National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2005

Revised: 1/2026



Lewis Mountain

Shenandoah National Park

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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: Lewis Mountain

Resource Level: Component Landscape

CRIS-CL Resource ID: 300118

Parent Landscape: 300115

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Shenandoah National Park

Alpha Code: SHEN

Park Organization Code: 4840

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

Shenandoah National Park (NP) is contained within the Blue Ridge Mountains, which form the eastern rampart of the Appalachian Mountains between Pennsylvania and Georgia. The park is located in western Virginia between the cities of Front Royal, to the north, and Waynesboro, to the south. The Shenandoah River flows in the valley to the west of the park and Piedmont country lies to the east. The park is bisected by Skyline Drive, a paved, 105-mile parkway that winds along the crest of the mountains through the length of the park, providing dramatic vistas of the landscape to the east and west.

Lewis Mountain is a developed area located at mile 57.5 on Skyline Drive, around six miles south of Big Meadows. The site stands upon a wooded plateau approximately 3,400 feet above sea level and. Skyline Drive borders the site to the north and west, and the Appalachian Trail borders the site to the south and east. Woodlands define the edges of the site, while the interior is characterized by a mix of young and mature shade trees and scattered masses of shrubs set within lawns. Exposed ledges and boulder fields also dot the landscape. Boulders line portions of the north-south paved road off of Skyline Drive that enters Lewis Mountain from the north. This road loops back on itself at a picnic grounds, runs between the historic Lodge/Camp Store and cabins, and terminates at a campground through a series of loops. The Picnic Grounds area (the northern third of the site) includes two linear parking lots off of the road, which features picnic tables, water fountains, and the Picnic Area Comfort Station. The Historic Lodge and Cabin area (the central third) includes the Lodge/Camp Store and parking lot, eight cabins with porches, and attached and free-standing open-air dining shelters. The Campground (southern third) includes the Campground Office, Campground Comfort Station, water fountains, and 31 pull-off and drive-through campsites with grills and picnic tables. A network of paved pedestrian pathways track throughout the site and connect via earthen trails to the Appalachian Trail from both the Picnic Grounds and Campground. The site's one-story buildings and low retaining walls, constructed of brown painted wood and/or local stone, as well as native plant material, complement the surrounding natural environment and evoke the Rustic Style of the early National Park Service.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Shenandoah NP was one of the first and largest national parks established in the eastern United States, and raised

national and regional awareness of the importance of the government's role in preserving large portions of the environment for public recreation and enjoyment. From the park's early history, a key feature has been Skyline Drive, designed and constructed primarily from 1930 to 1942, which traces the mountaintop ridges and offers panoramic views of the Piedmont Plain to the east and the Shenandoah Valley to the west.

Skyline Drive and its adjoining overlooks, waysides, picnic areas, campgrounds, and developed areas were designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 2008. Lewis Mountain is part of the Skyline Drive NHL Historic District and is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation, Ethnic Heritage-Black, Politics/Government, and Social History for its role as a segregated recreational space developed by the NPS for Black visitors during the Jim Crow Era, and for its development by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), NPS, and Virginia Skyline Company. The site is also locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Ethnic Heritage-Black for its prominent role as a local Black community space. Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Development and Planning for its association with early master planning, design, and construction activities initiated by the NPS and the CCC in the early 20th century.

The period of significance for Lewis Mountain is 1938-1968. It begins with the construction of Lewis Mountain by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the concessionaire, Virginia Skyline Company from 1938 to 1942, and ends with the rehabilitation of the Lewis Mountain campground in keeping with the principles of NPS Rustic Style design and Mission 66 efforts, after the formal end of the program. The period includes early park desegregation efforts, as well as the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, which banned de jure segregation in public spaces including national parks. This period also encapsulates both the eras of formal and informal segregation that defined the experience of Lewis Mountain.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The historic integrity of Lewis Mountain is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1938-1968, with their existing conditions as assessed in 2022-2025. Landscape characteristics identified for Lewis Mountain are Natural Systems and Features, Land Use, Cultural Traditions, Topography, Spatial Organization, Cluster Arrangement, Circulation, Views and Vistas, Vegetation, Buildings and Structures, and Small-Scale Structures. The site's relationship with natural systems and features is evident in the local landforms, rock outcrops, and forested setting. The site still serves travelers on Skyline Drive and offers distinct spaces for picnicking and overnight accommodations in eight cabins or thirty-one campsites. Although dining facilities in the lodge were discontinued in 1968, the historic lodge is still in use as camp store and is frequented by guests as well as hikers on the adjacent Appalachian Trail. The lodge and cabins, as well as two comfort stations, a campground office, and two retaining walls feature wood and/or stone construction that exhibit the NPS Rustic Style, a design philosophy that blends man-made features with the surrounding landscape. Other extant historic features include boulder water fountains and a boulder field, which showcase the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, who built this developed area under the guidance of NPS. The historic circulation system of paved roads is also intact and loops through the site to access several parking lots, from which paved paths connect to picnic spots, cabins, and campsites. Historic features from the Mission 66 development period include the current campground layout, lights, picnic tables, and information kiosks. All of these features are still set amongst lawns and groundcovers shaded with native trees and groupings of shrubs.

Since 1968 some landscape characteristics and features at Lewis Mountain have changed. Some of the original vegetation that has been lost to age, disease, and storms has not been replaced, creating open areas that were previously shaded. In contrast, vegetation has grown to block the historic westward view from the lodge and has obscured the boulder field. Several social trails have developed, which is causing erosion and damaging nearby plantings. Several sections of the road system have been altered to improve accessibility, but these changes are limited.

Condition:
The overall condition of the Lewis Mountain landscape is evaluated as "good." The property shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The property'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.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Lewis Mountain is a component of the Skyline Drive Landscape. Shenandoah NP is comprised of four landscapes and fifteen component landscapes, as follows:
-- Appalachian Trail (Appalachian Trail North District, Appalachian Trail Central District, Appalachian Trail South District)
-- Headquarters
-- Rapidan Camp
-- Skyline Drive (Big Meadows, Dickey Ridge, Elkwallow, Lewis Mountain, Piney River, Pinnacles, Skyland, Skyline Drive North District, Skyline Drive Central District, Skyline Drive South District, South River Picnic Grounds, Simmons Gap)

Landscape Type:

Historic Designed Landscape

Other Names:

Other Name: Lewis Mountain **Other Name Type:** Both Current And Historic

Site Plan



Site map, 2023.

Concurrence Information

Superintendent Acknowledgment:

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment: Yes

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment Date: 08/09/2005

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The field survey work for this Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) Level 0 and I was done by Jeanie Hau and Nancy J. Brown in November 1999. Brown completed Level I, with Matthew Witters producing the maps, in the summer of 2001 to provide baseline information for the National Register of Historic Places documentation that was beginning. This CLI was completed on August 9, 2005, following revisions made by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. A condition assessment was completed on July 22, 2011.

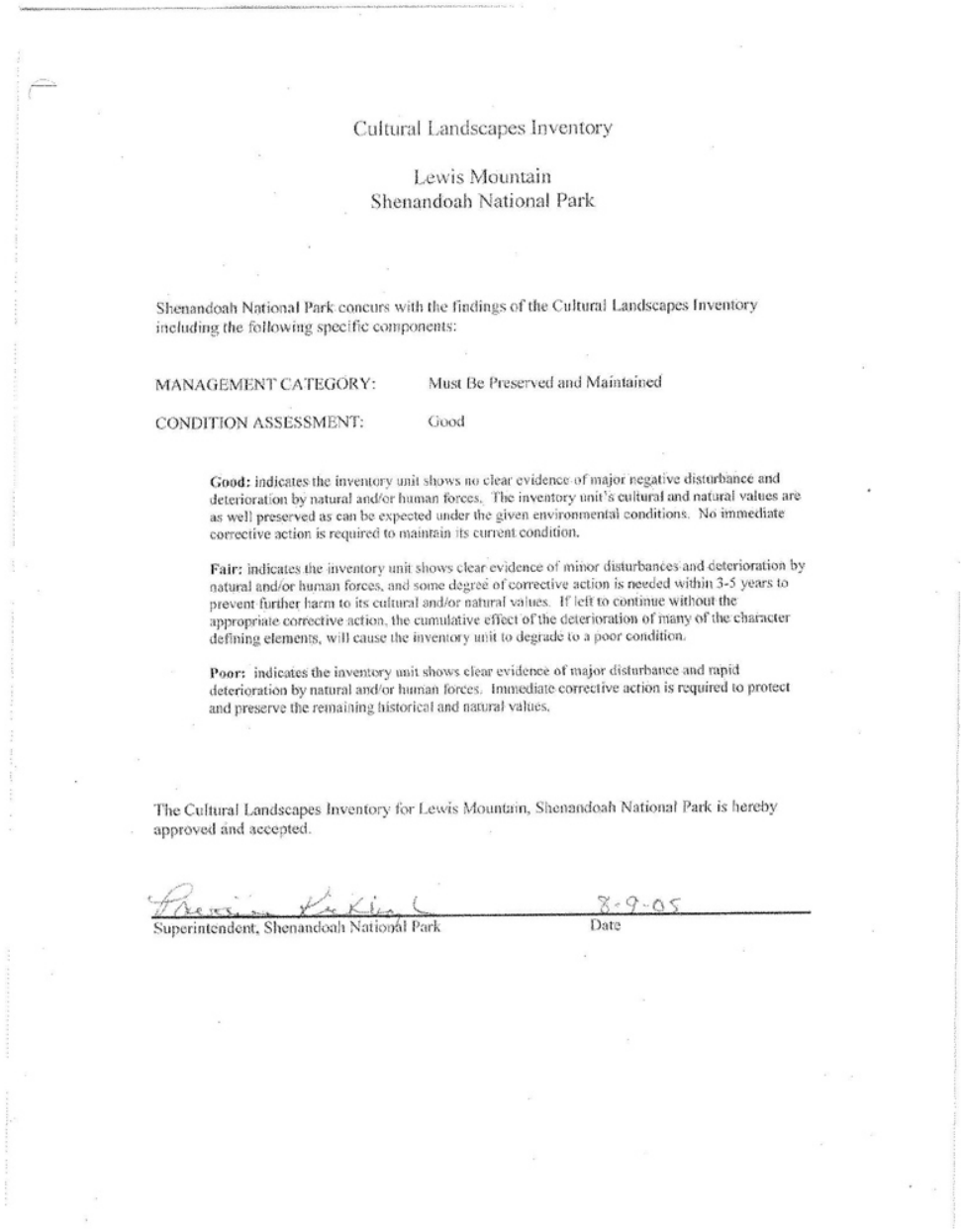
A Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Lewis Mountain was completed in 2023 by Jacob Torkelson, Randall Mason, and Jane Nasta. Research relied on past documentation efforts, including the Olmsted Center's CLI, various reports by Dr. Erin Krutko Devlin of the University of Mary Washington from 2009 to 2023, and a report drafted by a team from the Colorado State University in 2018. New archival research was undertaken a
repositories and archives that included the Shenandoah NP museum collections; the NPS Electronic Technical Information Center (eTIC); existing documentation (including National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark nominations and cultural landscape inventories); several NPS and other scholarly reports; the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Philadelphia; and oral histories and interviews. The team conducted fieldwork and site visits in 2022 and 2023. Maps and drawings for the CLR were produced by the Olmsted Center according to NPS GIS standards.

This comprehensive CLI update (Level A) is based on the 2023 CLR and was edited by Jeff Killion, NER/Region 1 CLI Coordinator, in 2025. This CLI Update for Lewis Mountain supersedes all previous versions.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS, 2026

--The management category remains, "Must be Preserved and Maintained."
--National Register information is revised to include the site's 2008 National Historic Landmark designation for Skyline Drive.
--The areas and periods of significance are revised to reflect the 2023 CLR. Additional areas of significance are Community Development and Planning, Ethnic History-Black, and Social History. The period of significance is 1938-1968, the year construction began and the year when campground rehabilitation was completed. These findings will require concurrence from the Virginia SHPO.
--The Chronology and Physical History chapter incorporates research from the 2023 CLR about segregation practices at Lewis Mountain, and documents changes in the landscape since the original CLI was completed in 2005.
--Inventoried features in the Analysis and Evaluation chapter are expanded to reflect the 2023 CLR. Additional contributing features include: Appalachian Trail Spurs, Trace of former Appalachian Trail Route, Lodge Parking Lot, Picnic Grounds Parking Lots, Campground Comfort Station Retaining Wall, Campground Registration Kiosk, Campground Registration Kiosk Retaining Wall, "Dusk-to-Dawn" Lights, and Boulders Along Road Edge. These feature evaluations will require concurrence from the Virginia SHPO.
--The overall landscape condition was evaluated as "Good" in 2005 and 2011. The proposed landscape condition evaluation for 2025 is "Good."
--New site plans and existing condition photographs.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



Cultural Landscapes Inventory

Lewis Mountain
Shenandoah National Park

Shenandoah National Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

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 for Lewis Mountain, Shenandoah National Park is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park — Date 8-9-05

Park concurrence form, August 9, 2005.

JUL-22-2011 FRI 02:59 PM SHENANDOAH NP FAX NO. 540 999 3601 P. 02/02

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2011

Shenandoah National Park
Lewis Mountain

Shenandoah National Park concurs with the condition reassessment for Lewis Mountain, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Lewis Mountain

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 Lewis Mountain at Shenandoah National Park is hereby approved and accepted.

Martha C. Boyle 7/22/11
Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park Date

Condition reassessment form, July 22, 2011.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2026

Shenandoah National Park
Lewis Mountain

Shenandoah National Park certifies the CLI update for Lewis Mountain, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Lewis Mountain

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 Lewis Mountain at Shenandoah National Park is hereby approved and accepted.

JAMES STAKELY Digitally signed by JAMES STAKELY
Date: 2026.01.22 11:15:03 -05'00'

Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park Date

Park concurrence form, January 22, 2026

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Interior Region 1
North Atlantic-Appalachian
1234 Market Street, 20th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

1.A.2.(IR1-RSS)

Julie Langan
Director & State Historic Preservation Officer
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Commonwealth of Virginia
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Ms. Langan:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for Lewis Mountain at Shenandoah National Park. We seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of previously unevaluated resources identified in this CLI for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report has been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation and staff at Colonial National Historical Park. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently undertaking 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 historically significant cultural 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 and conducting 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 property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need 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 properties they provide fuller documentation 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 documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for

SHPO concurrence letter, July 8, 2026, page 1 of 7.

historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS Historic Structures Inventory (formerly List of Classified Structures) includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Previous Historic Property Evaluation:

Lewis Mountain is within the boundaries of the Skyline Drive Historic District in Shenandoah NP. On October 6, 2008, the district was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) under NHL Criterion 1 and 4, with the period of significance as 1931-1952, the year construction of the drive began to the year in which work was done to complete the guardwalls and some minor changes that were in keeping with the 1930s plans. The areas of significance were identified as Architecture, Community Planning and Development, Conservation, Engineering, Entertainment/Recreation, Landscape Architecture, Politics/Government, and Social History. In the NHL documentation, the primary areas at Lewis Mountain – picnic grounds, lodge, cabins, campground – and their associated features are described.

Previous to the NHL designation, resources within the Skyline Drive Historic District were documented in the National Register of Historic Places on April 28, 1997, and through two boundary increases on September 19, 1997 and December 5, 2003. The 2003 documentation focused on three developed areas: Lewis Mountain, Skyland, and Big Meadows. The expanded historic district was identified as nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Politics/Government, and Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The period of significance for the expanded district was listed as 1890-1952, from the early resort period to completion of the guardwalls on Skyline Drive. The documentation identified the Lewis Mountain picnic grounds and campground as contributing sites, and 20 contributing features: Cabin 1-5, Chestnut Cottage F, Spruce Cottage G, Cabin 15, Picnic Area Comfort Station, Pump House, Campground Comfort Station, Campground Office, Lodge/Camp Store, Freestanding Dining Pavilions, Pathways, Road System, Boulder Field, Boulder Fountains, USGS Benchmarks, and CCC Plantings. The documentation identified the amphitheater (since removed) as a non-contributing site and 15 noncontributing features.

Current Findings:

The enclosed CLI for Lewis Mountain fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that the site's landscape retains integrity to the areas of Architecture, Community Development and Planning, Entertainment/Recreation, Ethnic History-Black, Landscape Architecture, Politics/Government, and Social History. As noted previously, 28 of the property's features compiled on the attached list have already been evaluated in the National Register. The CLI identifies an additional 16 resources related to natural systems and features, circulation, views and vistas, vegetation, buildings and structures, and small-scale features that contribute to the significance and historic

SHPO concurrence letter, July 8, 2026, page 2 of 7.

character of the property. An additional 15 features are evaluated as noncontributing because they are not historically significant.

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, Boundary Description, National Register Information and the Statement of Significance, and Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLI.

Based on the CLI, we seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI:

- Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, Ethnic Heritage-Black, and Politics/Government for its role as a segregated recreational space developed by the NPS for Black visitors during the Jim Crow Era.
- Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under Criterion A, in the areas of Politics/Government, Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Conservation for its development by the Civilian Conservation Corps, NPS, and Virginia Skyline Company.
- Lewis Mountain is locally significant under Criterion A, in the areas of Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Ethnic Heritage-Black for its prominent role as a local Black community space.
- Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under Criterion C, in the areas of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Development and Planning for its association with early master planning, design, and construction activities initiated by the NPS and the CCC in the early 20th century.
- The period of significance for Lewis Mountain is 1938-1968. It begins with the construction of Lewis Mountain by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the concessionaire, Virginia Skyline Company from 1938 to 1942, and ends with the rehabilitation of the Lewis Mountain campground in keeping with the principles of Rustic landscape design and Mission 66 efforts, after the formal end of the M66 program. The period includes early park desegregation efforts, as well as the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, which banned de jure segregation in public spaces including national parks. This period also encapsulates both the eras of formal and informal segregation that defined the experience of Lewis Mountain.
- The categorization of contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined landscape characteristics and features (see attached list).

If you concur with these findings, we ask that you please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Jeff Killion, Interior Region 1 CLI Coordinator, by email: jeff_killion@nps.gov. We would appreciate your response in **45 days**, if possible. Thank you for your attention to this inventory. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 508-455-8540 (telework cell).

Jonathan Meade
Associate Regional Director
Resource Stewardship and Science

JONATHAN MEADE

Digitally signed by JONATHAN MEADE
Date: 2026.04.16 15:34:33 -04'00'

SHPO concurrence letter, July 8, 2026, page 3 of 7.

Enclosure/Attachment

cc:
Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park

I concur with the National Park Service categorizations of the landscape resources and features for Lewis Mountain, as contributing and non-contributing

Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer — July 8, 2026 Date

SHPO concurrence letter, July 8, 2026, page 4 of 7.

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Lewis Mountain
Colonial National Historical Park
List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Features
April 2026

Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places. Features marked with a (+) were listed or described in National Register documentation approved on December 5, 2003.

Natural Systems and Features
Mature Second Growth Forest

Land Use
+ Picnic Grounds Site
+ Campgrounds Site

Circulation
+ Road System
+ Pathways
Appalachian Trail Spurs
Trace of former Appalachian Trail Route
Lodge Parking Lot
Picnic Grounds Parking Lots

Views and Vistas
Sightlines between Comfort Station and Boulder Field in Individual Picnic Sites
Views along Roads, Framed by Character-Defining Trees
Views along Paths, Framed by Character-Defining Trees and Understory Plantings
Vista looking West from Lodge (currently overgrown)
Reciprocal Views between Individual Buildings in the Cabin and Lodge Cluster
Screened Views to and from the Edges Developed Areas

Vegetation
+ CCC Plantings: traffic islands at the lodge, parking lots, and at camp entrance
+ CCC Plantings: planted or preserved trees adjacent to buildings and structures
+ CCC Plantings: shrubs adjacent to buildings and structures
+ CCC Plantings: trees that frame views along circulation features
+ CCC Plantings: trees and shrubs that deliberately limit views into and out of Lewis Mountain
In-kind Replacements of CCC Plantings

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Buildings and Structures

+ Lodge/Camp Store
+ Chestnut Cottage F
+ Spruce Cottage G
+ Cabin 1
+ Cabin 2
+ Cabin 3
+ Cabin 4
+ Cabin 5
+ Cabin 15
+ Campground Comfort Station
+ Campground Comfort Station Retaining Wall
+ Campground Office
+ Picnic Grounds Comfort Station
+ Pump House [outside of CLI boundary]
+ Freestanding Dining Pavilions

Campground Registration Kiosk

+ Campground Registration Kiosk Retaining Wall

Small Scale Features

+ Boulder Field (in Picnic Grounds)
+ Boulder Fountains
+ USGS Benchmarks

"Dusk-to-Dawn" Lights
Boulders Along Road Edge
Picnic Tables (1950s- 1968, wood tops)

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Circulation

Paving at Campground Comfort Station
Log Cribbing Steps at Lodge Parking Lot
Pull-Offs at Cabins
Widened Section of Road System adjacent to Campground Comfort Station

Views and Vistas

Directed Views along the Utility Corridor

Buildings and Structures

Campground Information Kiosk
Picnic Grounds Information Kiosk
Power Plant (abandoned)
Telephone Building [KIT-38 Microwave Building]

Small Scale Features

Picnic Tables (recent, plastic tops)

SHPO concurrence letter, July 8, 2026, page 6 of 7.

Bear-Proof Food Storage Poles
Grills
Metal and Wooden Signs
Entrance Sign
Trash and Recycling Cans

bcc:
Jennifer Hanna, Acting Director, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
Dennis Montagna, Region 1 History Program
Stephen Pisani, Region 1 Historic Architecture Program
Bethany Serafine, Region 1 History Program

SHPO concurrence letter, July 8, 2026, page 7 of 7.

Seq. No.	File Name	Caption

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Explanatory Narrative
Jeff Killion	Change in Condition	07/22/2011	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	01/22/2026	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 B and C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. The update to the Lewis Mountain CLI has been done at a Level A effort.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State/Territory	County
Virginia	Greene County
Virginia	Page County

Area (Acres): 33

Land Tract Number(s)

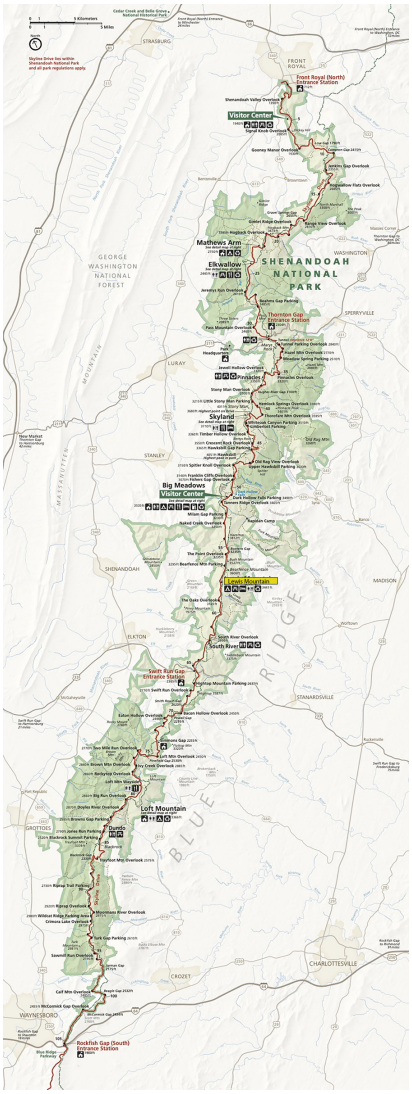
Boundary Description:

The CLI boundary of the Lewis Mountain site is generally defined on the west and north by Skyline Drive and to the east and south by the Appalachian Trail. This area encompasses the three historic areas: picnic grounds, lodge and cabins, and campground. It also includes portions of the surrounding woodlands, some of which were managed for views.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
	Polygon	38.439651328	-78.4793548374	
	Polygon	38.433654678	-78.4770434007	
	Polygon	38.436874972	-78.4801387567	
	Polygon	38.433733535	-78.4807062057	
	Polygon	38.438510412	-78.4807692079	
	Polygon	38.43969206	-78.4770622623	

Location Map:



Shenandoah National Park, with Lewis Mountain highlighted in yellow. (Harpers Ferry Center)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The CLI boundary of the Lewis Mountain site is generally defined on the west and north by Skyline Drive and to the east and south by the Appalachian Trail. This area encompasses the three historic areas: picnic grounds, lodge and cabins, and campground. It also includes portions of the surrounding woodlands, some of which were managed for views.

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Cultural context is the general human overlay on the physical form of the landscape. Prior to establishment, the lands that comprise Shenandoah NP were inhabited by Native Americans and European settlers who established camps and homes in the mountains and hollows. Logging, mining, and recreation were among the early land uses. In the 1920s the construction of the Appalachian Trail along the ridgelines and President Herbert Hoover's residential retreat on the Rapidan River was followed by the construction of Skyline Drive in the 1930s. Like the Appalachian Trail, the scenic park road tracked along the mountaintops and made possible plans for developed areas along the drive, among them Lewis Mountain. Originally intended as a Black-only facility during an era of racial segregation, Lewis Mountain today is open to all and retains its historic character-defining features

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Political context is the overlay imposed on the landscape through general land use, zoning, legal restrictions, transportation, utilities, population, and political jurisdiction (e.g., state, county, city, borough, or village). Lewis Mountain is located in both Page and Greene Counties, Virginia, at Mile 57.5 of Skyline Drive within Shenandoah NP. (see Regional Landscape Context graphic)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category:	Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance)
Management Category Date:	08/09/2005

Management Category Narrative:

The management category is a measure of the agency's priority for preservation and maintenance. As approved on August 9, 2005, Lewis Mountain meets the criteria of Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance, formerly Must Be Preserved and Maintained) management category. The property is within the Skyline Drive Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 5, 2003, under NR Criteria A and C, and was designated a National Historic Landmark on October 6, 2006, under NHL Criterion 1 and 4.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Concession Contract/Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Narrative:

A new Concession contract will be in place to include operations of park campgrounds – contract will be signed mid-2025 and start operations in 2026. The Concessioner will be assigned maintenance and operational responsibilities for campground as well as sites included in existing contract (cabins, store, etc).

Type of Agreement: Concession Contract/Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Narrative:

Includes managing two park lodges, four wayside restaurants, camp stores, and public showers, and providing horse rides.

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Narrative:

NPS, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, First Energy, Dominion, Virginia Power. The permits allow for the companies to operate and maintain a variety of electric utility lines in the park.

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Legal Interest Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: No

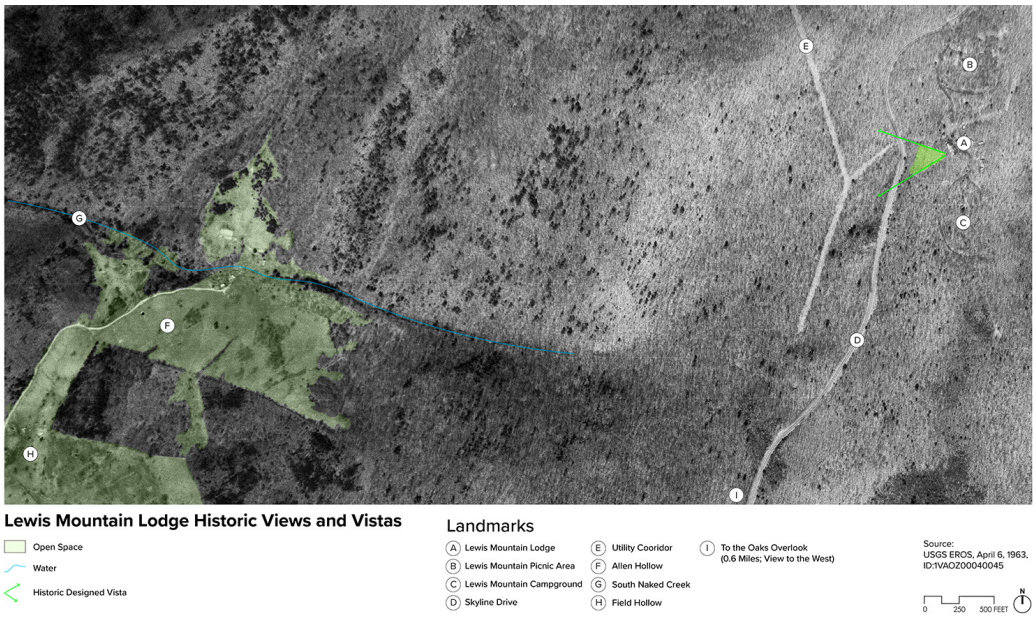
Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. Lands to the east contribute because they are part of the viewshed that was historically maintained from the Lewis Mountain Lodge. The original 1938 master plan for Lewis Mountain called for the creation of a westward vista from the lodge, and it was maintained into the 1960s. It would likely have featured views to the west of the farms in Allen Hollow and Field Hollow, as well as the watershed of South Naked Creek. It may have also featured more immediate views of Skyline Drive and the utility clearing that serviced Lewis Mountain. This viewshed is currently overgrown but can be reversed.

Adjacent Lands Graphic:



The vista from the lodge (A) was maintained from the late 1930s to the 1960s. It likely featured views to the west of the farms in Allen Hollow (F) and Field Hollow (H), as well as the watershed of South Naked Creek (G). It may have featured more immediate views of Skyline Drive (D) and the utility clearing that serviced Lewis Mountain (E). (CLR 2023: 133, USGS EROS 1963)

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Eligibility: Eligible - SHPO/THPO Consensus Determination

Eligibility Date: 7/8/2026 12:00:00 AM

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: District

Documentation Narrative Description:

This field describes all the National Register documentation associated with the site prior to the CLI, including nominations, determinations of eligibility, and consensus determinations associated with the property. Lewis Mountain is within the boundaries of the Skyline Drive Historic District in Shenandoah NP. On October 6, 2008, the district was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) under NHL Criterion 1 and 4, with the period of significance as 1931-1952, the year construction of the drive began to the year in which work was done to complete the guardwalls and some minor changes that were in keeping with the 1930s plans. The areas of significance were identified as Architecture, Community Planning and Development, Conservation, Engineering, Entertainment/Recreation, Landscape Architecture, Politics/Government, and Social History. In the NHL documentation, the primary areas at Lewis Mountain – picnic grounds, lodge, cabins, campground – and their associated features are described.

Previous to the NHL designation, resources within the Skyline Drive Historic District were documented in the National Register of Historic Places on April 28, 1997, and through two boundary increases on September 19, 1997 and December 5, 2003. The 2003 documentation focused on three developed areas: Lewis Mountain, Skyland, and Big Meadows. The expanded historic district was identified as nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Politics/Government, and Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The period of significance for the expanded district was listed as 1890-1952, from the early resort period to completion of the guardwalls on Skyline Drive. The documentation identified the Lewis Mountain picnic grounds and campground as contributing sites, and 20 contributing features: Cabin 1-5, Chestnut Cottage F, Spruce Cottage G, Cabin 15, Picnic Area Comfort Station, Pump House, Campground Comfort Station, Campground Office, Lodge/Camp Store, Freestanding Dining Pavilions, Pathways, Road System, Boulder Field, Boulder Fountains, USGS Benchmarks, and CCC Plantings. The documentation identified the amphitheater (since removed) as a non-contributing site and 15 noncontributing features.

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 Lewis Mountain at Shenandoah NP and the site’s numerous historic resources that contribute to its significance, are not adequately documented in the 2003 National Register and 2008 National Historic Landmark documentation. This conclusion is based on the findings of the 2023 Cultural Landscape Report, which identifies additional areas of significance, a revised period of significance, and additional contributing features. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, Lewis Mountain is considered “Listed – Inadequately Documented.”

Pre-CLI Documentation Status: Listed - Inadequately Documented

CLI SHPO/THPO Concurrence Date: 12/5/2003 12:00:00 AM

CLI Concurrence Narrative:

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Shenandoah NP was one of the first and largest national parks established in the eastern United States, and raised national and regional awareness of the importance of the government’s role in preserving large portions of the environment for public recreation and enjoyment. From the park’s early history, a key feature has been Skyline Drive, designed and constructed primarily from 1930 to 1942, which traces the mountaintop ridges and offers panoramic views of the Piedmont Plain to the east and the Shenandoah Valley to the west.

Skyline Drive was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 2008. As stated in the NHL documentation, Skyline Drive, with its adjoining overlooks, waysides, picnic areas, campgrounds, and developed areas, is nationally significant under National Historic Landmark (NHL) Criterion 1 and 4:

“Because of the pivotal role that the Skyline Drive Historic District played in the history of the national park system and the evolution of park road design, federal policies in conservation and recreation, and the employment of relief measures of the New Deal, Skyline Drive is nationally significant under the NHL theme Transforming the Environment. For its exemplary expression of the principles and practices of National Park Service road design, landscape naturalization, and rustic architectural design and as a showcase of the landscape conservation work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the park road and its associated features are also nationally important under the theme Expressing Cultural Values (planning, landscape architecture, and architecture).”

The NHL documentation identifies the period of significance for Skyline Drive Historic District as 1931-1952. Construction of the road began in 1931 and occurred in three distinct phases, and extended to 1952, which recognizes the small amount of work done to complete the guardwalls after World War II and some minor changes that were in keeping with the 1930s plans.

Lewis Mountain:
Lewis Mountain is included in the boundaries of the Skyline Drive National Historic Landmark Historic District. For the purposes of this CLI, the significance of the landscape is evaluated according to National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, which corresponds to NHL Criterion 1, and National Register Criterion C, which corresponds to NHL Criterion 4.

Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, Ethnic Heritage-Black, Politics/Government, and Conservation. The site is also locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Ethnic Heritage-Black. Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Development and Planning.

Consistent with the findings of the 2023 CLR, the period of significance for Lewis Mountain is 1938-1968. It begins with the construction of Lewis Mountain by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the concessionaire, Virginia Skyline Company from 1938 to 1942, and ends with the rehabilitation of the Lewis Mountain campground in keeping with the principles of NPS Rustic Style design and Mission 66 efforts, after the formal end of the program. The period includes early park desegregation efforts, as well as the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, which banned de jure segregation in public spaces including national parks. This period also encapsulates both the eras of formal and informal segregation that defined the experience of Lewis Mountain.

CRITERION A

Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, Ethnic Heritage-Black, and Politics/Government:
Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, Ethnic Heritage-Black, and Politics/Government for its role as a segregated recreational space developed by the NPS for Black visitors during the Jim Crow Era. Throughout the early 20th century, Black people were restricted and oppressed by segregation laws that were enforced both legally and socially. Segregationist laws, policies, and customs made it illegal, unsafe, and uncomfortable for Black people to travel in certain areas and use certain facilities. Legal means, such as Virginia’s Massenburg Law, enforced segregation in public spaces and created a scarcity of adequate recreational opportunities for Black travelers across the country. (CLR 2023: 98)

When the NPS began developing Shenandoah NP in 1935, it chose to adopt a “separate but equal” approach, accommodating and enforcing segregationist legislation already codified in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Despite the park’s Federal status, the NPS depended on private park boosters and the Commonwealth of Virginia for funds to acquire parklands. Accordingly, state and local politicians shaped park policies, including those regarding racial segregation in public spaces; this meant that Virginia’s national parks were legally and socially segregated during the Jim Crow Era. Concurrently, the park’s concessionaire, the Virginia Skyline Company, had its own segregationist policies that management enforced in the lodging and dining
facilities it built and operated. (CLR 2023: 98)

Lewis Mountain is an example of a campground designed, developed, and operated for the exclusive use

of Black visitors during the Jim Crow Era. Despite calls for its construction as early as 1935, Lewis Mountain's initial construction was intentionally delayed when the broader park opened. The NPS and the concessionaire justified their delay by maintaining the flawed belief that such a facility would not be profitable, and that demand by Black campers did not justify its construction. NPS Director Arno B. Cammerer upheld this viewpoint at the expense of Black campers, while proactively constructing facilities for white campers throughout the park. Unable to maintain his stance any longer, in July 1937, Cammerer embraced the construction of Lewis Mountain through a segregationist lens; the construction of Lewis Mountain would concentrate Black campers and prevent their use of white facilities in other parts of the park. (CLR 2023: 98)

Accordingly, Lewis Mountain was intentionally built to similar designs but at a lower standard than white facilities found in other parts of the park. By 1939, the Lewis Mountain picnic grounds featured only a parking lot and fireplaces. There were no campsites, picnic tables, concessions, or overnight accommodations. Criticizing Cammerer's racist agenda, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes ordered the immediate construction of Lewis Mountain in April 1939, noting that the NPS "must provide equal facilities proportionate to [current] travel and that Negro facilities must be increased as use increased." Between 1940 and 1942, segregated overnight accommodations, including cabins, a campground, and a lodge, were completed by the park's concessionaire, the Virginia Skyline Company. (CLR 2023: 99, citing Young 2017: 193-194)

Lewis Mountain is also nationally significant as a recreational landscape that led the Department of the Interior and NPS's efforts to desegregate its facilities. Under Secretary Ickes, Shenandoah NP served as a testing ground for his department's highly publicized desegregation experiments. In the same 1939 correspondence that mandated the completion of Lewis Mountain, Ickes instituted an experiment in integration at Sexton Knoll Picnic Area (later renamed Pinnacles). This experiment occurred even while other park elements were still being built according to segregated master plans—including Lewis Mountain. However, Ickes had promised to desegregate all properties in the NPS, including concessions and lodging. His slow implementation led Walter White, the Secretary of the NAACP, and William J. Trent, Jr., the Secretary of the Interior's Advisor on Negro Affairs, to rebuke Ickes over his continued development of separate and unequal facilities. (CLR 2023: 99)

In 1945, NPS officials ended de jure segregation at all park facilities nationwide, including Lewis Mountain. However, this policy was not actively enforced or affirmed until the 1950 camping season. Despite gradually implementing desegregation ahead of the rest of the country, the NPS did not encourage or even advertise the integrated nature of its many parks. Instead, historically Black campgrounds, such as Lewis Mountain, now permitted white campers into facilities that had previously afforded Black campers safe, dedicated recreational space. At the same time, park facilities that had been for whites-only still upheld de facto segregation at the direction of park concessionaires and staff, who defended their informally segregated spaces based on established patterns of use. In this way, desegregation all but eliminated Black space in the park, while failing to achieve integration as Ickes had hoped. (CLR 2023: 99)

Despite the challenges of desegregation, Lewis Mountain was among the few national destinations on public lands that offered Black campers direct access to the outdoors. It also served as the only destination in Shenandoah NP with dedicated overnight facilities for Black visitors, offering lodging and dining. Along the same lines, it was the only national park facility in the Commonwealth of Virginia to be listed in the Negro Traveler's Green Book. During the period of significance, Lewis Mountain hosted Black visitors from all over the country, including (but not limited to) nearby cities such as Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. This segregated landscape was pivotal in making outdoor recreation more accessible for Black people, especially those on the East Coast. Lewis Mountain remains a tangible example of the legacy of segregationist policies and their social and recreational effects, both during and after the Jim Crow Era. (CLR 2023: 99-100)

Politics/Government, Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Conservation:
Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under Criterion A, in the areas of Politics/Government, Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Conservation for its development by the Civilian Conservation Corps, NPS, and Virginia Skyline Company. The CCC was a New Deal-era public works program that employed young men from around the country to construct and improve public lands, such as national parks. Workers would contribute to park construction or conservation projects in return for education, room

and board, and wages to send home to their families. The first CCC camp in the country was located to the northwest of Lewis Mountain in the George Washington National Forest, near Luray, Virginia. The first CCC camp in the NPS was located at NP-1 Camp George Dern at Skyland. Over the life of the CCC (the program was disbanded in 1942), Shenandoah NP hosted 10 different camps—all of them notably segregated and consisting exclusively of white laborers. (CCC 2023: 101)

The CCC played a significant role in the development of Skyline Drive and its associated developed areas, such as Lewis Mountain. The CCC constructed the landscape at Lewis Mountain from 1938-1942, according to plans and design principles developed by NPS staff. This project included building the system of roads and pathways, building retaining walls, clearing and grading the picnic and camping areas, installing the water system, constructing the stone drinking fountains, and planting vegetation. CCC laborers had a fundamental impact on the cultural landscape of Lewis Mountain, its history, and its ongoing use as a public recreation space. (CLR 2023: 101)

The park's concessionaire, the Virginia Skyline Company, implemented park planners' designs at the building scale, constructing the recreational facilities throughout Shenandoah NP—including at Lewis Mountain. Of the originally planned seven overnight lodging and six day-use areas in the park, Lewis Mountain was the only site designated for Black visitors. Justifying this lack of facilities, the NPS and the Virginia Skyline Company claimed that the limited number of Black visitors to the park required minimal accommodations. The Virginia Skyline Company maintained this flawed belief while proactively constructing facilities for white visitors. Despite the concessionaire's objections, Secretary Ickes forced the Virginia Skyline Company to comply, resulting in the construction of cabins and the lodge. Significantly, the park was open to the public for three years before any facilities for Black visitors were created. Indeed, it took an additional three years after this for the Virginia Skyline Company and the NPS to build overnight and dining accommodations for Black campers. (CLR 2023: 102)

Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Ethnic Heritage-Black:
Lewis Mountain is locally significant under Criterion A, in the areas of Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Ethnic Heritage-Black for its prominent role as a local Black community space. During the Jim Crow Era, towns across America were divided through physical and social means, in order to uphold segregation laws. Luray, Virginia, and other cities adjacent to Shenandoah NP, were no different. By law, Black residents of Luray could not gather in any of the public parks in town. Lewis Mountain afforded local Black social groups, such as the New York-Virginia Club, and Black church groups such as the St. John Baptist Church, a safe location to hold events. The cultural landscape hosted annual community events such as Sunday school picnics, homecomings, and family reunions. Luray's Black community forged a strong connection to the landscape at Lewis Mountain through its ongoing recreational, social, and cultural use. (CLR 2023: 100)

Luray's Black community fostered strong intergenerational bonds at Lewis Mountain, as it was a space managed by-and-for local Black families. Its Luray-based managers created a dynamic environment for Black campers remembered by descendants as including rich food, excellent music, and comfortable lodging. For its first two decades of operation, the local families who staffed Lewis Mountain became a beloved presence on site. Two of these families were the Tutts and the Wrights. Lloyd and Isabelle Wright managed Lewis Mountain from 1941 to 1953. During this period, Isabelle Wright, who also worked at restaurants in Luray, served as head chef. Mr. Tutt's wife, Amelia "Mittie" Tutt, would later take over management of the campground in the early-to-mid 1950s. Many members of the Tutt and Wright families lived and worked at the site and returned each summer, creating lasting connections with both fellow staff members and returning visitors. (CLR 2023: 100)

Lewis Mountain serves as a physical reminder of the resilience of Black communities in the face of segregation, as they sought out and created their own opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and community-building. Oral histories with descendants of Lewis Mountain staff paint a vibrant picture composed of almost exclusively positive memories, despite the obvious discrimination and racism they faced. During the cultural landscape's period of significance, the management and operation of Lewis Mountain by local Black families created a memorable vacation destination that served as the seasonal center of Luray's Black community. (CLR 2023: 101)

CRITERION C

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Development and Planning:
Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under Criterion C, in the areas of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Development and Planning for its association with early master planning, design, and construction activities initiated by the NPS and the CCC in the early 20th century. “Master plans” for each national park were developed by the landscape architecture division directed by Chief Architect Thomas C. Vint and Deputy Chief Architect Charles E. Peterson. Such documents employed the ideas of regional planning at a park-wide scale, outlining the design and construction of park circulation, developed areas, fire management, and land acquisition, among other concepts. (CLR 2023: 102)

The master plan for Shenandoah NP was the first to employ the ideas and models for master planning in large parks, developed in the western United States, to a distinctly eastern park. This new concept combined recreational automobile tourism with an appreciation of scenery, relaxing environments, fresh air and water, natural features, and recreational amenities. Development of the Shenandoah master plan included the application of segregation to park planning, such that Lewis Mountain would become the only facility designated for use by Black campers. NPS landscape architect Harvey P. Benson and his staff completed the first master plan for Shenandoah NP in 1935, shortly before the park opened to the public. It called for the design and construction of the 105-mile-long scenic road known as Skyline Drive, including six picnic grounds and seven developed areas along its length. When the park opened in 1935, it recorded the highest visitation to date in a national park. Such high visitation numbers confirmed the success of master planning applied to eastern parks, supported the need for a park planning process, and necessitated the immediate construction of the planned facilities throughout the park. (CLR 2023: 102-103)

Initially constructed between 1938 and 1942, the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape embodies the NPS’s Rustic Style of architectural and landscape design—applied to a segregated landscape. This style was developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and adopted by the NPS in the 1930s. It draws on regional vernacular techniques of design and construction and prioritizes a site’s natural environmental features. Rustic buildings typically demonstrate a sensitivity to the surrounding environment using native materials and vernacular design and construction methods. This style was fundamental to the NPS’s identity in the first half of the 20thcentury. The Rustic Style features at Lewis Mountain are characteristic of this period of NPS development. (CLR 2023: 103)

Today, the buildings at Lewis Mountain continue to embody the Rustic Style and remain little changed from their original forms and details. These include cabins, a lodge, a campground office, and two comfort stations. The construction and siting of such buildings was generally outlined in master plans. However, under the concessionaire’s agreement, the specifics of the features’ actual designs and construction were undertaken by the Virginia Skyline Company and overseen by the NPS. As the architect for the park concessionaire, Richmond architect Marcellus Wright Jr. designed rustic buildings throughout Shenandoah NP. At Lewis Mountain, Wright employed the Rustic Style using local, natural materials such as site-harvested chestnut logs, oak shingles, waney board siding, and stone masonry construction. Wright also adopted vernacular architectural construction methods such as frame and log construction, allowing the buildings to blend into the surrounding landscape. (CLR 2023: 103)

In much the same vein, the CCC employed rustic design principles in its projects at Lewis Mountain. Such principles focused on a reverence for existing natural landscape features and a preference for construction that blended with the natural environment, avoided straight lines, and enhanced natural scenery. NPS Rustic Style design included the careful preservation of maturing vegetation, the creation of specifically framed views and vistas, the use of local, natural materials during construction (such as boulders and logs) and native plantings (including hemlock, mountain laurel, oak, and witch hazel). These plantings were grouped around cabins and roadways to highlight the natural environment further and create a pleasing visitor experience of immersion in nature. The CCC also graded roadways and campsites, installed rustic boulder drinking fountains, and constructed native stone retaining walls throughout the campground. (CLR 2023: 103-104)

National Register Significance Criteria:

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

Significance Criterion 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 1938 - CE 1968

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Recreation	General Recreation	
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Social and Humanitarian Movements	Civil Rights Movements	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Rustic; WPA Rustic	
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	

National Register Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Community Planning and Development

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Ethnic Heritage – Black

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Entertainment/Recreation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Politics/Government

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Social History

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Skyline Drive Historic District (NHL)
NRIS ID:	97000375
Primary Certification Date:	10/06/2008
NRIS Name:	Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase)
NRIS ID:	03001251
Primary Certification Date:	12/05/2003

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	69-0234
Name:	Skyline Drive Historic District
Listed Date:	07/02/1997

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark?	Yes
Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Contributing:	Contributing
NHL ID:	
NHL URL:	
Date:	10/06/2008

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 5000 - 1600	Settled	First human habitation in Blue Ridge Mountains.
CE 1000	Farmed/Harvested	Farming is developed in the Shenandoah Valley.
CE 1669	Explored	Dr. John Lederer, first European to record exploration in this area of Blue Ridge Mountains, describes a forest full of game and a large open area believed to be Big Meadows.
CE 1700 - 1799	Settled	Immigrants from Tidewater area come to Piedmont region and from Pennsylvania to Shenandoah Valley, leading to disappearance or departure of Native Americans from the area.
CE 1750 - 1830	Settled	Settlers move from lower elevations into mountain hollows, where they pursue farming, grazing, timbering, and hunting game.
CE 1830	Established	Recreational use of the mountains begins circa 1830 with the opening of Black Rock Springs Hotel, south of current Route 33.
CE 1845 - 1850	Mined	Investment firm, which includes stockholder George Pollock Sr., mines copper at Stony Man Mountain Tract and timbers land for production of charcoal.
CE 1888	Established	The first recreational summer outing at Skyland is led by George F. Pollock Jr.
CE 1924	Established	Congress authorizes an unpaid Southern Appalachian National Park Committee to study proposed park sites.
CE 1924	Established	Shenandoah Valley, Inc., established as regional Chamber of Commerce to further repute of Valley for its scenic and historic resources, works to assure Blue Ridge would be chosen as the site of the proposed eastern national park. (Engle 1999: 14)
CE 1926	Established	Congress authorizes Shenandoah National Park (NP), but without funds for land purchase. Land is acquired over the next eight years through donations and funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia.
CE 1927	Built	In 1927, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club is organized, and begins construction of Appalachian Trail in the park.
CE 1931 - 1933	Built	President Herbert Hoover authorizes construction of first 32 miles of Skyline Drive from his Rapidan Camp near Big Meadows to Skyland and Thornton Gap, using local farmers and orchard workers. (Engle 1999: 18)
CE 1931 - 1942	Engineered	Private contractors construct other sections of Skyline Drive; CCC provides assistance after May 1933. (McClelland 1998: 181-182)
CE 1933 - 1942	Built	The CCC builds much of the park's infrastructure, provides labor for Skyline Drive, relocates portions of the Appalachian Trail, clears dead chestnut trees, installs phone/water lines.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1935	Established	Congress officially establishes Shenandoah NP from land purchased through private donations and by Commonwealth of Virginia. (RMP 1998: 23)
CE 1936	Established	President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicates the park on July 3 in ceremony at Big Meadows.
CE 1937	Established	Park-wide concessioner contract is granted to Virginia Skyline Company, Inc. (Lambert 1979: 262)
CE 1938	Built	Based on plans from 1937, NPS begins construction of the picnic grounds at Lewis Mountain as a segregated facility in 1938. By the summer CCC grades the picnic area, its parking lots, and roadways; clears trails; and reroutes the Appalachian Trail to the east. Workers also remove dead chestnut trees, clear undergrowth, replant areas deforested by logging and farming, and construct an ornamental boulder field. Stone fireplaces are built at each of the new picnic sites
CE 1938 - 1939	Built	Picnic Grounds Comfort Station is built.
CE 1938 - 1940	Planted	Between 1938 and 1940, the CCC plants and preserves various trees, shrubs, and other plants around the site.
CE 1939	Built	CCC prepares cabin area and campground, and builds boulder water fountains, a pump house, and a stone retaining wall near the future site of a comfort station.
CE 1939 - 1940	Built	CCC builds the Campground Office.
CE 1939 - 1940	Built	Virginia Skyline Company builds Lewis Mountain Lodge and Cabins 1-3 (a fourth cabin that was built is lost to a fire).
CE 1940	Altered	Cabin 15, a tent platform believed to have been built by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, is made into a one-room cabin.
CE 1940 - 1949	Built	Located downslope from the lodge, a small structure is erected between 1940 and 1949 to house an electrical generator.
CE 1942	Built	The Campground Comfort Station is built.
CE 1942	Abandoned	By July 1942, Lewis Mountain is closed due to World War II and declining park visitation. (NR 1997: 96)
CE 1946	Restored	All park facilities are reopened by spring of 1946. (NR 1997: 96)
CE 1947	Established	White visitors reportedly begin using Lewis Mountain.
CE 1948	Built	Virginia Skyline Company builds Cabins 4 and 5.
CE 1950	Altered	Lodge is altered to create Camp Store. Porches with grills are added to Cabins 1-4 for outdoor dining.
CE 1950	Built	NPS constructs two dining shelters in front of Cabin 5.
CE 1950	Established	The 1950 season is the first in which the official policy of desegregation was actively enforced in all national parks. However, many Black visitors still prefer Lewis Mountain.
CE 1954	Moved	Virginia Skyline Company moves Cabins “F” and “G” to Lewis Mountain from their original Dickey Ridge location.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1956 - 1966	Built	NPS Mission 66 projects include replacing the Water Reservoir with two water tanks and adding the Campground Registration and Picnic Grounds Information Kiosks.
CE 1957 - 1961	Built	The KIT-38 microwave building is installed at Lewis Mountain sometime between 1957 and 1961.
CE 1964	Established	All public spaces in Virginia are legally desegregated with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
CE 1967 - 1968	Rehabilitated	Lewis Mountain campground is rehabilitated. Work includes expanding parking spaces to accommodate car-trailer camping units, and installation of new tables, fireplaces, garbage cans, and camp-wide lighting.
CE 1968	Altered	Dining facilities at the lodge close and are replaced with a camp store.
CE 1968	Built	The Virginia Skyline Company erects outdoor dining shelters at each cabin circa 1968.
CE 1968 - 1969	Built	In 1968-1969 the campground registration box is replaced with a new self-registration board. A small stone wall is built to support this structure.
CE 1970 - 1975	Established	Virginia Skyline Company concession is taken over by ARA, later known as Aramark, Inc.
CE 1970	Built	In the early 1970s, NPS builds the amphitheater.
CE 1995	Altered	Spruce Cottage G is modified for accessibility.
CE 1996	Altered	The Lodge/Camp Store is altered to be made handicapped accessible, and reshingled with rigid fiberglass cement tiles replacing the original asbestos cement shingles. Cabins asphalt roofing shingles are replaced with original material (wood shingles) and most of the porches are restored to their original appearance.
CE 1999 - 2000	Altered	During work on underground utility lines, swaths of vegetation are removed at various locations around site. The road system is widened and repaved and pull-offs in front of the cabins are paved.
CE 2001	Removed	The amphitheater is removed.
CE 2001	Rehabilitated	The picnic grounds are rehabilitated, including repairing the historic log privacy screens and flagstone entrances at comfort station.
CE 2003	Damaged	Thousands of trees are downed by Hurricane Isabel, including many at Lewis Mountain.
CE 2003	Altered	Around 2003, replacement trees are planted.
CE 2004 - 2005	Altered	Some walkways are repaved with asphalt.
CE 2012	Built	The park installs information kiosks near the comfort stations in the campground and picnic grounds.
CE 2012	Built	Interpretive exhibit panels are installed at the campground.
CE 2022	Altered	Park replaces wooden picnic tables with new vinyl clad tables at each campsite and installs new fire grates.
CE 2024	Planted	Some 100 trees are planted in late fall 2024 at the picnic area to replace lost trees: 67 oak species (white, red, black) and 33 white pines.

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods, from its earliest indigenous occupation, through its colonization and agricultural development, its later design as a segregated recreational landscape for Black campers, to the present day. Portions of this section are excerpted from the 2023 “Cultural Landscape Report for Lewis Mountain, Shenandoah National Park” by Jacob Torkelson, Randall Mason, Ph.D., and Jane Nasta.

NATIVE AMERICAN USE (11,000 Years Ago to Seventeenth Century)

As part of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Lewis Mountain began forming 470 million to 270 million years ago when two landmasses started converging. This area of the Blue Ridge Mountains was known and used by Paleo-Indians for many centuries, with the first human use taking place about 11,000 years ago, sometime after the last Ice-Age. The Paleo-Indians were hunters and gatherers who used the mountains for seasonal camps. With the development of farming in the valleys by 1000 CE, Native American use of the mountains focused on game hunting. The Monacan and Manahoac people used this area (Figure 1). (See the 2023 CLR, pages 11-14, for more information.) (RMP 1998: 23)

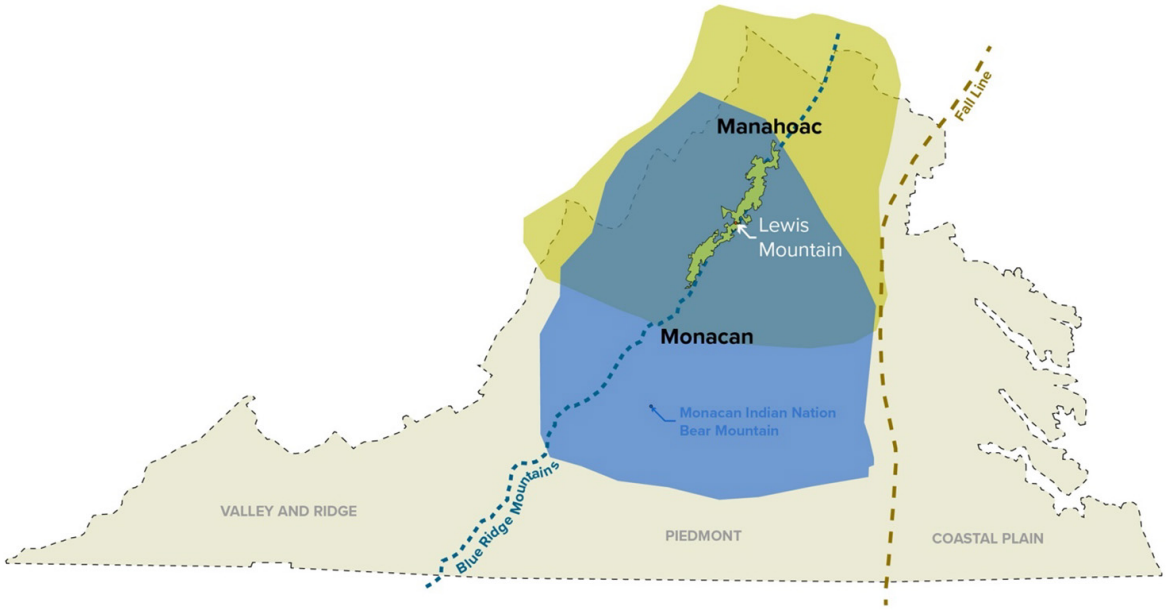


Figure 1. Diagram of geological features such as the Fall Line, Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and the location of Indigenous peoples prior to European contact. Note: All boundaries are approximate. (CLR 2023: 12, based on Egloff and Woodward 1992 and Native Land Digital, native-land.ca, accessed March 20, 2023)

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT (1669 to 1926)

The first recorded European exploration of this area of the Blue Ridge took place in 1669. Dr. John Lederer, who led the exploration party, described the woods as wild and full of game. In 1716, Alexander Spotswood, Governor of Virginia, led an expedition across the Blue Ridge to encourage settlement in the area. The crossing place was probably Swift Run Gap, or the Big Meadows area. English, Scots-Irish, and German settlers then immigrated to the area, moving from the Tidewater area to the Piedmont and from Pennsylvania to the Shenandoah Valley. Even before European settlement began here, local Native Americans were succumbing to introduced diseases and by 1800 many had moved away. As the better farming land was taken, settlers moved into the mountain hollows. (Lambert 1989: 21-22, 32-33; RMP 1998: 23; NR draft 1992: 7:2)

In the future Lewis Mountain area, the Slaughter, Lamb, Breeden, and Taylor families inhabited the land for decades. These families formed vast interconnected networks of kinship among the other mountain families. Such strong cultural and community ties enriched the daily life of the homesteaders and fostered a deep connection to the land. They developed a life reliant on hunting, farming, grazing, and timbering that led to extensive clearing of the land. This clearing was furthered by the introduction of chestnut blight in the 1910s, which killed the chestnut trees they had previously relied upon for rot-resistant wood for construction. (CLR 2023: 7; RMP 1998: 23; Engle 1999: 67)

Industrial use of the area, such as mining, furnaces, and sawmills also developed in the 1800s. In the mid-1800s, copper was mined to the north of the Lewis Mountain area on the Stony Man Mountain Tract, today known as Skyland. Timbering took place to manufacture the charcoal needed for the smelting, and a wagon road was established to Stony Man to accommodate logging and furnace activities. (Engle 1999: 1)

Recreational Uses:
Use of the mountains for recreation began around 1830 with the opening of Black Rock Springs Hotel, south of Lewis Mountain. The first recreational summer outing at Skyland, a summer retreat north of Lewis Mountain, was held in 1888. In subsequent years, an emerging social movement promoted “rugged” recreation and outdoor opportunities apart from urban areas. As tourism rose in the Blue Ridge, its wilderness values directly conflicted with those of the mountain families. (CLR 2023: 7)

Historian William O’Brien points out that the emergence of a national park movement coincided with the rise of Jim Crow in the American South and the rise of land acquisition programs in poor and depressed areas. As support for a national park in the Blue Ridge grew, southern states were passing laws that restricted the free recreation of Black Americans while politicians nationwide were establishing submarginal land acquisition programs. (CLR 2023: 7)

DEVELOPMENT OF SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK AND LEWIS MOUNTAIN (1926–1954)

In 1926, Congress authorized the Shenandoah National Park to provide a large, western-type park accessible from the population centers of the East Coast. However, the act did not provide federal funding to acquire land for the park. Until the park was officially established in 1935, lands were acquired through private donations and funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Figure 2). This was followed by the removal of homesteads, farms, and previous uses from those lands. In 1936, the park held its official dedication in Big Meadows, and President Franklin Roosevelt attended. (RMP 1998: 23; McClelland 1998, 290)

Concurrent with land acquisitions were other developments. In 1927 the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club was organized and began construction on the section of the Appalachian Trail, which would stretch from Georgia to Maine. The trail trekked through park lands along the north-south ridge, but sections were later relocated to accommodate the construction of the Skyline Drive along the ridge, which began in 1931. The road was the designed as the primary route through the park and was financed initially from drought relief monies to employ Virginia farmers and apple-pickers impacted by a 1930 drought. Private contractors constructed Skyline Drive through 1942, with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) providing assistance beginning in 1933. The CCC was created as one of the Roosevelt Administration work-relief programs during the Great Depression. In 1933 CCC camps were established within the park boundaries. (Lambert 1979: 159; NR draft 1992, Sec.7: 5; McClelland 1998: 181-182)

The NPS oversaw the early development of the park by the CCC, which built much of the park's infrastructure and many early structures. These include the maintenance buildings, picnic areas, campgrounds, trails, and water and sewer systems. To reduce the danger of fires, the CCC cleared the ghost forests of dead and dying chestnut trees that resulted from the chestnut blight (Figure 3). Chestnut lumber was used for all types of projects, including shingles, picnic tables, and siding. The CCC also undertook replanting projects, planting thousands of trees and shrubs to revegetate the construction scars along Skyline Drive and in the developed areas. Much the plant stock was obtained from a nursery established at Big Meadows. (Engle 1999: 27, 30, 67, 71-74, 80-87)

Master Plans:
The first master plan for Shenandoah NP was developed in 1935. Master plans guided park development by presenting an idealized version of what the park could be, although many of the planned projects were subsequently reduced in scope or were never built. At Shenandoah NP, the master plan was regularly revised from the creation of the park into the 1960s, reflecting shifting park priorities and policy changes. (CLR 2023: 29)

Race was a consideration for park designs from the inception of the park master plan. Put differently, Shenandoah NP was designed as a racially segregated undertaking from its inception. While the 1935 master plan did not designate areas as "for white use" it clearly delineated a single developed area, "Bear Wallow Springs," for colored use," while leaving all other racial designations off other areas in the plan. (CLR 2023: 29, citing 1935 Master Plan)

The Bear Wallow Springs area was to be located on the west side of Skyline Drive north of the present-day Oaks Overlook and south of present-day Lewis Mountain (Figure 4). Text accompanying the master plan called for a lodge/host house with a store and dining room that accommodated 75 people, 50 cabins, 4 comfort stations, as well as a picnic area for 60 cars and a campground with 60 camp sites. In total, the maximum costs of the Bear Wallow Springs area totaled $100,000, much less than investments at nearby Big Meadows. (CLR 2023: 30, citing 1935 Master Plan)

By 1937, for unknown reasons, the Bear Wallow Springs area was abandoned in favor of a new site on the east side of Skyline Drive at Lewis Mountain (see Figure 4). Interestingly, the Bear Wallow Springs site would likely have featured a westward vista of the Shenandoah Valley; however, as built, Lewis Mountain would feature a limited westward vista but from the eastern side Skyline Drive, achieving an entirely different effect. (CLR 2023: 30)

Lewis Mountain first appeared on park master plans in 1937. As planned, the development was somewhat smaller than its predecessor at Bear Wallow Springs. Text accompanying the master plan called for a similar capacity at the lodge, with a dining room accommodating 75 people, a similar capacity of 50 camper cabins, and a comparable picnic area featuring 62 parking spaces. However, planners reduced the capacity in the campgrounds to 45 sites from 60. In plan, the cabin area featured an additional one-way loop road to access the 50 cabins across from the lodge. It also called for the construction of two comfort stations in the campgrounds, a rear lodge terrace, and a limited westward lodge vista (Figure 5). (CLR 2023: 30)

The Landscape at Lewis Mountain Prior to Development:
Pre-park maps of Lewis Mountain offer much insight about the future developed area. The future campground's location was almost certainly chosen based on its composition of ridgeline plateaus that afforded flatter terrain on which to build overnight accommodations. This is consistent with the other campground areas identified for development within the park. Extant unpaved roads, likely once used for tanbarking or logging, crisscrossed the plateaus that would become the campground and picnic areas and provided workers access to the landscape. At this time the Lewis Mountain area was predominately a red oak forest. Areas to the southwest and southeast were open areas, which supports why designers established a viewshed to the southwest from the lodge. In the winter of 1937-1938, the CCC logged the valley to the north and east of the future developed area and used salvaged timber to construct the buildings at Lewis Mountain and throughout the park. Sometime during the 1930s, the U.S. Geological Survey erected small markers at the site. (CLR 2023: 35-36)

NPS Rustic Design:
The NPS, via its principal park architect Herbert Maier, hired architect Albert Good to consult on the overall design of service architecture and landscapes. Through their 1935 book, Park Structures and Facilities, Maier and Good became key resources in the design of the service-wide buildings and landscapes. Around the same time, the principal pathologist of the U.S. Forest Service, E.P. Meinecke, also circulated a key text that contributed to the park's design, titled Camp Planning and Camp Construction. All three men were critical voices in the design conversation. Among their principles on landscape design were considerations for the existing forested setting, and the careful regulation of vehicular and pedestrian movement within a park. All three designers promoted the idea that any modern intervention in the park scene must be of the "Rustic Style," blending with the natural landscape and not competing with its existing aesthetics. (CLR 2023: 28)

The forest scene was primary to the designers' vision for Shenandoah NP. With written guidance from Good and Meinecke, park planners surveyed developed areas of the future park and planned built features to take advantage of their natural settings. They aimed to preserve the natural setting where possible, arranging vegetation, boulders, and other natural features to achieve both privacy and designed views. (CLR 2023: 28-29)

These considerations were addressed in a chapter called "Beauty in the Camp." Beyond scenic vistas, both Meinecke and Good thus argued for the creation of specific views within developed areas, including: clear sightlines between individual buildings and structures within cabin clusters; the framing of views along roads and paths by the careful preservation of existing vegetation and scenery; reciprocal views between buildings in each cabin cluster; views to and from the camp lodge along axial roads and paths within the camp; and screened views at the edges of roads, limiting views into and out of the developed areas. In this way, the fingerprints of the "Rustic Style" promoters—Good, Maier, and Meinecke—are evident in many parks, including at Shenandoah NP's Lewis Mountain. (CLR 2023: 29)

Development of Lewis Mountain:
Picnic Grounds.
Construction of the picnic grounds at Lewis Mountain proceeded in 1938, according to plans prepared by NPS landscape architects in 1937. By the end of June 1938, the CCC had graded the picnic area, its parking lots, and roadways, and cleared the trails. The CCC rerouted the section of the Appalachian Trail tracking through the area, eastward. Workers also cut down dead chestnut trees, cleared undergrowth, replanted areas deforested by logging and farming, and constructed an ornamental boulder field. Soon after, the CCC built standard stone fireplaces at each of the new

picnic sites. (CLR 2023: 35-36)

When the picnic area opened in 1938, it was the first and only facility in the park that served Black visitors (Figure 6). However, the planned lodge, cabins, and the campground remained unbuilt. Initially there was only a pit toilet, but later that year the CCC began building the Picnic Grounds Comfort Station using a standardized design used throughout the park (Figure 7). (CLR 2023: 37)

Campground.
CCC preparation for the campground began in 1939, and was completed in the same year. Camp sites were laid out around a series of loop roads, based on the NPS Rustic Design style. A separate CCC job installed water and sewer lines throughout the site, including a atone pumphouse on the other side of Skyline Drive and boulder drinking fountains at the picnic grounds and campground. A campground office was built in 1939-1940, but at the proposed comfort station for the campground was not completed until 1942, which was identical to the building (Figure 8). (CLR 2023: 38-40)

Cabins and Lodge.
Construction on the cabins proceeded in 1939, according to standardized park-wide plans previously prepared by architect Marcellus Wright, Jr. for other park facilities. In plan these cabins each featured two bedrooms flanking a shared bathroom. Each bedroom had a separate exterior entrance. The initial four cabins were completed in time to accommodate Black guests for the 1940 season (Figure 9). Within a year of its construction, one of the cabins burned down and was not replaced. Around 1940, Cabin 15, a tent platform believed to have been built by the PATC, was modified to be a one-room cabin. (CLR 2023: 38-40; Lambert 1979: 262)

Unlike the Lewis Mountain cabins, the design for the Lewis Mountain lodge was unique to this site. Marcellus Wright, Jr. had by this time designed numerous facilities throughout the park, including at Elkwallow, Skyland, and Big Meadows. Wright served as the company architect for the concessionaire, the Virginia Skyline Company, and carried out the construction of buildings according to master plans created by the NPS. The lodge's design featured a stepped and segmented building that straddled the steep hillside on which it sat (Figure 10). In plan, the building consisted of three parts: a central dining room porch and terrace; a series of bathrooms to one side; and a bedroom, bathroom, storage, and kitchen to the other. In the central dining room, Wright installed a large picture window to take advantage of the vista originally called for in the master plan. The front of the lodge incorporated existing vegetation features, as well as native plantings, such as hemlock and mountain laurel, that blended the new building with the landscape. When completed in 1940, the lodge at Lewis Mountain served as an excellent example of the NPS Rustic architectural design style, with its terrain-hugging horizontal profile, use of wooden siding and native stone, and surrounding the yard with a native chestnut fence. (CLR 2023: 41)

NPS Rustic Style landscape architectural design principles were also practiced at Lewis Mountain, where the facilities successfully complemented and blended with the surrounding environment. A number of guidelines had been developed by the NPS to accomplish this intent, such as the preservation of existing landscape features, the use of natural materials in construction, replanting native species, and the avoidance of right angles and straight lines. At Lewis Mountain, these principles were evident in the curving, one-way road and in the extensive plantings of native species. Between 1938 and 1940, the CCC planted and preserved various trees, shrubs, and other plants around the site. Certain species were placed next to buildings to enhance their design, at the junctions of circulation features, or in planted islands at the camp entrance or its parking lots. Native plant species included oak (Quercus sp.), witchhazel (Hamamelis virginiana), pine (Pinus sp.), mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia), azaleas (Rhododendron sp.), birch (Betula sp.), red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa), and hemlock (Tsuga canadensis). (McClelland 1998: 2-3; CLR 2023: 38-39)

As discussed in the CLR, management of the CCC-planted landscapes appears to have been uneven across segregated park facilities. In 1941, famed plant pathologist and Civil Rights activist Thomas Wyatt Turner wrote to park management complaining of overgrown plantings surrounding the cabins and lodge. Turner noted the disparity in maintenance of decorative plantings at white facilities with those at Lewis Mountain. "Where the landscaping has been done, and where beautiful rhododendrons, stately white pines, and other natural shrubbery have been arranged in pleasing

clumps, the same care for the maintenance is not being exercised around the other cabins at Lewis Mountain." (CLR 2023: 41-43, citing Stiso 2019)

Early Uses of Lewis Mountain and Temporary Closure:
Lewis Mountain operated at a loss during its first two seasons, primarily because of a lack of advertising by the NPS and the Virginia Skyline Company. Except for a sign at the entrance at Skyline Drive, neither group advertised the availability of overnight accommodations for Black visitors within the park (Figure 11). Instead, visitation relied on informal communication networks among Black travelers that noted the availability and quality of facilities at Lewis Mountain. (CLR 2023: 43)

The entry of the United States into World War II essentially ended all public and private development in the park until after the war. All CCC camps were closed by the end of March 1942. With the decline of visitation to the park due to the war, the Virginia Skyline Company closed the park's concession and lodging areas by the end of the season. All NPS-operated facilities such as picnic areas, campgrounds, foot and bridle paths, trailside shelters, and lean-tos would remain open to the public, but visitation was low. Furthermore, the park lacked the resources during the war to maintain their facilities and keep vegetation from overtaking them. (CLR 2023: 52-53)

Desegregation Efforts During and After World War II:
Despite limited park visitation, Lewis Mountain continued to be a highly visible symbol of segregation within the larger movement to desegregate parks and public spaces across the country. The park, as well as the regional and national offices of the NPS, received numerous complaints from visitors and civil rights organizations, and from within the government rank-and-file, many of whom mentioned the entrance sign. (CLR 2023: 54)

In 1942 Department of the Interior Secretary Harold Ickes and NPS Director Newton B. Drury issued a policy stating that all facilities owned and administered by the NPS were to be operated without consideration of race. At Shenandoah, as well as other parks, this was only a partial solution. In practice, this meant that all campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, waysides, and comfort stations owned and operated by the NPS were legally desegregated. However, all overnight or dining facilities operated by park concessionaires (such as the Virginia Skyline Company) remained segregated. A full desegregation policy did not come until late 1945 when Secretary Ickes extended it to private operators. This coincided with the end of World War II and the reopening of park facilities. (CLR 2023: 55-56)

The Virginia Skyline Company was quick to challenge this new rule. Writing to Park Superintendent Edward D. Freeland, the concessionaire's leadership noted that a verbal agreement between the company and the park, made in March 1939, allowed for segregation at its facilities if it was to construct an area for Black visitors at Lewis Mountain. Such an agreement, the concessionaire stated, allowed it to operate profitable whites-only facilities at Big Meadows, Skyland, Dickey Ridge, and Elkwallow in any way it saw fit, while taking a direct loss at Lewis Mountain, which it perceived to be unprofitable. The company held that by creating and operating separate white and Black facilities, it was also complying with state and federal laws that prohibited integration in public spaces and required separate but equal accommodations. Secretary Ickes challenged the company's view of the concessions agreement but resigned before any change occurred. Instead, Superintendent Freeland conceded to the Virginia Skyline Company's challenge and worked to implement a gradual approach to desegregation and integration alongside Ickes's successor, Julius Krug. (CLR 2023: 56)

At Shenandoah, the discrepancy in official policies on race between government facilities and the concessionaire resulted in confusion over which facilities guests could and couldn't use. At Lewis Mountain, Black visitors returning in 1946 were greeted with a modified entrance sign, which simply removed the lettering of "Negro Area" and replaced it with "Lodge" (Figure 12). As stated in the CLR,

"such half-hearted efforts to erase segregation merely removed any mention of it in the park landscape, while not actually encouraging Black visitorship elsewhere in the park. In this way, the purpose-built segregated landscape of Lewis Mountain remained unchanged, serving only to reinforce socially established patterns of park-wide segregation and use." (CLR 2023: 56, Alexander et.al: 33-34)

Desegregation happened incrementally thereafter; as early as 1947 it is reported that white visitors began coming to the Lewis Mountain Lodge for the excellent food. While white visitors slowly began to appropriate and subsume an otherwise safe space managed by and for Black visitors, the Virginia Skyline Company, while legally held to desegregation policies, continued to uphold unofficial segregationist practices at its other facilities based on historical racial designations. (CLR 2023: 56-57)

The summer season of 1950 was the first season in which the official policy of desegregation was actively enforced in all national parks. However, few Black visitors used the dining rooms or overnight accommodations in the park; rather, they opted for lunch counter service, such as snacks or soft drinks, at waysides and favored shorter day trips that avoided challenging the status of the previously white developed areas. When Black visitors did choose to stay overnight, they chose to stay at Lewis Mountain out of historical use or comfort. (CLR 2023: 57)

Post World War II Additions to Lewis Mountain:
During its heyday in the late 1940s and 1950s, Lewis Mountain visitors recalled excellent food, music, and entertainment at the lodge. Church, youth, and professional groups held day trips, homecomings, and picnics at the picnic grounds. One tradition was the posing on the “photo log,” a log guardrail in the planted island between the lodge and cabins, where visitors would have their pictures taken (Figure 13). (CLR 2023: 8, 228)

In 1948, the Virginia Skyline Company commissioned Virginia architects Louis W. Ballou and Charles C. Justice to design two additional cabins at Lewis Mountain (Cabins 4 and 5). They were similar in style to the Wright’s duplex cabins but were slightly larger to accommodate two bathrooms instead of one. The new cottages extended the row of cabins to the south and east, and included the addition of new asphalt walks, utility hookups, and likely, limited small-scale features such as trash cans, picnic tables, or boulders. (CLR 2023: 58)

In 1951-1952 the park made plans to move two native chestnut cottages (Chestnut Cottage F and Spruce Cottage G) to Lewis Mountain from their original location at Dickey Ridge. Representatives of the Virginia Skyline Company wanted to relocate the two cottages to the south of the picnic area parking lot, based on the 1938 master plan. However, by this time, use of the picnic area had expanded across the parking lot to this area. Accordingly, park staff recommended situating the two new cottages south of the five extant cottages,
parallel to the main road, with Chestnut Cottage F oriented along its east-west axis and parallel with Cabin 5. Such an orientation preserved the possibility of additional cabins linked by a planned spur road, as originally outlined in the master plan. The cabins were moved in early 1954. (CLR 2023: 58-59)

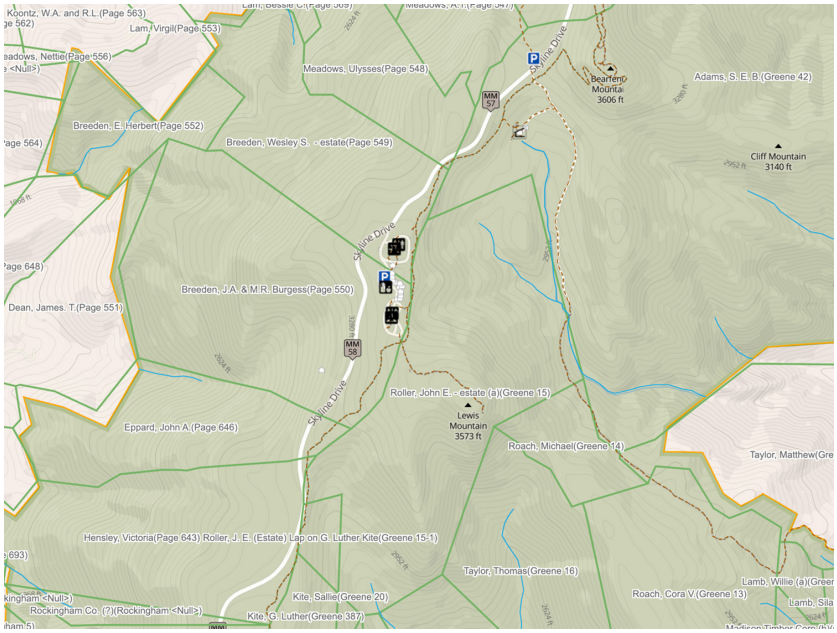


Figure 2. Map of land owners of the future Lewis Mountain area when the park was created in the early 1930s: James A. Breeden, Wesley Breeden, and John Roller. (CLR 2023: 19, excerpt from Quist et.al.)

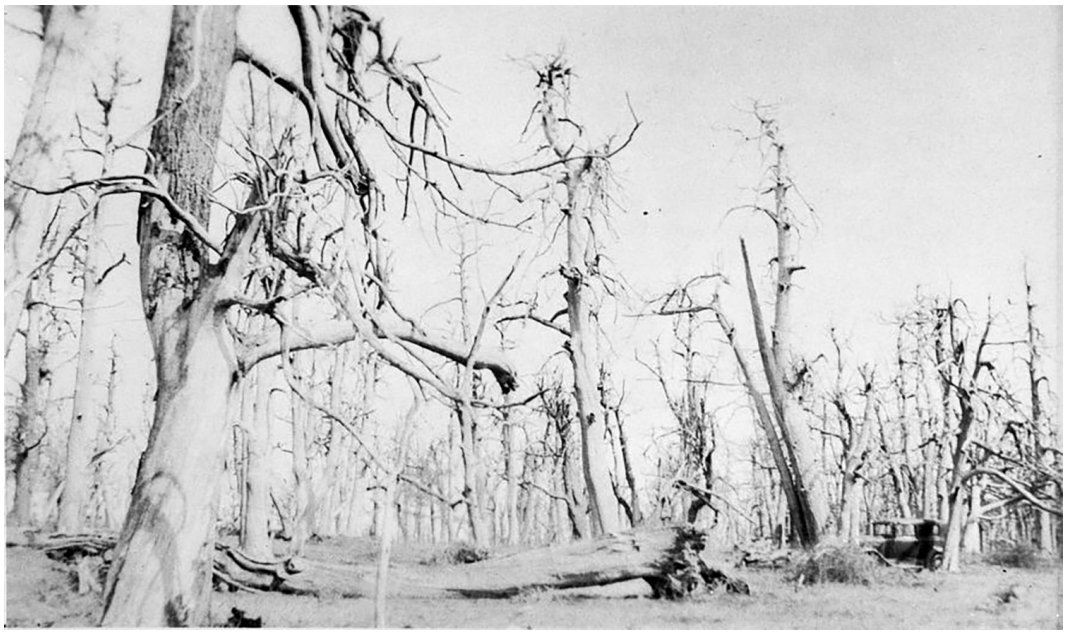


Figure 3. By 1910, most chestnut trees in Shenandoah National Park were dead or dying from a blight, leaving behind vast areas of so-called "ghost forests." (CLR 2023: 25, F.W. Brueckmann, SHEN 22060/4001.009.01.00051/Negative No. P-110a 6032; also HAER 119 VA-97, Library of Congress)



Figure 4. The 1935 park master plan featured a developed area for Black visitors, called Bear Wallow Springs, located south of the present-day Lewis Mountain (white oval) and north of present-day Oak Overlook (white square). (CLR 2023: 31, SHEN 1154 1935 06; annotated by CLR authors)



Figure 5. The 1938 Master Plan for Lewis Mountain featured a picnic area, central cabin core and lodge, and campground. The NPS closely followed the master plan, but did not build the 50 planned cabins, lodge porch, or additional campground comfort stations. (CLR 2023: 33; SHEN 47218, Shelf 4, Box 8)



Figure 6. The first entrance sign for Lewis Mountain, built along Skyline Drive, circa 1938-1940. (SHEN archives)

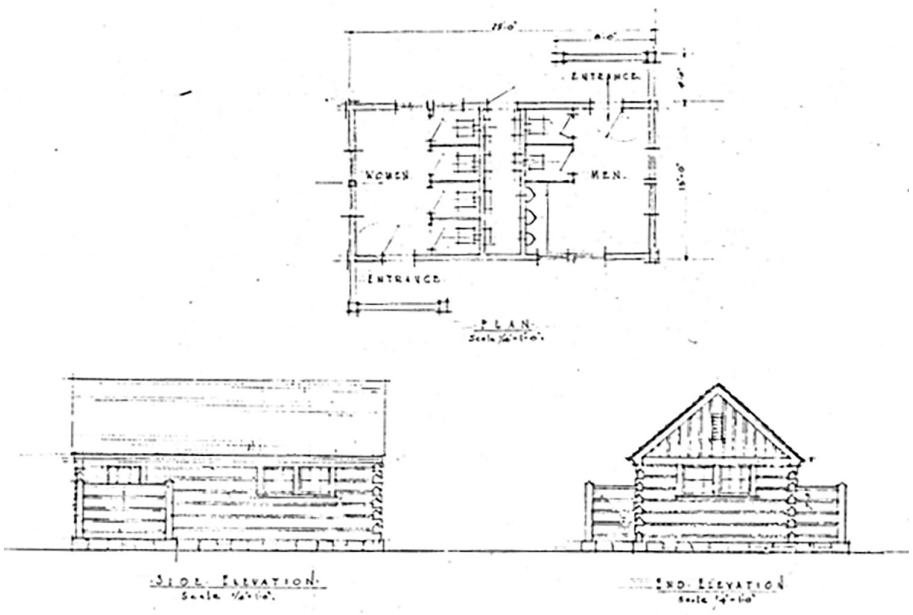


Figure 7. The comfort station installed in 1938 at the picnic area was of a standard design found throughout the park. It featured two sides for men and women, separated by a central storage and utility area. (CLR 2023: 38, NPS eTIC SHEN 134-2002)

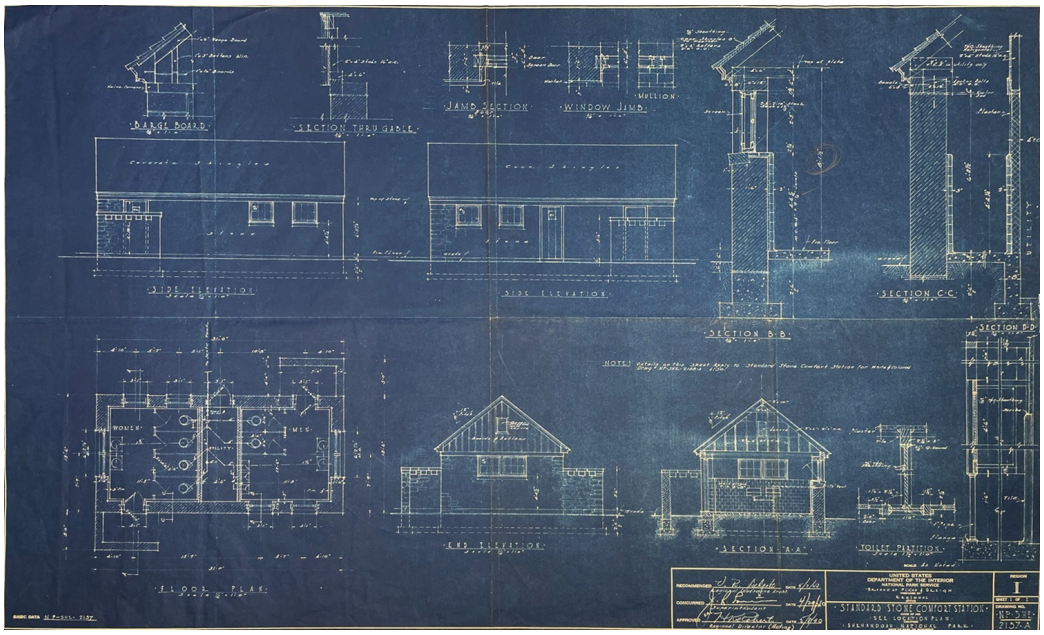


Figure 8. The comfort station at the campground was of a standard design employed across the park. It featured stone walls up to the roofine, where board-and-batten siding continued into the gables. (CLR 2023: 62, SHEN Map Case 11, Drawer 5, Folder 7)



Figure 9. One of the duplex cabins at Lewis Mountain, 1941. (CLR 2023: 42, Scudder Griffing, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide #04557)



Figure 10. June 1942 photograph of the CCC-era plantings and landscape outside the lodge, which became greatly overgrown during World War II when the Virginia Skyline Company closed the buildings at Lewis Mountain. (CLR 2023: 54, W.D Chick, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide No. 04556)



Figure 11. This entrance sign to Lewis Mountain along Skyline Drive was the focus of numerous letters by various activists to the NPS, urging it to end segregation. (CLR 2023: 52; W. Drew Chick, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.11801/Negative No. 663-16A)



Figure 12. When Lewis Mountain reopened in 1946, visitors would have been confronted with this modified entrance sign that replaced the words "Negro Area" with "Lodge." The former phrase remained faintly visible, however. (CLR 2023: 55; Lennart. Y. Berg, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.11802/Negative No. 663-16B)



Figure 13. Gilda Wright, daughter of head chef Isabelle Wright, sits on the "photo log" across from the lodge in the late 1940s or early 1950s. (CLR 2023: 228, SHEN 54703, Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt)

MISSION 66 DEVELOPMENTS (1955–1968)

Following World War II, the condition of national parks across the country languished. Piecemeal improvements at Lewis Mountain, such as the addition and relocation of cabins, were not enough to

address the park's postwar needs. Meanwhile, record visitation (from Americans eager to recreate after the war) collided with reduced park budgets, limited staff, and the loss of New Deal labor programs such as the CCC. To address this crisis, NPS Director Conrad L. Wirth proposed to Congress a 10-year service-wide construction program, with funding that would begin immediately in 1956, and continue over the next decade. Named "Mission 66," the program was intended to modernize, enlarge, and even reinvent the park system by 1966, the fiftieth anniversary of the National Park Service. (CLR 2023: 63)

Attitudes about design had changed since the end of the CCC era in Shenandoah NP, and throughout the NPS; "the Craftsman ethic and attention to detail, which had guided the design of structures, gave way to a functionalism in design which advocated modern materials, streamlined forms, and mechanized technology." (McClelland 1998: 452)

The Mission 66 prospectus for Shenandoah National Park was approved in 1957. The development schedule did not guarantee funding, but rather was used to estimate the cost of future park planning and construction efforts under the program. At Lewis Mountain, proposed projects included extension of the road and trail system, construction of a new comfort station, shower house, shelter, associated utilities, and development of additional camp and picnic sites. However, all of the proposed Lewis Mountain projects were categorized as second priority, subject to other larger, more pressing undertakings at the park. In this way, Mission 66 work was limited to the addition of the amphitheater/campfire circle (not initially called for in the prospectus) between the picnic grounds and cabin area, and new small-scale features. (CLR 2023: 63-65)

In 1960, the Regional Director of Operations sent a memorandum to the Park Superintendent, noting the lack of improvements at Lewis Mountain and asking staff to resubmit for funding in 1961. Various master plans during Mission 66 offered competing visions for what a rehabilitated and expanded Lewis Mountain should look like (Figures 14 and 15). This included where additional camping spurs would be located and how circulation would travel at Lewis Mountain. Sketches in the park archives show proposed additional units, including the construction of an additional loop apart from the existing campground near Lewis Mountain's summit, or the addition of a new road along the existing central footpath. Both options were replaced with a final version that added a loop to the northwest of the existing campground. (CLR 2023: 65-66)

Nearing the end of Mission 66, park staff began preparing a new master plan. Approved in 1963, the plan called for greatly expanded facilities. For the Lewis Mountain picnic area, the plan called for a new modern comfort station, increased picnic capacity to 48 sites, and the formalization and expansion of a campfire circle/amphitheater where rangers would conduct regular programs for campers and picnickers. In the campground, the plan called for the construction of an additional comfort station, an expanded camping capacity of 51 sites, and the creation of the previously-planned self-guided nature trail. (CLR 2023: 66)

No major projects were ever realized at Lewis Mountain during the decade-long Mission 66. In the last few years of the program, Mission 66 funding remained nonexistent for any large-scale projects at Lewis Mountain. However, the NPS implemented smaller projects using Mission 66 funding: a telecommunication building uphill from the cabins (1957-1961), "dusk-to-dawn" lights in the campground (1950s-1960s), and a new entrance sign (Figure 16). In the fall of 1964, the park repaved all existing roads and parking areas at Lewis Mountain. (CLR 2023: 66)

Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Desegregation:
Shenandoah National Park itself was desegregated since 1946, but public spaces in Virginia remained legally segregated until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The official desegregation of Shenandoah NP erased any dedicated safe space managed for and by Black people at Lewis Mountain. Instead, Black travelers to the park faced increased uncertainty and risk when trying to discern what spaces were available to them both within and outside the park's boundaries. (CLR 2023: 66)

The 1964 Civil Rights Act indirectly contributed to the decline in use of park facilities by local Black groups, including those in Luray. Several Black groups who historically used Lewis Mountain moved

their Homecoming celebrations to public parks closer to their homes or to facilities that offered a wider range of recreational opportunities, such as those with swimming pools or playing fields. (CLR 2023: 66)

Campground Rehabilitation and Dining Pavilions:
By the late 1960s the condition of the campground at Lewis Mountain had declined, characterized by significant soil erosion from foot and vehicle traffic, which removed topsoil and grass and exposed tree roots. Park staff also noted the declining condition of small-scale features, and the lack of facilities for larger trailer and car campers. In keeping with the design principles and goals of Mission 66, the Lewis Mountain campground was rehabilitated in 1967-1968, after the formal end of the Mission 66 program (Figure 17). Work included expanding parking spaces to accommodate car-trailer camping units, and installation of new tables, fireplaces, garbage cans, and camp-wide lighting. In 1968-1969 the campground registration box was replaced with a new self-registration board that featured a wooden map of the campground with slots where campers could place a tag and self-select a campsite. This board was set into a paved area supported by a new stone retaining wall and tree well. It was installed at the campground entrance, which was both widened and featured a different one-way orientation.

By the late 1960s, the Lewis Mountain lodge no longer offered food service and it was converted into a check-in facility for lodgers and campers. At this time, the park stated that there was no need for a concessionaire to provide a camp store or food service at Lewis Mountain due to the proximity of similar facilities at Big Meadows. Later, however, a camp store was opened in the lodge. Responding to the lack of food service, the Virginia Skyline Company built small dining shelters, or pavilions, outside of each cabin in 1968, which allowed guests to supply and cook their own food, in lieu of a communal dining experience at the lodge. Local architects Baughan & Baukhages of Luray designed the open-air, rustic dining shelters, which were either attached additions at the sides and rear of individual cabins, or free-standing structures. (CLR 2023: 71-72)



Figure 14. This 1960 plan calls for the expansion of the campground with new spurs, an additional loop, and second comfort station (all shown in red). It also proposed a new campfire circle in the picnic grounds. (CLR 2023: 67; SHEN Map Case 11, Drawer 2, Folder 4)

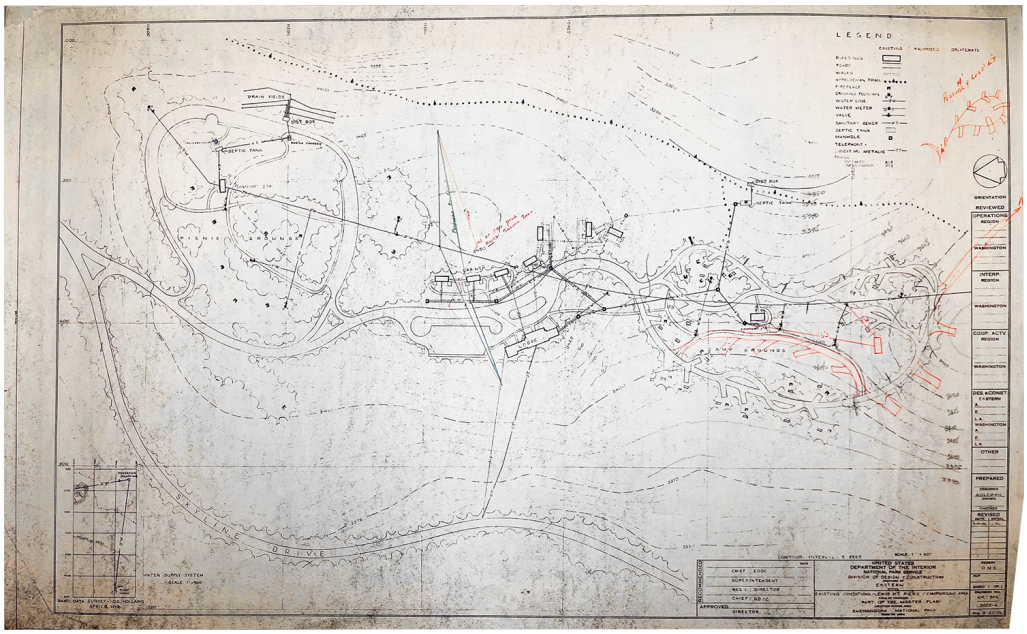


Figure 15. Alternate plans called for the creation of a new internal loop in place of the existing central sidewalk. Sketches also detailed a new "loop A" along the ridgeline toward Lewis Mountain summit. (CLR 2023: 67; SHEN Map Case 11, Drawer 2, Folder 4)



Figure 16. This sign was located at the entrance to Lewis Mountain during the Mission 66 era. (CLR 2023: 183, Donald M. Black, National Park Service, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide #04635)

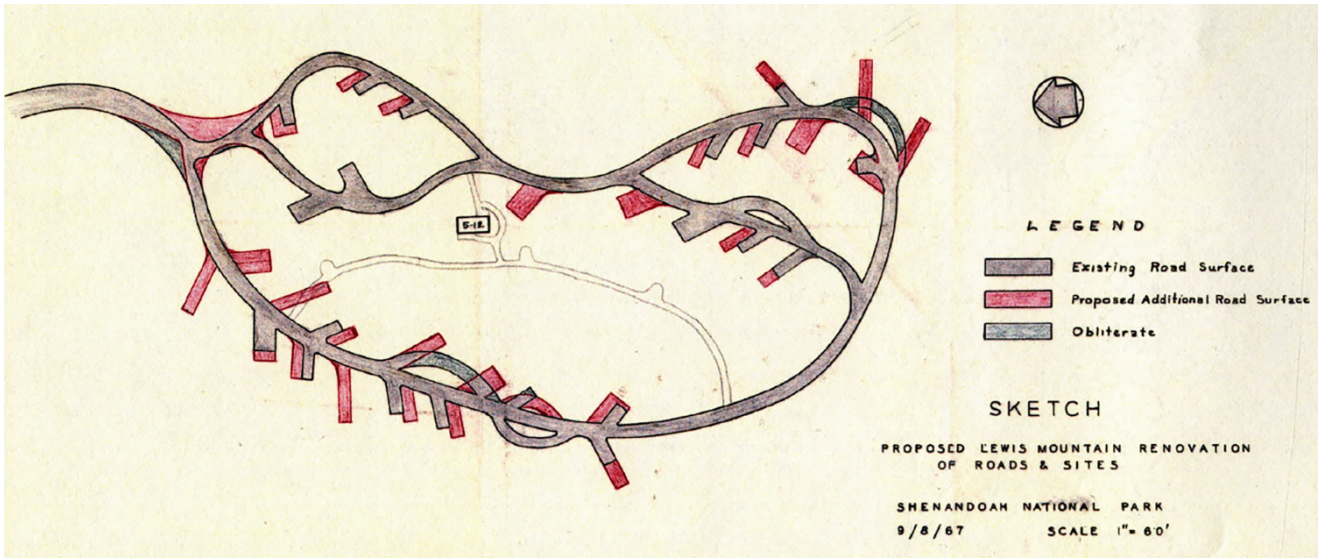


Figure 17. During the 1967-1968 campground rehabilitation, the NPS modified the original Meinecke-type loops by changing the direction of circulation, enlarging existing parking spurs, and adding and removing spurs. (CLR 2023: 71; W. Drew Chick, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.11801/Negative No. 663-16A)

POST-MISSION 66 MANAGEMENT (1968-2026)

In 1969 another plan was proposed to expand the campground and build a new campground comfort station and nature trail, rehabilitate the original comfort stations in the campground and picnic grounds, remove the amphitheater, and upgrade water and electrical lines. Only the utility work was

implemented. (CLR 2023: 66-69)

General Management Plan:
Shenandoah NP drafted and approved a combined General Management Plan and Development Concept Plan (GMP-DCP), completed in 1983. At this time the park was less than 50 years old, and resources such as Lewis Mountain that were associated with the initial development of park infrastructure were only beginning to be recognized for their historical significance. The plan recommended undertaking the necessary research and documentation for determining those resources' significance and stipulated that they be treated as historic until such determinations could be made. New structures in the vicinity of historic structures were to be complementary in design and compatible in scale with existing buildings. Specific resources, such as the lodge, cabins, and campground, were identified in the GMP-DCP for preservation, interpretation, and adaptive reuse. (CLR 2023: 197)

Among its specific objectives related to Lewis Mountain, the GMP-DCP called for the expansion of existing facilities to meet modern needs. None of these measures were implemented. The recommended tasks included:
--Picnic Grounds: construct a picnic shelter that accommodates 4 groups, including new freplaces and a water spigot; increase accessibility of the existing comfort station.
--Lodge and Cabins; construct 5 new duplex cabins (accommodating 10 groups); increase interior accessibility at the lodge while preserving the exterior; increase parking capacity from 24 to 32 cars.
--Campground: install a trailer dumping station and new septic system; construct an employee housing unit that also serves as a contact station.

Facility Improvements:
Minor changes to the cultural landscape of Lewis Mountain occurred in the mid-1990s, following the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In 1995, Spruce Cottage G was designated an accessible cabin and retrofitted with a ramp, parking space, and accessible interior amenities. The following year, the entrance to the lodge/camp store was modified to increase accessibility. (CLR 2023: 75)

In 1999 the NPS conducted various maintenance preservation projects on many of the buildings at Lewis Mountain, including new roofs, porch restorations, repair and replacement of siding on Cabins 1-2 and 4-5. All changes were in keeping with original design intent and significance. Between 1999 and 2000, the park updated underground utility lines, resulting in the loss of large swaths of vegetation throughout the site. Concurrent with the utility work, roads were widened and repaved throughout the developed area, including the pull-offs in front of each cabin. In 2001, the park rehabilitated the picnic area, including repairing the historic log privacy screens and flagstone entrances at comfort station. Park staff also removed the adjacent amphitheater for unknown reasons. It was eventually replaced with moveable wooden benches in the 2020s in the same place. These benches are in place today. (CLR 2023: 75)

In 2002-2003, the NPS completed preservation maintenance treatments on the remaining buildings and structures. Staff removed rotten siding and modern roofing on Cabins G and F and replaced them with in-kind wooden elements. The concrete masonry unit (CMU) and pipe railings at these two cabins were replaced with wooden posts, in keeping with the original design of the porches prior to their relocation at Lewis Mountain. Lastly, park staff repaired and replaced the historic roof of the campground office. (CLR 2023: 75)

Almost immediately after finishing preservation treatment projects at Lewis Mountain, Hurricane Isabel significantly damaged the landscape. The 2003 storm downed thousands of trees in the park, including many at Lewis Mountain. Minor damage to buildings resulted from the storm, but the bulk of the damage occurred in the landscape, which saw the loss of numerous historic plantings dating to the CCC period. In the following months, staff planted several replacement trees and shrubs of unknown species throughout the Lewis Mountain landscape. Their locations are unknown. In 2004-2005, walkways throughout the cultural landscape were repaired with asphalt. (CLR 2023: 75-76)

In 2022 the park replaced wooden picnic tables with new vinyl clad tables at each campsite, and

installed new fire grates. The most recent project, in 2024, accomplished a major tree planning effort when 100 oak and white pine trees were planted at the picnic area to replace lost trees. (PMIS 225834; Review comments, D. Sheehan, 8 May 2025; PEPC 123400)

TELLING THE STORY OF SEGREGATION AT SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK AND LEWIS MOUNTAIN (1975–2026)

Efforts to research and interpret the story of Lewis Mountain began in 1975, when the park's naturalist division started an oral history program, with the goal of producing historical materials for the interpretive program. Research of the site continued in subsequent decades, and by the early 2000s park staff began to publicly interpret the story of Lewis Mountain. Research through archival sources and oral histories continues to expand the cultural history of Lewis Mountain, racial segregation, and Black visitation at Shenandoah. In 2012, the park's Interpretation and Education Division, under contract with the Harpers Ferry Center, designed and installed on-site interpretive exhibit panels at the Lewis Mountain campground. Between 2017 and 2022, further research efforts have sought to expand on past work and to develop other means of interpretation, education, and preservation to tell the story of Lewis Mountain more broadly, and to preserve it for generations to come. (CLR 2023: 79-82)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Government	Government Office	Comfort Station (Latrine)	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Campground/Picnic Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Commerce/Trade	Business	Concession	Yes	Yes	No
Transportation	Pedestrian-Related	Hiking Trail	Yes	Yes	No
Domestic (Residential)	Hotel (Boarding House)		Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

The grounds at Lewis Mountain are open all year. However, several facilities operate seasonally, typically from March to November, including the camp store, cabins, and campground. Portions of Skyline Drive are periodically closed during inclement weather.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

As with most areas of Shenandoah National Park, it is quite possible that Native American tribes used this site at one time. The Monacan and Manahoac tribes used the general park area, but no information is available on their use of Lewis Mountain.

After the creation of the park, Lewis Mountain was developed as a Black recreation facility during the era of segregation in Virginia and the park. For more information, readers are directed to the 2010 publication, “Under the Sky All of Us Free: African American Travel, Visitation, and Segregation in Shenandoah National Park” by Erin Krutko Devlin and Maya Johnson (Williamsburg, VA: College of William and Mary).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The historic integrity of Lewis Mountain is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1938-1968, with their existing conditions as assessed in 2022-2025. Landscape characteristics identified for Lewis Mountain are Natural Systems and Features, Land Use, Cultural Traditions, Topography, Spatial Organization, Cluster Arrangement, Circulation, Views and Vistas, Vegetation, Buildings and Structures, and Small-Scale Structures. The site's relationship with natural systems and features is evident in the local landforms, rock outcrops, and forested setting. The site still serves travelers on Skyline Drive and offers distinct spaces for picnicking and overnight accommodations in eight cabins or thirty-one campsites. Although dining facilities were relocated from the lodge to the cabins in 1968, the historic lodge is still in use as camp store and is frequented by guests as well as hikers on the adjacent Appalachian Trail. The lodge and cabins, as well as two comfort stations, a campground office, and two retaining walls feature wood and/or stone construction that exhibit the NPS Rustic Style, a design philosophy that blends man-made features with the surrounding landscape. Other extant historic features include boulder water fountains and a boulder field, which showcase the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, who built this developed area under the guidance of NPS. The historic circulation system of paved roads is also intact and loops through the site to access several parking lots, from which paved paths connect to picnic spots, cabins, and campsites. Historic features from the Mission 66 development period include the current campground layout, lights, picnic tables, and information kiosks. All of these features are still set amongst lawns and groundcovers shaded with native trees and groupings of shrubs.

Since 1968 some landscape characteristics and features at Lewis Mountain have changed. Some of the original vegetation that has been lost to age, disease, and storms has not been replaced, creating open areas that were previously shaded. In contrast, vegetation has grown to block the historic westward view from the lodge and has obscured the boulder field. Several social trails have developed, which is causing erosion and damaging nearby plantings. Several sections of the road system have been altered to improve accessibility, but these changes are limited.

Overall, Lewis Mountain retains substantial integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The significance of Lewis Mountain as a rustic picnic area and camp associated with racial segregation, as well as the world-making of Black campers and employees, is clearly conveyed. This overall level of integrity is somewhat diminished with regard to setting (due to the loss of vistas and some vegetation) and feeling/association (as the cultural traditions of Black user groups have been diminished), but the landscape's integrity with regard to design, materials, and workmanship remains very strong.

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 a 1938-1968 period of significance for Lewis Mountain. (CLR 2023: 104-106)

Location:
Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. Lewis Mountain remains in the same location where park designers planned and CCC crews constructed the picnic grounds, lodge/cabin area, and campground. As a component landscape of Shenandoah NP, Lewis Mountain remains in place, directly connected and adjacent to, and accessible from, Skyline Drive. Lewis Mountain retains overall integrity of location.

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. Lewis Mountain's historic language of rustic architectural and landscape designs has been rigorously maintained, and its character areas are very clearly intact. The overall design of Lewis Mountain—from its overall conception and layout to the realization of individual elements—remains remarkably faithful and

authentic to the vision of its designers. Buildings remain in place and are mostly repaired in keeping with the historic designs. Minor alterations to buildings (the lodge, for instance, for accessibility) and some loss of landscape elements such as paths or the lodge vista, has occurred. Despite minor changes, the Lewis Mountain landscape possesses overall integrity of design.

Setting:
Setting refers to the physical environment of a property and the general character of a place. Overall, Lewis Mountain retains its character as a rustic camping/picnic landscape tucked amid a forested site immediately adjacent to Skyline Drive. Although the composition of the contextual forest has shifted over many decades, the sense of enclosure within Lewis Mountain remains very strong. Within each of the cultural landscape's three distinct areas, clear visual relationships between buildings and spaces reinforce the historic setting within the surrounding forest, a key landscape element established during the period of significance. Positioned within the center of the broader park, the setting at Lewis Mountain has not been compromised by any encroaching development or other improvements. However, the loss of some views (in particular, the view from the lodge west toward Skyline Drive and the valley beyond) and changes in understory vegetation have affected the integrity of Lewis Mountain's setting. However, these losses are reversible; Lewis Mountain, therefore, retains its overall integrity of setting.

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. Lewis Mountain retains most of its historic architectural materials; where repairs and alterations have been made, material choices are consistent with the period of significance. Some building elements (notably porches) have been replaced with more conventional, less rustic alternatives, including asphalt shingles and dimensional lumber. Plant materials have grown, aged, died, and been thinned to varied extents. However, the variety and distribution of natural landscape materials remain authentic to the period of significance. Overall, Lewis Mountain retains integrity of materials in its major resources.

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. Lewis Mountain retains a high degree of integrity of workmanship from the period of significance. This is evidenced in the artistry and craftsmanship of the cabins, comfort stations, and the lodge, which clearly represent the CCC's skill in realistic, rustic camp design. Other landscape elements and small-scale features of Lewis Mountain also convey the CCC's devotion to craft, including the boulder fountains and the picnic ground's boulder field.

Feeling:
Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. Such feeling results from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character. While Lewis Mountain's feeling as a forest cabin camp is well represented in the current landscape, the feeling of the camp as a place of comfort, retreat, and joy for Black user groups has been compromised. Parkwide desegregation policies disrupted the cultural traditions of Black groups from Lewis Mountain's segregated period; the resulting feelings of relief, then loss—both of which contribute to the landscape's cultural significance—have been weakened, as stakeholders now feel a lack of connection, agency, or welcoming space to use at Lewis. These aspects of feeling related to racial discrimination (which, through interpretation, affects anyone's experience of the camp) have lost some integrity. Regarding more physical aspects of Lewis Mountain, the feeling of a rustic picnic and camp area enclosed by forest, accessed via Skyline Drive, and connected to the Appalachian Trail, retains integrity.

Association:
Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Lewis Mountain has retained associations with the experiences of many park users, but such connections with Black communities that were directly and intimately connected to the landscape as a place of recreation have diminished. However, these associations remain sustained through the memory work and personal commitment of users and descendants who have contributed their experiences through archival donations, oral histories, and participation in completion of the 2023 CLR and other park work. The association with the cultural traditions of Black user groups has been improved by the park's increasing attention to telling the stories of Black user groups and employees through exhibits and education programs.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

The next section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding Historic Structures Inventory (HSI, formerly 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 (1938-1968), 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: Natural Systems and Features

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. The rugged natural features of Lewis Mountain contribute to the character of the site's landscape. Park landscape architects took care not to damage such features, and they sited the facilities to take advantage of existing natural systems and features. The condition of Lewis Mountain reflects this reverence for natural systems and features. As a result, Lewis Mountain retains integrity with respect to this landscape characteristic. (CLR 108-110)

Historic Condition (to 1968):
Geomorphology and Geology.
Lewis Mountain is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, a section of the larger Appalachian Mountain range that stretches from Georgia to Maine. The Appalachian Mountains formed between 470 million and 270 million years ago when two continents collided. Geologically, some of the oldest rocks in Shenandoah NP are much older, including some that date to 1.1 billion years ago. These rocks include Old Rag Granite and the Pedlar Formations. The park also contains rocks from the Catoctin Formation, which consists of cooled lava flow from eruptions that occurred around 570 million years ago, before the formation of the Appalachian Mountains. This formation contains the rock unakite as well as greenstone, a type of metabasalt. Together, these three formations comprise the majority of the rock outcroppings in the park.

Watersheds.
Lewis Mountain is located on a north-south ridgeline that sheds water in two directions. Water from the eastern half of the study area flows into the Devil's Ditch, a creek that connects to the Conway River, which flows into the Rapidan River, then the Rappahannock River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. To the west, water flows into the south and east branches of Naked Creek, which connects to the Shenandoah River, then the Potomac River, and finally to the Chesapeake Bay.

Soils.
The area of the cultural landscape contains several different soil types. The dominant soil type is the Myersville-Catoctin Complex containing slopes that range from 2%-35% and are very stony in character. This soil type is composed of approximately 45% Myersville soil and 30% Catoctin soil. Myersville soil is found on mountain slopes and is formed in material weathered from crystalline rocks, with a parent material of residuum weathered from greenstone. The soil is well-drained with medium runoff and consists of 0"-48" of silt loam, channery silt loam, and silty clay loam over bedrock. Catoctin soil, like its Myersville counterpart, forms on mountain slopes and is well-drained, with about 1.5% of the surface covered with stones. Its parent material is residuum, resulting from weathered greenstone. This soil has a very high runoff class and consists of 36" of silt loam, channery silty clay loam, and very channery silt loam over bedrock.

The cultural landscape also contains areas of Chester and Parker soil (CmC, CmD), as well as exclusively Parker soil (PrE). These areas contain about 50% Chester and 30% Parker soils with slopes that range from 7%-15%. Chester soil is located on mountain slopes that are well-drained with a medium runoff class. It has a parent material of residuum weathered from mica schist. The soil consists of 0"-62" of loam and clay loam, with approximately 9% of the surface covered by stones. Parker soil is similarly located on mountain slopes with about 9% surface cover from stones. Its parent material is residuum weathered from granite and gneiss. This soil is well drained with a high runoff class and contains 0"-60" of very gravelly loam and extremely cobbly sandy loam.

Ecology.
Lewis Mountain is situated within a deciduous, mature second-growth forest that extends through most of the park area. The forest is dominated by oak (Quercus rubra, Quercus montana) and hickory (Carya glabra, Carya cordiformis, Carya tomentosa). This forest creates a shaded environment in the park and at Lewis Mountain. Most trees are no older than 60-80 years old, consistent with the conservation efforts of the landscape at the time of Lewis Mountain's construction. The current composition of species reflects the loss of the American Chestnut

(Castanea dentata) during the 1910s and 1920s due to blight. Other plant species include the rare American Ginseng (Panax quinquefolius), and the invasive kudzu (Pueraria montana). For more on specific plant species within the cultural landscape, see the Vegetation section.

In addition to the dominant tree and plant species, the forest is home to various wildlife species, including black bears, salamanders, and bats. The most commonly seen mammals within Shenandoah NP are the white-tailed
deer and the gray squirrel.

Natural Features in the Lewis Mountain Scene.
Other notable natural features at Lewis Mountain include the rock outcroppings throughout the picnic and campground areas. Park landscape architects noted one outcropping at the south end of the campground on their initial site plans (Figure 18). This and other similar outcroppings were incorporated into the landscape design. Although it cannot be confirmed, CCC workers likely also moved and positioned large boulders to create scenic or naturalistic qualities throughout the study area. This placement was deliberate, and such a move would have been in keeping with the principles of rustic design described by E.P. Meinecke, Albert Good, and others.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The natural systems and features that define Lewis Mountain have changed little since the period of significance. The site still retains its location within the Blue Ridge Mountains, and therefore is still characterized by the unique geological formations of the region. Additionally, the landscape is still situated within a second-growth forest that is primarily dominated by oak trees and retains rock outcroppings and boulders.

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
Mature Second Growth Forest	210872	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 18. Example of a rock outcropping at the south end of the campground. This outcropping was identified on early plans for the campground and was retained as part of the cultural landscape's design. (CLR 2023: 110)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. Lewis Mountain's recreational use has not changed significantly since its period of significance. Apart from demographic changes, the recreation opportunities and physical fabric have remained consistent since the historic period. The landscape retains integrity of land use in the formal sense, owing to continued recreational uses, features, and functions. (CLR 2023: 112-113)

Historic Condition (to 1968):
From 1938 to 1942, NPS landscape architects, in conjunction with the architect of the Virginia Skyline Company, planned and developed the cultural landscape as a segregated picnic area and campground for Black visitors on Skyline Drive. This established the cultural landscape's historic recreational land use (supplanting its former use as homesteads and extractive lands). Lewis Mountain was the only overnight recreational landscape available to Black visitors in the whole of Shenandoah NP.

The cabins, campground, and lodge were added between 1939 and 1954, further expanding the recreational use of the study area. When the campground was established in 1939, park planners added several informal spur trails that connected it with the extant Appalachian Trail—which was relocated to track along the eastern boundary of the study area. Park planners also added a variety of parking spurs in the campground to accommodate vehicle and trailer campers.

In 1967-1968 rehabilitation of the campground expanded parking spaces to accommodate car-trailer camping units. New picnic tables, fireplaces, garbage cans, and camp-wide lighting were also added. At the same time dining facilities at the lodge were closed and the space was repurposed as a camp store. The Virginia Skyline Company then erected outdoor dining pavilions at each cabin. Park facilities remained officially segregated until 1946. While integration had gradually expanded in the park after 1946, Lewis Mountain saw a significantly higher proportion of visitation by white tourists, rather than Black tourists, by the early 1960s.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The demographics and associated historic groups of Lewis Mountain significantly changed after the period of significance, altering who was visiting Lewis Mountain for its recreational land use. But the physical environment and recreational opportunities remained largely consistent for park visitors. Lewis Mountain retains its many forms of recreational land use that date to the period of significance. The site is still used for picnicking, camping, hiking, and cabin camping (Figures 19, 20, 21, and 22). It also remains an integral part of both Skyline Drive and the Appalachian Trail, providing services for travelers along these routes.

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
Picnic Grounds Site	210871	Contributing					No
Campgrounds Site	210870	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 19. The picnic grounds feature clear sightlines between each picnic site, as well as filtered views in areas where mid-story and understory plantings create degrees of privacy within landscape rooms. (CLR 2023: 102)



Figure 20. View of the main road adjacent to the Lodge, where it divides around a planted island. In 1968, dining uses at the Lewis Mountain Lodge were replaced with a camp store. (CLR 2023: 249)



Figure 21. View looking southeast at part of the cabin cluster at Lewis Mountain. Pictured are Chestnut Cottage F, Spruce Cottage G, and Cabin 15. Freestanding and attached dining pavilions are located between the buildings. (CLR 2023: 156)



Figure 22. View looking south at the campground cluster at Lewis Mountain. (CLR 2023: 145)

Landscape Characteristic: Cultural Traditions

Cultural traditions are the practices that have influenced the development of the landscape in terms of land use, patterns of land division, building forms, stylistic preferences, and the use of materials. The cultural landscape does not retain integrity with respect to the cultural traditions of sociability and celebration among the local and visiting Black communities. The robust community that was present and actively cultivated at Lewis Mountain during the period of significance no longer exists under current conditions. During a group interview conducted for the 2023 CLR, former Lewis Mountain workers and their families noted that they felt there was no reason for them to visit the site anymore. Elaine Taylor Blakey noted the beauty of the park but emphasized that "there's nothing [at Lewis Mountain] that would draw me there now. Not really." (CLR 2023: 166, from Interview, Blakey et.al., 30 August 2022: 14)

This sentiment was shared among the participants, who frequently noted the lack of food service at the lodge and the lack of facilities for group gatherings. Instead, descendants continue to gather annually for Homecoming at other regional parks that offer amenities such as shelters, pools, and playgrounds. These alternations to physical features and their use, combined with current park policies around reservations and permits, deter group gatherings and the development (or continuation) of community. Despite the existence of strong descendant community within the region, there is a complete loss of cultural traditions within the cultural landscape. (CLR 2023: 114-116)

Historic Condition (to 1968):
During the period of significance, Lewis Mountain was host to a thriving Black community of campers, picnickers, lodgers, and staff that was cultivated by the camp managers, the Tutt and Wright families (who were themselves Black). Known for its good food, good music, and good company, the Lewis Mountain Lodge served as the cultural center of Lewis Mountain. Here, Lloyd Tutt, Mittie Tutt, Isabelle Wright, and their families provided high-quality service to Black guests who traveled from across the country to Shenandoah NP. For its part, Lewis Mountain was the only national park facility in Virginia listed in The Negro Motorist's Green Book.

Lewis Mountain was also the focal point for an intergenerational culture of Black families from nearby Luray, Virginia. Many of these families worked on the mountain, or travelled there with churches or social clubs. Lewis Mountain served as a safe space for Black families and groups who could not otherwise gather at parks closer to their hometowns, where both legal and social segregation prevailed. As a result, oral history participants frequently and fondly recalled annual Homecomings at Lewis Mountain, in which Black visitors would return to Lewis Mountain to connect as a community.

According to Shirley Ann Tutt McCoy, conditions at Lewis Mountain began to change in the late 1950s and early 1960s, a result of desegregation and the fact that by this time, the Tutt's and Wright's were no longer managing the lodge at Lewis Mountain. McCoy said that after this time, group Homecomings moved closer to Luray, and Lewis Mountain became "very different," noting that there "really is no connection with the site and the events [anymore]." (CLR 2023: 155, from Interview, McCoy et.al., 30 August 2022: 5-6)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Few Black visitors, or indeed any visitors of color, use Lewis Mountain today; it is primarily booked by white visitors. This is a trend reflected across the park, and indeed, much of the outdoor recreation industry in the United States. The rich culture and community of Lewis Mountain that developed because of—and despite—Jim Crow are no longer present. The cultural nucleus of Lewis Mountain—the lodge—no longer serves food, has no seating options, and cannot accommodate gatherings of any kind. Instead, it serves solely as a convenience store with restrooms and laundry facilities.

Likewise, few social clubs or church groups regularly gather at Lewis Mountain in the picnic grounds. This may be the result of restrictive regulations, such as special-use permits that limit large gatherings, or (in the case of the campgrounds) the competitive online reservation system that makes it challenging for groups to secure lodging. Due to these and other changes, Lewis Mountain is now mostly used by individual families or small groups that camp or stay in the cabins.

There is no coherent cultural traditions across the cultural landscape, particularly with respect to the historic associations with Black visitors from Luray and elsewhere.

However, Lewis Mountain remains a popular stop for thru-hikers on the Appalachian Trail who enter the cultural landscape from the various spur trails. The campground also remains popular with both tent campers and trailer campers and is among the most highly used seasonal campgrounds in the park. Many visitors return annually. During fieldwork in 2022, the authors of the CLR observed that the picnic grounds were seldom used at Lewis Mountain, meaning that the popularity of the site is not carried across to all areas of the cultural landscape.

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Topography is the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect). The topography of Lewis Mountain retains its integrity from the period of significance. (CLR 2023: 117)

Historic Condition (to 1968):
NPS landscape architects sited Lewis Mountain along a north-south ridgeline plateau that connected with Skyline Drive. This flat area descended into the Devil's Ditch to the north, the Conway River basin to the south, and the Naked Creek watershed to the west. The plateau also ascended to Lewis Mountain's summit to the southeast. Overall, the site sloped downward from northeast to southwest, then rose to the southeast of the campground. This gently sloping topography contributed to the visitor experience of a rural, mountainous landscape.

The topography within the cultural landscape's developed area was relatively flat. It ranged in elevation from 3,425 to 3,400 feet above sea level. The high point, located just south of the picnic grounds and east of the cabins, was approximately 3,456 feet. All buildings and structures were set into the sides of slopes and not at their crests, in keeping with the NPS Rustic Style's deference to landscape features. Lewis Mountain's central section contains the steepest slopes; it is possible that the largest concentration of buildings was placed in this section because steep slopes can accommodate buildings more readily than they can accommodate campsites or picnic areas.

From the cabin area, the landscape descends into the campground. This area generally ranges in elevation from 3,415 to 3,400 feet. The highest point in the campground is located near the comfort station, which was intentionally sited to be within view of most of the campsites. CCC workers modified the steeper sections of the campground with cut and fill to create flat, stepped areas that contained campsites. These included the parking spurs and tenting areas.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The topography of Lewis Mountain has not undergone any significant changes since its period of significance. The site still retains the same orientation, slopes, and siting along a ridgeline plateau.

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

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 spatial organization of Lewis Mountain is consistent with conditions during the site's period of significance. The construction and subsequent removal of the amphitheater do not detract from the significance of the cultural landscape's spatial organization; therefore, Lewis Mountain's spatial organization retains integrity. (CLR 2023: 119-120)

Historic Condition (to 1968):
Before the Lewis Mountain developed area was acquired for Shenandoah NP in the mid-1920s, the land was divided into privately-owned land tracts. Lewis Mountain was planned by the NPS and developed by the CCC between 1938 and 1942. The roughly rectangular-shaped area was arranged north-south and divided into three discrete sections: the picnic grounds to the north, the lodge area in the center, and the campground to the south. These sections were connected by a circulatory system consisting of winding roads and pathways. Lewis Mountain was delineated from its surroundings by Skyline Drive, which bordered the cultural landscape on the north and west, and by the Appalachian Trail, which bordered the area on the south and east.

Park designers established the northern area of Lewis Mountain, closest to Skyline Drive, as the picnic grounds. A loop road and parking lots encircled this area, which was further subdivided into a series of individual picnic sites. The collection of sites was then organized around a central comfort station transected by a series of footpaths. Each site contained a fire pit and picnic tables. The central area of Lewis Mountain was organized around a lodge. A series of cabins was built in an arc along the hillside opposite the lodge, visually linking these buildings together. Both lodge and cabins were oriented toward the main road, albeit opposite one another. The southern area of Lewis Mountain was divided into designated campsites based on camp planning principles developed by E.P. Meinecke. All campsites were organized along a series of one-way loop roads. A single comfort station stood in the middle and was linked to the campsites via a central footpath featuring a series of rustic stone drinking fountains. Each campsite contained a parking spur, tent site, fire pit, and picnic table. Changes to the cultural landscape's spatial organization during the period of significance were limited to the construction of an amphitheater during the Mission 66 period. It was located in a small island between the picnic grounds and lodge/cabin area.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The amphitheater was removed circa 2001 and replaced by a series of moveable benches in the same location. No permanent traces of the amphitheater remain, but moveable benches occupy the forest clearing where the structure was located. Despite the loss of permanent features, the amphitheater clearing continues to separate the camp core from the picnic grounds. This is the only alteration to the study area's spatial organization since the period of significance. The cultural landscape remains organized in three parts: the picnic grounds, the lodge/cabin area, and the campground. The circulation system that connects the sections remains largely unchanged.

Landscape Characteristic: Cluster Arrangement

Cluster arrangement is the locations and patterns of buildings, structures, and associated features in the landscape. The cluster arrangement at Lewis Mountain is unchanged since the end of its period of significance. Therefore, Lewis Mountain retains integrity with respect to its historic cluster arrangement. (CLR 2023: 144)

Historic Condition (to 1968):
The cluster arrangement of Lewis Mountain was developed according to the park's master plan for the landscape. All buildings and structures were arranged around the centrally-located lodge. The cabins were arranged linearly along the central main road and faced the lodge opposite them. An additional loop of cabins was proposed in the original master plan, to be located east of the built cabins and lodge, but these cabins were not constructed.

The campsites, which had a similar function to the cabins, were organized along a series of loop roads and clustered around a central comfort station. This campground cluster was in the southernmost section of the cultural landscape, farthest from Skyline Drive. Per the guidance of E.P. Meinecke and other camp planners at the time, these campsites were arranged along a series of one-way loop roads, with easy access between the parking spur and the cooking/eating areas. This arrangement, both between campsites and within each site, was intended to optimize camper comfort while protecting the surrounding vegetation. Many of the campground's Meinecke spurs and loops were enlarged during the campground rehabilitation between 1967 and 1968, to accommodate larger vehicles and trailers.

The picnic grounds had a similar cluster arrangement to the campground, with individual picnic sites arranged within a circular loop road around a central comfort station. However, unlike the campground, picnic tables were moveable. Other features, such as fire pits and drinking fountains, were fixed in place. As a result, the cluster arrangement of individual picnic areas was subject to change.

Post-Historic and Existing Condition:
The cluster arrangement at Lewis Mountain is identical to that of its period of significance. The site retains its central cluster of cabins, arranged linearly opposite the lodge, as well as its clusters of campsites and picnic sites that each surround a comfort station (see Figures 21 and 22).

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. While much of the circulation system has been modified in some way since the period of significance, the pathways and roads still retain their historic design, location, and materiality. Most roads retain their historic alignments and direction, except for the campground where the one-way flow has been reversed on the main and branch loops. The experience of circulating through the cultural landscape is similar to how it would have been during Lewis Mountain's period of significance, and this landscape characteristic thus retains its integrity. (CLR 2023: 121-123)

Historic Condition (to 1968):
Before the development of Lewis Mountain, numerous informal and unpaved tanbarking and homesteading trails crisscrossed the cultural landscape. When park planners developed the first master plan for Shenandoah NP in 1935, they incorporated many of these existing circulation networks into their extensive fire management system. This included a small foot trail that began near the present-day lodge and ran to the summit of Lewis Mountain, south of the present-day campground. Also predating the campground was the Appalachian Trail—the historic scenic trail that runs from Georgia to Maine. The portion of this trail that passed through the future

campground and picnic area was completed circa 1937. In 1938 it was subsequently rerouted from the west side of the new developed area to the east side.

The reuse of existing roads was practical, and demonstrated respect for the natural landscape. Preeminent landscape gardener Frank Waugh and others advocated for such methods to be incorporated into the CCC's standard practice. Waugh noted that road development in parks and wild areas tended to be overdone. He urged planners to take care in designing a minimalist circulation network before they planned any other landscape features. In concert with the principles of other park landscape architects, Waugh's guidance became actionable design policy for Shenandoah NP. Architect Albert Good also widely promoted such policies in his books.

As originally constructed, the circulation system at Lewis Mountain consisted of a network of naturalistic pathways and roadways, as well as designated parking areas, and spur trails connecting to the Appalachian Trail. The CCC constructed this circulation system between 1938 and 1940, during the site's initial period of construction. Following Waugh's guidance, park designers implemented the design of the circulation system in the NPS Rustic Style, which called for curvilinear routes and naturalistic materials. The selective construction and management of circulation also protected existing vegetation from compaction and erosion.

The pedestrian circulatory system consisted of a series of pathways that connected areas of recreation—such as campsites or picnic areas—to shared facilities, such as comfort stations and drinking fountains. These pathways were originally paved with asphalt and were approximately 3-4 feet wide. In the picnic grounds, three pathways connected the outer loop road to the central comfort station. These paths then passed through the future amphitheater area and connected to a path system that linked each cabin together. Pathways further connected each cabin with the main road, as well as the lodge/camp store and the campground beyond. The campground had a similar circulatory system to the picnic ground, with pathways that extended outward from a central comfort station to the outer loop road and campsites. The cultural landscape was also historically connected by the CCC to the Appalachian Trail via cleared pathways or spur trails.

Another main feature of Lewis Mountain's historic circulation system was its automobile infrastructure, which included a triangular intersection at Skyline Drive. From here, a main two-lane road tracked north-south through the site. Several one-way loop roads were created along the main road, branching off to service different areas of the site. The northernmost loop split to the east and served the picnic grounds. This road, in turn, had two parking pull-off bays for easy visitor access to the picnic areas. South of the picnic ground, a smaller loop road branched off to the west and provided access to a large parking lot adjacent to the lodge, as well as a drop-off area directly in front of the lodge. In the campground section, the two-way access road split into a right-branching one-way loop road with counterclockwise circulation. Parking loops and parking spurs for individual campsites branched off these one-way loops. Within the campground loop, there were two smaller loops that optimized the number of campsites served directly from the road, including curved parking spurs that allowed trailers to pull straight through without backing up. Other, more traditional Meinecke-type parking spurs required backing into and out of each campsite.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Much of the historic circulation system remains at the site today, although there have been several modifications (Figures 23, 24, see also 20). Many of the pedestrian pathways have been paved over repeatedly with asphalt, resulting in a raised, rounded profile. A pathway from the picnic grounds comfort station leading northeast to the loop road has been removed but is still visible in the landscape. An additional set of log cribbing steps was constructed to connect the cabin paths near Cabins 1 and 2 to the lodge parking area. Nonetheless, most pathways still function in the same way and continue to connect the same facilities and locations within the cultural landscape.

Four non-historic (but contributing due to their association with the Appalachian Trail) earthen paths connect the site to the Appalachian Trail. In the campground there are two formal connections to the trail that are marked by modern signposts. Within the picnic area, there are two connections to the trail. One formal connection is located near the telephone building, at the south end of the picnic grounds, and is marked with a signpost. The other connection is a social trail located at the

northernmost end of picnic grounds and is unmarked. A section of the original Appalachian Trail—predating the CCC's rerouting projects—is still visible in the southwest edge of the campground; it is marked by a large boulder. Of some concern is the presence of several unauthorized social trails that threaten sensitive vegetation and promote erosion (Figure 25).

The two-lane main road still extends from Skyline Drive to the campground where it transitions to a series of connected one-way loop roads (see Figure 24). Sections of the main road, such as near the campground comfort station, were widened during utility work that was done from 1999-2000. Other widenings occurred to accommodate accessible camp sites. Additionally, the direction of travel in the campground currently moves in a clockwise direction.

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
Road System	94010	Contributing	083149		Location	00002324	Yes
Pathways	94009	Contributing	083160				No
Appalachian Trail Spurs	210873	Contributing					No
Trace of former Appalachian Trail Route	210879	Contributing					No
Lodge Parking Lot	210874	Contributing					No
Picnic Grounds Parking Lots	210875	Contributing					No
Paving at Campground Comfort Station	210876	Noncontributing					No
Log Cribbing Steps at Lodge Parking Lot	94008	Noncontributing					No
Pull-Offs at Cabins	210877	Noncontributing					No
Widened Section of Road System adjacent to Campground Comfort Station	210878	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 23. Footpaths like these adjacent to the cabins display characteristics of the Rustic Style, using curved alignments and preserving existing vegetation or incorporating new plantings. (CLR 2023: 124)



Figure 24. View of the main road through the campground, with a spur driveway on the left and a loop driveway on the right, both designs pioneered by E.P. Meinecke and employed at campgrounds across the country. Vegetation framing the roadway helps screen and shade the campsites. (CLR 2023: 124)



Figure 25. This social trail in the campground has caused significant erosion and runoff onto the paved path below. Such a trail indicates the direction campers need to go to use the comfort station; this trail should be formalized and paved to prevent further erosion issues. (CLR 2023: 250)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

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. The Lewis Mountain landscape has diminished integrity with respect to views and vistas. Internally, there are still views to and from natural and cultural features as envisioned by park landscape architects and CCC laborers. They include carefully framed views along and from the site's circulation features into the various spaces of the site.

Lewis Mountain does not retain its principal designed vista to the west of the lodge due to the growth of vegetation. However, careful treatment can reverse the condition of this vista. Vegetation also obstructs general views from the eastern side of the picnic grounds to the historic comfort station and boulder field. In contrast, the loss of mature trees both on the western side of the picnic grounds and in much of the campground has created a more open landscape that is inconsistent with the historic character. Such conditions have created new views within these areas, in contrast with the landscape's original design intent. Lewis Mountain also retains the directed views along its utility corridor; although this feature dates to the period of significance, it is not in keeping with rustic design principles and is considered a noncontributing feature of the cultural landscape. (CLR 2023: 125-130)

Historic Condition (to 1968):
Views and vistas were subject to the conditions of its topography, surrounding vegetation, and built features. During extractive periods of timbering and tanbarking in the 18th and 19th centuries, the future Lewis Mountain developed area was likely much less forested and would have featured expansive views of the Shenandoah Valley, Massanutten Mountain, and other ridges that make up the Virginia Blue Ridge. As the landscape regenerated from industrial land uses, the recovering vegetation altered and limited these views.

When Lewis Mountain was established in the late 1930s, park planners carefully considered the creation of a natural scene—in part through the views and vistas throughout the study area. They surveyed the landscape and mapped out locations of buildings, structures, roads, and other features to take advantage of their natural settings. Chief among the texts read by park planners was a series of treatises on campground design and scenery preservation published by the principal pathologist of the U.S. Forest Service, E.P. Meinecke. In his writings, Meinecke extolled the virtues of preserving the natural setting where possible. To do so, he advocated for the arrangement of vegetation, boulders, and other natural features to create designed views. At Lewis Mountain at this time, there were views looking west to Skyline Drive and the landscape beyond, as well as views looking east from the picnic grounds to Devil's Ditch.

Central to Meinecke's idea of views was the careful management of vegetation. For campsites, he noted the importance of maintaining a natural screen at camp edges and between individual units, while also clearing understory vegetation within campsites. Above all, he argued, all caution should be taken before any tree or natural feature was removed from a campsite. Preserving natural features such as boulders, trees, or logs created "landscape rooms," fashioning a varied experience throughout the camp. This design logic held that new built features, such as buildings or roads, should be located with these natural features in mind and indeed, should contribute to and not detract from existing landscape rooms. Early master plans for the Lewis Mountain campground, and the rest of the site, noted the specific location of existing trees and rocks, indicating that park planners were conscious of creating views and vistas while placing new built features.

In contrast, in her study on Lewis Mountain, Erin Krutko Devlin asserts that the entrance to Lewis Mountain was intentionally screened to ensure it was not visible from Skyline Drive, with the intent of racially and physically dividing visitors, and hiding most physical evidence of segregation, apart from the entrance sign, from public view. Following this logic, the sequence of views and vistas from Skyline Drive to the lodge was screened and framed initially by a planted traffic island at the entrance, and then by maturing trees flanking the central campground road and at its junctures with other circulation features. Such vegetation features were arranged to prevent clear views of the lodge or facilities beyond. Within the site, where the main road splits at the picnic grounds, park landscape architects used the curve of the road to bend the vista away from the lodge. Once at the cabins, designers directed the view back towards the lodge, terminating it in a vista that highlighted the building and its views beyond. This entrance sequence thus featured carefully choreographed views and vistas. Similarly, vegetation on the edges of the study area was actively feathered into a gradient, both to serve as a screen beyond the campground and to integrate it into the surrounding forest environment.

The picnic grounds and campground also featured central views to and from their respective comfort stations, which were located on a natural rise and were clearly visible from all parts of each area. The picnic grounds also may have featured a prospect from the boulder field in the center of the picnic area. This humanmade feature was the result of CCC laborers removing boulders from the landscape and stacking them in an ornamental fashion. No documentation has been found to indicate the design intent for this feature. However, when visiting the site today, the pile is surrounded by young vegetation that suggests it was once cleared, which would have allowed reciprocal views to and from the feature through the picnic grounds.

Historically, Lewis Mountain also featured a cleared vista from the lodge. The building's western elevation featured a large picture window and several smaller windows, along which dining tables and other seating were arranged for visitors to look out over the landscape. The master plan for Lewis Mountain, as well as historic building plans by Marcellus Wright, Jr., called for a terrace on the western side of the lodge where visitors could fully appreciate this view. For reasons unknown the terrace was not constructed, although substantial terraces were built at the whites-only Big Meadow and Skyland lodges. One explanation may be the Virginia Skyline Company's resistance toward completing equivalent facilities for Black campers at Lewis Mountain, or it may have been a means for the company to cut costs at a facility it deemed unprofitable. More research is needed to confirm why the terrace was not completed.

The lodge's western vista may have featured views of the farms and homesteads of the Allen and

Field Hollows, beyond the park boundaries, as well as the South Naked Creek watershed. It also almost certainly featured views of Massanutten Mountain and the Shenandoah Valley. Previous research stated that this vista was not constructed or cleared from the surrounding forest. However, aerial photography from the 1960s definitively shows a triangular clearing on the west side of the lodge that extends most of the way to Skyline Drive. It is likely that this vista was cut circa 1940 and then not maintained by the concessionaire, which would explain why later aerial imagery did not show this feature.

In keeping with the general design principles that called for screened views into and out of campgrounds, this vista featured a thin screen of vegetation adjacent to Skyline Drive. It is likely that the lodge was partially visible from Skyline Drive in the early years of its operation; in turn, Skyline Drive was almost certainly visible from the lodge windows. The view from the lodge may have been similar to the view from The Oaks overlook, located 0.6 miles to the south.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
By the 1970s, the western vista from the Lewis Mountain Lodge had largely been lost, and according to aerial photography the vista was gone in 1977. While it is not known why the vegetation was allowed to return in this area, effectively abandoning the vista, the timing roughly coincides with changes in the management of Lewis Mountain following the departure of the Tutts and the Wrights. During this time, dining facilities were removed from the lodge, and it was converted into a camp store. This change in use may coincide with shifting management priorities for the broader landscape and its views. The vista is still blocked today.

Internal views within the landscape have remained relatively consistent since the study area's construction, apart from the periodic loss of trees or shrubs that frame views along circulation features. As mature trees and shrubs die, or are lost to storm events, not all have been replaced. As a result, the campground and picnic areas have become significantly more open over time. Screening vegetation between campground and picnic sites has increasingly become mowed turf, melding together most sites into one continuous lawn with only a high canopy, thus creating more open views. In the eastern half of the picnic area, a lack of maintenance east of the comfort station and boulder field has resulted in significantly overgrown vegetation that blocks internal views to and from the comfort station and the eastern parking lot.

Lewis Mountain retains views along its utility corridor behind the cabins across from the lodge. Although these views date to the period of significance, they are not in keeping with the Rustic Style design of the cultural landscape. They are considered non-contributing, incompatible features.

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
Sightlines between Comfort Station and Boulder Field in Individual Picnic Sites	210880	Contributing					No
Views along Roads, Framed by Character-Defining Trees	210881	Contributing					No
Views along Paths, Framed by Character-Defining Trees and Understory Plantings	210882	Contributing					No
Vista looking West from Lodge (currently overgrown)	210883	Contributing					No
Reciprocal Views between Individual Buildings in the Cabin and Lodge Cluster	210884	Contributing					No
Screened Views to and from the Edges Developed Areas	210885	Contributing					No
Directed Views along the Utility Corridor	210886	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. Vegetative conditions at Lewis Mountain have changed since the period of significance, but the landscape has retained much of its design intent. Characteristic groupings of trees and shrubs remain adjacent to building and structures, mature trees flank circulation features, and high canopies of trees provide shelter to picnickers and campers. Some loss of character-defining vegetation due to age, disease, and storm events has resulted in a modified landscape that is increasingly more open. Cleared areas, including the boulder field and the lodge vista are no longer legible due to unmanaged vegetative growth. However, careful management, as well as in-kind replacement plantings can and have resulted in the restoration of the cultural landscape's design intent. Therefore, the vegetation at Lewis Mountain retains its historic integrity. (CLR 2023: 135-141)

Historic Condition (to 1968):
No photographs exist to indicate what the historic conditions of vegetation might have been before the period of significance and the construction of Lewis Mountain as a recreational landscape. Those photographs that do exist from the early years of the period of significance—which consist primarily of aerial photographs—show much younger, thinner trees that were regenerating from the historic extractive uses of the landscape. Much of Lewis Mountain generally would have consisted of a patchwork of second-growth Eastern deciduous forests and clearings (e.g., former fields or selectively timbered or barked lands).

Vegetation was a critical part of Lewis Mountain's design and construction, and it contributed significantly to the rustic character of the landscape. Chief among the principles of the Rustic Style was the impulse to highlight native vegetation and existing features within the landscape. NPS landscape architects and the CCC strategically used vegetation to create a naturalistic experience that prioritized scenic value over built improvements. Campground planners, such as E.P. Meinecke and Albert Good, advocated for the strategic planting of native trees to both highlight a site's natural beauty and create screening and privacy.

When CCC laborers constructed Lewis Mountain from 1938-1940, they cleared the site of dead chestnut trees and undergrowth, and then planted several native species. The CCC planted hemlock trees (Tsuga canadensis) around the entrance to the lodge. A hemlock was also planted in the campground. In addition, the CCC planted species such as mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia), oak (Quercus sp.), pine (Pinus sp.), azalea (Rhododendron sp.), birch (Betula sp.), red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa), and witchhazel (Hamamelis virginiana).

Mountain laurel and witchhazel were planted strategically around the cabins to help the buildings blend into the surrounding forest and reinforce the site's rustic design. Their flowering nature also aesthetically enhanced the landscape in the spring. Young trees were also planted in between campsites to increase privacy. The picnic grounds were planted with pine trees for their year-round shade; their high canopies also served to preserve the open viewshed across the picnic grounds. Witchhazel and serviceberry were planted in patches to soften these open viewsheds and provide visual color to the picnic grounds. Oaks and mountain laurel were planted in the traffic islands throughout the study area, including at its entrance.

During the Mission 66 campaign and immediately after, designers relied on guidelines developed by the NPS in the 1930s. These vegetation management practices continued to preserve existing vegetation and to advocate for a Rustic Style in the park. This included the careful preservation of existing trees during construction of the new campground registration building. The park also built rustic stone masonry tree wells around some of the existing trees during the 1967-1968 campground rehabilitation.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Much of the vegetative design intent remains legible within the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape. Many plantings added during the period of significance, or in-kind after it, are extant. However, there have been significant alterations and losses that continue to impact the landscape's integrity. Utility work undertaken from 1999 to 2001 resulted in the removal of many existing plantings around buildings and circulation features. Extreme weather events, including Hurricane Isabel in 2003, have further thinned out the vegetation throughout the study area. Pests such as the fungus that causes oak wilt (Ceratocystis fagacearum), the hemlock wooly adelgid (Adelges tsugae), and the spongy moth (Lymantria dispar) continue to impact mature, character-defining vegetation. As these threats kill mature trees, they are removed as part of the hazard tree program and are not replaced.

During CLR fieldwork in 2022, the project team noted the removal of a large character-defining oak tree that flanked the entrance to the Lewis Mountain lodge. Nonetheless, Lewis Mountain retains numerous significant planting groups that illustrate its historic Rustic Style landscape design (see Figures 19-20, 23-24). These include: rhododendron and mountain laurel planting islands outside the lodge and its parking lot; planted hemlocks adjacent to the lodge; elderberry, laurel, witchhazel, and rhododendrons adjacent to cabins; and mature oaks and pines that frame views along circulation features.

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 Plantings: traffic islands at the lodge, parking lots, and at camp entrance	210887	Contributing					No
CCC Plantings: planted or preserved trees adjacent to buildings and structures	210888	Contributing					No
CCC Plantings: shrubs adjacent to buildings and structures	210889	Contributing					No
CCC Plantings: trees that frame views along circulation features	210890	Contributing					No
CCC Plantings: trees and shrubs that deliberately limit views into and out of Lewis Mountain	210891	Contributing					No
In-kind Replacements of CCC Plantings	97673	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

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. Lewis Mountain retains integrity of its buildings and structures, as those from the period of significance remain on the site today, and most retain their original use. (A limited number of structures, including the power plant building and pump house, are no longer in service.) Several of the buildings have undergone some modification in the form of preservation treatments that are compatible with the landscape's period of significance. Moreover, many non-historic alterations have been removed so that the buildings and structures could be restored to their historic conditions. Other changes are in keeping with the rustic aesthetics of the cultural landscape established at the end of the period of significance and do not detract from its integrity. Therefore, none of the modifications to the cultural landscape's buildings and structures has had a significant, adverse effect on the buildings' physical integrity. (CLR 2023: 146-173)

Historic Condition (to 1968), and Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
--Lodge/Camp Store.
The lodge at Lewis Mountain was designed by the Virginia Skyline Company's architect Marcellus Wright, Jr., in consultation with Charles I. Barber of Barber and McMurry Architects. Wright conducted an initial site visit with park staff in March 1939 to discuss his designs. His initial building plan included a central dining room flanked by a kitchen, storage room, heater room, manager's bedroom with bath, and public toilets for men and women. The dining room featured a low ceiling and led to an outdoor terrace, while additional staff lodging was to be located in a series of dormered rooms over the dining room. All rooms within the lodge were in one central massing; the initial design did not feature side wings.

Park Landscape Architect Harvey P. Benson and Superintendent J.R. Lassiter offered several

critiques and revisions. They felt that the main room was too small to serve its purpose as dining room, lunch counter, and gift shop, and that the attic rooms would make the space feel even smaller. By removing those spaces from the proposed drawings, Benson and Lassiter recommended an open dining room with scissor trusses above, like the Skyland Lodge (burned 1952). The displaced staff housing, they noted, should be in a separate cabin on site or in additional wings to the side of the main dining room. Benson recommended adding a simple shed porch to the front of the structure that could be flanked by service wings. These recommendations led to several revisions. Construction drawings from June 1939 indicate that Wright removed the terrace and two cross-gabled rooms at the front of the structure, which were originally designed as a powder room and a bedroom. These three spaces were left in the drawings as dashed lines to indicate areas for future expansion.

As built, the lodge was a one-story building with a symmetrical plan and a low profile that blended into the landscape. In elevation, the building stepped down to the north and south from its main massing. It featured rustic materials throughout, including stone chimneys, the first between its south and central massing, and a second centrally placed in its north massing. Each section of the building was clad with random horizontal fitched-edge siding that was painted dark brown. Its roof was covered with concrete shingles made in the park by CCC laborers. The main façade contained a central entryway set within a covered native-flagstone porch with lattice posts. The building's rear elevation featured a series of large windows, including a central picture window that looked out onto a managed vista. The building also featured a service yard enclosed by a split chestnut fence. The landscape around the lodge included preserved oak trees that flanked it to each side, as well as CCC-planted hemlocks on its façade facing the central drive.

Designs for the lodge were approved in July 1939, following an on-site evaluation by Acting Park Landscape Architect Scudder Griffing. Concerned about how the lodge would fit into the landscape in relation to the approach road and parking lot, Griffing staked out the footprint of the lodge and made small adjustments to the lodge's siting within the original master plan. This included moving the location of the structure further north to orient it parallel to the existing contours, allowing the building to better connect with the existing topography; the parking area also shifted north. According to Benson, the slightly shifted lodge site also connected better with the parking area. Such adjustments resulted in the present-day grading of the lodge, which is set into the hillside and contains a sunken parking area placed out of sight, lower than the lodge and main approach road. Lodge construction occurred in late 1939 and early 1940 by the Virginia Skyline Company, and it opened to Black visitors in July 1940. Few changes occurred until circa 1968 when the lodge was converted into a camp store and dining operations ceased.

Changes in the interior of the lodge since the period of significance have included the addition of accessible bathroom facilities on the south side of the building; reorientation of the men's bathroom and showers, and manager's quarters; and relocation of the main counter to in front of the large picture window (from its location to the side of the kitchen), limiting views from the lodge to the landscape beyond. The exterior of the Lewis Mountain lodge/camp store is largely unchanged from the period of significance (see Figure 20). In 1996, however, the exterior of the building was altered to be made more accessible. To do so, portions of the bathroom stairs and platform at the south end of the building were razed to accommodate a new wooden ramp. This ramp was also placed over the original stone steps that connected the south elevation of the lodge to a storage area below the building. The central entrance to the lodge was also regraded as a ramp leading to the top of the flagstone terrace. In 2010 the building's concrete shingles were replaced with composite shingles that closely matched historic conditions. Beyond these minor changes, the exterior of the building remains little altered since the period of significance.

--Chestnut Cottage F and Spruce Cottage G.
Chestnut Cottage F and Spruce Cottage G were both designed in 1938 by Marcellus Wright, Jr. for the Dickey Ridge developed area. In 1952 and 1953, regional and park staff initiated conversations to move the cabins from Dickey Ridge to Lewis Mountain; however, the cabins were not moved to Lewis Mountain until 1954.

Shenandoah NP Landscape Architect Harvey Benson and NPS Engineer Charles Baldwin met with

representatives of the Virginia Skyline Company at Lewis Mountain in October 1953 to locate the sites for the two relocated cottages. The group originally sited the buildings to the northeast of Cabin 1, on the south side of the picnic grounds parking area. However, after inspecting the proposed site, Benson and Baldwin noted that use of the picnic grounds had expanded across the road and that several picnic sites occupied this area. As a result, Benson recommended siting the two cottages to the south, opposite the existing five cabins. The two relocated cottages were not sited as part of the existing arc of cabins. Instead, they were placed opposite the southernmost cabin and across from a potential future road. Originally called for in the 1938 master plan, this road would loop behind the extant cabins and accommodate up to 50 total cabins; however, the road nor cabins were never built. The relocation of cabins included new walks, site grading and seeding, selective cutting, and utilities hookup.

Like the other cabins at Lewis Mountain, Chestnut Cottage F and Spruce Cottage G featured dark brown fitched-wood siding and gabled roofs. The two cottages had a similar plan to the Ballou and Justice cabins added in 1948. Each side was accessed by its own door with a wooden porch. Notably, these two cabins were installed on cinder block foundations, instead of wooden or stone piers. At some point after their installation, each cabin was equipped with non-historic CMU porch supports and pipe railings. These replaced the wooden porches that were constructed on the cabins when they were first installed at Lewis Mountain. These were later removed.

Chestnut Cottage F and Spruce Cottage G remain today at Lewis Mountain (see Figure 21). In 1995, Spruce Cottage was modified to provide accessibility. This included the addition of a ramp, parking area, and an additional exterior entrance. The rear of the structure was also extended to make the bathroom larger to accommodate a wheelchair. Spruce Cottage remains the only accessible accommodation at Lewis Mountain. In 2002, non-historic materials were removed from the cabins: the CMU porch supports were replaced with wooden posts; and modern asbestos roofing was removed. Historic materials, including rotting fitched-edge siding, were replaced in-kind. Both cottages retain all aspects of their rustic design. Non-historic features, such as accessible ramps and entrances, comprise materials that are in keeping with the buildings' historic rustic material palette.

--Cabins 1, 2, and 3.
Cabins 1-3 were designed by Marcellus Wright Jr. according to a standard plan he developed for the Virginia Skyline Company's cabins throughout Shenandoah NP. Construction of the initial cabins began in 1939, and was completed in time for the facility to accommodate Black campers in July 1940. In keeping with the 1938 master plan for Lewis Mountain, the company built the first cabins in the central section of the study area in the side of a hill facing west towards the lodge. (The 1938 master plan called for a complex of 50 cabins.) While the company originally constructed four cabins according to this design, one of the buildings burned down in 1940, and was not replaced.

Cabin 1 was used as employee quarters during the period of significance. All other cabins were open for public rental. In plan, Wright's cabins featured two bedrooms split by a shared bathroom. They were typically rented as duplexes, with one family or group occupying each side of the cabin. Each cabin was vernacular in design and featured native building materials, with simple frame construction and a gabled roof.

Today, Cabins 1-3 are extant and nearly identical to their condition during the period of significance (Figure 26). Cabins 1 and 2 underwent preservation treatment in 1993. Likely during this time, each cabin's timber porch was replaced with dimensional lumber. Despite this change, all three buildings retain a high degree of physical integrity from the period of significance.

--Cabins 4 and 5.
Cabins 4 and 5 were designed in 1948 by architects Louis W. Ballou and Charles G. Justice for the Virginia Skyline Company. While these buildings were not constructed during the initial phase of Lewis Mountain's development, their design was consistent with the Rustic Style of Marcellus Wright, Jr.'s earlier buildings. Each mimicked the low-profile massing, color, and materiality of their predecessors. Ballou and Justice, however, specified rough-sawn board siding instead of fitched-

edge siding, and standard shingles instead of concrete ones. The architects also called for the enclosure of the building and porch footings with similar sawn-board siding to prevent rodents from accessing the space under the cabins. Cabins 4 and 5 were designed as duplexes and did not connect or share interior facilities like some of the earlier Lewis Mountain cabins did.

Cabins 4 and 5 are extant and closely resemble their historic conditions during the period of significance. These buildings underwent a preservation maintenance treatment from 1999-2000, including porch restoration, new roof installation, and siding replacement.

--Cabin 15.
Cabin 15 is the southernmost cabin in the Lewis Mountain development, but documentation on the building is scarce. Past documentation attributed its construction to the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club as an overnight accommodation for club members before the development of Lewis Mountain. However, there is no archival information to date to support this claim. Building records in the Maps and Plans Office associate its construction with the Skyline Company circa 1940. Historically, it may have consisted of a simple tent platform of unknown materials and design. At an unknown date after the creation of Lewis Mountain campground, the building was reportedly enclosed; more research is needed to verify this claim.

In plan, the 14’ x 8’-8” frame building was set upon a 22’-2” concrete slab; the building featured a full-length gable-roof that covered the cabin and a porch area. The exterior of the building was clad in vertical board-and-batten siding. It also had a door and two transom windows on its west façade. Cabin 15 has had no known significant changes since the period of significance (Figure 27). It is managed by the park’s concessionaire and available to the public to rent.

--Campground Comfort Station.
The CCC constructed the Campground Comfort Station in 1942 based on a standardized plan for stone comfort stations used throughout the park. This building was located on a slight rise at the center of the campground loop, in the southernmost section, As built, it was a gabled one-story building featuring regular-coursed stone walls, a concrete shingle roof, and board-and-batten gable ends. The building’s north and south facades featured entrance doors flanked by stone wall privacy screens. Each of these elevations also had an additional door to the storage room and two windows. The gable ends also contained two windows.

The comfort station has changed little since the period of significance, owing to its masonry construction (Figure 28). However, its interior configuration was lightly modified in 1983 to improve accessibility and to accommodate modern fixtures. The building underwent preservation treatments in 1998 and 2003, but the scope of these projects is unknown. Nevertheless, the extant building is consistent with historic documentation of the conditions during the period of significance, suggesting that recent initiatives retained the building’s historic character.

--Campground Comfort Station Retaining Wall.
Adjacent to this comfort station, the CCC constructed a retaining wall circa 1939, when workers initially graded the campground. The retaining wall was made of dressed and coursed random-cut stone and is approximately 2’-6” wide, 2’ to 3’ high, and 75’ long. It features two stone steps at its southern terminus. Recent repaving projects have covered some of the historic masonry with asphalt, and vegetation has also overtaken portions of the wall (see Figure 28). This feature is shown as a contributing feature on the draft site map in the 2003 National Register documentation, and is evaluated as contributing in the 2005 CLI.

--Campground Office.
The CCC constructed Lewis Mountain’s Campground Office in 1939-1940 to serve as a contact station for campers checking into their sites within the campground. It was located at the campground entrance in the southern section of the developed area. As built, the office was a 12’ x 8’-2”, one-room frame building with a central entrance and shed-roof set on cinder block piers. It featured vertical board-and-batten wooden siding painted dark brown. The roof was historically tarpaper and featured a small, corrugated metal awning over the entrance.

In 2003 the building's roof was replaced after damage from Hurricane Isabel. Field work in 2022 for the CLR revealed that much office's siding is rotten and the roof is peeling back in places. Despite these condition issues, the building remains nearly identical to its appearance during the site's period of significance.

--Picnic Grounds Comfort Station.
The Picnic Grounds Comfort Station was the first building constructed for the Lewis Mountain development. When the picnic area opened in 1938, construction of a permanent comfort station had not been completed. As a result, the CCC constructed a temporary pit toilet until the permanent facility could be completed the following year, once the water and sewer systems were in place. The temporary facility was likely demolished shortly after the new structure was built. The comfort station, built between 1937 and 1938, was of a standard design found throughout the park that featured simple log design with a single log pen capped with a gable roof. In plan, the structure was divided into men's and women's bathrooms, separated by a central utility room. The entrances for each gender were located on opposite sides of the building, placed behind wooden screens. The exterior of the building featured logs with concrete chinking.

During Mission 66, park staff proposed replacing the building with a Modern equivalent, but funding never materialized and the historic structure was retained. In 2000 and 2001, the park rehabilitated the building, preserving the historic exterior, privacy screens, and flagstone walks. The NPS widened the building's entrances and modified its interior configuration to make it more accessible and to accommodate modern bathroom fixtures. Despite these changes, the exterior of the building is nearly identical to its historic condition (Figure 29).

--Pump House (outside of CLI boundary).
The CCC constructed the pump house in 1939 to provide water to Lewis Mountain facilities. The approximately 12' x 12'-10" structure was built into a hillside and featured a poured-in-place interior concrete shell, clad with exterior stone walls. Two elevations were topped with a small clerestory window, while the recessed central entrance featured a wooden door with a small window and vent. It was located on a non-contiguous parcel across Skyline Drive from Lewis Mountain, closer to the Bear Wallow Springs area. The pump house is extant today, although it was taken out of service in the 1970s after Lewis Mountain's water system was converted to a well. Since this time, there have been few changes made to the structure. Its wooden door was replaced at some point with a metal door, likely to restrict access to the space.

--Freestanding Dining Pavilions.
After the Lewis Mountain Lodge ceased food operations in the late 1960s, visitors began cooking in their cabins. This presented a health and safety challenge; to solve this issue, the park concessionaire constructed outdoor dining pavilions at each cabin circa 1968. The Virginia Skyline Company commissioned local architects Baughan & Baukhages of Luray, Virginia to create sympathetic rustic dining shelters. The architects came up with several schemes that responded to the topographic conditions and aesthetic consideration of each historic cabin. The pavilions were constructed using dimensional wooden lumber and consisted of wooden posts that supported gabled or shed roofs over concrete pads. The roofs sheltered picnic tables and food storage cabinets, and featured adjacent fireplaces. There were four design types: attached shed roof to cabin; attached end-gable roof to cabin; freestanding shed-roof structure; and freestanding gable roof structure (see Figure 21). Cabins 1-4, the Spruce Cottage, and one half of the Chestnut Cottage have attached dining pavilions. Cabin 5 has two freestanding dining pavilions, as does the other half of the Chestnut Cottage. No pavilion retains its original built-in fireplace.

--Campground Registration Kiosk and Campground Registration Kiosk Retaining Wall.
The original designs for the Lewis Mountain campground included a registration box that campers used if arriving after the camp office was closed. The NPS removed this box during the 1967-1968 campground rehabilitation, when the agency changed the one-way direction of the campground road. Park staff replaced the registration box with a new self-service kiosk of a standard design used throughout the Park Service. As built, it comprised three wooden panels that featured a campground map and campground rules. These panels were protected by a gabled shingle roof set on wooden posts. The kiosk also contained a metal fee-collection tube, colloquially called an "iron

ranger." At the same time, changes in road circulation and grade required the addition of the retaining wall and tree well that surrounded the kiosk. The retaining wall was laid at the base of the kiosk, with coursed, random-cut stone laid in a curved pattern. It measured approximately 1' wide, 30" long, and 4' high.

The design of the kiosk and associated retaining wall is compatible with the Rustic Style of the campground and an extension of Mission 66 planning efforts (Figure 30). Similar rustic stone walls and tree wells were constructed by the CCC throughout the park. Therefore, both are evaluated as contributing features. (Note: The wall is shown as a contributing feature on the draft site map in the 2003 National Register documentation, and is evaluated as contributing in the 2005 CLI. The kiosk is shown as a noncontributing feature on the draft site map in the 2003 National Register documentation, and is evaluated as noncontributing in the 2005 CLI.)

--Campground Information Kiosk.
Circa 2012, the NPS installed an information kiosk immediately south of the Campground Comfort Station. As built, this kiosk consisted of a wooden frame structure with a shake roof. The park affixed six interpretive panels to the posts of this structure, which detailed the park's natural history, campground regulations, and other important information. One panel also detailed Lewis Mountain's segregated history.

--Picnic Grounds Information Kiosk.
This structure is a smaller version of the Campground Information Kiosk. Dating to circa 2012, it is located near the comfort station and includes information on picnic area policies.

--Power Plant (abandoned).
Located downslope from the lodge, this small structure was erected between 1940 and 1949 as a power plant that housed an electrical generator. (It is also variously referred to as the storage building.) As built, the CMU structure measured 8' x 10' and was constructed on a concrete foundation. It had a door on one side and a window opening on the other, and was capped with an asbestos shingle shed roof. Today this structure shows evidence of structural failure and a possible past fire, and has largely lost its roof. Although the structure dates to the period of significance, it retains little to no integrity.

--Telephone Building (KIT-38 Microwave Building).
The KIT-38 microwave building was installed at Lewis Mountain sometime between 1957 and 1961, as a part of a larger parkwide effort to improve communications between facilities. The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Virginia commissioned the building, and the Fuqua Construction Company erected it. The one-story frame building contained one room measuring 12'-7" x 14'-3", set onto a concrete foundation. The shed roof was covered using a built-up system. The exterior of the building was clad with brown-stained vertical board-and-batten siding. Access to the building was only possible via a single central door and concrete steps.

This building is situated prominently along the Appalachian Trail but is out of sight of the cabin and picnic areas. Since its initial construction, it has been repainted red and outfitted with a new set of wooden stairs that were built over the existing concrete ones. Although constructed during the period of significance, the building is considered a non-contributing feature, as it was not part of the original Rustic Style of the campground and does not fit within this historic context. It also detracts from the rustic setting of the nearby Appalachian Trail.

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
Lodge/Camp Store	94002	Contributing	083158		Location	85872	Yes
Chestnut Cottage F	94000	Contributing	083194		Location	85878	Yes
Spruce Cottage G	94006	Contributing	083195		Location	85879	Yes
Cabin 1	93675	Contributing	083152		Location	85873	Yes
Cabin 2	93677	Contributing	083153		Location	85874	Yes
Cabin 3	93678	Contributing	083154		Location	85875	Yes
Cabin 4	93941	Contributing	083155		Location	85876	Yes
Cabin 5	93993	Contributing	083156		Location	85877	Yes
Cabin 15	93676	Contributing	083151		Location	90981	Yes
Campground Comfort Station	93994	Contributing	083159		Location	00002326	Yes
Campground Comfort Station Retaining Wall	93995	Contributing	083161				No
Campground Office	93998	Contributing	083150		Location	00002327	Yes
Picnic Area Comfort Station	94003	Contributing	083163		Location	00002325	Yes
Pump House [outside of CLI boundary]	94005	Contributing	221829				No
Freestanding Dining Pavilions	94001	Contributing					No
Campground Registration Kiosk	93999	Contributing					No
Campground Kiosk Board Retaining Wall	93997	Contributing	083157				No
Campground Information Kiosk	93996	Noncontributing					No
Picnic Grounds Information Kiosk	94004	Noncontributing					No
Power Plant (abandoned)	210892	Noncontributing					No
Telephone Building [KIT-38 Microwave Building]	94007	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 26. Cabin 2, built in 1940, features two bedrooms with separate entrances, flanked by a central, shared bathroom. (CLR 2023: 153)



Figure 27. Cabin 15 may have been constructed as a tent platform, predating Lewis Mountain's development as a recreational landscape. (CLR 2023: 158)



Figure 28. The Campground Comfort Station, constructed by the CCC in 1942, has not significantly changed since that time. The CCC also built a stone retaining wall to the west of the comfort station, shown here to the right of the asphalt path. (CLR 2023: 162)



Figure 29. The Picnic Grounds Comfort Station retains the integrity of its design, as constructed during the period of significance.(CLR 223: 160)



Figure 30. The circa 1967-1968 Campground Registration Kiosk and associated stone retaining wall and tree well at the campground entrance were constructed according to Rustic Style design principles, similar to those employed by the CCC. (CLR 2023: 168)

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Lewis Mountain retains several small-scale features that date to the period of significance and contribute to the landscape, including drinking fountains, boulder edging, USGS benchmarks, Mission 66-era picnic tables, and lighting. Other features such as some picnic tables and signs have been replaced. Modifications after the period of significance, additional signage, do not significantly impact
the historic landscape character of Lewis Mountain. Therefore, Lewis Mountain retains integrity with respect to its small-scale features. (CLR 2023: 175-186)

Historic Condition (to 1968) and Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
--Boulder Field.
During Lewis Mountain's construction between 1937 and 1938, CCC workers arranged boulders into a pile on the eastern side of the picnic grounds. Doing so served two purposes: first, park landscape architects were able to clear the terrain of obstructions, so that the picnic grounds could easily accommodate large groups. Second, the boulder field likely afforded an area of visual interest within the landscape. Its location at a high point near the center of the picnic grounds was likely no accident, as this feature would have figured prominently within the internal viewsheds of each picnic site. It may have offered a prospect to visitors, in much the same way that the high point at Pinnacles Picnic Area does today. The NPS frequently incorporated such rustic landscape features in its designed landscapes. There have been no significant changes, or maintenance, at the boulder field since 1968. As a result, young trees, shrubs, and vines have overtaken this feature (Figure 31).

--Boulder Drinking Fountains.
During Lewis Mountain's initial period of construction, the CCC built a series of boulder drinking fountains throughout the campground and picnic grounds. Laborers likely began this effort in 1938,

but it was not completed until 1939. Each fountain was composed of a native boulder fitted with a brass bubbler, and featured a carved basin at the top. The side of each boulder contained a brass faucet or spigot mounted above a French drain of gravel bordered by curb stone. Most of these boulder drinking fountains were dug into the ground and set in a concrete base. At Lewis Mountain, all fountains were accessed via asphalt pathways that led right up to the edge of the fountains.

Many of the boulder fountains still exist today, but there have been some alterations over the years (Figure 32). Some fountains have been removed, capped off, or altered to have chrome fixtures rather than brass. Ten fountains remain in the campground and picnic areas. However, during fieldwork for the CLR in 2022, only one was operational.

--Boulders Along Road Edges.
E.P. Meinecke advocated for the careful placement of boulders within campgrounds to restrict the movement of vehicles, preserve the natural landscape, and prevent root damage, soil compaction, and erosion. Such boulders at Lewis Mountain allowed campground planners to protect vegetation from vehicles and trailers. Meinecke also recommended that all boulders be dug into the ground to make them appear as if they grew out of that location and to prevent them from looking like they were obviously placed there by human hands. The placement of the initial boulders at Lewis Mountain was not documented, but many of the boulders that are embedded throughout the campground were almost certainly added during the period of significance. At some point after 1952, additional boulders were placed in several locations along the main road and various loop roads to keep cars from driving or parking off-road. These replaced earlier chestnut logs and guardrails that rotted away. While these boulders were placed after the initial period of construction, their placement is in keeping with campground planning principles promoted by park planners in the 1930s and 1940s. Additional boulders were also added or moved at Chestnut Cottage in the 1990s, when that building was made accessible. These boulders were placed at the end of the accessible parking area as a form of curb stops. The boulders that define the road edges in areas of the cultural landscape are still present today and have undergone few significant changes (Figure 33). These features reinforce the landscape's rustic character.

--USGS Benchmarks.
United States Geological Survey benchmarks provide researchers with location information—such as latitude, longitude, or elevation—as a point of reference in survey data. During the initial survey of the area in the 1930s, the USGS placed three benchmarks in the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape. The benchmarks consisted of concrete posts topped by copper plaques that noted geographic information. They were in the wooded area to the south of the cultural landscape, in the campground, and in the picnic ground. The USGS benchmarks remain in the landscape today and have not been changed since the period of significance (Figure 34).

--"Dusk-to-Dawn" Lights.
Until the Mission 66 period, Lewis Mountain did not feature lighting within the landscape. Lights were limited to the interiors of buildings and those mounted on their exteriors. As a part of the long Mission 66 period, Shenandoah NP installed several "dusk-to-dawn" lights around the park, including at Lewis Mountain, marking the first time that the area featured any lighting features. The lights were mounted on 12'-tall posts that were painted brown. In limited cases, including the dining pavilions, such lights were added to the exterior of buildings. This lighting system remains in place today and has not been modernized since the original circa 1950s and 1960s building campaign.

--Picnic Tables.
At the time of initial construction as a recreational landscape, picnic tables were distributed across the picnic grounds and at each campsite. In the 1930s and 1940s, there were two standard types of CCC-constructed picnic tables used at Shenandoah NP, including at Lewis Mountain: moveable wooden picnic tables were placed to areas where there was no corresponding campsite or grill, while concrete stationary tables were installed to areas that required permanent fixtures, such as campgrounds and picnic sites. The moveable table consisted of wooden planks supported by X-shaped bracing and arranged into a tabletop and benches. The stationary table design consisted of the same wooden tabletop and benches, but both were mounted onto concrete pillars that were set into the ground.

These CCC tables/benches were used throughout the entire period of significance and were not replaced until the 1967-1968 campground rehabilitation. In keeping with the design program of Mission 66, the NPS developed a service-wide design for a modern metal picnic table. As the old wooden tables were prone to rotting, they were replaced with modern versions. These tables consisted of wood-plank tabletops and benches supported by bent metal pipes. This metal piping was curved into a cross shape to form the ends of the tables.

The picnic tables that date to the 1960s remain extant throughout Lewis Mountain, and are contributing landscape features. However, Shenandoah NP is in the process of replacing these with new tables that feature heavy metal pipe supports and plastic-dipped grate benches and tabletops. These replacement features do not contribute to the cultural landscape, nor do the two accessible picnic tables in the campground.

--Entrance Sign.
Signage was an important aspect of park design that played both aesthetic and functional roles in the landscape, and entrance signs in particular were a vital part of any park. The CCC highlighted this importance in its manual on “Signs and Markers,” in which it described specific design guidelines for park signage—most notably regarding entrance signs. CCC-designed signs were not beholden to a set of rigid guidelines, but they were consistent in the quality of their design. As noted in the manual, park signs were to be defined by their “fitness” to a specific place and setting. This concept of sign “fitness” was an extension of the NPS Rustic Style, which prioritized locality and regional environments in its design. The CCC felt that signs should be legible and informative, while also attractive and grounded in a sense of place. The sign’s mounting was just as important as its design.

The entrance sign to Lewis Mountain was integral to the site, as it provided direction while travelling, noted which services were offered, and—most significantly for Black visitors travelling under the threat of Jim Crow—indicated which facilities were available segregated use. The initial iteration of the sign from the 1930s, designed by park landscape architects and built by the CCC, consisted of a hanging sign board. It was located in the central planted island at the entrance to the site and read: “Lewis Mt. Picnic Grounds For Negroes.” The CCC also constructed the next version of the entrance sign around 1940, when Lewis Mountain officially opened the picnic grounds, campground, and lodge. This sign was significantly larger and more detailed and supported on each side by multiple vertical log posts. It read: “Lewis Mountain Negro Area Coffee Shop & Cottages Campground Picnicground [Sic].” In 1946 “Negro Area” was replaced with “Lodge.” During the Mission 66 era, the design of the sign was simplified to single posts on each side. The sign read: “Lewis Mountain, Meals, Lodging, Picnic Area, Campground, Campfire Circle.” The NPS logo was also added to the sign.

The current entrance sign at Lewis Mountain was likely installed in recent decades (Figure 35). It employs a different font than the historic signs, and features icons instead of words to indicate the available facilities at Lewis Mountain. It is noncontributing.

--Other Signage.
There were several other informational and regulatory signs located throughout the cultural landscape during its period of significance. One type was a wooden sign that was painted brown and routed with white or yellow lettering. These signs conveyed basic information, such as Skyline Drive distances, safety warnings, or camping regulations; they often featured points indicating a direction of travel. There were also standard regulatory metal signs that provided traffic information or park rules. In addition to these signs, there were various exposed aggregate concrete posts that conveyed trail names and distances on metal bands.

All signage at Lewis Mountain has almost certainly been replaced since the period of significance. Wooden signs that are painted brown are considered compatible with the historic character of the landscape but are non-contributing. Metal traffic signs are a modern necessity but are also considered non-contributing.

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
Boulder Field (in Picnic Grounds)	94016	Contributing					No
Boulder Fountains	94017	Contributing	083162				No
USGS Benchmarks	94028	Contributing					No
“Dusk-to-Dawn” Lights	94014	Contributing					No
Boulders Along Road Edge	94018	Contributing					No
Picnic Tables (1950s-1968, wood tops)	94023	Contributing					No
Picnic Tables (recent, plastic tops)	210893	Noncontributing					No
Bear-Proof Food Storage Poles	94015	Noncontributing					No
Grills	94020	Noncontributing					No
Metal and Wooden Signs	94021	Noncontributing					No
Entrance Sign	210894	Noncontributing					No
Trash and Recycling Cans	94026	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 31. View of the overgrown boulder field, built by the CCC in the picnic grounds area. (OCLP 2018)



Figure 32. This boulder drinking fountain at the south end of the campground remains in operation today. (CLR 2023: 176)



Figure 33. These boulders were intentionally placed to prevent vehicles from entering the picnic ground, based on design principles outlined by Meinecke and others. Some of the boulders may have replaced rotten log guardrails. (CLR 2023: 177)



Figure 34. This USGS benchmark is a contributing feature of the cultural landscape. (CLR 2023: 178)



Figure 35. View looking southwest at the entrance sign, with Skyline Drive at image right. Note the remnants planting within the traffic island. (CLR 2023: 185)

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 4

Next Assessment Due Date: 01/22/2030

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 01/22/2026

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall condition of the Lewis Mountain landscape is evaluated as “good.” The property shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The property’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: Good

Assessment Date: 09/17/2021

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: 07/22/2011

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Based on consultation with Martha Bogle, Superintendent, and Ann Kain, Cultural Resource Manager, Lewis Mountain is in good condition, showing no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The site's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions, and no immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 04/28/2005

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Impacts

Type of Impact: Erosion

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Erosion is evident along social paths. (CLR 2023: 201)

Date Identified: 01/22/2026

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Other

Other Impact: Accretion of pavement

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: The accumulation of asphalt layers on pedestrian paths has raised the paths and created a rounded profile.

Date Identified: 01/22/2026

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Removal/Replacement

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: The loss of the tree canopy due to weather, disease, and climate change in some areas should be monitored.

Date Identified: 01/22/2026

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Vegetation has blocked the historic western view from the lodge and obscures the CCC boulder field.

Date Identified: 01/22/2026

Resolved? No

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report Parts 1 and 2

Document Date: 2023-01-01

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

Shenandoah NP drafted and approved a combined General Management Plan and Development Concept Plan (GMP-DCP), completed in 1983. It was originally intended to be used as a guide for park management for 10 to 15 years but has not been updated. At Lewis Mountain, the lodge, cabins, and campground were identified for preservation, interpretation, and adaptive reuse. (CLR 2023: 197)

More recently, the park's April 2015 Foundation Document codified preservation and rehabilitation efforts at Lewis Mountain. The report identified Skyline Drive as contributing to the park's fundamental resources and values (FRVs) but recognized the drive's associated historic structures under a lesser category. (CLR 2023: 198)

The 2023 Cultural Landscape Report for Lewis Mountain identified Rehabilitation as the recommended primary treatment for the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape: "Rehabilitation provides the flexibility needed to preserve the resources and enhance the historic character of the camp while accommodating current site conditions and meeting the objectives outlined in the treatment philosophy." The CLR also identified 1968—the year the Lewis Mountain campground rehabilitation was completed— as the treatment reference date. This date marked the last significant change to the design of the landscape during the period of significance. (CLR 2023: 205-206)

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
Alexander, Ruth, Ariel Schnee, Timothy Johansen	The African American Visitor Experience at Shenandoah National Park	2018	Colorado State University, Public Lands History Center			
Devlin, Erin Krutko and Maya Johnson	Under the Sky All of Us Free: African American Travel, Visitation, and Segregation in Shenandoah National Park.	2010	Williamsburg, VA: College of William and Mary			
Eglof, Keith, and Deborah Woodward	First People: The Early Indians of Virginia	1992	Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Historic Resources			
Engle, Reed L.	Everything Was Wonderful: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Shenandoah National Park.	1999	Shenandoah National Park Association			
Hooper, Carol	“Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase).” National Register of Historic Places Nomination	1997	National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior			
Lambert, Darwin	The Undying Past of Shenandoah National Park.	1989	Boulder, CO: Roberts Rinehart, Inc.			
McClelland, Linda Flint	Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction	1998	Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press			

McClelland, Linda Flint and Reed Engle	“Skyline Drive Historic District.” National Historic Landmark Nomination Form, 069-0234	2008	National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior			
National Park Service	Foundation Document, Shenandoah National Park, Virginia	2015	National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior			
National Park Service	Resource Management Plan [RMP].	1998	n/a			
Quist, Juliana, Bill Slocumb, and JB Eckert	“Exploring Shenandoah National Park web mapping application.” Accessed October 21, 2022. https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=81acfc694a24f4692e704051526f61c.	2018	North Carolina State University and National Park Service			
Robinson, Judith, Stephanie Foell, Tim Kerr, and Reed Engle	“Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase).” National Register Nomination	2003	National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior			
Torkelson, Jacob Randall Mason, and Jane Nasta	Cultural Landscape Report for Lewis Mountain, Shenandoah National Park, Page and Greene Counties, Virginia [CLR].	2023	Boston, MA: National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation			
Young, Terence	Heading Out: A History of American Camping	2017	Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press			

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map – NPS Branch of Plans and Design “Lewis Mountain Development for (Negroes) – Part of the Master Plan, ” Dwg.

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NP:SHE/1170, undated.
Note: The word Negroes is crossed out in the title.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map – NPS Denver Service Center, “Water Distribution System, Sheet Layout, Survey Data,” Dwg.

Supplemental Information Narrative:

134/41,120A, Sheet 105 to 114 of 133, 7/1998.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map – NPS Division of Design and Construction, Eastern Office, “Existing Conditions - Lewis Mountain Picnic and Campground Area, Park of the Master Plan,” Dwg

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NP: SHE/3005A, 8/22/1956.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map – NPS Division of Design and Construction, Eastern Office, “Lewis Mountain Development, Park of the Master Plan,” Dwg.

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NP: SHE/3046B, July 15, 1960.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map – USGS Shenandoah National Park, VA. (Central Section)

Supplemental Information Narrative:

1969, Scale 1:62,500

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map 10: Appalachian Trail and other Trails in Shenandoah National Park, Central District

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc., 1997

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Shenandoah National Park Master Plan

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Interview: Shirley Ann Tutt McCoy with Elaine Taylor Blakey, James Edward Parks, and Francine Parks

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Interviewed by Monica Rhodes, Jacob Torkelson, and Randall Mason, August 30, 2022, transcribed by Jane Nasta, pages 5-6.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Interview: Elaine Taylor Blakey, with James Edward Parks, Francine Parks, and Shirley Ann Tutt McCoy.

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Interviewed by Monica Rhodes, Jacob Torkelson, and Randall Mason, August 30, 2022, transcribed by Jane Nasta, page 14.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Native Land Digital

Supplemental Information Narrative:

native-land.ca, accessed March 20, 2023.