams. A condition reassessment for the CCC Picnic Area was approved by the superintendent on September 17, 2009.

This update to the CCC Picnic Area CLI was completed by Jeff Killion, Historical Landscape Architect at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Architecture. Field work for the update was conducted in May 2022 by Lauren Laham, Architectural Historian; Ethan Berriault, Seasonal Cartographer; and Jeff Killion.

The park contact for the CLI is Colleen Curry, Chief, Resource Management Division Cultural Resources, National Parks of Western Pennsylvania (WEPA). She can be reached at telephone, 814-886-6133 (office), or email, Colleen_Curry@nps.gov.

SUMMARY OF CLI REVISIONS, 2025

Two Levels of Effort have been developed for CLI Updates: Level A and Level B. The primary difference between the two is that Level A is a comprehensive update of all data fields in the CLI, while Level B is limited to select fields. This update has been conducted at Level A.

Updates that have made to the CCC Picnic Area CLI since the 2004 and 2009 versions include revisions to: Chronology and Physical History sections to document changes in the landscape since 2004; site plans; Analysis and Evaluation chapter and HSI (Historic Structures Inventory names and numbers, as needed), existing condition photographs; and overall landscape condition. Upon approval by the Park Superintendent, this update will supersede all previous versions of the CCC Picnic Area CLI.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly document other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort. The NPS List of Classified Structures (LCS) inventory, for example, includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more comprehensive approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground resources in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Fort Necessity National Battlefield was listed as a district on the National Register of Historic Places without documentation under the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Picnic Area, is significant as a site at the state level for its association within the broad context of the CCC in the period between June 1935 and December 1937. The Thematic Resources Nomination entitled "Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Architecture in Pennsylvania State Parks: 1933-1942" provides the context for the picnic area, which was constructed as part of the same ECW efforts. Although that nomination considered only those properties administered by the state park system at the time of the nomination in 1987, the analysis is otherwise applicable. The Picnic Area meets Criteria A for the CCC activities carried out there such as planting trees and constructing roads, bridges, and the picnic area with its shelters and fireplaces. The Picnic Area also meets Criterion C for the distinctive Depression era characteristics of construction that established a graphic identity for the National Park Service – typically a rustic style using materials indigenous to the area. Further archeological investigations are needed to determine whether the Picnic Area meets Criterion D. The site boundary includes Gist Road, the traffic circle, Tower Hill Road and reservoir, the Picnic Area Loop Road and everything within it, and the remaining land in the southwest corner of the park. (A detailed boundary description is given in the report in Part 1, page 8.)

Within the report, we call your particular attention to the Statement of Significance (end of Part 1), the Analysis and Evaluation Summary (beginning of Part 3a) and the National Register Information (near beginning of Part 4).

Based on the enclosed CLI report, we seek your concurrence on our determination that the landscape of the CCC Picnic Area contributes to the significance of the park, and that the CLI findings should supplement eventual National Register documentation. We request that you confirm our findings that:

- the CCC Picnic Area is considered a contributing site within the overall Fort Necessity National Battlefield district
- the landscape has significance in the areas of Politics/Government, Conservation, Entertainment/Recreation, and Architecture
- the landscape is significant to the period 1935 to 1937, and that it has integrity to that period
- certain landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the significance of the property (see attached list).

If you concur with our evaluation of the Fort Necessity CCC Picnic Area landscape resources, please sign on the space provided below, and return the letter to Nancy J. Brown, Co-CLI Program Coordinator (Address: National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 200 Chestnut St., 3rd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106) *within thirty days*. Should

Cultural Landscapes Inventory

Fort Necessity National Battlefield:
Civilian Conservation Corps Picnic Area

Fort Necessity National Battlefield concurs with the findings of the Level II inventory of the Civilian Conservation Corps Picnic Area including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY:
B: Should be preserved and maintained

Category B - Should be preserved and maintained:
An inventory unit meeting all of the following criteria (failure to meet any of the conditions moves it to Category C): the inventory unit meets National Register criteria: the inventory unit is compatible with the park's legislated significance; the inventory unit has a continuing or potential purpose that is appropriate to its traditional use or function.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:
Fair

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory of the Civilian Conservation Corps Picnic Area at Fort Necessity National Battlefield is hereby approved and accepted.

Ken Mabery 3/16/04

Superintendent, Fort Necessity National Battlefield Date

Park concurrence form, March 16, 2004.

you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Brown at (215) 597-8863, and copy her on all correspondence. She can also arrange a general presentation on NPS cultural landscape work to your staff should that be of interest.

Sincerely,

for Marie Rust
Regional Director
Northeast Region

Enclosure

cc. Ken Mabery, Superintendent, Fort Necessity National Battlefield

I concur with the above-stated evaluation and contributing landscape resources of Fort Necessity National Battlefield's Civilian Conservation Corps Picnic Area.

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer — Date: 7-22-04

bcc:
Lawren Dunn
Bob Page
Charlie Pepper
Nancy J. Brown

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2878

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30(NER-RS&S-OCLP)

June 10, 2004

RECEIVED
JUN 21 2004
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Ms. Jean Cutler
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Bldg, 2nd Floor
440 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Dear Ms. Cutler:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) report for Fort Necessity National Battlefield's Civilian Conservation Corps Picnic Area. This detailed landscape information has been entered into the National Park Service (NPS) cultural landscapes database (Cultural Landscapes Automated Inventory Management System or CLAIMS) and we are sending you the report from that database. We request a consensus determination *within thirty (30) days* regarding our findings of significance for the property, specifically which landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the significance (see the attached list).

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all culturally and historically significant landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the properties' overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their characteristics and associated features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that require further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some districts and sites, they provide fuller documentation

SHPO concurrence letter, July 22, 2004 (3 pages).

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2009

Fort Necessity National Battlefield
CCC Picnic Area

Fort Necessity National Battlefield concurs with the condition reassessment for the CCC Picnic Area, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good– CCC Picnic Area

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The condition reassessment for the CCC Picnic Area at Fort Necessity National Battlefield is hereby approved and accepted.

FOR Superintendent, Fort Necessity National Battlefield — Date 9/17/09

Park condition reassessment form, September 17, 2009.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Update Certification Form
2025

Fort Necessity National Battlefield
CCC Picnic Grounds

Fort Necessity National Battlefield concurs with the update for the CCC Picnic Grounds CLI, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair – CCC Picnic Grounds

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values

The CLI Update for the CCC Picnic Grounds at Fort Necessity National Battlefield is hereby approved and accepted.

STEPHEN CLARK Digitally signed by STEPHEN CLARK
Date: 2025.01.21 15:22:13 -05'00'

Superintendent, Fort Necessity National Battlefield Date

Park concurrence form, January 21, 2025.

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Lisa Nowak	Change in Condition	09/17/2009	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	01/21/2025	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the CCC Picnic Grounds CLI has been conducted at a Level A effort.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Pennsylvania	Fayette County

Size (Acres): 210.13

Land Tract Number(s)

01-114, portion of 334.57-acre tract

Boundary Description:

The CCC Picnic Area includes a portion of the park's Main Unit (210 acres). The irregular boundary line for Fort Necessity's CCC Picnic Area begins at the CCC bridge at Big Meadow Run on the park entrance road (Gist Road). From the center of Gist Road the boundary line extends southeast 35 feet to a point parallel to Gist Road. From this point the boundary line runs southwest roughly 2,000 feet along Gist Road to encompass the CCC drainage culverts, stone swale, and Norway spruce plantings. The boundary then heads south-southeast nearly 680 feet before turning south-southwest from the upper CCC reservoir (on Tower Hill Road) and continuing approximately 2,800 feet. At this point the boundary line becomes congruent with the park's main unit property line, continuing due east approximately 1,930 feet to extend it to the main unit boundary's southwest corner. The property line then heads north-northwest approximately 2,370 feet to encompass the picnic sites. From here the boundary line runs due east nearly 420 feet before turning and heading approximately 600 feet in a north-northwest direction. The property line then runs to the northeast nearly 1,770 feet before turning southeast approximately 1,490 feet, placing it near the traffic circle above the picnic area. The boundary then jogs northeast approximately 800 feet and due west for nearly 520 feet in order to include the former maintenance facility. Finally, the property line runs northeast, paralleling Gist Road for nearly 2,040 feet before turning southeast for 35 feet; coming to its point of origin at the center of Gist Road by the CCC bridge.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.5870446897	39.814823017	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.5907666052	39.809912922	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.5931842961	39.811654122	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.6007230637	39.802825621	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.5938331739	39.802742315	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.6030113156	39.810961998	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.6025806301	39.809154856	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.6010623759	39.809136558	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.5980511595	39.813605091	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.592377773	39.811103752	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.5948193932	39.811673939	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.5967228818	39.809985124	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-79.5867035223	39.814368373	

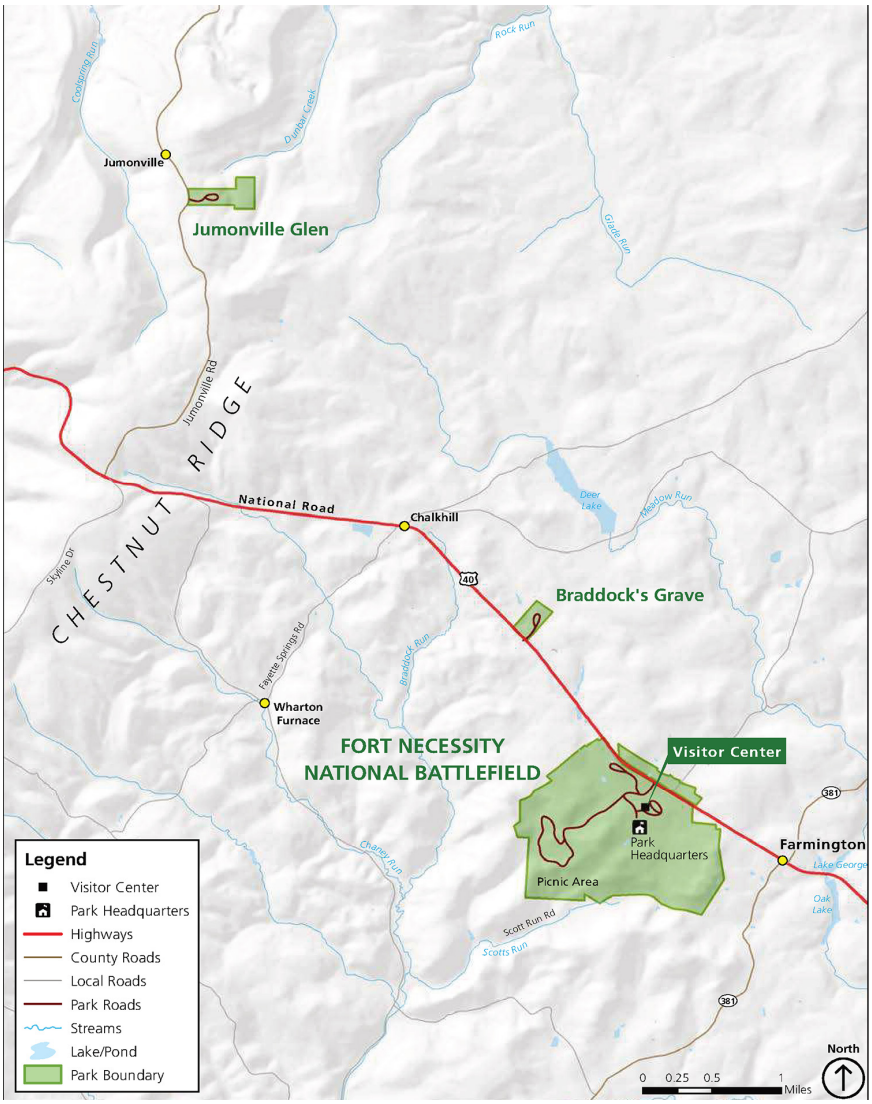
Location Map:



Location Map Information. Regional map showing the location of Fort Necessity National Battlefield. (NPS, Land Resour Program Center, "Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Fayette County, Pennsylvania," 2010)



ces



Location Map Information. Map of the three units at Fort Necessity NB. (NPS, Land Resources Program Center, "Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Fayette County, Pennsylvania," 2010)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

This context concerns the general human overlay on the physical form on the landscape. Fort Necessity NB is located in a rural area of southwestern Pennsylvania near the site of George Washington's defeat at the onset of the French and Indian War, July 3, 1754. Large stands of second and third growth deciduous forest, pocketed with clearings and agricultural fields, dominate the landscape. Traces of the Braddock Road as well as the National Road are present within and adjacent to the park. A number of stone-constructed taverns can also be found along the U.S. Highway 40 corridor, which forms the northern boundary to the main park unit.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

This context concerns the large scale physical forms and patterns of the landscape such as hill, plateau, ravine, drumlin, etc. The geology of Fort Necessity NB is characterized by varying topography caused by erosion and downcutting of rivers and streams through horizontal layers, not unusual for the Appalachian Plateaus physiographic province. The park is positioned close to the intersection of two physiographic sub-provinces – the Pittsburgh Low Plateau and the Allegheny Mountains. The rough topographic relief of the Allegheny Mountains is located to the west of the park. To the east, several valleys rise sharply towards Chestnut Ridge; this ridge is capped by Mississippi to Devonian sandstone. The basic geology of the Fort Necessity region includes conglomerate, sandstone, shale, claystone, limestone, and dolomite. Within these formations are fossils and some coal deposits. (Cole et.al. 2018: 16)

Type of Context: Political

Description:

This context describes the overlay imposed on the landscape through general land use, zoning, legal restrictions, transportation, utilities, population, and political jurisdiction. The park is located approximately 12 miles east of Uniontown in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The park interior is accessed by Gist Road, located off of U.S. Highway 40, which runs north of the main park unit. The park consists of three non-contiguous management units: Main Unit, Braddock's Grave, and Jumonville Glen.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 03/16/2004

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

As approved on March 16, 2004, the CCC Picnic Area meets the Should be Preserved and Maintained management category because the property meets National Register criteria, and possesses state level significance.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: None

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: No

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. The picnic area still exists in a forested setting, with the National Park Service owning land to the north and east. The areas to the west and south are not currently owned by the National Park Service and would not impact the site unless they are developed. Situated in a bowl-shaped valley, there is little, if any, visual or audible intrusion from adjacent lands. This would only become a concern with development to the west and south of the picnic area. Although no active minerals operations exist within the park or directly adjacent to park boundaries, coal strip mining operations and gas wells exist within 2-15 miles of park boundaries. The potential for minerals development in adjacent lands present possible negative impacts for the park. (Resource Management Plan 1994: 88)

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: SHPO Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Fort Necessity National Battlefield was established in 1931 to commemorate the Battle of Fort Necessity on July 3, 1754. The picnic grounds were built by the CCC in 1935-1937 and acquired by the NPS in 1962, as part of a parcel that had been managed as Fort Necessity State Park by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The National Battlefield was administratively added without documentation to the National Register of Historic Places on October 16, 1966, with passage of the National Historic Preservation Act.

On February 11, 1987, the Thematic Resources Nomination entitled “Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Architecture in Pennsylvania State Parks: 1933-1942" was accepted by the Keeper of the National Register. The nomination focused on sites that were owned by the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks at the time, and therefore did not include the picnic grounds at Fort Necessity. However, it did provide the context for the park’s picnic area because the site was constructed as part of the same ECW efforts.

No park resources have been documented in the National Register. A National Register Registration Form was prepared in May 1996 by Margaret DeLaura and Tom Thomas from the Denver Service Center. The draft identified some of the features present as part of the CCC Picnic Area and provided an account of its period of significance from 1935-1937. The form was not submitted to the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Keeper of the National Register for review and concurrence.

On July 22, 2004, the Pennsylvania SHPO concurred with the findings of the National Park Service’s CLI that the park’s CCC Picnic Grounds were eligible for listing in the National Register. The CLI documented that the site was significant at the state level under Criteria A and C in the areas of Conservation, Entertainment/Recreation, Politics/Government, and Architecture. The period of significance was identified as 1935-1937, during which time CCC Camp SP-12 engaged in reforestation projects and developed roads, a parking lot, trail, and picnic sites throughout the state park. On September 21, 2022, the Pennsylvania SHPO concurred with the NPS that the remainder of park resources, inventoried in a CLI under the name Fort Necessity NB Landscape, were eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and B in the areas of Military History, Exploration/Settlement, Other (Commemoration), Commerce, Transportation, and for George Washington. The overall period of significance for the Fort Necessity NB Landscape is 1754-1954.

Contributing features identified in the 2004 CLI included the CCC pine plantation, CCC Norway spruce row, Picnic Area Loop Road, Gist Road, CCC road to reservoir [Tower Hill Road], CCC entry drive to former maintenance facility, traffic circle, CCC picnic shelters (east, west), CCC stone arch bridge, CCC brownstone culvert/bridge, CCC stone culverts, CCC stone swale, CCC pump house, CCC reservoirs (2), CCC fireplaces, CCC drinking fountains, CCC water stations, parking loop trace, Braddock Road trace, and CCC picnic shelter ruin. Non-contributing features included the entry drive to parking lot, maintenance access drive to upper picnic shelter, camping area access road, wood pedestrian bridges (3), railroad tie retaining wall, recycled plastic picnic tables, wood picnic tables, metal cooking grills, wood guard rail fence, wood privacy fence at portable toilets, signage, picnic table area edging, concrete fire rings, tree stump stools, bulletin board, firewood, and metal entrance gates. Undetermined features included the Picnic Loop Trail, trail to traffic circle, Main Loop Trail, boulders, concrete ring (former trash can support), log cribbing to create steps on trails, restroom facility foundation, dry laid stone retaining wall, Stone pier fragment, pit toilet ruins, tree carvings (1944), abandoned trail traces, bridge abutment remains, corrugated metal culvert pipe, and unsurfaced parking area trace.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the “CLI Professional Procedures Guide,” the areas and periods of significance for the CCC Picnic Grounds at Fort Necessity NB, and the site’s numerous historic resources that contribute to its significance, are adequately documented through consultations with the Pennsylvania SHPO in 2004. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the Fort Necessity NB CCC Picnic Grounds is considered “SHPO-Documented.”

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 07/22/2004

Concurrence Narrative:

The CLI finds the CCC Picnic Area eligible for the National Register. The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with the findings of this report.

Significance Level: State

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: Site

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Picnic Area at Fort Necessity Battlefield Park possesses significance for its association within the broad context of the CCC in the period between June 1935 and December 1937. The Thematic Resources Nomination entitled “Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Architecture in Pennsylvania State Parks: 1933-1942” provides the context for evaluating the significance of the picnic area. Approved in 1987, this documentation only looks at the resources that were owned by the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks at the time. Nonetheless it provides the context for this NPS-owned picnic area because the area was constructed as part of the same ECW efforts.

The Picnic Area is significant at the state level under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the areas of Conservation, Recreation/Entertainment, and Politics/Government, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The period of significance is 1935-1937, the time span in which CCC enrollees occupied Camp SP-12 in the park and developed the picnic area. Criterion D, applied to properties that have yielded or are likely to yield information important in prehistory or history, may be applicable in the picnic area, though no archaeological research has been conducted. Future research will clarify whether Criterion D is applicable.

CRITERION A

Conservation, Recreation/Entertainment, and Politics/Government:
Fort Necessity’s CCC Picnic Area is significant at the state level in the areas of Conservation, Recreation/Entertainment, and Politics/Government for its association with the CCC. Initiated by Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal, the CCC was a federal relief program intended to provide employment for young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five, through the creation of work projects that focused on conservation of natural resources. Between June 1935 and December 1937, CCC Camp SP-12, located in the park, engaged in a number of projects aimed at enhancing the historic setting of Fort Necessity while implementing needed conservation methods.

The land comprising the far eastern portion of the CCC Picnic Area was once part of a 234-acre land patent owned by George Washington, which he executed in 1767, some thirteen years after the 1754 Battle of Fort Necessity. This parcel included much of the Great Meadows site, including the fort site. However, the remained of the future picnic area was virgin timber, representing a marketable resource. This land remained as such into the 19th century when the Fazenbaker family cleared sections of the forest for farming and pasturing. In 1931 the first reconstruction of the fort was completed, and in 1932 Walter Fazenbaker deeded 2 acres of land around the fort to the United States government to be administered by Gettysburg National Military Park as Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site. That same year, Pennsylvania bought and designated 311 acres of land around the 2-acre fort, including much of the Great Meadows area and lands to the east, west, and south as Fort Necessity State Park.

By the time CCC Camp SP-12 opened in 1935, much of the land surrounding the Great Meadows was open. During their two-year occupancy on the site, the CCC created a more historic appearance for the area surrounding the Great Meadows as well as introduce visitor facilities within the state park. Projects included roads, bridges, and culverts, as well as a picnic area at the west end of the park. Accessed by a

loop road, three picnic sites included shelters, restrooms, parking, fireplaces, and water fountains. The CCC also planted over 50,000 trees, some of which had multiple purposes, such as a Norway spruce row along the entrance road to the picnic area (Gist Road) that screened the Great Meadows area while providing roadside erosion control. From surviving features and archived maps it is apparent that the CCC projects were conservation-oriented. As stated on NPS map NEC 9015-2-2,
"…parking areas are located in spaces where there are no large trees. Grading will be kept to a minimum to avoid damage to root systems. The surfaces will not be rolled or treated - allowing ordinary absorption of surface water."

CRITERION C

Architecture:
Fort Necessity's CCC Picnic Area is significant at the state level in the area of Architecture for characteristics and features surviving from the CCC era that represent Depression era rustic design architecture that established a graphic identity for the National Park Service – a style aimed at using materials indigenous to the area to blend new construction with the surrounding landscape. The picnic shelters were constructed using chestnut logs from the site, while culverts and footbridges employed native stone and wood. Local stone was also used in construction of fireplaces, water stations, and drinking fountains. To minimize grading and land disturbance, roads and trails were laid out to follow the topography, while shelters and parking areas were sited in level areas.

National Register Significance Criteria:

A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

National Register Criteria Consideration:

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1935 - CE 1937

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Rustic Architecture	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works	
Shaping the Political Landscape	Political and Military Affairs 1865-1939	The Great Depression And The New Deal, 1929-1941	
Transforming the Environment	Conservation of Natural Resources	The Great Depression And Conservation	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Politics - Government

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Entertainment - Recreation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Fort Necessity National Battlefield
NRIS ID:	66000664
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966

State Register Documentation:

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
BCE 1000	Inhabited	Paleoindian Period; migratory bands of hunters and gatherers travel along major river valleys and live in temporary camps.
BCE 1000	Inhabited	The Archaic Period; hunters and gatherers modify their subsistence and settlement activities to take advantage of seasonal resource collection.
BCE 1000 - 1600	Settled	The Woodland Period; sedentary cultures develop agriculture and fortified settlement. The Monongehela culture occupied southwestern Pennsylvania.
CE 1600 - 1750	Settled	Cultures of the upper Ohio Valley spoke Algonquian and Iroquoian languages. These groups are influenced by the French and English who compete for trade.
CE 1753 - 1754	Explored	Guided by Chief Nemacolin, the Ohio Company marks a road between Will’s Creek (Cumberland, MD) and a fork of the Ohio River that later becomes Pittsburgh, PA.
CE 1754	Military Operation	July 3-4, the French and their Indian allies defeat Washington at Fort Necessity.
CE 1755	Military Operation	Major General Braddock, ordered to take the offensive against the French, follow and improve Washington’s Road to within 6 miles of Fort Duquesne where Braddock is mortally wounded.
CE 1767	Purchased/Sold	George Washington purchases 234 acres, of the Great Meadows site, including the fort site.
CE 1804	Moved	General Braddock’s remains are removed from the road to their current grave by laborers.
CE 1806 - 1837	Built	The National Road (following part of Braddock’s Road) is established and maintained by Congress creating a link between the West (Vandalia, IL) and the East (Cumberland, MD).
CE 1828	Built	Mount Washington Tavern is constructed by Judge Nathaniel Ewing, circa 1828.
CE 1852	Established	Pennsylvania Railroad reaches Pittsburgh.
CE 1853	Established	Baltimore and Ohio Railroad reaches the Ohio River.
CE 1855	Abandoned	National Road is all but abandoned in favor of more efficient rail travel.
CE 1921	Built	U.S. Highway 40 is constructed generally following the National Road grade.
CE 1932	Land Transfer	Walter Fazenbaker deeds 2 acres of land around Fort Necessity to the United States government to be administered by Gettysburg National Military Park as Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site. (DeLaura and Thomas 1996: 24)
CE 1932	Purchased/Sold	Pennsylvania buys and designates the remaining 311 acres of the Great Meadows area as Fort Necessity State Park.
CE 1932	Preserved	Mount Washington Tavern is converted into a museum.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1932	Reconstructed	Reconstructed fort is dedicated on July 4, in commemoration of the bicentennial of George Washington’s birth.
CE 1935	Established	Civilian Conservation Camp (CCC) Camp SP-12 is established at Fort Necessity State Park in June.
CE 1935	Conserved	First company stationed at Fort Necessity focused primarily on reforesting the virtually deforested climax hardwood forest around the Great Meadows. (DeLaura and Thomas 1996: 29)
CE 1935 - 1937	Engineered	Gist Road, along with culverts and drainage swales, is developed jointly by the CCC and the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, Bureau of Parks.
CE 1936	Built	In May, a CCC company from Fort McClellan, Alabama, arrives to construct a parking lot for visitors, a trail from the parking lot to the fort, and several picnic sites throughout the park. (DeLaura and Thomas 1996: 29)
CE 1937	Abandoned	On December 15, CCC Camp SP-12 ceases operation.
CE 1954	Removed	The 1932 fort reconstruction is removed after archeological fieldwork determines it inaccurately portrays the original fort.
CE 1954	Reconstructed	The second, and more historically accurate, reconstruction of Fort Necessity is built, based on archeology conducted in 1952-1953.
CE 1961	Purchased/Sold	Congress authorizes the acquisition of up to 500 acres near or adjoining the fort, including 25 acres at Braddock Monument.
CE 1961	Planned	A campground is shown on park maps at picnic site #3.
CE 1965	Built	A visitor center and associate parking is built in the Great Meadow, east of the reconstructed Fort Necessity.
CE 1970 - 1979	Removed	Camping in the picnic area is phased out when new facilities become available at nearby Ohiopyle State Park. (GMP 1991: 27)
CE 1974	Purchased/Sold	Congress authorizes the Fort Necessity National Battlefield Park acreage to be increased to a maximum of 911 acres.
CE 1977 - 1979	Purchased/Sold	Jumonville Glen unit is acquired.
CE 1980 - 1989	Paved	In the 1980s Gist Road is paved.
CE 1991	Rehabilitated	Failing chestnut log posts in the two remaining picnic shelters are replaced by oak.
CE 1995	Built	The NPS constructs a new park headquarters building and maintenance facilities at the former CCC camp site.
CE 1997	Demolished	Facilities at the original maintenance facility just off of Gist Road are removed, except for the driveway, pump house, and reservoir.
CE 2003	Rehabilitated	Failing oak sills are replaced in upper picnic shelter.
CE 2004	Paved	The park repaves Gist Road and regravels the Picnic Area Loop. Drainage structures are also repaired.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 2004 - 2005	Abandoned	A portion of Gist Road, from the CCC stone arch bridge to 450 feet south, is closed to vehicular traffic when a circulation pattern is built for a new visitor center, which opens nearby in 2005.
CE 2005	Built	Trail work includes replacement of drainage culverts, removal of hazardous trees/vegetation, rehabilitation of trail surfaces and grading work, and repairs to a wood footbridges and steps. (PMIS 10987; PMIS 106683)
CE 2005	Restored	Seven CCC-era stone fireplaces are restored. (PMIS 63899)
CE 2005	Built	The Fort Necessity-National Road Interpretive and Education Center is built southeast of the 1965 visitor center and south of Great Meadows Run. New vehicular roads and parking lots are also built.
CE 2008	Abandoned	The portion of Gist Road proximate to the stone arch bridge is converted to a trail.
CE 2008	Abandoned	Playground is built next to Interpretive and Education Center.
CE 2011	Built	The park's water distribution system is connected to a municipal water system. New water lines are installed to service a VIP RV site in the old maintenance facility, as well as to water fountains in the picnic area. (PEPC 30068; PMIS 126517)
CE 2011	Abandoned	Much of the existing CCC-era water system is abandoned, including the two reservoirs, pump house, spring box, and water lines. (PEPC 30068; PMIS 126517)
CE 2011	Built	An ADA-accessible group picnic pavilion is built along the abandoned section of Gist Road. (PEPC 14711; PMIS 54404)

Physical History:

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE HISTORY AND EUROPEAN EXPLORATION, ca.11,000 BCE–1753 CE

Archaeologists have classified the pre-European occupation of Pennsylvania into three primary periods: Paleoindian, Archaic, and Woodland. Radiocarbon dating indicates western Pennsylvania was occupied as long as 10,600 - 12,000 years ago. The Paleoindian populations were migratory bands of hunters and gatherers who traveled along major river valleys and lived in temporary camps. Investigations have identified four types of campsites for these populations: kill sites, lowland waterside camps, upland camps, and trail camps. (Resnick 1994: 7)

Archeological investigations in southwestern Pennsylvania for the Archaic period (8,000–10,000 BCE) have been limited. Significant environmental changes occurred during this period, including a rise in the sea level accompanied by changes in plant and animal species. These changes diversified and increased the resources available to Archaic peoples. The expanded range and number of resources led to major population increases. The Archaic hunters and gatherers modified their subsistence and settlement activities to take advantage of seasonal resource collection. Discoveries from the Late Archaic period demonstrate the first evidence of fiber-tempered pottery, burial mounds, and the use of domesticated plants -- all major cultural developments resulting from a heightened understanding and manipulation of the surrounding environment. (Resnick 1994: 9)

During the Woodland period (1000 BCE–1600 CE), the use of pottery and increased cultivation of domesticated plants expanded. The construction of burial mounds was more widespread than during the Archaic period. In southwestern Pennsylvania, the Late Woodland Culture (or Monongahela Culture) was centered around the confluence of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers. These populations were sedentary and typically lived on upper terraces near major streams. Settlements usually consisted of 1-5 acres and were inhabited by 100 to 150 people. Houses were circular and arranged around a central plaza. The settlement typically was surrounded by a round or oval stockade. (Resnick 1994: 11)

The Shawnee, Delaware, and Mingo (a coalition of refugees from several nations) tribes occupied the upper Ohio valley as early as the late 1600s. There, they slowly increased their numbers, gaining autonomy from the Six Nations who had driven them west from the Susquehanna Valley earlier. Contact between the Native American populations and Europeans steadily increased after the 1740s when traders from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia explored the lands of the Ohio valley in hopes of competing with the French for trade among the Algonquin tribes. Both the French and British sought to form a stronghold on trade in the Ohio valley – the British to gain access to its fertile farmland and the French to protect their assets in the Midwest. (DeLaura and Thomas, HRS, 1996: 2-3)

The first mention of Europeans in the Fort Necessity area was an expedition by members of the Ohio Company to the Great Meadows in 1753. Guided by Chief Nemacolin of the Delaware Indians, they conducted a land survey in preparation for the construction of a road between Will’s Creek (Cumberland, MD) and a fork of the Ohio River that would become the site of Pittsburgh, PA.

Native American occupation in the upper Ohio valley continued until the signing of the Treaty of Fort Stanwix between the Iroquois Six Nations and British in 1768, at which time the endemic cultures began pushing west. However, the Shawnee Indians disputed that all the land purchased by England did not belong to the Six Nations. During the 1770s, early settlers and prospectors were harried until after the Shawnee signed the Greenville Treaty in 1795.

FRENCH & INDIAN WAR, 1754–1763

Fort Necessity National Battlefield commemorates the events surrounding the start of the French and Indian War in 1754. It was here in the mountains of western Pennsylvania that George Washington encountered his first military action leading a detachment of colonial troops. On May 28, 1754, Washington, with the aid of the Tanacharison (an Iroquois viceroy) and members of the Mingo tribe, engaged and defeated a French detachment at Jumonville Glen. All but one of the French detachments was killed during the attack. Washington proceeded to clear a road towards Fort Duquesne, but was brought word by allies among the Mingo tribe that a large French force was gathering there. (DeLaura and Thomas, HRS 1996: 6-7)

Fearing attack from a combined force of French, Shawnee, and Delaware, Washington regrouped at the Great Meadows, where he had his men construct a wood stockade named Fort Necessity. On July 3, 1754 Washington found himself against a larger force of French and their Indian allies (Nipissing, Ottawa, Algonquin, Abernaki, Huron, and Huron of Lorette) and was forced to surrender the following day after suffering heavy casualties. (DeLaura and Thomas, HRS, 1996: 8-10)

The following year, a British force under the leadership of General Edward Braddock, returned to western Pennsylvania with plans to confront the French at Fort Duquesne. Braddock improved the crude road traveled by Washington the previous year. About ten miles from Fort Duquesne, Braddock encountered a combined French and Indian force. During this attack Braddock was mortally wounded and later died a mile from the Great Meadows. His men buried him in the middle of a stretch of road between Fort Necessity and Jumonville Glen, which later became known as the Braddock Road.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ROAD, 1755–1856

Since 1767, George Washington had been actively engaged in acquiring lands in the Fort Necessity area, believing the location would be ideal for a tavern along a new trade route between the headwaters of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers. The tract encompassed 234.5 acres and included the site of Fort Necessity, but Washington's death in 1799 occurred before any improvements on the land were made (Figure 1).

Prior to the construction of the National Road, Braddock Road and Forbes Road (to the north of the future park) were the main routes of travel for settlers moving west, as agriculture-related industries such as sawmilling and gristmilling were the basis of the economy and prevalent throughout the region west of Chestnut Ridge. It was reported that a road repair crew on Braddock Road had uncovered what was believed to be the remains of General Braddock in 1805. The crew then reinterred the remains on a small knoll overlooking the road. (RMP 1985: 75) By the early 19th century, the economy of Fayette County and the surrounding region was tied to the exploitation of natural resources, such as iron, timber, coal, and an expanding glass and transportation industry. (Resnick 1994: 12)

The National Road became the primary route for westward expansion in the first half of the nineteenth century and represents the first road planned, built, and maintained by the federal government. It was constructed of broken limestone, and by 1818 reached Uniontown. Eventually, the National Road was extended to Wheeling, West Virginia, and then onward to Vandalia, Illinois. Among the economic benefits the road brought to this area of Pennsylvania were a number of taverns and inns that developed along its route. Mount Washington Tavern was one such establishment constructed near the ruins of Fort Necessity, circa 1828. The importance of the National Road declined as various trans-Appalachian railroad lines were constructed during the mid-19th century. The railroads, such as the Pennsylvanian, Baltimore, and Ohio Railroads, enabled westbound travelers a more modern, faster, and inexpensive mode of transportation. (Resnick 1994: 12) By 1855, the Mount Washington Tavern was sold to Godfrey Fazenbaker, who converted it into a residence.

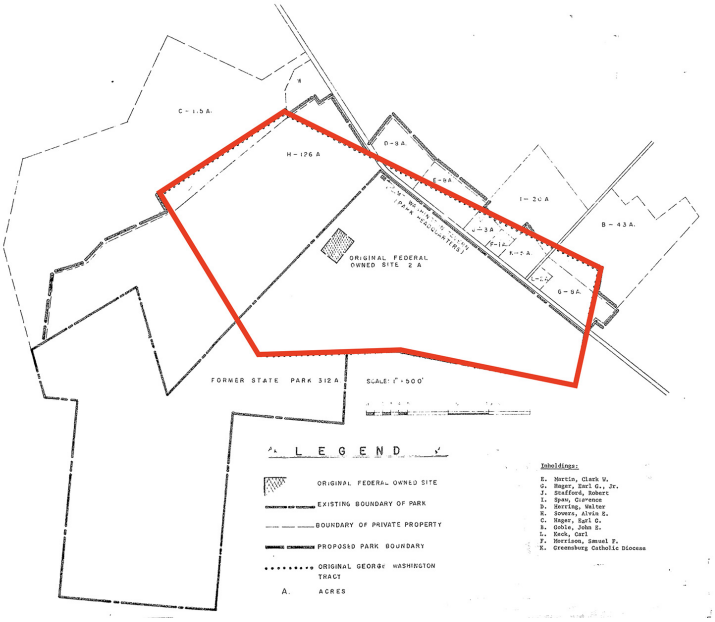


Figure 1. Map showing the extents of the 234.5-acre Mount Washington Tract, overlaid on a Fort Necessity NB map. (NPS, Denver Service Center, Drawing #NB-FN-2017, 1962, annotated OCLP 2022)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, 1856–1934

By the late 1800s, the Great Meadows area had shifted from its historical military significance to an agricultural influence. Godfrey Fazenbaker conducted a diversified farming and stock-raising operation. The area directly around the fort was maintained as a meadow for the duration that the Fazenbaker family occupied the land. It is likely that the meadow served as pasture in lieu of cultivated fields. For the latter half of the 1800s, the land surrounding the fort ruins continued to be cleared and cultivated (Figure 2). It wasn't until the conservation efforts of the 1930s that the area was replanted in an attempt to establish a more historic scene.

Other areas of Fayette County underwent dramatic changes as the production of coal and iron ore mining increased as a result of the nation's rapid industrialization. By the turn of the 20th century, the automobile industry was beginning to shift interest back toward improved overland transportation. In 1916, Congress passed the Federal Aid Road Act, providing federal funds in matching amounts to state expenditures for road improvements. In the following decade the original right-of-way of the National Road became a hotspot for the creation of the National Old Trails Road and later U.S. Highway 40. It was the renewed interest in highway transportation that invigorated towns and motivated public interest in memorials and park areas.

Establishment of Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site and Fort Necessity State Park:
In 1931, during economic hardship and depression, Congress established Fort Necessity as a national park to commemorate the battle of July 3, 1754. In March 1932, Walter Fazenbaker deeded 2 acres surrounding and including the fort ruins to the United States government. The site was named Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site, and was under the management jurisdiction of Gettysburg National Battlefield. (GMP 1991: 3) Concurrently, the state of Pennsylvania bought the farm's remaining 311 acres, which became Fort Necessity State Park (Figure 3). That same year a fort reconstruction was dedicated in commemoration of the bicentennial of George Washington's birth.



Figure 2. Great Meadows as seen in the 1920s, prior to construction of Gist Road. (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Theodor Horydczak Collection, LC-H813-2223 DLC)

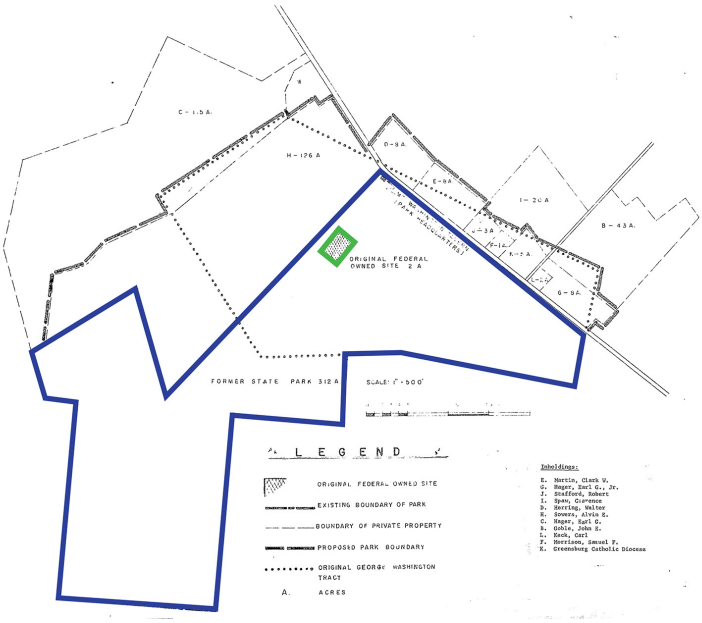


Figure 3. Map showing the extents of the 2-acre Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site (green) and the 312-acre Fort Necessity State Park (blue), overlaid on a Fort Necessity NB map. (NPS, Denver Service Center, eTIC, Drawing #NB-FN-2017, 1962, annotated OCLP 2022)

THE PICNIC AREA AND THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS, 1935–1937

Between June 1935 and December 1937, Fort Necessity State Park was the site of a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp. Initiated during Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, the CCC was a federal relief program intended to provide employment for young men between the ages of 18 and 25, through the creation of work projects that focused on conservation of natural resources. (DeLaura and Thomas 1997: 17)

CCC Company 2326 was the first company stationed at the park. Consisting of approximately 200 enrollees, this company was issued surplus Army tents until construction of the wood barracks was completed along the southeast edge of the park (Figure 4). Aside from setting up camp, enrollees were involved in the park's reforestation projects. The CCC was also involved in clearing trails and roads through the state park lands. (Sypolt 1988: 13)

While the roadbed of the National Road was being rebuilt to accommodate U.S. Highway 40 in 1936, a second CCC Company, 5462 from Fort McClellan, Alabama, arrived at Fort Necessity to engage in soil conservation and park improvements. One of the major park improvements started by Company 5462 was the construction of a parking lot for visitors to the fort.

They also worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Waters, Bureau of Parks to develop a picnic area in the southwest portion of the park. An access road, named Gist Road, was built from the fort parking lot to a traffic circle, from which two roads accessed three picnic sites (Figure 5). One road tracked westerly then southerly to site #1, and ended as elongated loop with three parking bays. The other road tracked south to picnic site #2 then west to picnic site #3. Both of these sites included small parking areas. By 1937 the two picnic ground roads were joined to create a contiguous loop to the three sites (Figure 6).

The development included several small bridges and culverts. A number of square-shaped picnic shelters, small toilet structures, and stone fireplaces and drinking fountains were also constructed at the picnic spaces in collaboration with the road improvements (Figures 7 and 8). A larger rectangular-plan shelter was proposed at site #1, the largest of the three sites, but it is unclear if it was built (Figure 9).

Another road, named Tower Hill Road, was built from the traffic circle to a proposed overlook/parking lot, as well as a 10,000-gallon underground reservoir. East of the junction, a short road was also built off of Gist Road to access a 30,000-gallon underground reservoir, spring box, stone pump house, and small maintenance area.



Figure 4. View looking east at the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp SP-12, at Fort Necessity State Park, ca.1935-1937. (Larry N. Sypolt, "Fort Necessity, Civilian Conservation Corps, Camp SP-12, 1935-1937," 1988: 13)

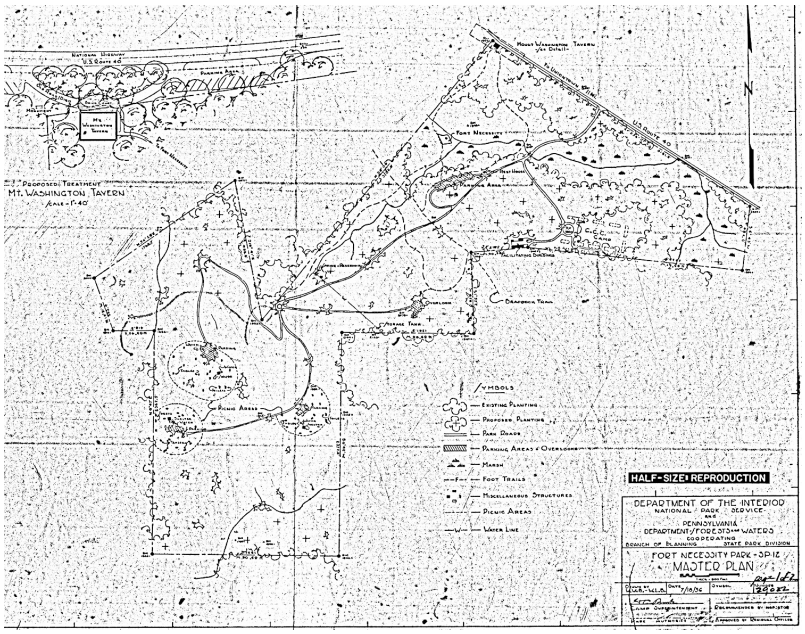


Figure 5. Map of Fort Necessity State Park, 1936, showing the three picnic sites (image left) accessed by two roads. (NPS, Denver Service Center, eTIC, Drawing #336-20022)

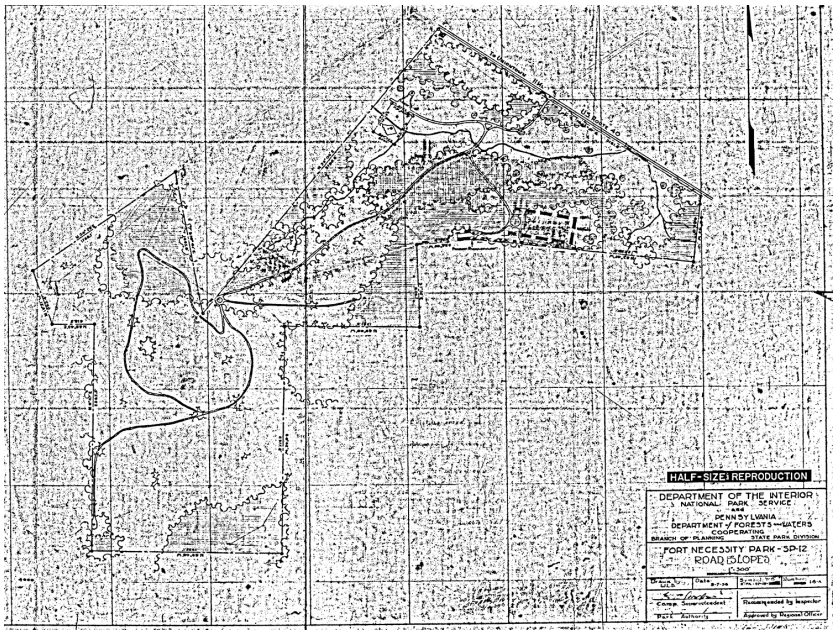


Figure 6. Map of Fort Necessity State Park, 1936, showing the three picnic sites (image left) connected by a loop road. (NPS, Denver Service Center, eTIC, Drawing #336-7100)

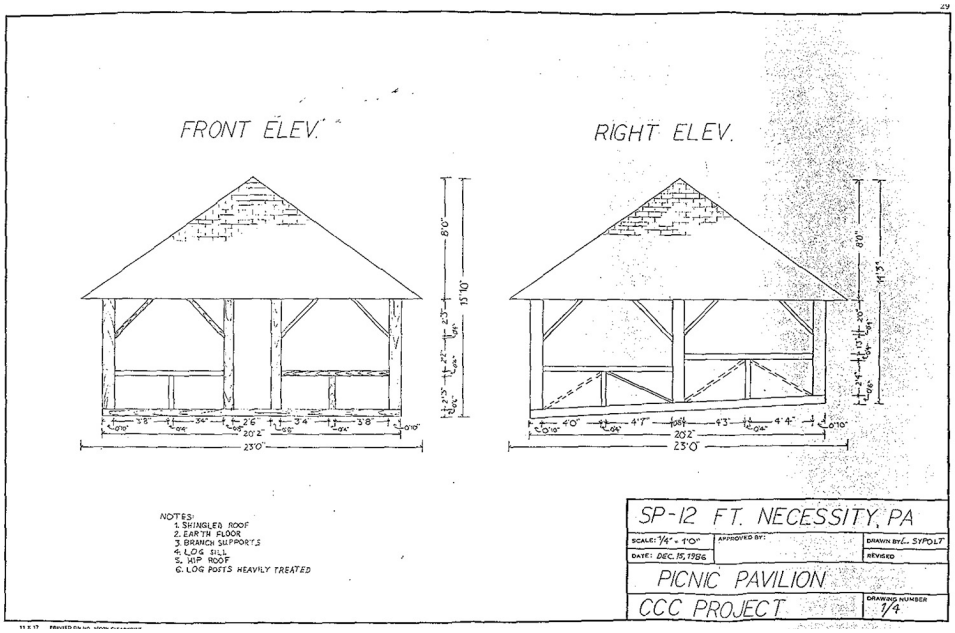


Figure 7. Drawing of a picnic shelter at Fort Necessity State Park. (Sypolt 1988: 30)

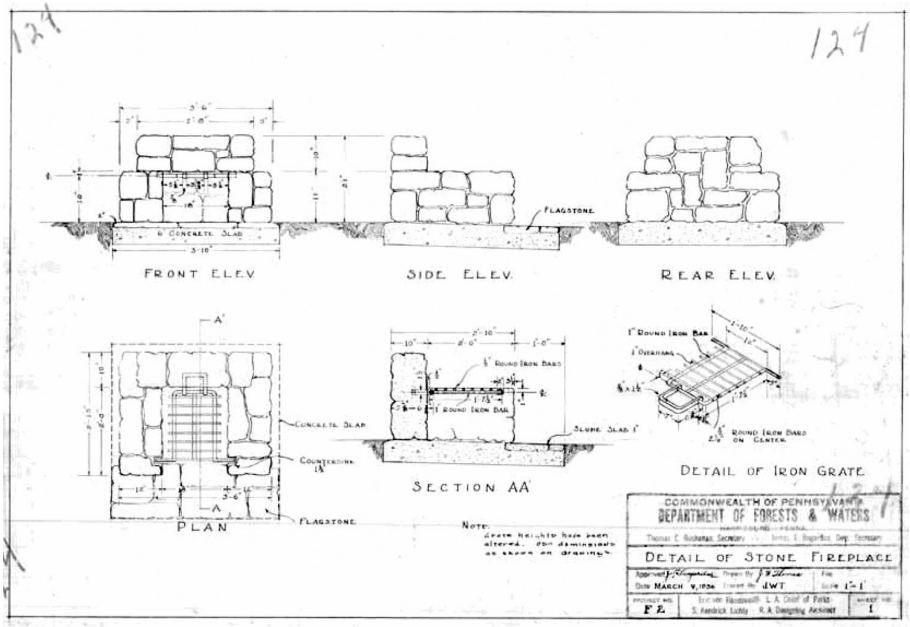


Figure 8. Details of a stone fireplace at the Fort Necessity State Park, 1936. (CLI 2009: 78)

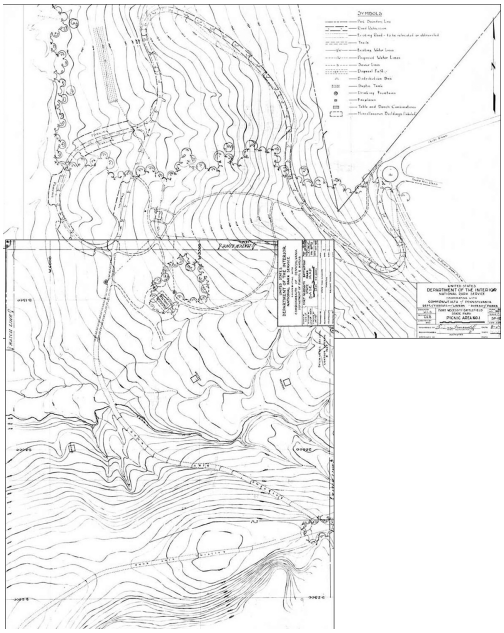


Figure 9. Merged drawings of circulation and locations of Site #1 and a portion of Site #2 at the Fort Necessity State Park picnic area, 1937. (NPS, Denver Service Center, eTIC, Drawing #336-9012)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, 1938-2025

Camp SP-12 closed in December 1937. The CCC program ended in the years leading to World War II, and like most parks little development or maintenance occurred during and immediately after the war. In 1952-1953 preservation efforts resumed at the 2-acre Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site when an archaeological excavation unearthed remains from the original fort. The following year the

1932 reconstruction was demolished, and a more accurate fort reconstruction was built to commemorate the bicentennial of George Washington's 1754 campaign.

Establishment of Fort Necessity National Battlefield:
In 1952 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania increased the size of Fort Necessity State Park with the addition of the 24.5-acre Braddock's Gravesite parcel (Tract 01-116). In December 1959 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed an Act of Assembly conveying "to the government of the United States of America for use as a National Park for a consideration of one dollar ($1) the…tracts of land…commonly referred to as Fort Necessity Park." However, it was not until an Act of Congress on August 10, 1961 (P.L. 87-134, 75 Stat. 336) that the acquisition of the old Fazenbaker farm and the Braddock's Gravesite parcel took place. On August 10, 1962, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania donated these two parcels (combined as tract 01-114) to the federal government. The new 336.5-acre park, which included the 2-acre site at the fort as well as the picnic area, was named Fort Necessity National Battlefield. (CLR 1997: 14, citing Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1959; GMP 1991: 3)

The record indicates that the expansion of the Fort Necessity battlefield site occurred to "contribute materially to the preservation of the area's historic setting and related historic features, to protect the public approach to the fort, and to removal and prevention of undesirable encroachments and intrusions on the historic scene." The legislation allowed for the acquisition of land area pertaining to the original land patent belonging to George Washington, that had been sold to the state by the Fazenbakers. This area also included the Mount Washington Tavern, which had been within the land area of George Washington's patent. (GMP 1991: 3-4)

In 1974, Congress authorized the acreage to be increased to a maximum of 911 acres. The 25-acre Jumonville Glen unit was acquired between 1977 and 1979 under this authorization. The National Park Foundation donated in fee 266 acres, which were subject to life estates. Fort Necessity now contains a sum of 902.8 acres. (GMP 1991: 4)

Park Changes and Improvements:
An NPS master plan from 1961 indicates site #1 in the picnic area had become the park's primary focus for development, site #2 was abandoned, and site #3 was developed for camping spots (Figure 10). Other proposed changes at this time included a slight realignment of the road segment to site #1 at the junction, and removal of the parking along the original terminal loop at site #1. At this time there was no indication of an overlook on Tower Hill Road, but the 10,000-gallon reservoir was extant at the top of the hill. The maintenance area featured a shed, pump house, and a 30,000-gallon spring reservoir. The 1961 drawing also indicated a proposed expansion of the maintenance building with an office, repair shop, and equipment storage.

In 1974 utility improvements in the park added a second, and larger, 50,000-gallon reservoir next to the CCC-period reservoir at Tower Hill Road, and improved the 30,000-gallon reservoir in the maintenance area (Figure 11). Sometime in the 1970s, camping in site #3 was discontinued when new facilities become available at nearby Ohiopyle State Park. Infrastructure at this site began to be overgrown. (GMP 1991: 27)

In the 1980s the aggregate surface of Gist Road was paved. In 1995, a new maintenance facility was constructed in the location of former CCC Camp SP-12. The old facility was removed in 1997, except for the pump house, reservoir, and driveway.

Physical Changes since 2004:
Around the time the original CLI for the CCC Picnic Area was completed, the park repaved Gist Road and regraveled the Picnic Area Loop. At this time drainage structures were also repaired where needed. Part of this project also preserved the alignment and gravel surface of Gist Road near the CCC stone arch bridge. The bridge and road section were closed to vehicular traffic when a circulation pattern was built for a new visitor center, which opened nearby in 2005. In 2011 an ADA-accessible group picnic pavilion was built along the abandoned road section. (PEPC 33644; PMIS 144132) Trail work was also accomplished in 2005, which included replacement of drainage culverts, removal of hazardous trees/vegetation, rehabilitation of trail surfaces and grading work, and repairs to

a wood footbridges and steps. (PMIS 10987; PMIS 106683) Also in 2005, seven CCC-era stone fireplaces were restored. (PMIS 63899)

Based on recommendations in an NPS engineering analysis in 2005, the park's water distribution system was connected to a municipal water system completed by the National Pike Water Authority in 2011. New water lines were installed to service a VIP RV site in the old maintenance facility, as well as to water fountains in the picnic area. Much of the existing CCC-era system was abandoned, including the two reservoirs, pump house, spring box, and water lines. (PEPC 30068; PMIS 126517)

In 2013, there was a proposal to develop an on-road bike path between Fort Necessity NB and Ohiopyle State Park. The project partner, Allegheny Trail Alliance (ATA), determined the route could not provide the necessary margin of safety required for an on-road bike path. The NPS and ATA concluded that a feasibility study for constructing a trail along the Braddock Road Trace was an acceptable alternative use for the fund. (PMIS 56051)

The park has submitted several project statements in PMIS to address deferred maintenance on structures and roads in the Picnic Area, including installation of paved surface on the loop road and rehabilitation of its culverts, rehabilitation of the two extant CCC-era picnic shelters and a footbridge, and hazard tree removals (see Treatment chapter for project details).

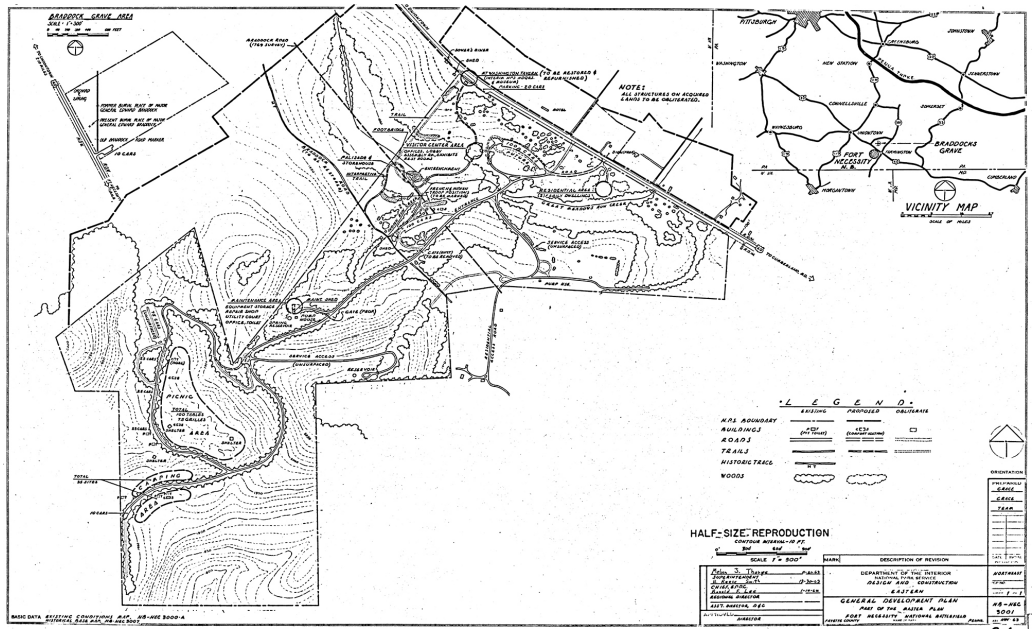


Figure 10. Master plan of Fort Necessity National Battlefield, 1961. (NPS, Denver Service Center, eTIC, Drawing #336-3001)

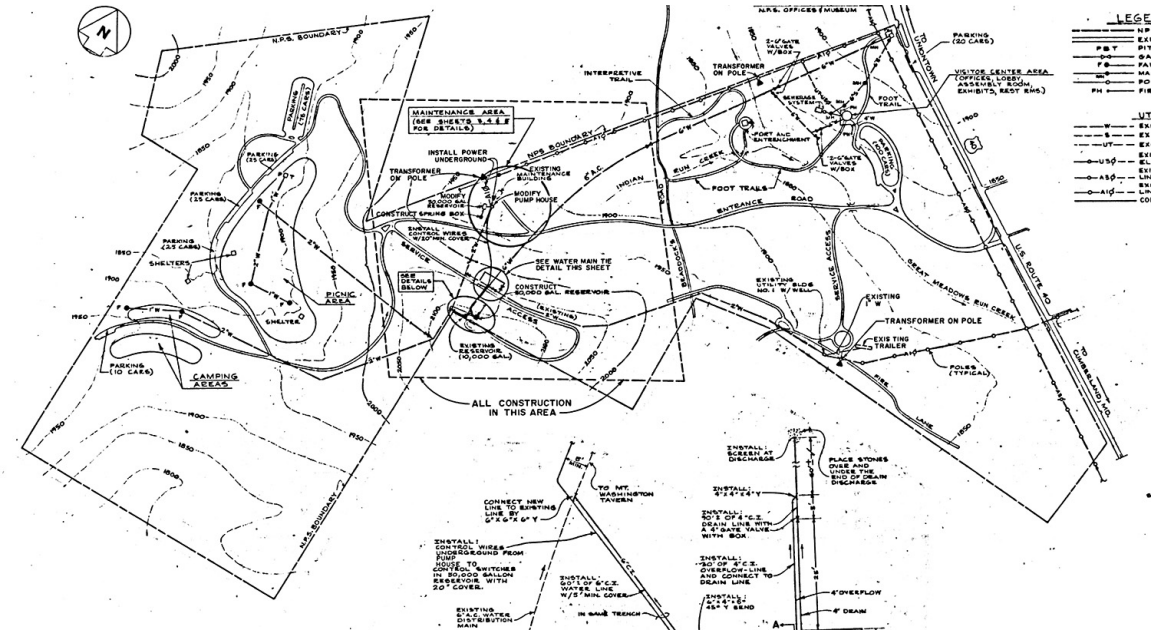


Figure 11. Portion of plan showing utility improvements at Fort Necessity National Battlefield, 1974. (NPS, Denver Service Center, eTIC, Drawing #336-80000-A)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Campground/Picnic Area	Yes	No	No
Government	Government Office	Comfort Station (Latrine)	Yes	Yes	No
Transportation	Pedestrian-Related	Hiking Trail	Yes	Yes	No
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Government	Government Office	Maintenance Facility	Yes	No	No
Transportation	Road-Related	NPS Class I Principal Road	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Picnic Shelter	Yes	Yes	No
Vacant (Not In Use)	Ruin	Ruin	No	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

Public use of Fort Necessity NB is allowed from sunrise until sunset throughout the year. However, the CCC Picnic Area and Gist Road leading to it are only open May 1 – October 31. The park visitor center and Mount Washington Tavern museum have specific hours. Braddock's Gravesite is open sunrise to sunset all year, while Jumonville Glen is open sunrise to sunset from May 1 through October 31. Cross-country skiing is allowed on the park's hiking trails with a permit obtained at the visitor center.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

According to the NPS Region 1 Ethnography Program, and staff at Fort Necessity NB, no ethnographic study has been completed for the park to date (2022). For more information contact Eric Chiasson (Tribal and Cultural Affairs, Lead, Cultural Resources Division) or Colleen E. Curry (Chief, Resource Management Division, National Parks of Western Pennsylvania). According Collen Curry, six Tribal Nations claim cultural affiliation with the park: Delaware Nation of OK, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of OK, Osage Nation, Shawnee Nation, and Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The historic integrity of the Fort Necessity's CCC Picnic Area is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1935-1937, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2024. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. The overall landscape of rolling hills, perennial and intermittent streams, and diverse forests represent historic patterns of natural systems and features. Land use remains focused on recreational picnicking and hiking. Historic spatial organization is still evident through the road and trail systems, and in the primary picnic site that contains picnic spots clustered around ravines and under tree canopies. Associations with the Civilian Conservation Corps are evident through extant wood picnic shelters, two underground water reservoirs, a stone pump house, roadways with drainage swales and stone culverts, two bridges/culverts, pine plantations, and rows of Norway spruce. The CCC's embrace of rustic design is also evident in stone-constructed fireplaces, water stations, and drinking fountains.

Since 1937, some landscape characteristics and features at the CCC Picnic Area have changed, especially the now-mature pine and spruce plantations that equal the heights of the successional forests. The number of picnic sites has dropped from three to one, with the park directing its efforts to the what was the largest of the three. Within this picnic site, the two historic picnic shelters are currently closed due to their poor conditions, and use of the historic stone fireplaces scattered around the grounds is prohibited. Modern steel grills have been installed instead. Parking for the site, which was historically located to the west, is now located within the site. The original restroom has been removed and replaced with a self-contained facility at the parking lot. Original wood picnic tables have been replaced with more durable recycled plastic tables, and accessible tables have been placed adjacent to the parking lot. Southwest of the primary picnic site are the ruins of a third CCC picnic shelter, and remnants of a group campground developed in the early in the 1960s and abandoned in the 1970s.

INTEGRITY

The National Register of Historic Places defines integrity as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retention of these qualities is necessary for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven aspects must be present to retain integrity. The following evaluation is based on an 1935-1937 period of significance for the CCC Picnic Area.

Location:
Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The picnic area is still located within the main unit of Fort Necessity National Battlefield, southwest of the park's historic Great Meadows area.

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The major design elements associated with CCC involvement at Fort Necessity survive today. Working with the state of Pennsylvania, the CCC was successful in achieving the conservation ethic through reforestation efforts and in implementing the rustic design principles by harmonizing new features with the natural surroundings. Although some features have deteriorated, the overall property layout, road locations, drainage features, picnic shelters, and small-scale furnishings continue to present their historic designs and uses.

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. The setting retains the essential qualities of the original spatial organization, circulation, and boundaries; remains within maturing second and third growth forest stands and conifer plantations; and has a number of original structures and small-scale features.

Materials:
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. This aspect is somewhat diminished because the

original wood materials in the picnic shelters and picnic tables have been replaced over the course of more than eighty years. Cedar shingles are still present at the shelters, but are in need of replacement. However, stone associated with the pump house, drinking fountains, water stations, fireplaces, culverts, and gutters is original. Original coniferous plant materials also remain in the pine and spruce plantations. Newer plastic, concrete, and metal materials are in use at the property but are not collectively distracting.

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. Historic workmanship, like historic materials, has diminished over time. However, the park has preserved this aspect through careful rehabilitation efforts, such as the joinery in the picnic shelters, and stone courses of stone in the site furnishings. As such, the CCC's built features continue to evoke rustic design qualities.

Feeling:
Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The historic deign characteristics and built features that describe the CCC program are evident at the property, from their larger scale reforestation efforts on denuded lands to construction of roadways, picnic shelters, and site furnishings.

Association:
Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Extant structures, furnishings, and plantations landscape at the picnic area are directly associated with the CCC program.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

The next section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding List of Classified Structures names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1935-1937), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is non-contributing, it is evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape).

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Archeological sites are the locations of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Only sites identified in approved National Register documentation are identified in this report. The 2004 CLI identified numerous Archeological Sites, but they were not evaluated under Criterion D, Archeology, and therefore have been removed from this section. The 2004 sites that were above-ground ruins or remnants have been incorporated under other Landscape Characteristics in this chapter. Other sites were not found during field work, such as traces of the parking lot west of site #1.

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (to 1937):
Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. Prior to its development, there were no known buildings with in the CCC Picnic Area. In 1936-1937 the CCC constructed two picnic shelters on the gently sloping ground at picnic site #1 as well as a shelter on a hillside between sites #1 and #3. The 23-foot square open pavilions sat on concrete foundations with chestnut log posts and branch supports. The picnic shelter frames were enclosed by log railings and had openings on opposite sides with a hip roof covered of cedar shingles. The CCC also constructed restroom facilities at the three sites; at site #1 there was a wood-frame structure on a rectangular concrete foundation, but details of the structures at sites #2 and #3 are not known. (DeLaura and Thomas 1997: 18)

Due to significant topographic changes, stone culverts and stone swales were constructed along the roads to handle the water runoff. Two bridges were also built; a stone and concrete arch bridge at the eastern end of Gist Road to provide access over Great Meadow Run and a brownstone culvert/bridge along the Picnic Area Loop Road to span an unnamed creek. A small culvert with raised, arched stone headwalls was also built across a swale within the grounds at picnic site #1, on a trail leading to the west picnic shelter. Lastly, a pump house, a square-shaped stone structure with pitched roof, was located at the reservoir/maintenance area to serve the adjacent reservoir.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
In 1991 the park replaced failing chestnut members on the two shelters at site #1 with oak, since chestnut was no longer available. Repairs to the oak sills occurred in 2003-2004. The two picnic shelters at site #1 remain today, but due to worsening conditions since 2004 both are closed to visitors (Figures 26 and 27). Ruins of the hillside shelter between sites #1 and #3 documented in 2004 remain today; it is not clear when the shelter was abandoned. The foundation of the restroom structure remains today (Figure 28). This building was replaced by two portable toilets (one standard and one handicapped accessible) located behind a wood privacy fence at the new parking lot. A self-contained, composting restroom has since replaced the portable units, and the privacy fence is gone (see Figure 23). In 2004 a portable toilet was documented at picnic/campground site #3, but only remnants of it remain today.

The condition of each culvert varies throughout the picnic grounds, but overall the culvert system is in relatively good condition (Figure 29). The culvert with raised, arched stone headwalls at site #1 is extant but one of the side walls is damaged (Figure 30). The park has inserted PVC pipe sleeves in many of the culverts to improve drainage, but today some appear to be undersized and clogged. Some of the stone swales and drainage ditches leading to the culverts are obstructed, and there are likely others that are completely obscured by decaying leaf matter (see Figure 16). Since 2008 the stone arch bridge has been used exclusively as a trail and surfaced in grass (Figure 31, see also Figure 15). The brownstone culvert/bridge remains unchanged but for some wooden side rails added along the road edge (Figure 32, see also Figure 20). The pump house is the only remaining building of the maintenance facilities that were removed in 1997 after completion of a new

maintenance facility (Figure 33).

Other structures in the picnic grounds have been built by the NPS. An open air group picnic shelter dating to the 2011 is located west of the Fort Necessity-National Road Interpretive and Education Center, along the abandoned segment of Gist Road (see Figure 15). Three wood pedestrian bridges span swales and ravines within picnic site #1. Two of these bridges are a standard style wood bridges with telephone pole beams and square wood rails. The third bridge has a wood railing in the shape of a “Y” and contains a steel beam for support (Figure 34).

Three retaining walls were observed during field work. An L-shaped log retaining wall, possibly part of a loading ramp, is built into the hillside east of the pump house. The remnants of a stone retaining wall along the road trace beyond site #3 that was documented in 2004 is still visible. A low stone wall is located on the walkway that abuts the group picnic shelter.

Evaluation:
The CCC Picnic Area retains a number of features constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), including two picnic shelters, stone arch bridge, culverts/bridges, stone swales, and a pump house.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
CCC Picnic Shelter (East)	207393	Contributing	081606				No
CCC Picnic Shelter (West)	93833	Contributing	081605		Location	16518	Yes
CCC Pump House	93834	Contributing	657021				No
CCC Picnic Shelter Ruin	207394	Contributing					No
CCC Restroom Foundation	207395	Contributing					No
CCC Stone Arch Bridge	93835	Contributing	081603				No
CCC Brownstone Culvert/Bridge	93832	Contributing	081611		Asset	17736	Yes
CCC Stone Culverts	93836	Contributing	081610		Asset	17737	Yes
CCC Stone Swale	93837	Contributing	081604				No
Group Picnic Shelter	207396	Noncontributing					No
Wood Pedestrian Bridges (3)	93839	Noncontributing					No
Timber Retaining Wall	93838	Noncontributing					No
Remnant Stone Wall	207397	Noncontributing					No
Stone Wall at Group Picnic Shelter	207398	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 26. View looking southwest at the west picnic shelter and a contemporary metal grill. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6821)



Figure 27. View looking southwest at the east picnic shelter and a contemporary metal grill. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6831)



Figure 28. View of the former restroom building at site #1. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6843)



Figure 29. Typical stone culvert built by the CCC. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6796)



Figure 30. View looking south at the grass-covered culvert/pedestrian bridge between the parking lot and the west picnic shelter (visible in background). (OCLP 2022, DSC-6817)



Figure 31. View of the east abutment of the CCC stone arch bridge. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6907)



Figure 32. View of the west abutment of the brownstone culvert/bridge. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6806)



Figure 33. View looking west at the pump house located in the abandoned reservoir/maintenance area. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6767)



Figure 34. View looking east at the footbridge with Y-shaped railings and a CCC drinking fountain. The east picnic shelter is in the background. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6834)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition (to 1937):
Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. The CCC collaborated with the Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Water, Bureau of Parks, to construct a 16-foot wide drive (Gist Road) from the park's historic core to the new picnic area development. This road passed by a reservoir/maintenance area access by a short gravel road, and then continued to a traffic circle. From this junction, a long gravel road (Tower Hill Road) connected to a reservoir/overlook to the east, and two gravel roads connected to three picnic sites to the south and west. By 1937 the two picnic grounds roads were joined to create a loop (Picnic Area Loop Road). Parking was available at the threes picnic sites, but notably parking for site #1 was located away from the grounds, in parking bays positioned on a separate road that branched off of the loop road. For all of the roads, according to NPS drawing NEC-9015-2 -2, "Grading will be kept to a minimum to avoid damage to root systems. The surfaces will not be rolled or treated - allowing ordinary absorption of surface water."

Post Historic and Existing Conditions:
With construction of a new visitor center and associated roadways and parking lots in 2005, the eastern section of Gist Road was abandoned in 2008, after which most of paved roadbed was replaced with grass for use as a trail (Figure 15). The remainder of Gist Road retains its original alignment, but the gravel surface has been replaced with asphalt (Figure 16). The short road to the abandoned reservoir/maintenance area, and the longer Tower Hill Road to the former reservoir/overlook, retain their gravel surfaces that are increasingly obscured with grass and leaf cover due to their infrequent use (Figures 17 and 18). The traffic circle is also extant and partially paved with asphalt (see Figure 14). The gravel-surfaced Picnic Area Loop Road is extant and now features one-way traffic (Figures 19 and 20, see also Figure 12). During heavy rain the steep graded and gravel surfaces of the Loop Road combine to develop channels where vehicle tires run. These routinely require regrading and repairs in order to maintain the road. The road that accessed the picnic/campground (site #3) exists as a trace; a gate and a mound of dirt has been placed on the road to prohibit vehicular access (Figure 21). This trace continues beyond site #3 toward the southwest corner of the park. The original parking areas associated with the three picnic sites are gone; parking is now provided by a paved lot and gravel access road within site #1, the only maintained picnicking space in the CCC Picnic Area (Figures 22 and 23).

Pedestrian circulation within the site #1 consists of paved paths at the new parking lot that access accessible picnic tables, drinking fountain, and the restroom, and gravel paths that transition to informal earthen/grass paths heading to the picnic grounds (Figure 24). The Picnic Area Loop Trail tracks through the area, while portions of two other park trails cross Gist Road and the traffic circle (Figure 25). A small portion of the Braddock Road Trace tracks across Gist Road, and is part of the Outer Meadow Trail. Hiking paths consist of leaf litter and packed dirt. Assuming the paths appearing on the 1937 maps were built, then paths have changed significantly. (NPS drawing NEC-9012, 1937) Evidence of this prior path system within the current picnic area wasn't easily distinguished from the forest understory. More research is needed to determine if trails were built by the CCC or NPS.

Evaluation:
The vehicular road system constructed by the CCC at the picnic area has changed little from its historic pattern, except for the abandonment of the road leading to the picnic/campground site #3. Parking facilities have changed, with a new parking lot now within picnic site #1 rather than to the west. Trails still track through the picnic area, but their development history requires further research.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Gist Road	93844	Contributing	081602		Location	46123	Yes
CCC Entry Drive to Former Maintenance Facility	93841	Contributing	1171237				No
Traffic Circle	93849	Contributing	657018				No
CCC Road to Reservoir [Tower Hill Road]	93842	Contributing	657019				No
Picnic Area Loop Road	93847	Contributing	081609		Location	16521	Yes
CCC Camping Area Access Road race	93840	Contributing	081609				No
Braddock Road Trace (portion)	207390	Contributing	000361				No
Picnic Area Loop Trail	93848	Undetermined					No
Indian Run Loop Trail (portion)	207391	Undetermined					No
Forest-Outer Loop Trail (portion)	207392	Undetermined					No
Entry Drive and Parking Lot	93843	Noncontributing					No
Maintenance Access Drive to Upper (East) Picnic Shelter	93846	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 15. View looking southwest at the abandoned eastern segment of Gist Road, from the stone arch bridge. In the background is a group picnic shelter built in the 2000s. (OCLP 2022, DSC-7014)



Figure 16. View looking southwest at Gist Road and a stone gutter. (OCLP 2022, DSC-7007)



Figure 17. View looking southeast at the access road to the maintenance area. Gist Road is in the background. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6775)



Figure 18. View looking east at Tower Hill Road, which leads to the former overlook and one of the abandoned reservoirs. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6791)



Figure 19. View looking south from the traffic circle to the start and end of the Picnic Area Loop Road.



Figure 20. View looking north at the Picnic Area Loop Road at its crossing over the brownstone bridge/culvert. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6862)



Figure 21. View looking southwest at the road trace to the now abandoned picnic/campground site. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6797)



Figure 22. View looking east at the entrance drive to the new parking lot. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6844)



Figure 23. View looking northwest at the new parking lot, restroom, and rail fence. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6810)



Figure 24. View looking south at the paved paths around the accessible picnic tables. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6813)



Figure 25. View looking north from the traffic circle to a portion of the Forest-Outer Meadow Loop Trail. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6795)

Landscape Characteristic: Constructed Water Features

Historic Condition (to 1937):
Constructed water features are built features and elements that utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions in the landscape. The CCC built two underground reservoirs to supply water for the water stations, drinking fountains, and restrooms. A 10,000-gallon reservoir was located on a hilltop east of the picnic sites at the end of Tower Hill Road. A 30,000-gallon reservoir, was located down the hill from the traffic circle in the former state maintenance area.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
In 1974 utility improvements in the park added a second, and larger, underground 50,000-gallon reservoir next to the CCC-period reservoir at Tower Hill Road and improved the 30,000-gallon reservoir and pump house in the maintenance area to supply water to the Mount Washington Tavern and the Visitor Center. In 2011 the park's water distribution system was connected to a municipal water system. New water lines were installed to service a VIP camp site at the old maintenance facility, as well as to water stations and drinking fountains at picnic site #1. At this time much of the existing CCC-era water system was abandoned, including the two reservoirs, pump house, spring box, and water lines.

Evaluation:
Though no longer in use, the two CCC-era reservoirs are historic. However, as they are underground only their caps remain visible.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
CCC Reservoir (A) (Tower Hill Road)	93851	Contributing	657013				No
CCC Reservoir (B) (Old Maintenance Area)	207401	Contributing	657014				No

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historic Condition (to 1937):
Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. Historically, the land surrounding Fort Necessity consisted of a virgin hardwood forest (oak,
hickory, chestnut, and tuliptree) with clearings containing meadows and wetlands. In 1754 the meadow in the eastern portion of the park became the site of Fort Necessity – comprised of a storehouse, stockade, trenches, and earthworks – that was built by George Washington and his 130-man regiment to defend against an expected French response to an earlier attack at nearby Jumonville Glen. On the morning of July 3 a combined force of around 700 French troops and Native American warriors advanced upon the British standing before their trenches. The British withdrew to their fortifications while the French dispersed into the surrounding woodlands. A drizzle that became a steady rain became a major disadvantage to the British, dampening the gunpowder and flooding the trenches. With morale and ammunition dwindling, and casualties and deaths mounting, the British were outnumbered and outgunned. That evening, however, the French offered to negotiate and by the morning of July 4 the French and British had agreed to terms of surrender, marking Washington's first military defeat. The British were allowed to march out of the fort with their rifles, supplies, and wounded, and return to Virginia. The French then burned Fort

Necessity to the ground.

Sixteen years after the battle, Washington purchased the Great Meadows and owned it until his death in 1799. When Washington's heirs sold the property, the area began to change. In 1818 the National Road was constructed north of the fort site, becoming a main thoroughfare to the west. The Mount Washington Tavern, one of many inns along the route, was built in 1830s to serve travelers and stages. When road traffic began to decline in the 1850s the tavern became a private residence. The lands around the fort area and adjacent hillsides were timbered and farmed, while streams were straightened and ditches and drain tiles were installed to dewater the meadow. However, the various landowners of the former fort site understood its historical significance and left it mostly untouched.

Memorialization of the events of 1754 began in the 1920s when the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution erected three commemorative monuments visible to travelers along the National Road. In 1932 two acres of land surrounding the fort site were donated to the federal government and 311 acres surrounding the two acres were transferred to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These parcels became Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site and Fort Necessity State Park, respectively. The state park also included the Mount Washington Tavern, which became a museum. Archeological investigations informed a reconstruction of the fort in the Great Meadow, and construction of new roads and parking lots nearby. The CCC assisted in these projects, and reforested denuded pasture lands with spruce and pine. In the western portion of the park and amongst some of the new tree plantings, the CCC also developed a picnic area, parking, maintenance area, and two water reservoirs, which were accessed by a new roads and several trails. Concurrent with this effort, the National Road was improved and renamed US 40 in 1936.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The lands at Braddock's Gravesite were added to the state park in the 1950s. In 1962 state park lands were transferred to the federal government, which was combined with the National Battlefield Site to become Fort Necessity National Battlefield. At that time an accurate reconstruction of the fort was completed, and by 1965 a visitor center and parking lot were built on the northeast edge of the meadow. The Jumonville Glen area was added to the park in the late 1970s. Construction of new facilities for park administration and maintenance was completed in the main unit in 1997. In 2005 a new visitor center and parking lot were built and located farther away from the meadow and fort, as well as a new road and parking at the Mount Washington Tavern. Around this time vehicular traffic was eliminated from the eastern end of Gist Road. In 2008 a playground was built next to the visitor center and by 2011 a group picnic shelter was constructed on the former Gist Road roadway, near the abandoned CCC stone arch bridge.

Sometime after 1937 picnic site #2 was abandoned, and by 1961 a group campground site was planned or built at picnic site #3. The campground was phased out in the 1970s when camping become available at nearby Ohiopyle State Park. The picnic area #1 is the only site that remains in use today. An overlook and reservoir on Tower Hill Road and the reservoir and maintenance area off of Gist Road, are no longer used. However, a recreational vehicle hookup is used at the reservoir/maintenance area for seasonal park staff.

Evaluation:
Recreational land uses still define the CCC Picnic Area at Site #1, but the extent of these opportunities has declined as site #2 was abandoned at an early date and the park no longer maintains facilities at site #3. The reservoir/overlook and reservoir/maintenance areas are no longer used as originally designed.

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic and Existing Conditions:

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. Fort Necessity National Battlefield lies within an upland valley between parallel ridges known as Chestnut Ridge and Laurel Hill. This upland valley is a part of the Allegheny Mountain subregion of the Appalachian Plateau and is known as the southern Laurel Highlands. Chestnut Ridge channels regional urban growth along its western base, thus separating the rural undeveloped "highlands" where the park is from the Uniontown and Connellsville urban corridor. The geology of the park is similar to that of much of southwestern Pennsylvania, comprised of veins of carboniferous minerals formed during the Permian, Pennsylvanian, Mississippian, and Devonian eras. (GMP 1991: 22)

The surrounding area is characterized by a mixture of narrow, steep-sided valleys, interspersed with small open meadows and rolling hillsides. Within the park the land is rolling and well drained except for the relatively wet historic meadow area, known as the Great Meadows. Elevations range from 1,760 feet to 2,325 feet. (GMP 1991: 22)

At the time of the 1754 battle the eastern deciduous forest in this region had reached one of its densest developments in the Alleghenies. Historic records indicate that climax communities of oak, chestnut, hickory, and tulip poplar were predominant in the future park area, with the battlefield area probably also containing ashes and pines. Also present were stands of hemlock, maple, beech, birch, elm, and walnut, with white pine on northern slopes and in coves. Openings in the forest cover were limited to wetlands and poorly drained marsh areas. British Lieutenant Colonel George Washington selected one such meadow, now called the Great Meadow, as the site of Fort Necessity, built with nearby trees and surrounded by earthworks and ditches. While the open conditions of the meadow prevented a surprise attack, the tree line surrounding the meadow, as it existed then, was within musket range of the fort, giving the enemy a strategic advantage. This, combined with heavy rain that inundated the meadow’s streams and British earthwork ditches, resulted in a French victory. (GMP 1991: 23)

Today, the park is primarily forested with some minor agriculture mixed in. According to NPSpecies (n.d.), there are 451 vascular plant species present, or probably present, within park boundaries. Perles et.al. (2006) conducted a vegetation classification and mapping effort and identified eight vegetation associations, five of which are represented in the CCC Picnic Area: Northern Red Oak-Mixed Hardwood Forest, White Oak-Mixed Hardwood Forest, Tuliptree Forest, Red Maple-Black Cherry Successional Forest, and Conifer Plantation (see Vegetation section below). Understory trees and shrubs within the five groups include American hornbeam, northern spicebush, cucumber magnolia, sweet birch, mountain laurel, hophornbeam, chokecherry, sprouts of American chestnut, shadbush, sweet birch, southern arrowwood, greenbriar, American hornbeam, northern spicebush, southern arrowwood, hawthorn, and apples. Herbaceous plants and vines include deertongue grass, partridgeberry, New York fern, eastern hay-scented fern, intermediate wood fern, white snakeroot, and spotted ladysthumb, Common vines include Virginia creeper and poison ivy. (Cole 2018: xvii,16-18)

Non-native and invasive vegetation are established within the park as a result of past and present anthropogenic activities and environmental factors. Three of the most abundant and widespread invasive plants observed were Japanese barberry (Berberis thunbergii), Morrow’s honeysuckle (Lonicera morrowi), and multiflora rose (Rosa multiflora). These invasive plants threaten to take over the forest understory and crowd out native plants, thus compromising the cultural integrity of the park by eliminating the vegetation that was present during the historic period. Only one plant, bushy St. John’s wort (Hypericum densiflorum), is listed as threatened in Pennsylvania by the state government. (Cole et.al. 2018: xvii, 16-18)

There are nine streams and eight ponds located within the park. The largest stream is Great Meadow Run, a 3rd order stream that empties into the Youghiogheny River and, eventually, the Ohio River system in Pittsburgh. There are several, unnamed, intermittent streams; three of these drain Scott’s Run to the Monongahela River and another drains Dunbar Creek to the Youghiogheny River. Braddock’s Run is notable as a headwater tributary of the Monongahela River. Within the CCC Picnic Area, there is one unnamed perennial stream and several intermittent streams. (Cole

et.al. 2018: 21)

The park's wetland, the Great Meadows, comprises approximately 50 acres of open area, including roughly 2 acres of breeding habitat for the American Woodcock (Scolopax minor). However, it has been modified in many ways over the years, necessitating the development of a restoration plan. Several studies indicate that there used to be extensive wetlands adjacent to the fort, as well as along both sides of Great Meadows Run. Since, the area has been ditched, drained, and filled, leaving the Great Meadow substantially changed compared to original conditions. The site has also been subjected to pasturing and the introduction of non-native vegetation such as Morrow's honeysuckle and multiflora rose. Over the past decade, there have been several projects aimed at the removal of these and other invasive species. The tree line that historically bounded the area has also been altered over time. (Cole et.al. 2018: 22)

Evaluation:
Although there are no specific features under this landscape characteristic, the overall historic patterns of geology, vegetation, and hydrology present during the historic period are generally intact at the CCC Picnic Area.

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition (to 1937):
Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. The CCC built single-and double-stone fireplaces with metal grates at the picnic sites. The CCC also built water stations and drinking fountains. The water stations were ashlar stone with a spigot and basin in front. The drinking fountains were ashlar stone with a drinking faucet on top and a spigot on the side. Wood picnic tables were also provided at the picnic sites.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Many of the stone small-scale features at picnic site #1 remain today, including both single and double fireplaces, drinking fountains, and water stations (Figures 35, 36, and 37). The single fireplaces measure approximately 3.5 feet by 5.2 feet, 4.2 feet high at the chimney and 2 feet high at the grill. Double fireplaces measure around 6 feet by 5.5 feet, 3.5 feet high at the chimney and 2 feet high at the grill. Due to their unstable conditions, none of the fireplaces are available for visitor use, prompting the park to add a number of metal grills mounted on 3' by 4' concrete slabs (see Figures 26 and 27). The water stations and drinking fountains vary in size but are generally 2 feet square by 4 feet tall. The water system was not on at the time of field work, so it is unknown if they work. However, several spigots were broken off and missing. CCC-era fireplaces, water stations, and drinking fountains can be found at picnic site/campground #3 but they are in very poor condition.

Some of the small-scale features originally installed at the CCC Picnic Area have been replaced. Most of the current picnic tables are made of recycled plastic, some of which are set within rectangular areas trimmed with 2-inch by 4-inch frames that once contained gravel bases but have become overgrown with grass/moss. Accessible picnic tables are located adjacent to the parking lot and feature tables made of wood mounted on metal and tables constructed of recycled plastic. The accessible picnic area also contains a modern drinking fountain.

NPS additions to the site include wood guard rail fences demarcating the parking area at site #1 and portions of the traffic circle. Signage includes an information board by the parking area, trail markers, and traffic regulation placards. Log cribbing used to create steps on portions of the Picnic Loop Trail was probably installed through NPS efforts, but log cribbing on overgrown trails may have been installed as part of the CCC efforts. Intended to control traffic, several boulders line the entry drive to the parking area, but some are obscured by grass. Concrete/stone fire rings flush with the ground were observed, as well as a smaller circular concrete posthole that supported a trash can. Small-scale features at the abandoned picnic site/campground #3 include tree stump stools, firewood, concrete fire rings, trash cans, wood picnic tables, and random blocks of concrete.

Evaluation:
Stone fireplaces, water stations, and drinking fountains comprise the roster of historic small-scale features at the CCC Picnic Area. Other features post-date the historic period.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
CCC Fireplaces	93855	Contributing	081607		Location	16517	Yes
CCC Drinking Fountains	93854	Contributing	081608		Location	16520	Yes
CCC Water Stations	93856	Contributing	657786		Location	16520	Yes
Recycled Plastic Picnic Tables	94943	Noncontributing					No
Wood Picnic Tables	94947	Noncontributing					No
Metal Cooking Grills	94940	Noncontributing					No
Wood Guard Rail Fence at Parking Lot	94946	Noncontributing					No
Signage	94944	Noncontributing					No
Boulders	93852	Noncontributing					No
Concrete Fire Rings	94888	Noncontributing					No
Concrete Rings (former trash can support)	94937	Noncontributing					No
Log Cribbing on Trails	94939	Noncontributing					No
Metal Entrance Gates	94941	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 35. A CCC single stone fireplace. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6818)



Figure 36. A CCC double-stone fireplace. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6826)



Figure 37. A CCC water station. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6842)

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Conditions (to 1937):
Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. The northeast-southwest oriented Gist Road served as the entrance road to the picnic sites, beginning at a CCC-constructed bridge over Great Meadow Run, passing by a reservoir/maintenance area, and terminating at a traffic circle that funneled vehicles to other roads. The reservoir/maintenance area was accessed by a short drive and included a pump house and various maintenance structures and storage yard.

At the traffic circle, one road ascended to a hillside overlook and reservoir to the east while another road, built as a loop, descended to three distinct picnic sites to the south and west. Picnic site #1, the largest of the three, was in the western and gently sloped interior of the loop road and features anchored two shelters, restroom building, and numerous stone fireplaces, water stations, drinking fountains, and tables scattered around the grounds. Trails tracked through this area, spanning ravines and ditches, and extending to the surrounding steeper sloped terrain. Parking for this site was located to the west, along a second, shorter road that bowed westward from the loop road. Two smaller picnic sites were located on the outside of the loop road: site #2 abutted the eastern side of the loop road, while site #3 was accessed by a separate road at the southern side of the loop that headed southwest along a ridge. These two sites also featured parking, toilets, stone-built furnishings, and tables, but no shelters. However, there was a shelter located on a hillside between sites #1 and #3.

At the picnic sites, existing deciduous forests provided dappled shade. Although no planting plans have been found, understory vegetation was presumably cleared to build the shelters and provide space for picnic tables. Grass was planted as groundcover.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The far eastern portion of Gist Road, including the CCC stone bridge, were closed to vehicular traffic in 2008. The road surfaces were removed and replaced with grass, which is open to pedestrians. The remainder of Gist Road is intact, passing by the now-abandoned reservoir/maintenance area and terminating at the traffic circle. Tower Hill Road is extant, but no longer actively used as the overlook is forested and the reservoir is no longer in use. Two picnic shelters and stone site furnishings remain in picnic site #1, which reside under tall trees and amongst a turf/moss/leaf groundcover, but spatial relationships have changed somewhat with the addition of a parking lot. The original parking spaces to the west are gone. Site #2 is overgrown and is no longer visible, and only traces of the road and clearing remain at site #3. Ruins of the picnic shelter between sites #1 and #3 are still visible in the woods.

Evaluation:
Historic spatial organization at the CCC Picnic Area remains mostly intact, with most of Gist Road still serving as the entrance route to the picnic area. Gist Road still terminates as a traffic circle and a loop road accessing the primary picnic space (site #1). CCC shelters and other small-scale furnishing remain in this area. However, the addition of the parking lot in the primary picnic space, abandonment of the road/parking lot to the west, and ruins of the shelter to the southwest, as well as the abandonment of picnic site #2 and the picnic/camping site #3, have altered this landscape characteristic.

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition (to 1937):
Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. At the time of the 1754 battle, the future CCC Picnic Area was predominantly an upland climax forest, but by the time the CCC developed the area in the 1930s, it was a third and second growth upland forest. The CCC selectively removed trees and shrubs to build the roads, shelters, and grounds. Among the plants removed were dead chestnuts (Aesculus spp.) that were victims of the chestnut blight that decimated the species in the early 1900s. Some of the chestnut logs were used in constructing the picnic shelters.

A small portion of land along the northern steep slopes of the loop road had been cleared, probably for agricultural grazing. This area appears on the 1937 plans and was planted as a pine plantation (Pinus spp.) by the CCC. Other plantings related to the CCC efforts include a number of mature Norway spruce (Picea abies) planted at 23-foot intervals along Gist Road. Plans from 1937 distinguish the existing forested areas from those that were reforested through CCC efforts.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Conifer plantations in the park today are characterized by Japanese larch, Norway spruce, red pine, and white pine. The most visible plantations in the CCC picnic area are the pine plantation in the northern portions of the loop road and the rows of spruces along Gist Road (Figures 12, 13, and 14). In pine plantations, hardwoods such as red maple, American hornbeam, hawthorn, white ash, and black cherry mingle in the canopy and subcanopy with the pines. The canopies of spruce plantations are typically overstocked, creating dense shade in the understory. Common shrubs include invasive species such as Japanese barberry, Morrow's honeysuckle, and multiflora rose, in addition to native species such as American witch hazel, northern spicebush, several Rubus species, and southern arrowwood. In drier areas, the herbaceous layer includes white snakeroot, spinulose woodfern, rough bedstraw, and partridgeberry, while common rush, whitegrass, and reed canarygrass are more common in wetter areas. (Cole et.al. 2018: 16-18)

Also present along the shoulders of Gist Road and the grounds in the picnic area feature turf and moss with unmown areas covered with leaf litter (see Cover). The ravines and streams within the picnic grounds contain additional vegetation more consistent with wetland or marsh ecosystems. The predominant species include skunk cabbage and cinnamon fern.

Evaluation:
Portions of the pine and spruce plantations planted by the CCC are still present in the CCC Picnic Area, though some individual trees have been lost to age, disease, and storm damage. In the primary picnic site, turf and mosses dominate as groundcover.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
CCC Pine Plantation	94950	Contributing					No
CCC Norway Spruce Row	94949	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 12. View looking southeast at a pine plantation along the Picnic Area Loop Road. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6854)



Figure 13. View looking east at some of the Norway spruce trees along the abandoned eastern end of Gist Road. The guardwalls of the CCC stone arch bridge are in the background. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6898)



Figure 14. View looking west at the terminus of the Norway spruce row at the traffic circle. (OCLP 2022, DSC-6786)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Condition (to 1937):
A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived. A historic drawing of the CCC Picnic Area indicates an overlook at the switchback on Tower Hill Road. Near the park's highest elevation, this feature would have provided good northerly views and possibly a glimpse of the CCC camp, especially since the newly-planted plantation trees were not tall. However, the overlook is not mentioned in subsequent drawings, and it is unclear if it was ever developed. A similar northerly prospect of Great Meadows and open fields would have been possible from much of Gist Road and the traffic circle. Existing woodlands and topography constricted southerly views from Gist Road and views throughout the picnic area.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Today, vegetation limits most of the earlier views. The mature spruces at the eastern end of Gist Road were intentionally planted to screen the reconstructed fort in the Great Meadows area. A drive along Gist Road provides glimpses into the Great Meadows area, but many are blocked by the Norway spruce row and reforestation. Northerly views from the traffic circle frame an adjacent meadow, while a northerly view along the Picnic Area Loop Road looks across the clearing created by the former septic field (see Figure 25). Depending on the season, there are occasional views of the grounds at site #1 from the loop road through the emerging leaves

Evaluation:
Views at the CCC Picnic Area are generally confined by a combination of mature successional forests, CCC-era plantations, and topography. The Picnic Area Loop Road provides glimpses of the primary picnic site, and the Gist Road and the traffic circle offers periodic views looking north toward Great Meadow and fields. A proposed overlook along Tower Hill Road may have provided longer and wider views of the park and its surroundings, but this area is now cloaked in dense forest vegetation.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Views of Picnic Site from Picnic Area Loop Road	207399	Contributing					No
View of Great Meadow and Fields from Gist Road Traffic Circle	207400	Contributing					No

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 5

Next Assessment Due Date: 01/21/2030

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 01/21/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The CCC Picnic Area is in “fair” condition. The property shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the property to degrade to a poor condition.

Gist Road and the Picnic Area Loop Road are in good condition, but several culverts and gutters are not functioning as designed. The poor condition of the two picnic shelters and many of the stone drinking fountains and fireplaces, along with a culvert/pedestrian bridge, require maintenance. The park plans to rehabilitate the two shelters and three wood footbridges in FY 2025. The site’s deciduous and coniferous vegetation is mature but appears to be stable. The wooded canopy allows dappled light to sustain groundcovers of grass and moss, which is also aided by the lack of heavy or sustained foot traffic.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/21/2021

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed as part of a comprehensive update of the entire CLI. Planning and scheduling this update will occur in FY 2022.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/17/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Superintendent, in consulation with Lawren Dunn, Curator, and Connie Ranson, Natural Resource Specialist, agreed with this evaluation. Some of the vegetation issues have been addressed, culverts have been cleaned and repaired, and the Gist Road Bridge, roads, and fireplaces have been addressed. A "good" assessment indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 05/08/2003

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Impacts

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Accumulation of silt, leaf duff, and vegetation threatens the operation of the picnic area’s culverts and gutters. Parking management stones along the drive to the parking lot are obscured.

Date Identified: 01/21/2025

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Use of historic stone features – fireplaces, water stations, drinking fountains – is unavailable due to inoperable or deteriorated conditions.

Date Identified: 01/21/2025

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: The two picnic shelters and stone fireplaces are closed to visitors due to hazardous conditions. PMIS 335154 is formulated for FY25 to rehabilitate the shelters.

Date Identified: 01/21/2025

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: The wood guard rail fence at the parking lot is failing and has missing posts and rails.

Date Identified: 01/21/2025

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: General Management Plan

Document Date: 1991-01-01

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

The park's 1991 General Management Plan proposed Rehabilitation for the picnic site. (GMP 1991: 51,53)

"The picnic area will be upgraded to reflect current use levels and to provide adequate restroom facilities. Sites will be available for group reservations. The one-way access road will be slightly realigned to make bus access easier and to allow more school groups to use the picnic area."

"The former state maintenance facility, which is in poor condition and is too small to meet basic park needs, will be removed. Access to this site will be maintained so that the park's water system pump can be serviced."

"Before any structure is removed, it will be evaluated for eligibility for inclusion on the National Register.

Several projects in PMIS address future treatment of facilities in the CCC Picnic Area.
• Improve Surface of Picnic Loop Road (PMIS 315659), requested FY 2024. This project will supply pre-design, final design and compliance efforts for the installation of the pavement on the Picnic Area Loop Road. include pavilions, water fountains, stone fireplaces, and a comfort station. The project will grade and compact the existing surface in conjunction with asphalt paving consisting of base and overlay. Currently the park closes the picnic grounds and loop during the off-season due to the difficulty in keeping the road open due to its current surface and condition. This road is a continual maintenance concern as improper drainage and surface compaction contributes to erosion from water runoff. The park's maintenance staff routinely has to remove aggregates from within the historic CCC-era culvert system. These clogs further degrade the ability of the drainage system to function properly.
• Rehabilitate Culvert System (PMIS 315754), requested FY 2025. Clean and repair in-kind material damaged plastic drain pipes that come out of the catch basins under the Picnic Loop Road and daylight on the opposite side. Deteriorations to the masonry of the historic catch basins will be repaired in conjunction with grading efforts.
• Rehabilitate CCC Pavilions and Pedestrian Trails Bridges – LRF MA (PMIS 335154), requested FY 2024. The project addresses repairs and replacement of deteriorated wood and timber elements of two CCC era picnic pavilions and one pedestrian trail bridge. The scope of the work for the pavilions includes the replacement of logs, framing, and shingles.
• Replace Roofs on CCC Pavilion (PMIS 315336), requested FY 2024. The two structures are located in highly shaded areas and routinely grow moss that eventually deteriorates the cedar shake shingles. Currently park staff cannot remove the moss from the structure due to the concern that it will take the shingles with it. The new roof will be with in-kind materials and should be on a 10-12 year cycle due to location and material.
• Remove Hazardous Trees (PMIS 315418), requested FY 2022. Removal of hazardous trees along public roadways, trails, structures, and picnic areas. The systematic remove trees that are dead or dying and are posing a hazard to historic structures and visitor safety. An evaluation of trees within the Natural Resources Division will be conducted by park staff to identify tree hazards to visitors, staff, and other resources. Areas of focus will be near roads, trails, visitor centers, historic structures, and all high Visitor use areas. This project is a proactive project to remove the potential and future threat to park visitors and property. All trees being removed are either dead or dying.

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
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DeLaura, Margaret and Tom Thomas	Cultural Landscape Report (Draft), Fort Necessity National Battlefield	1997	NPS, Denver Service Center			
DeLaura, Margaret and Tom Thomas	Historic Resource Study [HRS], Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Pennsylvania	1996	NPS, Denver Service Center			
DeLaura, Margaret and Tom Thomas	National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Draft), Fort Necessity National Battlefield	1996	NPS, Denver Service Center			
Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division	Design Scoping Report Project PRA-FONE 500 (1) for Fort Necessity National Battlefield	2002	n/a			
Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division	Fort Necessity National Battlefield: Engineering Study for Roads and Bridges	1998	n/a			

National Park Service	General Management Plan [GMP], Development Concept Plan, Interpretive Prospectus, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Pennsylvania	1991	NPS, Denver Service Center			
Perles, S.J., G.S. Podniesinski, E.A. Zimmerman, W.A. Millinor, and L.A. Sneddon	Vegetation Classification and Mapping at Fort Necessity National Battlefield. Technical Report NPS/NER/NRTR—2006/038	2006	National Park Service, Philadelphia, PA			
Resnick, Benjamin	Archeological Inventory/Overview and Assessment Investigations, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Fayette County, Pennsylvania	1994	GAI Consultants (Draft)			
Staff, Fort Necessity National Battlefield	Resource Management Plan [RMP], Fort Necessity National Battlefield	1994	CRBIB			
Sypolt, Larry N.	Fort Necessity, Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Sp-12 (Draft)	1988	NPS			
Torres-Reyes, Ricardo	Ground Cover Study, Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site	1970	CRBIB			

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Aerial photograph

Supplemental Information Narrative:

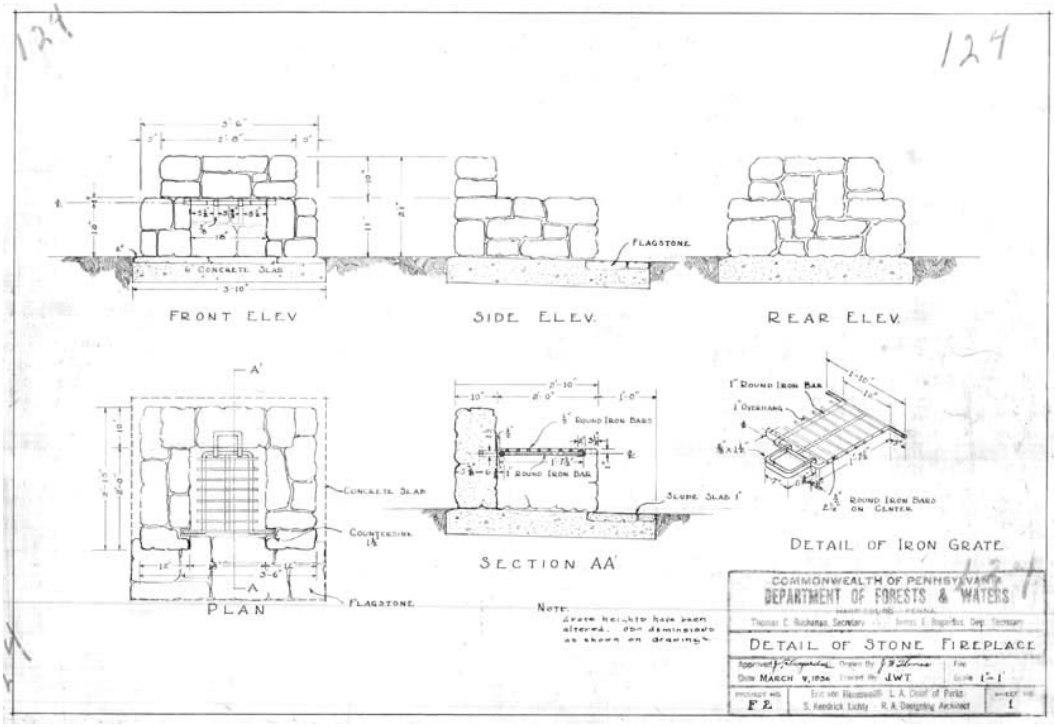
Aerial photograph: Fort Necessity, PA, 1:24,000, 1994.

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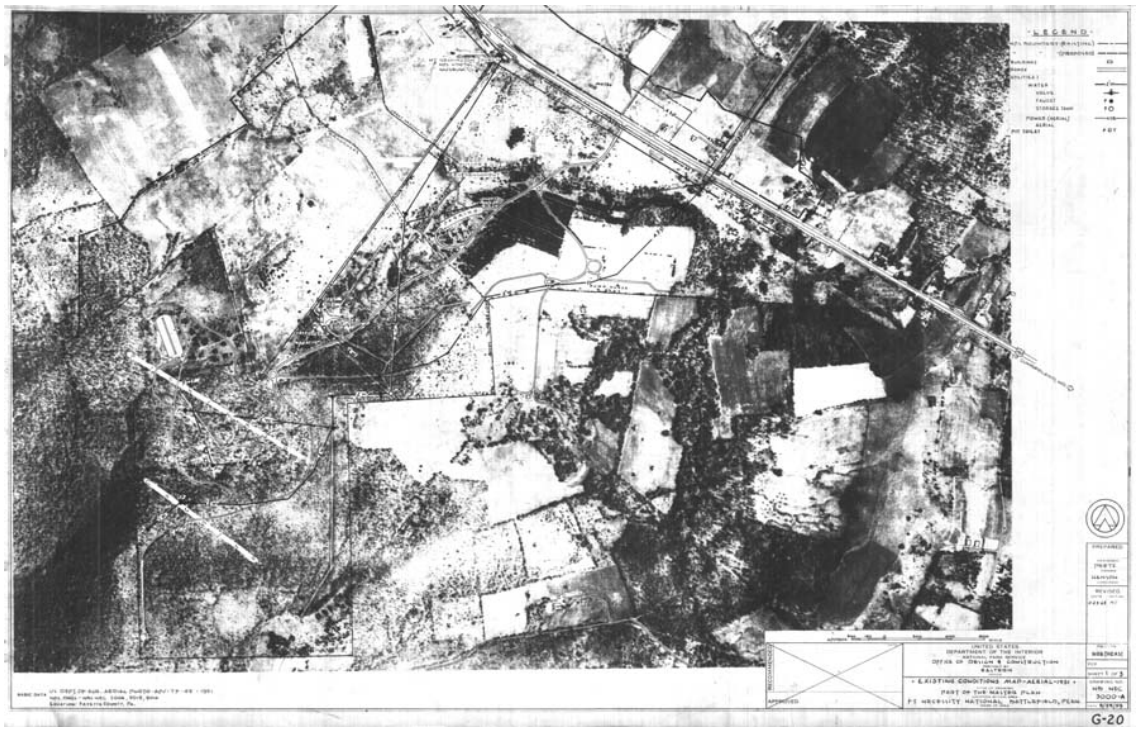


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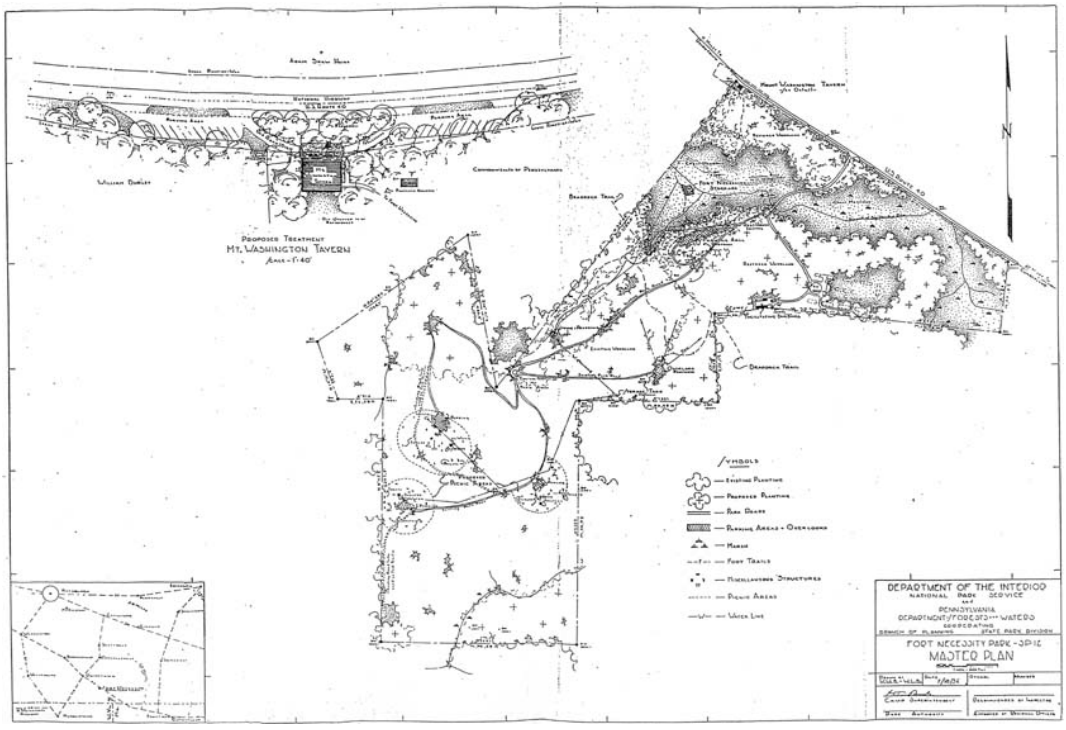
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124
124
FRONT ELEV.
SIDE ELEV.
REAR ELEV.
FLAGSTONE
6" CONCRETE SLAB
PLAN
SECTION AA'
DETAIL OF IRON GRATE
1" ROUND IRON BAR
1" OVERHANG
CONCRETE SLAB
COUNTERSINK
FLAGSTONE
SLOPE SLAB 1"
Note: Grade heights have been altered, don diminished as shown on drawings
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WATERS
DETAIL OF STONE FIREPLACE
DATE MARCH 9, 1934
DRAWN BY J.W.T.
SCALE 1"=1'
PROJECT NO. F E
SHEET NO. 1

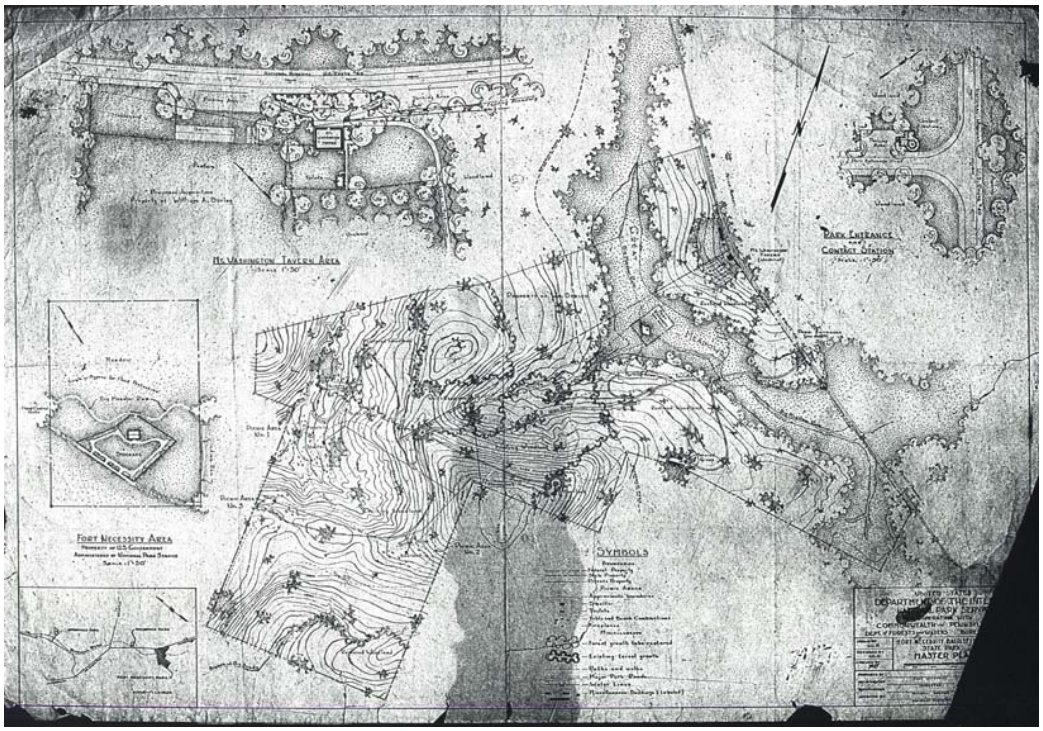
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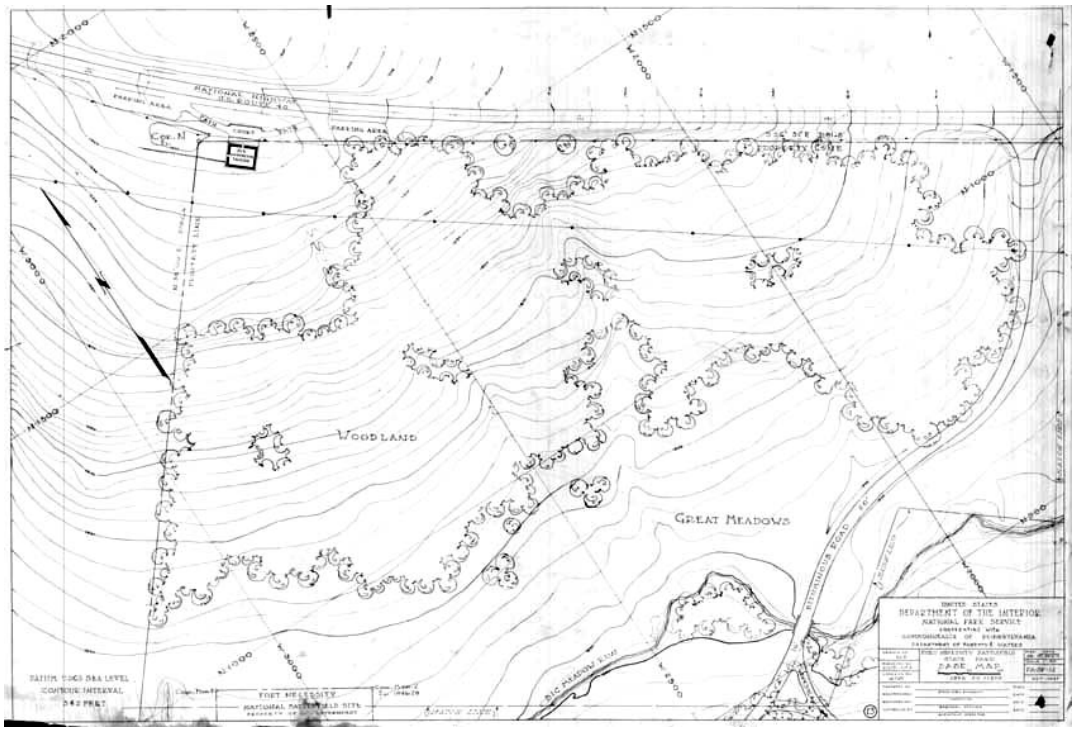

LEGEND
G-20

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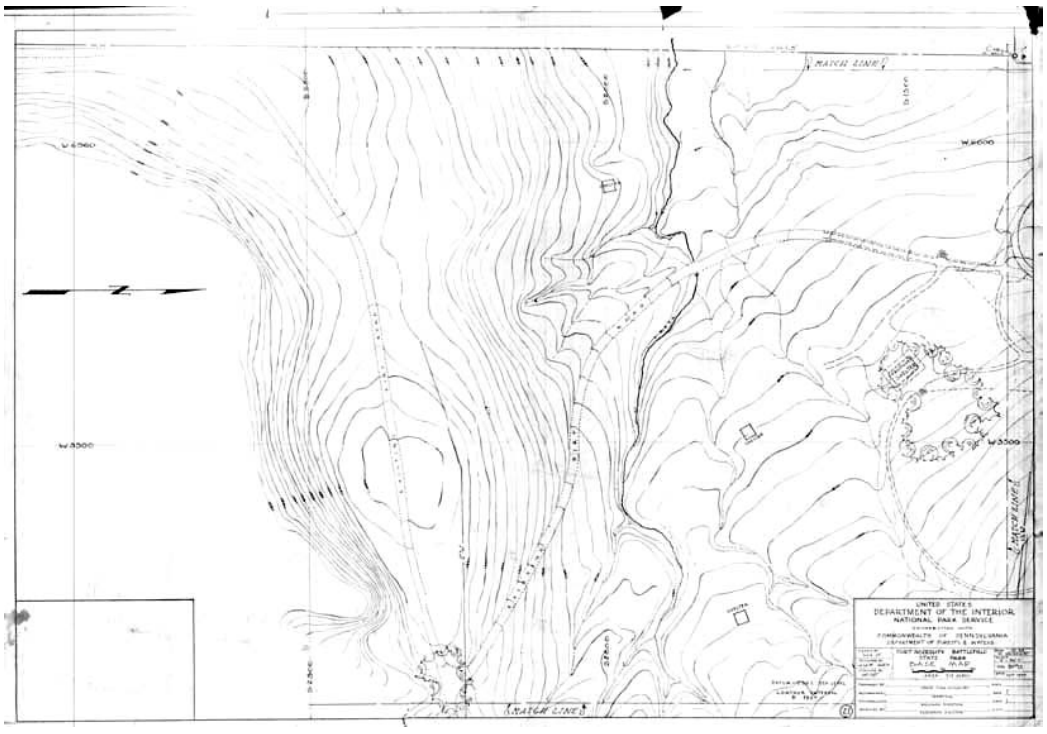

PROPOSED TREATMENT
MT. WASHINGTON TAVERN
SCALE - 1" = 40'
N
SYMBOLS
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS
COOPERATING
FORT NECESSITY PARK - SP-1C
MASTER PLAN

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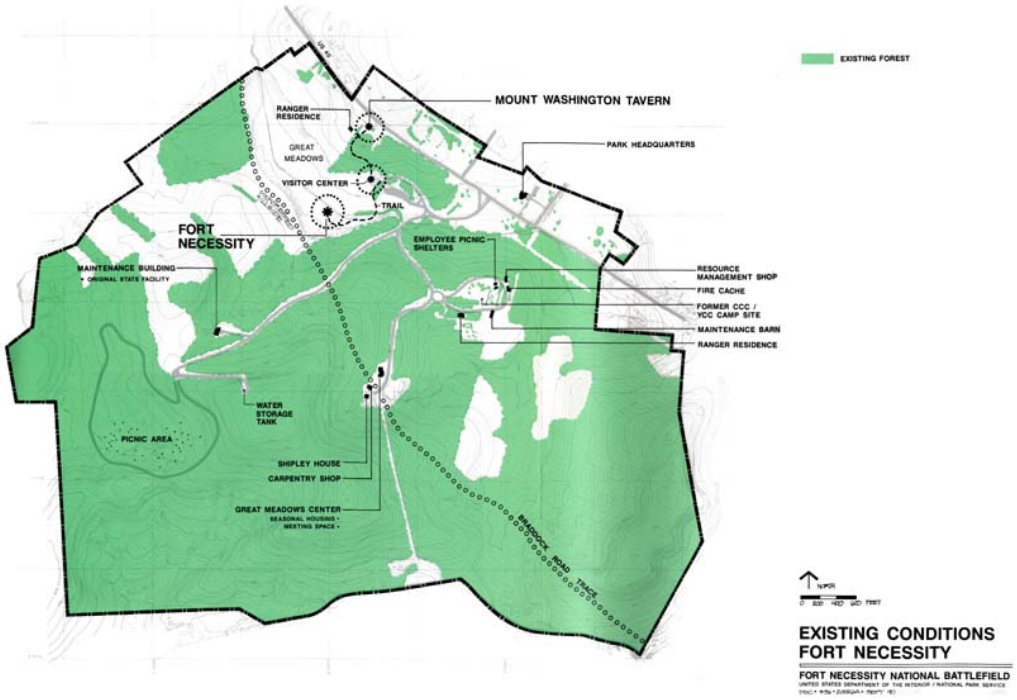

Mt. Washington Tavern Area
Park Entrance and Contact Station
Fort Necessity Area
Symbols


WOODLAND
GREAT MEADOWS
BIG MEADOW RUN
NATIONAL ROAD
PARKING AREA
PARKING AREA
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
CONTOUR INTERVAL
2 FEET
FORT NECESSITY
NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD SITE
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BASE MAP

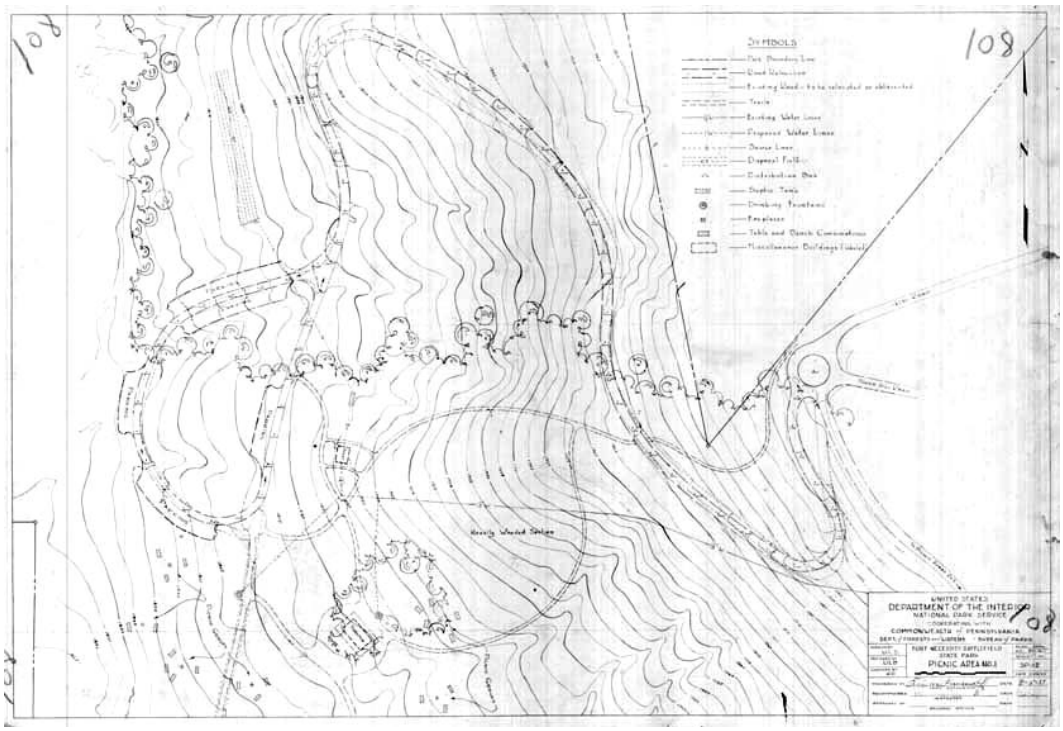
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MATCH LINE
MATCH LINE
MATCH LINE
W.3500
W.3500
W.3500
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

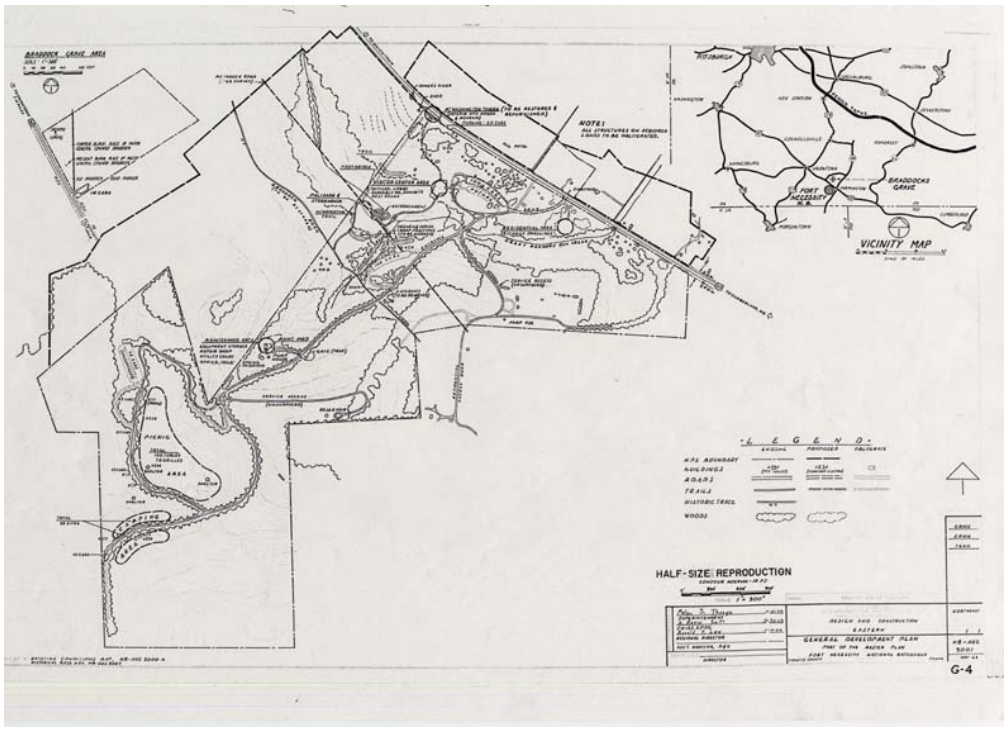
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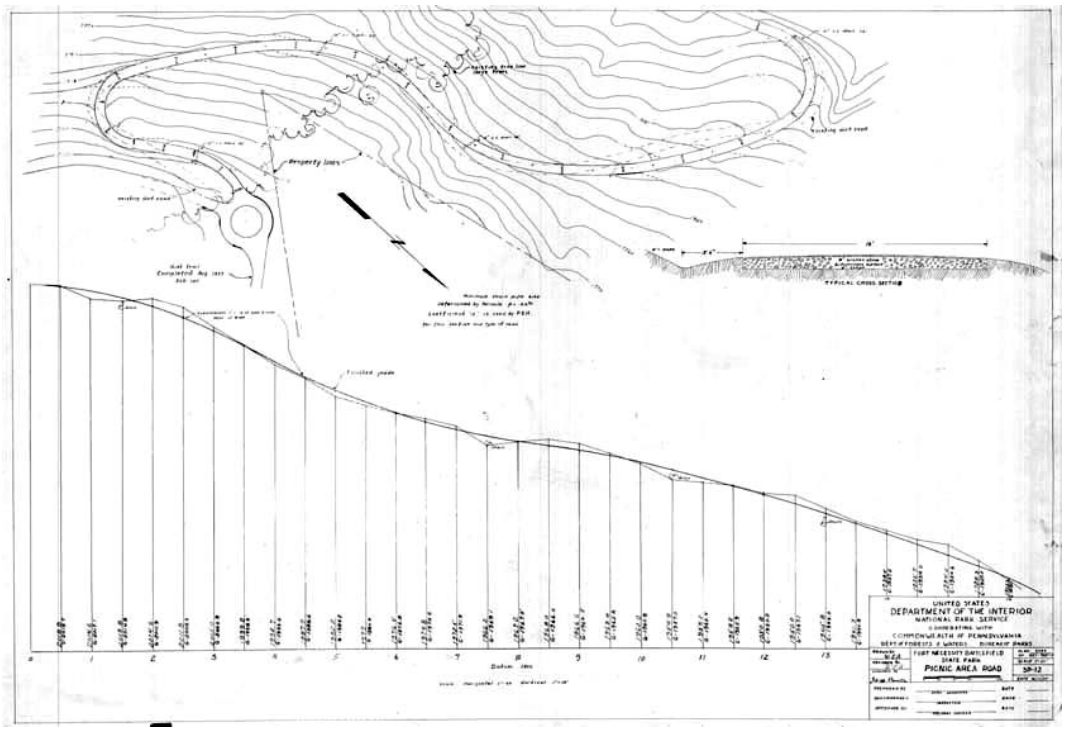

EXISTING FOREST
MOUNT WASHINGTON TAVERN
RANGER RESIDENCE
PARK HEADQUARTERS
GREAT MEADOWS
VISITOR CENTER
TRAIL
FORT NECESSITY
EMPLOYEE PICNIC SHELTERS
MAINTENANCE BUILDING
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SHOP
FIRE CACHE
FORMER CCC / YCC CAMP SITE
MAINTENANCE BARN
RANGER RESIDENCE
WATER STORAGE TANK
PICNIC AREA
SHIPLEY HOUSE
CARPENTRY SHOP
GREAT MEADOWS CENTER
BRADDOCK ROAD TRACE
EXISTING CONDITIONS
FORT NECESSITY
FORT NECESSITY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

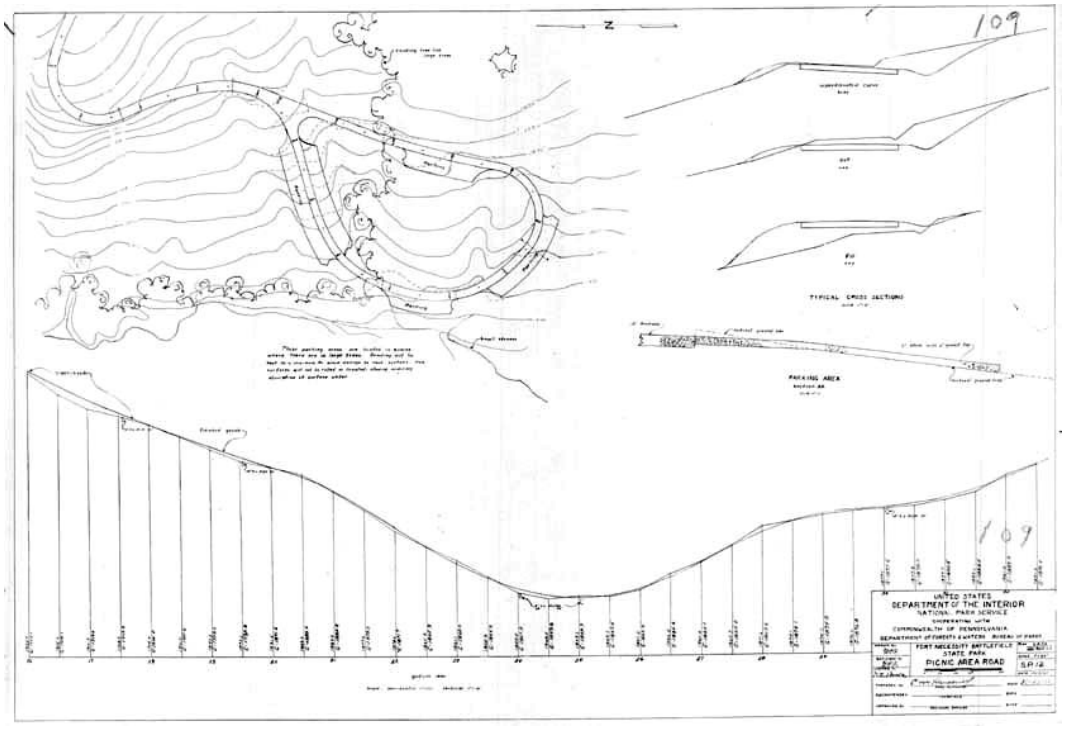
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108
108
SYMBOLS
Existing Water Lines
Proposed Water Lines
Sewer Lines
Disposal Fields
Distribution Box
Septic Tanks
Drinking Fountains
Fireplaces
Table and Bench Combinations
Miscellaneous Buildings (above)
Heavily Wooded Section
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
COOPERATING WITH
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPT. OF FORESTS AND WATERS - BUREAU OF PARKS
FORT NECESSITY BATTLEFIELD
STATE PARK
PICNIC AREA NO. 2

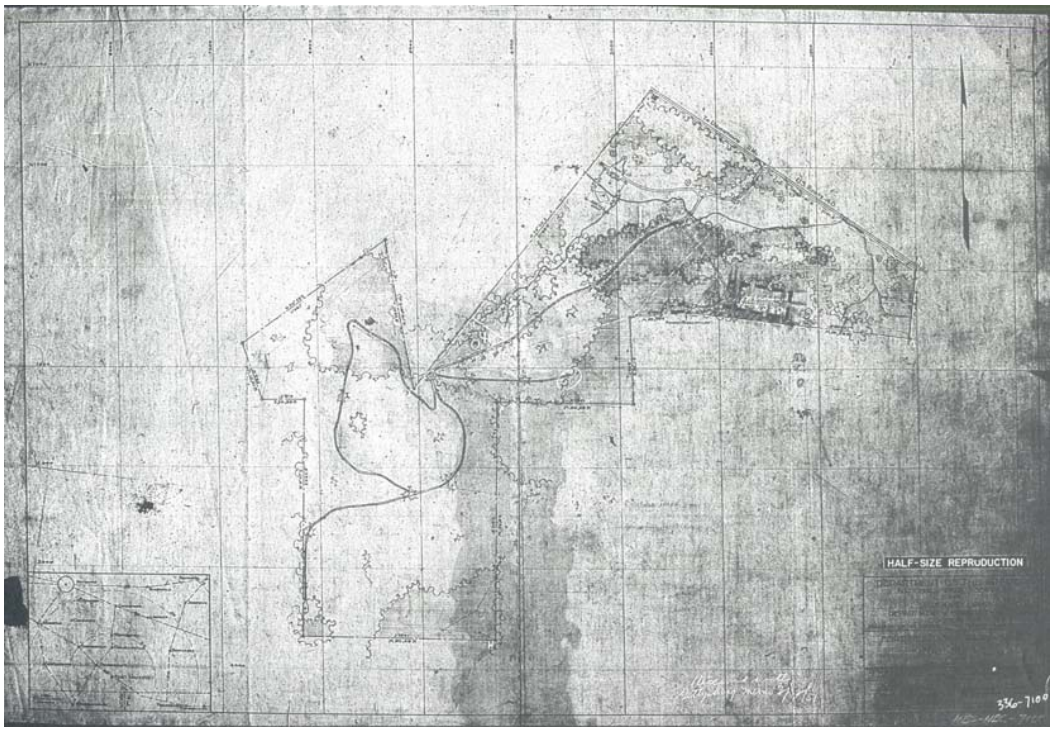
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VICINITY MAP
HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION
G-4

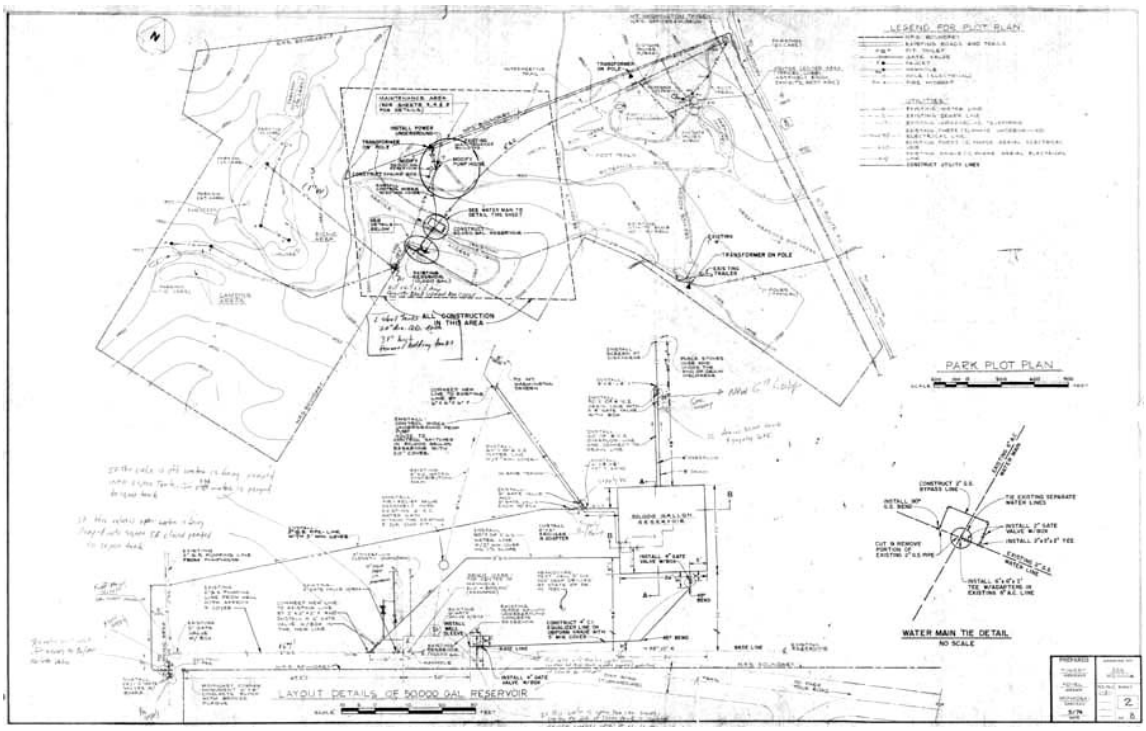

Property lines
TYPICAL CROSS SECTION
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PICNIC AREA ROAD


109
TYPICAL CROSS SECTIONS
PARKING AREA
109
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FORT NECESSITY BATTLEFIELD
STATE PARK
PICNIC AREA ROAD

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HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION

.


LEGEND FOR PLOT PLAN
PARK PLOT PLAN
WATER MAIN TIE DETAIL
NO SCALE
LAYOUT DETAILS OF 50000 GAL RESERVOIR

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Detail of Stone Fireplace

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Waters, Project No. F-2, March 4, 1936.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Existing Conditions Map - Aerial

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing: NEC 3000A, 1951.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Fort Necessity Battlefield State Park - Master Plan

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing No. 336-20022, sheet 1 of 2, 1937.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Fort Necessity Battlefield State Park - Master Plan (Existing Conditions)

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing No. 336-20022, sheet 2 of 2, 1937.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Fort Necessity Battlefield State Park Base Map - Sheet 1

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing No. 9016-13, October, 1937.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Fort Necessity Battlefield State Park Base Map - Sheet 2

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing No. 9016-21, October, 1937.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Fort Necessity Existing Conditions

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing No. 336-20026A, September, 1990.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Fort Necessity Picnic Area No. 1

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing No. 9012, August, 1937.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: General Development Plan

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing No. 336-3001, November, 1963.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Oral Interview: Rex Silbaugh

Supplemental Information Narrative:

This was an informal oral interview held 5/8/03 with long-time park maintenance employee Rex Silbaugh, at which he was asked to about Civilian Conservation Corps work at the park.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Picnic Area Road - Sheet 1 of 2

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing No. 336-9015-1-2, October 1937.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Picnic Area Road - Sheet 2 of 2

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing No. 336-9015-2-2, October 1937.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Road Slopes

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing No. 336-7100, July 1936 with comments from March 1951.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Water System Enhancements

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Drawing No. 336-80,000A, May, 1974.