
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2013



Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm
Blue Ridge Parkway

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Cultural Landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System:

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. The set of CRIS records for cultural landscapes is referred to as CRIS-CL. CRIS-CL records conform to a standardized data structure known as the Cultural

Landscapes Inventory (CLI).

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CRIS are: Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2006), Director's Order 28 (Cultural Resources) and Director's Order 28a (Archeology).

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI)

The CLI is the data structure within CRIS used to document and evaluate all potentially significant cultural landscapes in which NPS has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest.

Each CRIS-CL record is certified complete when the landscape is determined to meet one of the following:

- Landscape individually meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation; or,

- Landscape is a contributing element of a property that is eligible for the National Register; or,

- Landscape does not meet the National Register criteria, but is managed as cultural resources because of law, policy or decisions reached through the park planning process.

Cultural landscapes vary from historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes to historic ethnographic landscapes, but may also fit within more than one type. Those eligible for the National Register have significance in the nation's history on a national, state or local level, as well as integrity or authenticity.

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are: *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...*

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A) Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Inventory Unit Description:

The Humpback Rocks developed area is one of eight recreation areas spaced along the Virginia section of the Blue Ridge Parkway that contain larger land areas to accommodate motorist needs, interpretive programming, and recreational opportunities. Humpback Rocks is the northernmost of these recreation areas, and was sited on the landscape around the dramatic geologic formation that had served as a local landmark for more than a century. Thus the Humpback Rocks developed area is the first such facility encountered by motorists traveling south from milepost 1 of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The Mountain Farm component landscape is one of four component landscapes of the developed area. Construction took place from 1952-1953, and the exhibit opened in 1956 along with the visitor center. The exhibit includes several buildings and structures that comprise an exhibit of farm life in the region during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Some of the features are local farm buildings that have been moved to the site from nearby farms, while others are interpretations of typical farm-related features. The site includes cultivated fields, kitchen gardens, orchard plantings, livestock pens, and a springhouse. The site also houses a contemporary water supply and treatment structure screened from view from much of the exhibit area. A trail runs through the Mountain Farm exhibit that leads to the visitor center as well as the Humpback Gap and Trail parking area. The component landscape is bounded by the Visitor Center component landscape to the north, the Blue Ridge Parkway to the east, and the Humpback Gap and Trail component landscape to the south.

This component landscape is significant under Criteria A, and C. The period of significance identified for the parent landscape—Humpback Rocks developed area—is 1939–1965, which encompasses initial parkway construction through completion of proposed developments consistent with early master plans for the site. Parkway design principles are conveyed throughout the developed area, including the Mountain Farm component landscape, tying it to the broader 469-mile linear historic landscape. In addition, Humpback Rocks affords several of the key components that early designers considered important for motorists to experience when traveling the corridor, including opportunities for visitors to connect more deeply with the region through recreation and education, picnicking, and other amenities.

Site Plan

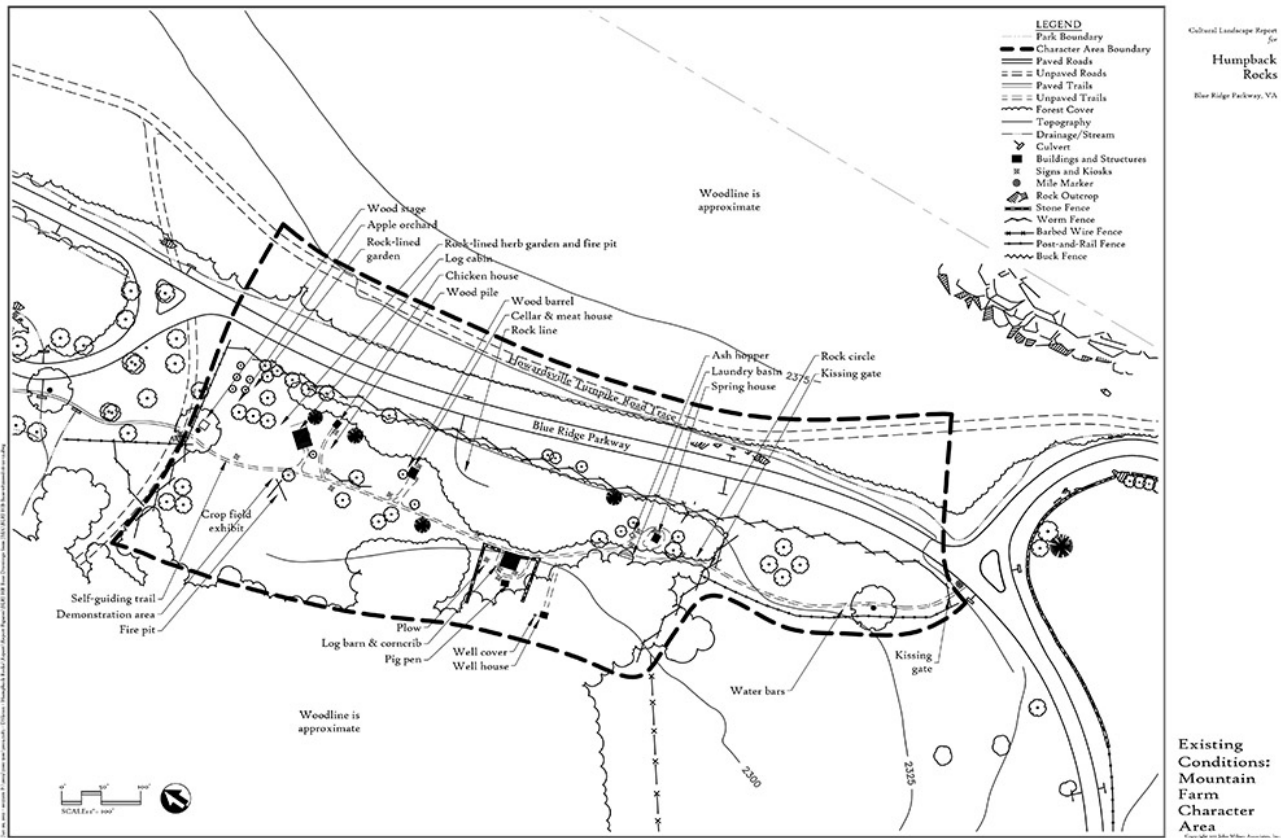


FIGURE 2. Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm component landscape (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	975982
Parent Landscape:	975984

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Blue Ridge Parkway - Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm - BLRI
Park Organization Code:	5140
Park Administrative Unit:	Blue Ridge Parkway

CLI Hierarchy Description

The Humpback Rocks parent landscape—Humpback Rocks Developed Area—contains four component landscapes: Humpback Rocks Humpback Gap and Trail, Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm, Humpback Rocks Visitor Center, and Humpback Rocks Picnic Area and Water Supply.

The Humpback Gap and Trail parking area provides access to several trails that were popular destinations even prior to parkway construction, including the Appalachian Trail and the Humpback Rocks Trail. Constructed by 1943, the parking area was the first visitor amenity constructed in the Humpback Rocks developed area, and was placed on the plateau of Humpback Gap. The Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm exhibit was constructed next, and is one of six major and nine minor exhibits of local life along the parkway conceived by National Park Service architect Charles S. Grossman in 1952. The exhibit is an early representative of the development of living history displays by the National Park Service, and is comprised of local agricultural structures relocated to the exhibit to interpret Appalachian lifeways. The exhibit opened in 1956, when the visitor center was completed. The Visitor Center complex was constructed from 1955-1956 in a former pasture along the west side of the parkway, with open views connecting the facility to the parkway, consistent with the visitor center typology along the corridor. Existing springs that influenced pioneer settlement at the site remained in the form of an ephemeral bog along the parkway. The visitor center was lost to fire in 1981, and replaced the following year. The first stage of the Picnic Area was also constructed in 1955, with a loop road accessing picnic table clusters under the canopy of existing successional forest on a plateau near Laurel Gap. Another loop and a second Comfort Station were added in 1962 and 1965. A solar-powered well and water storage equipment were added on the hill above the picnic area in 1985.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Inventory data, including condition, is from CLR and was approved by park in 2013. Additional info will be added to CLI in FY 18 in form of GIS maps and FMSS crosswalks. At that point, condition assessment will be reconfirmed with superintendent.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	01/09/2013
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/07/2017

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

Through consultation with VA-DHR, VCRIS entries for BLRI's Humpback Rocks and Rocky Knob have been updated with correct GIS footprints, and contributing status. For this particular landscape, VCRIS ID# 080-5161 "Blue Ridge Parkway Historic District" is the primary resource. Secondary resources include 080-5161-0285 "Mountain Farm Log Cabin" which contains secondary resources: #1 - Ash Hopper, #2 Animal Shelter (Pig Pen), #3 Fruit Cellar (Root Cellar/Meat House), #4 Chicken House, #5 Stable, # 6 Spring House, # 7 Barn

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Foreword

Humpback Rocks developed area was designed to give visitors to the Blue Ridge Parkway a sense of what life may have been like for the pioneer farmers who lived in the region. The pastoral quality of farm life created by parkway planners evokes nostalgia for the past that many visitors enjoy. This carefully crafted scene allows visitors to understand how different life must have been like a century ago. The importance of this cultural landscape to the quality of the parkway experience cannot be overstated. The guidance offered in this report will allow us to preserve this experience for future generations.

We would like to thank the staff of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., in particular project leader Deborah Slaton, and researchers architects/historians Ken Itle and Tim Penich, as well as landscape architects Jane Jacobs, Laura Knott, Liz Sargent, Christina Osborn, and Lauren Noe of John Milner Associates, Inc., for their thorough research, rigorous existing conditions documentation, and carefully considered recommendations. The parkway would also like to thank Southeast Regional Office Cultural Landscapes Branch Chief Tracy Stakely for his careful reviews and tireless work as the primary NPS liaison on this and many other projects currently underway. This study will be a useful tool for the continued management of this outstanding portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Philip A. Francis, Jr.
Superintendent

Humpback Rocks, Blue Ridge Parkway Cultural Landscape Report

Approved by: Philip D. Francis Jr. January 9, 2013
Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway Date

Recommended by: [Signature] 1/28/13
Chief, Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Regional Office Date

Recommended by: Sherrill J. Jett 2/12/13
Deputy Regional Director, Southeast Region Date

Approved by: [Signature] 2/14/13
Regional Director, Southeast Region Date

Geographic Information

Geographic Information & Location Map

State and County:

State:	North Carolina
County	Buncombe County

Size (Acres) 7.66

Land Tract Number(s)

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Humpback Rocks developed area encompasses approximately 1,300 acres between milepost 4.4 and 9.6 of the Blue Ridge Parkway, spanning sections 1B and 1C as originally designated by early parkway designers, near the far northern section of the road corridor. The developed area, which includes the parkway corridor, forms a broad land area that features opportunities for motorists to get out of their cars and experience the mountain scenery. The majority of the developed area falls within Augusta County, Virginia, although a portion extends into Nelson County. The George Washington National Forest edges the majority of the parkway to the west in the vicinity of Humpback Rocks, while privately-owned land edges it to the east. The Appalachian Trail passes through a portion of the developed area near Humpback Mountain. Surrounding the parkway in this area is the George Washington National Forest, managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The developed area is located approximately seven miles south of the city of Waynesboro, and fifteen miles north of the Nelson County seat of Lovingston, Virginia.

At the developed area, the western parkway boundary begins to expand at about milepost 4.4 to the west toward the Shenandoah Valley, then at about milepost 6.4 the western boundary returns to the corridor and the eastern boundary expands to the east toward Humpback Mountain, before returning again to a narrow corridor just south of the picnic area near milepost 9.6.

Within the developed area, visitor amenities are clustered together into concentrated zones. These zones—the Humpback Rocks Visitor Center and Mountain Farm exhibit between mileposts 5.8-6, the Humpback Gap parking area and Humpback Rocks Trail at milepost 6, and the picnic area, and water supply and storage area near milepost 8—are the focus of information contained in this report.

Adjacent to the visitor center complex to the south is the Mountain Farm exhibit component landscape. The exhibit contains a collection of pioneer farm buildings, outbuildings, and agricultural exhibits moved to the site in the 1950s for visitor edification. The exhibit occupies the broad plateau associated with Humpback Gap, along with the visitor center and the Humpback Gap and Trail parking area, and contains several springs the flow to the west from the area, one of which is incorporated into the interpretation of the springhouse structure.

Location Map:

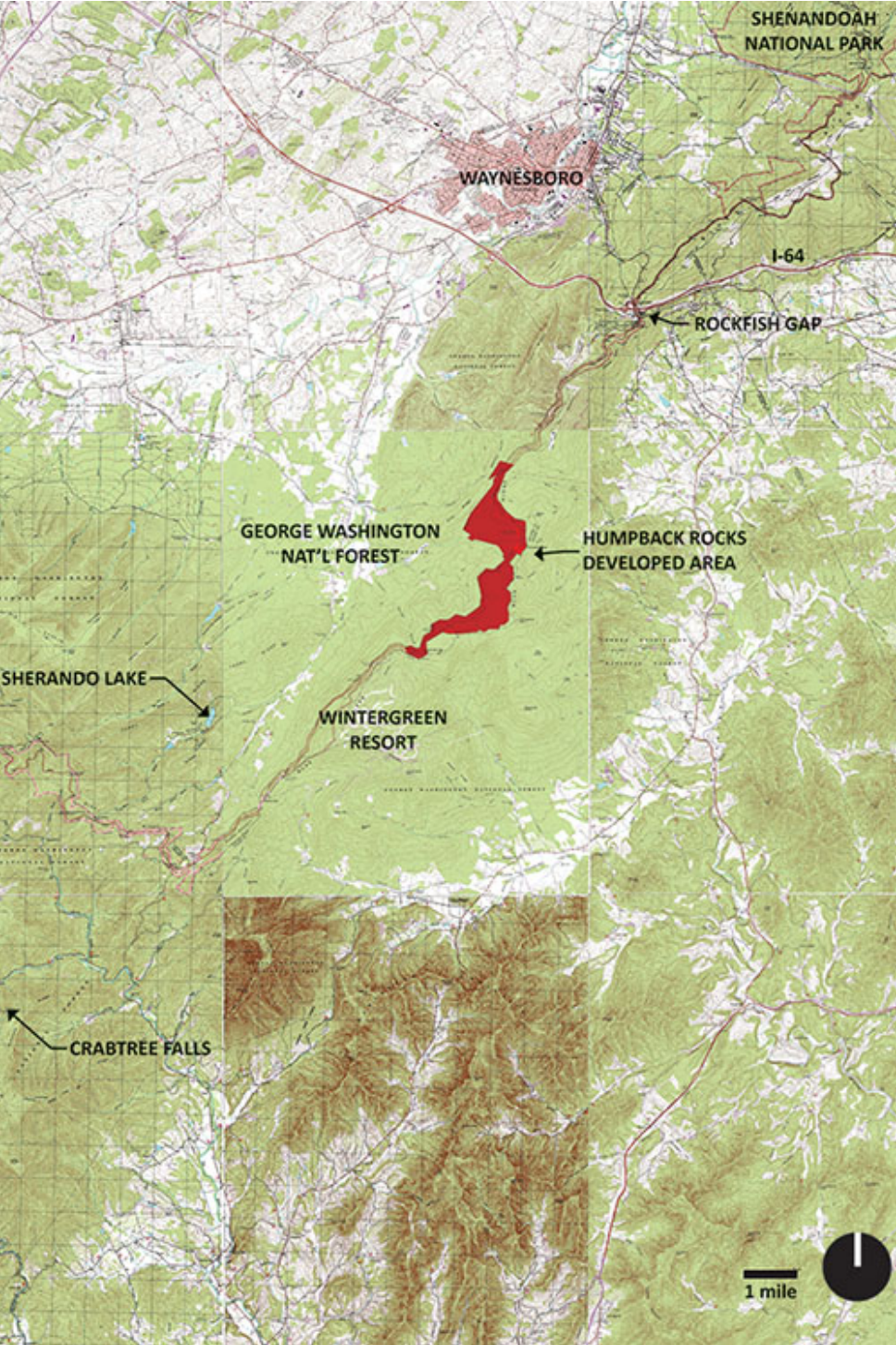


FIGURE 3. Humpback Rocks developed area vicinity (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

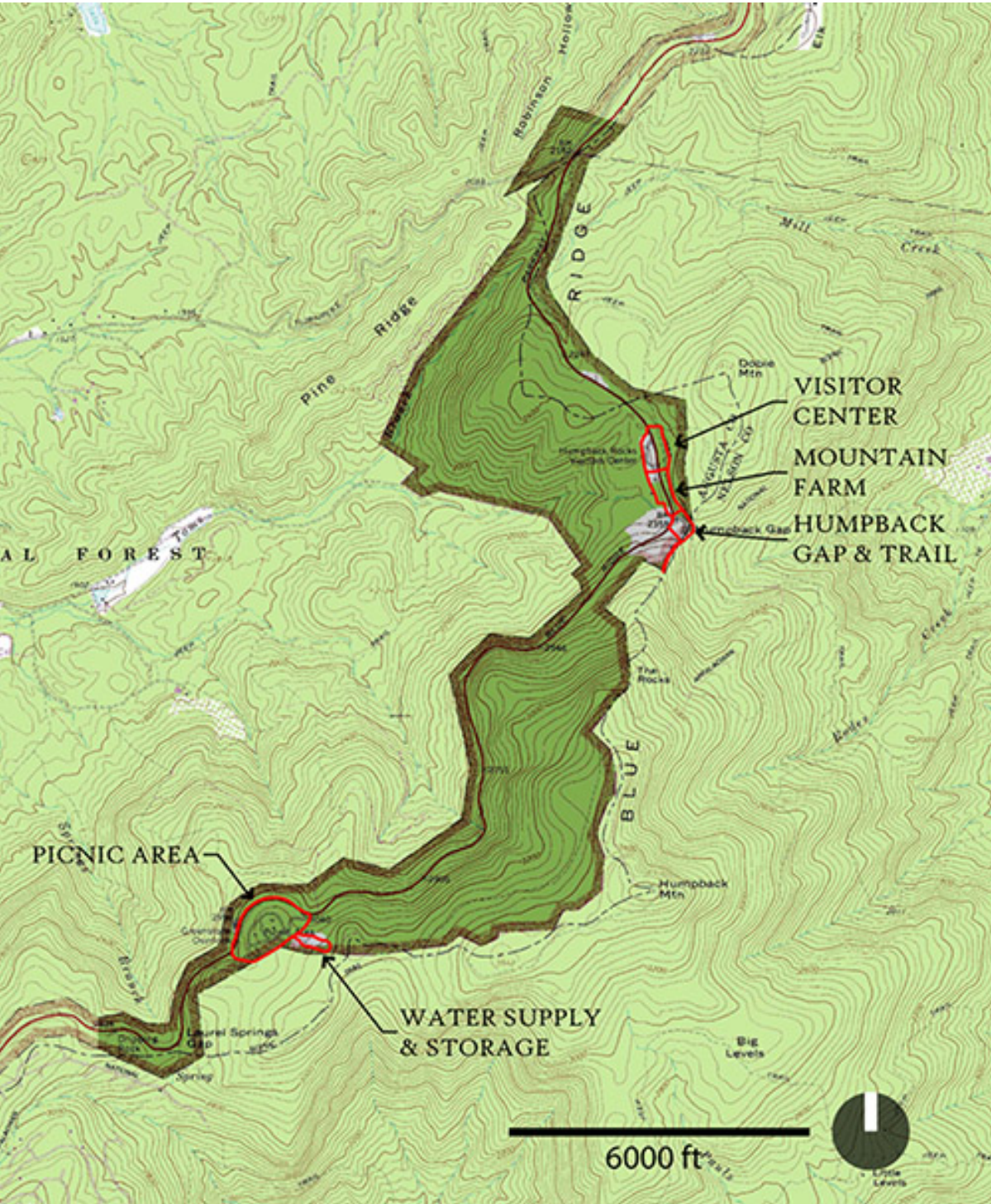


FIGURE 4. Humpback Rocks developed area, Parent Landscape (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

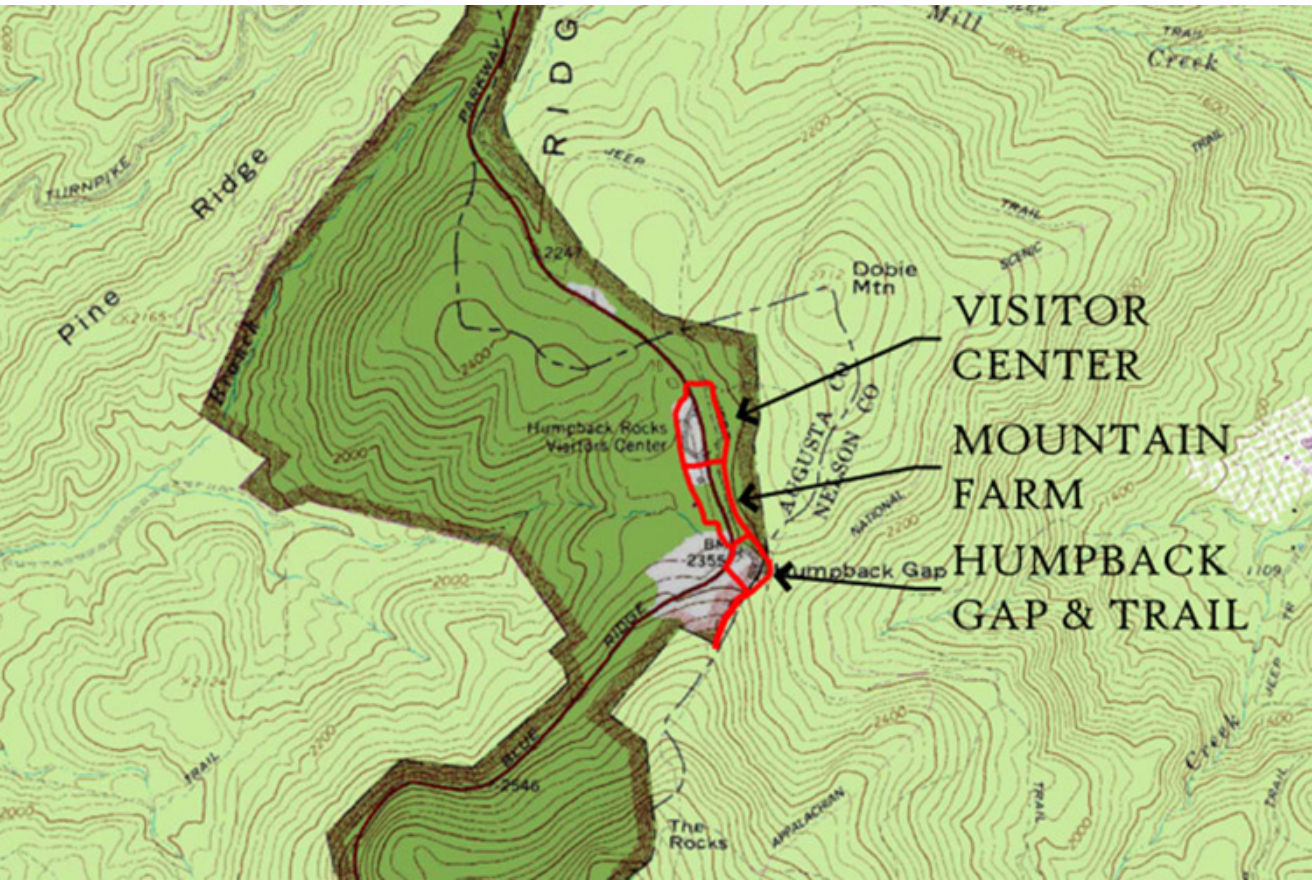


FIGURE 5. Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm component landscape (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Humpback Rocks developed area falls entirely within the Blue Ridge physiographic province of Virginia, which is characterized by the elevated terrain and steep relief of the ancient mountain range. The Blue Ridge is one of five physiographic provinces that comprise Virginia's geomorphology. From east to west, these include the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, Blue Ridge, Ridge and Valley, and Appalachian Plateau. The Piedmont that extends through Central Virginia is comprised of rolling terrain generally underlain by metamorphic rocks that have weathered more quickly than the coarse grained igneous and metamorphic Grenville basement rocks of the Blue Ridge province. In the vicinity of the Humpback Rocks developed area, the Blue Ridge escarpment rises suddenly along the western margin of Nelson County. The Blue Ridge physiographic province is comprised of the mountainous landform underlain by a consistent geology, distinct from the folded geology and eroded form of the Ridge and Valley province to the west, and the Appalachian Plateaus beyond, where the layers of rock are no longer folded. The rocks that form the Blue Ridge are the oldest in the state at 1.1 billion years. The Humpback Rocks developed area drains to the James River watershed to the east and the Potomac River watershed to the west.

The climate associated with the Humpback Rocks developed area is a temperate, four-season climate, with relatively short winters, hot humid summers, and relatively long spring and fall seasons. At the upper elevations of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the winters are more severe, and temperatures are generally 10 to 15 degrees cooler on average than at the rolling terrain to the east and west. In winter the average temperature is 34 degrees Fahrenheit, and the average daily minimum temperature is 24 degrees. Average seasonal snowfall is 28 inches. While snow is prevalent at higher elevations, there are generally intermittent thaws that preclude a long-lasting snow cover. Summers are fairly warm on the mountain slopes. In summer, the average daily temperature is 84 degrees. Prevailing winds arise from the southeast. Rainfall, which averages approximately 40 inches per year, is evenly distributed during the year, but appreciably heavier on the windward, west-facing slopes. Thunderstorms occur on about 40 days each year and most occur in summer. Heavy rains can cause flash flooding in the narrow valleys of the mountainous region (Hockman et al 1979, 2).

The parkway's highlands fall within the Appalachian Hardwood Forest, a component of the broader Eastern Deciduous Forest Province of the eastern United States. Oak-hickory forests characterize the drier and more exposed sites, while mixed hardwoods and conifers are found within the moist, protected stream valleys. The Humpback Rocks developed area includes areas of oak-hickory-pine forest and Appalachian oak forest.

The large expanses of undeveloped mountain terrain that surround the Humpback Rocks developed area, which include national and state forests, and federally-designated wilderness areas, provide a haven for wildlife. Fifty-five species of mammals and seventy species of reptiles and amphibians have been identified within the adjacent George Washington National Forest. Visitors are most likely to see white-tailed deer, raccoons, fox, an occasional black bear, turtles, and snakes, including the poisonous copperhead and timber rattler. A rich diversity of birds also graces the region throughout the year. Approximately 175 species of birds that breed, winter, or migrate through the region have been observed within the George Washington National Forest.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

The Humpback Rocks developed area is primarily in Augusta County, Virginia, with some overlap into Nelson County. Augusta County is in Virginia Congressional District 6, while Nelson County is Virginia Congressional District 5.

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The Humpback Rocks developed area is located approximately 100 miles northwest of the state capital of Richmond, and approximately 170 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., along the boundary between Nelson and Augusta counties, Virginia. The region is generally rural and agricultural, although Augusta County is more populous and industrialized than Nelson County. Population figures for Augusta County are estimated at 72,000, and for Nelson County at approximately 14,500. Both Nelson and Augusta counties derive a large part of their economy from agriculture. The local climate and generally fertile soils support cultivation of a variety of crops, fruits and nuts, nursery and greenhouse products. The raising of livestock and poultry are also large components of local farming.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 01/09/2013

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

As part of a potential Blue Ridge Parkway National Historic Landmark, Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm receives a category of “Must Be Preserved And Maintained” as a contributing component landscape.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Public Access:

Type of Interest: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Land Narrative:

Adjacent Natural Systems and Features of Interest
Dobie Mountain
Shropshire Creek
Falling Rock Creek
Toms Creek
Toms Creek falls
Mill Creek
Ridge Creek
Meriwether Creek
Pauls Creek
Laurel Springs Branch

National Register Information

Documentation Status:

Undocumented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Neither the Blue Ridge Parkway nor any of its constituent component landscapes—with the exception of Brinegar Cabin at Doughton Park—are currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. National Register nomination is currently pending for Flat Top Manor, part of the Moses Cone Estate.

However some documentation has occurred for the Blue Ridge Parkway including draft Historic Resource Studies crafted in 1993 and 2005, and a draft National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination prepared in 2005. All of these cultural resource documents were prepared by Ian Firth, Professor Emeritus in the College of Environment and Design at the University of Georgia. The 2005 draft NHL nomination suggests the likely areas, aspects, and period of significance for the road corridor and associated resources. Whereas Firth's findings did not include Mission 66 era features, the 2012 CLR conclusions do find the Mission 66 era features contributing, hence they Mission 66 features within the Peaks of Otter developed area are considered significant.

There currently are two contracts in place to complete the NHL nomination: the first being a contract for an inventory of all buildings, structures, bridges, tunnels and overlooks, to support section 7 of the NHL nomination. The inventory project started in the fall of 2012 and preparation of the National Historic Landmark nomination is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2013.

Concurrence Narrative:

Through consultation with VA-DHR, VCRIS entries for BLRI's Humpback Rocks and Rocky Knob have been updated with correct GIS footprints, and contributing status. For this particular landscape, VCRIS ID# 080-5161 "Blue Ridge Parkway Historic District" is the primary resource. Secondary resources include 080-5161-0285 "Mountain Farm Log Cabin" which contains secondary resources: #1 - Ash Hopper, #2 Animal Shelter (Pig Pen), #3 Fruit Cellar (Root Cellar/Meat House), #4 Chicken House, #5 Stable, # 6 Spring House, # 7 Barn

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	CE 1939 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Recreation
Facet:	Tourism
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1939 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Social and Humanitarian Movements
Facet:	Historic Preservation Movement
Other Facet:	None

Time Period:	CE 1939 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Agriculture
Facet:	Subsistence Agriculture
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1939 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Transportation by Land and Air
Facet:	Carriage Roads, Touring Roads and Parkways
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1939 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	NPS Mission 66
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1939 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Rustic Architecture
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1939 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	NPS Mission 66--Landscape Architecture
Other Facet:	None

Time Period:	CE 1939 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Protection Of Natural And Cultural Resources
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1939 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1939 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Conservation of Natural Resources
Facet:	Scenic Preservation
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1939 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Historic Preservation
Facet:	The Federal Government Enters The Movement
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Engineering
Area of Significance Category:	Entertainment - Recreation
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Category:	Transportation

Statement of Significance:

The 2005 draft NHL nomination indicates that the Blue Ridge Parkway meets NHL Criteria 1 and 4, consistent with National Register Criteria A and C. Thus the cultural landscape of the Humpback Rocks developed area, as a component of the Blue Ridge Parkway, is a nationally significant designed historic landscape that is eligible under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of engineering, entertainment/recreation, landscape architecture, and transportation. The potential exists for significance under Criterion D, as the area is near a significant natural feature in the gap, near a significant transportation corridor in the turnpike, has been settled by Europeans since the 1830s, and contains at least two Archaic period sites. Further research is required to support the significance of archeological resources that remain from these historic periods; the site evolved from the farmsteads and settlements that characterized mountain life as interpreted in the Mountain Farm exhibit.

As one of fifteen developed areas along the Blue Ridge Parkway, and one of just eight in Virginia, the Humpback Rocks developed area is significant as one of the early recreation areas identified by parkway planners where visitors would be afforded an opportunity to connect more deeply with the region through recreation and education. The historic structures and cultural landscapes of the developed area physically represent the full range of National Park Service recreational design from its inception along the Blue Ridge Parkway in the late 1930s through the height of Mission 66 development in the mid-1960s; these design principles conveyed throughout the developed area tie it to the broader 469-mile historic linear landscape. The proposed period of significance for the Humpback Rocks developed area is 1939 to 1965. The beginning date reflects initial construction of the parkway within the developed area (Section 1B), while the end date encompasses the completion of the proposed picnic area facilities under the Mission 66 program.

Per Criterion A, the site is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history in the areas of entertainment/recreation and transportation. In particular, these events include development of the Humpback Rocks site as a recreation area of the Blue Ridge Parkway, a federal park project that offered a new way for motorists to experience the beauty and history of their environment, while assisting in conservation of scenic areas and also providing important social and economic impacts on Appalachia.

As a representative example of recreational development areas along the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Humpback Rocks Developed Area contains includes features associated with the NPS rustic design palette used in initial parkway construction—such as stone storm water drainage headwalls, roughly constructed timber and stone interpretive structures, mortared flagstone paving, and stone slab benches—as well as elements showing the influence of the Mission 66 modifications to this palette—such as the modern style Comfort Station B featuring clean lines and machine-planed materials. As seen in comparable recreation areas along the parkway—Peaks of Otter and Rocky Knob for example—development at Humpback Rocks began concurrent with the parkway, was extended over a couple of decades largely due to the outbreak of World War II, and was completed with the resources made available through the Mission 66 program.

The Humpback Rocks developed area, as well as the Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm component landscape, is significant under Criteria A and C. The Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm component landscape is significant under Criterion A as an educational and recreational area along the Blue Ridge Parkway and as a destination for travel and tourism. The Humpback Rocks developed area is one of several recreation areas identified in the 1934 master plan for the Blue Ridge Parkway as key properties to be located along the parkway, and one of eight recreation areas proposed for the Virginia segment of the parkway, and the first encountered by southbound motorists beginning at milepost 1 of the parkway. The recreation areas expanded the role of the parkway from a linear road corridor to a park. Over decades the Humpback Rocks developed area grew to include the amenities first envisioned by parkway designers: the opportunity to connect with sites of high scenic and natural value through the provision of walking and hiking trails, picnic areas, campgrounds, educational facilities, and a visitor center where visitors can further connect with the offerings of the park. Additionally, as a planned recreation area along the parkway that illustrates the parkway designer's goals for these special features of the route, Humpback Rocks is closely associated with the transportation context in which the parkway is significant as the nation's first long-distance scenic travel route.

The Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm exhibit, opened to the public in 1956, is a collection of nineteenth century farm buildings and structures that were relocated to the site from various sites along the parkway to form an exhibit. Together with a trail, interpretive signs and exhibits, and a living history program of mountain work and crafts by costumed interpreters during the summer months, the Mountain Farm exhibit provides interpretation of life on a small farm in the region during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This type of exhibit falls within a broader context of interpretation used at national parks around the country. Development of the Mountain Farm exhibit at Humpback Rocks is part of the formative period of living history development in the national parks, which led to more extensive efforts in the 1960s with a living historical farm program. Thus, the Mountain Farm exhibit is a significant and early example of a new type of interpretation and public education developed by the National Park Service for its historic sites. In summary, the Mountain Farm component landscape exemplifies the principles of parkway design and recreational tourism planning and development through its landscape design, site engineering, architecture, recreational and interpretive functions within the Peaks of Otter developed area.

Per Criterion C, the Humpback Rocks developed area embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction in the areas of engineering, entertainment/recreation, and landscape architecture and engineering. The Humpback Rocks developed area is likely significant under Criteria C for its association with national trends in park and parkway development, rustic design, Mission 66 planning and design, as well as the site-specific design lexicon established for this, the first national rural parkway corridor.

The Humpback Rocks developed area is significant under Criterion C for the landscape architecture and engineering that successfully provided a linear scenic corridor through the challenging terrain of the Blue Ridge Mountains, while also providing significant recreational amenities that highlight the natural environment. A character-defining feature of the parkway is the inclusion of more intensely developed locations for recreation and interpretation; Humpback Rocks is one of these locations. The Blue Ridge Parkway, including the Humpback Rocks developed area, was developed in phases that included the New Deal era period of planning and design and early construction, post-World War II continuation of work initiated during the New Deal era, and the completion of many outstanding components of the original plan during the Mission 66 initiative, which provided much needed funding. In addition, employees of the Civilian Public Service, a federal agency that allowed conscientious objectors to serve the country in non-military roles during World War II, constructed the wood and stone fence around the meadow at Humpback Gap. The Humpback Rocks developed area contributes to the significance of the Blue Ridge Parkway, a designed historic landscape that is currently being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as a NHL district. The Mountain Farm component landscape has representative landscape features typical of the range of NPS recreation node design—including the rustic style stone culvert headwalls and other storm drainage features, roughly constructed timber and stone structures and small-scale features used as a living history display, wood fencing indicative of local agrarian traditional methods, and native shade tree dotted meadows—that represents the continuation of the initial parkway design style begun during the New Deal era and continued post-World War II. The use of native materials for the construction of landscape elements—such as the stone used in the buildings, site walls, and storm water management features, as well as the timbers in the structures—is also indicative of the distinctive local craftsmanship and indigenous materials typical of the parkway construction process.

The Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm component landscape is also of potential significance under Criterion C as one of several designed interpretive exhibit provided for visitors along the parkway. In describing the pioneer exhibits along the parkway, Firth noted that the pioneer structures incorporated in exhibits along the parkway consist primarily of log structures, with each exhibit "presented as a carefully composed scene." Citing Stanley Abbot, he further noted that structures were selected "for their picturesque architecture and the interest of the legends which surround them." Buildings relocated to form particular groups are exemplified by Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm, with frame additions removed to emphasize the pioneer character of the buildings, and landscape settings altered to "create picturesque effects." (Firth HRS 2005, 474, citing Stanley Abbott, "Annual Report," 30 June 1941, 15.)

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Designed Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Outdoor Recreation

Primary Current Use: Outdoor Recreation

Other Use/Function **Other Type of Use or Function**

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type Of Name
Humpback Rocks	Both Current And Historic
Humpback Rocks	Current
Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm	Current
Humpback Rocks Pioneer Exhibit	Current
Carter Farm	Historic

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1848	Built	Construction began on the Howardsville Turnpike
CE 1870 - 1930	Built	Late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. Original construction of farm buildings at the Hamilton Farm, the John C. Clark Farm, and Cash Hollow, which were later moved to the Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm.

Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm
Blue Ridge Parkway

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1934	Designed	Final plan for Blue Ridge Parkway route drafted and approved. The master plan included Humpback Rocks as one of eighteen proposed recreation areas ...Thomas Vint, Stanley Abbott, Gilmore Clarke (Landscape Architects) Jay Downer, William Austin (Engineers)
CE 1935	Built	Initial construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway began on a twelve-mile stretch of the road just south of the North Carolina/Virginia border near Low Gap, North Carolina
CE 1936	Designed	Blue Ridge Parkway Master Plan Update, including Humpback Rocks as a recreation area...Thomas Vint, Stanley Abbott, Gilmore Clarke (Landscape Architects) Jay Downer, William Austin (Engineers) [assumed the same team for the update]
CE 1939	Land Transfer	The Commonwealth of Virginia conveyed property to the federal government for construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway at Humpback Rocks.
CE 1939 - 1940	Built	A 6.027 mile long section of the Blue Ridge Parkway is constructed from Rockfish Gap to Humpback Rock (Section 1-B).
CE 1939 - 1941	Built	The 9.387-mile-long section of the Blue Ridge Parkway from Humpback Gap through the rest of the developed area (Section 1-C) was constructed.
CE 1941	Established	Sections 1B and 1C of the Blue Ridge Parkway were opened to visitors on October 13.
CE 1942	Designed	Construction documents prepared for the proposed gas station, picnic area, and coffee shop. (Only picnic area would be constructed).
CE 1952 - 1953	Moved	Historic farm structures were relocated and rehabilitated at Humpback Rocks as part of the Mountain Farm exhibit. Structures at the Mountain Farm included the William Ramsey House relocated from the Hamilton Farm; a chicken house, stable, and root cellar relocated from the John C. Clark Farm; and a springhouse, relocated from Cash Hollow. A reproduction bear-proof pig pen was also constructed at this time.
CE 1956	Established	The Mountain Farm exhibit opened to the public
CE 1962	Built	A well was drilled near the Mountain Farm
CE 1987	Built	The final portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway was completed with the opening of the Linn Cove Viaduct.
CE 2000	Built	A pump house was erected in the Mountain Farm exhibit
CE 2009	Built	A universally-accessible asphalt trail was established between the visitor center and the Mountain Farm.
CE 2010	Built	A temporary performance stage was constructed at Mountain Farm

Physical History:

This physical history has been adapted from the 2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report Site History, Existing Conditions, and Analysis and Evaluation sections. The citations were converted from footnotes in the CLR to parenthetical citations in this CLI. As this physical history only covers the Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm exhibit component landscape, for an overarching physical history of the Humpback Rocks Developed Area, refer to that parent landscape physical history.

The Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm Component Landscape Site History

The Blue Ridge Parkway was constructed through this region circa 1939–1941, and paved circa 1947–1950. The Blue Ridge Parkway is divided into sections. The sections located within Virginia are introduced by the number 1, followed by a letter corresponding to their position along the route. The first section, which begins at Rockfish Gap, is 1B. (Section 1A is part of Skyline Drive and is currently administered as part of Shenandoah National Park, located to the north of Rockfish Gap.) It extends to Humpback Gap. The second section, which continues through the remainder of the developed area, is section 1C. Section 1B, which is 6.027 miles long, was constructed between July 1939 and November 1940, while the 9.387-mile-long Section 1C was built between August 1939 and October 1941. Section 1C was described as “one of the roughest of the early parkway projects because of the excessive amount of rock encountered” (Jolley 1969, 118). Sections 1B and 1C were opened to visitors on October 13, 1941.

Humpback Rocks was one of the first sites to be identified as a proposed recreation area along the parkway. Plans prepared for the “Appalachian Parkway” in 1934 identify the land proposed for development. A report that accompanied the 1934 plan called for the construction of a complex of buildings, consisting of a gas station, small restaurant with outdoor seating, a camp store, and rest rooms on the parcels assembled from both privately-owned land and U.S. Forest Service land acquired for the development. A large picnic area would be developed and feature picnic tables and benches as well as fireplaces. Foot trails would be created for hiking, while bridle paths were proposed for horseback riding. (Quin 1997, 177) In the 1936 master plan for the parkway, Stanley Abbott recommended that land at the foot of Humpback Mountain also be acquired for the recreation area. A revised proposal for the developments included in the master plan called for a service station, inn, cabins, campground, picnic area, and hiking trails were proposed at the site; only the picnic area and hiking trails would be constructed once the NPS began development of the site. (Quin 1997, 177) Parkway Resident Landscape Architect Stanley Abbott subsequently recommended that the picnic area be sited near the Greenstone Overlook where the present-day picnic area is located. One possible reason why many of the intended features were never built could be the establishment of the Back Creek Recreational Area in the valley below Humpback Rocks by the U.S. Forest Service around the same time. Parkway development at Humpback Rocks proceeded slowly, due to problems encountered by the National Park Service in acquiring the land needed for the proposed developments.

The original Carter Farm that served as the site for the Mountain Farm exhibit extended over a 55-acre tract that adjoined a larger 340-acre Carter family property. Both were purchased from Samuel Hunter in 1863, and the farmstead associated with the log cabin was owned by W. J. Carter between 1867 and 1904. The parcel of land associated with the Mountain Farm exhibit was acquired for the parkway in 1939 by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Mountain Farm exhibit was conceived as one of six major and nine minor exhibits of local life along the parkway by National Park Service architect Charles S. Grossman in 1952. Grossman considered the Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm site “a very attractive location for a farm group.” (Edward and Haskell 1999, 173) Grossman suggested that buildings be moved onto the site and grouped around the existing Charlie Carter log cabin to create an exhibit. The structures were to be relocated from lands to be obtained for the parkway, and in some cases would have been demolished as a result of parkway construction.

By the time the Mountain Farm exhibit was planned in 1952, the Carter cabin had deteriorated

beyond repair and the National Park Service sought a replacement cabin, along with other examples of local farmstead buildings, to interpret mountain life. Grossman identified several buildings for this purpose in 1950 from the surrounding region. The proposed building arrangement was not, however, consistent with that presented by local farmsteads. The relocated buildings were to be placed in a linear fashion to either side of a central walkway, similar to a streetscape, which was intended to allow groups of visitors to experience the features in a leisurely fashion without feeling crowded. Despite the unusual arrangement of buildings, Grossman hoped to convey the impression of a remote, self-sufficient mountain farm, noting,

Its form represents a romantic vision of mountain life that permitted a blending of concepts of survival of frontier lifeways and early republican independence. Its deliberately rustic detailing represents a continuation of the early American manner popularized as part of the Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts style. (Speer and Haskell 1999, 174)

Relocation and construction of the features of the Mountain Farm exhibit took place from 1952-1953. As the farmhouse at Carter Farm was said to be beyond repair, the William Ramsey House was relocated and rehabilitated at the Mountain Farm. Constructed circa 1890, the Ramsey House was relocated from the Hamilton Farm below Robinson Gap. (Firth NHL Draft, 2005, 178; Robinson Gap is located along the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 50. F. C. Hamilton resided in the Ramsey House at the time it was acquired for the parkway. Hamilton was the son-in-law of William Ramsey.) The Hamilton Farm was located near milepost 51. A "Map of Lands Acquired for the Blue Ridge Parkway," prepared in 1940 by the Virginia Department of Highways, shows a log dwelling situated on a private road. A barn, shed, and stable were present northwest of the log dwelling on the opposite side of the roadway.

In 1950, an inventory of the Ramsey Cabin conducted by the National Park Service indicated that the house featured four rooms on two floors, with a vertical board sheathed north wing containing a kitchen. A porch elevated on 'log stilts' extended wider than the front of the house. The dwelling stood on a stone foundation containing a cellar. Vandals had stripped the house of its staircase and some flooring. (Speer and Haskell 1999, 175) The description also suggested that the cabin contained a hall-chamber or two room plan on the first floor, with additions dating to the early twentieth century. The two-room plan with added frame wing resembled the house at the Johnson Farm at Peaks of Otter and

...its manipulation by the parkway staff to present a more primitive period, is remarkably similar to the story of these two houses.

The log core, minus the porch and wing, was documented in several photographs taken in 1952. The photographs appear to confirm, by the asymmetry of the doors, that there was, in addition to the main room, a small chamber at the south end of the house. The exposed half-dovetailed log structure had a projecting log top plate supported on projecting log ends, weatherboarded gable ends, and two missing doors and one empty sash window. A small six-lighted casement in the north gable lit the garret and a stone chimney with a missing upper stack stood at the south end. The house was roofed with long split shakes carried on lapped and pegged poplar pole rafters. No porch survived.

The sources of the mid-twentieth century romantic interpretation of the house is clear in a narrative of the interpretive findings made in 1950, describing the 'narrow and inhospitable Blue Ridge' and how 'given the chance, the [mountaineer] tended to leave the mountains in the interests of an easier life. Lawless Billy Ramsey, as a colorful character who could sleep between two game wardens and still not stay within the law, fit this notion of the uncivilized mountaineer, in spite of his recent dates and lifelong proximity to the commercial center and well-metalled road at Rockfish Gap. This interpretation led to the recreation of the house in a different form, with more primitive detailing and at a smaller scale than either the Carter or Ramsey House actually exhibited in the late nineteenth century. (Speer and Haskell, 175)

A chicken house, stable, and meat house were relocated to the site from the John C. Clark Farm, which was located near milepost 36. A corn crib associated with the Mason Farm near milepost 40 was also relocated to the site. The "Map of Lands Acquired for the Blue Ridge Parkway" shows a

spring garden with a store house, chicken shed, and an unidentified small structure present east of the garden.

The springhouse was moved from its original location at Cash Hollow near milepost 29. At this farm, two barns and a shed were located along a private road at the west part of the property. Three sheds and an unidentified structure were located to the east of the barns. A garden and a small orchard were situated at the northeast portion of the developed portion of the property. A small spring house was present at the orchard.

In addition to the relocated buildings, the National Park Service constructed a reproduction hog pen and landscape features such as stone fences, a barnyard, an orchard, and a vegetable garden at the Mountain Farm exhibit.

The Mountain Farm exhibit opened to the public in 1956 when the visitor center was completed. The exhibit depicted several cultural responses to the natural environment that were characteristic of the area prior to construction of the parkway. The exhibit illustrated construction methods and materials that related directly to the natural environment and addressed site-specific needs and issues, such as the use of locally available stone and wood materials, the establishment of a bear-proof hog pen, a root cellar to keep perishables cool, and a spring house for water collection, as well as a wooden lye vat to make soap, and a wash tub constructed out of a hollowed log. The arrangement of features within the exhibit was not based on local farmstead models, but rather was a twentieth-century adaptation of the Appalachian vernacular for interpretive purposes.

In 1960, Park Superintendent Sam Weems recommended that Humpback Rocks be expanded using funding from the recently instituted Mission 66 program. Weems sought to acquire more than 20,000 additional acres of land. (By comparison, the developed area today is approximately 1,300 acres.) The extensive expansion plans called for the construction of a small lake, a campground, and an enlarged picnic area. None of these plans were realized, other than an expansion of the picnic area.

In 1962, a 65 foot deep well, capable of producing 60 gallons of water per minute, was drilled near the Mountain Farm to supply potable water to the visitor center. Water was originally stored in a structure that is no longer extant. A pump house building was added in 2000. New interpretive signage and other signs were installed around the developed area during the 1980s and 1990s. A water line was replaced in 1997 from the pump house in the Mountain Farm exhibit to the visitor center. Improvements were made to enhance universal accessibility in 2009, including the path between the visitor center and the Mountain Farm exhibit. In 2010, a temporary performance stage was constructed at the Mountain Farm exhibit. The stage is used for special events and is removed at the end of each season.



FIGURE 6. An undated photo of the William Ramsey house at its original location (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

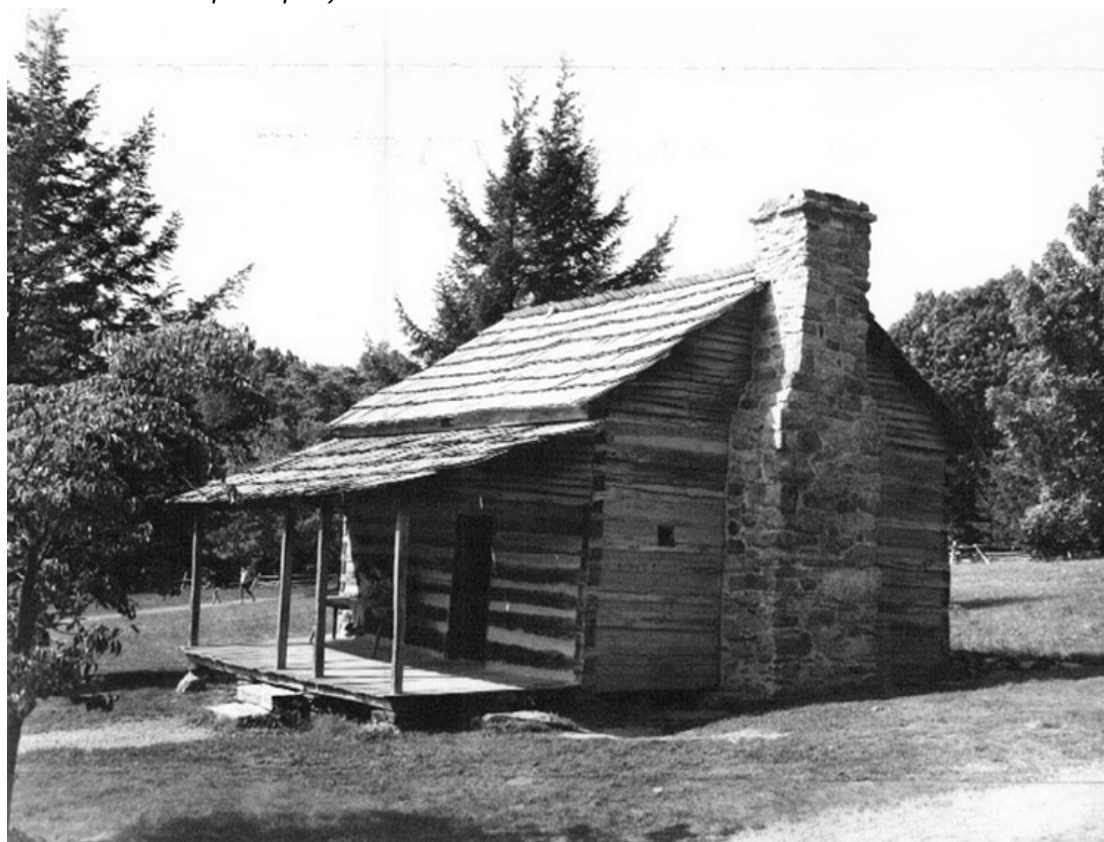


FIGURE 7. The rehabilitated Ramsey house in 1968 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

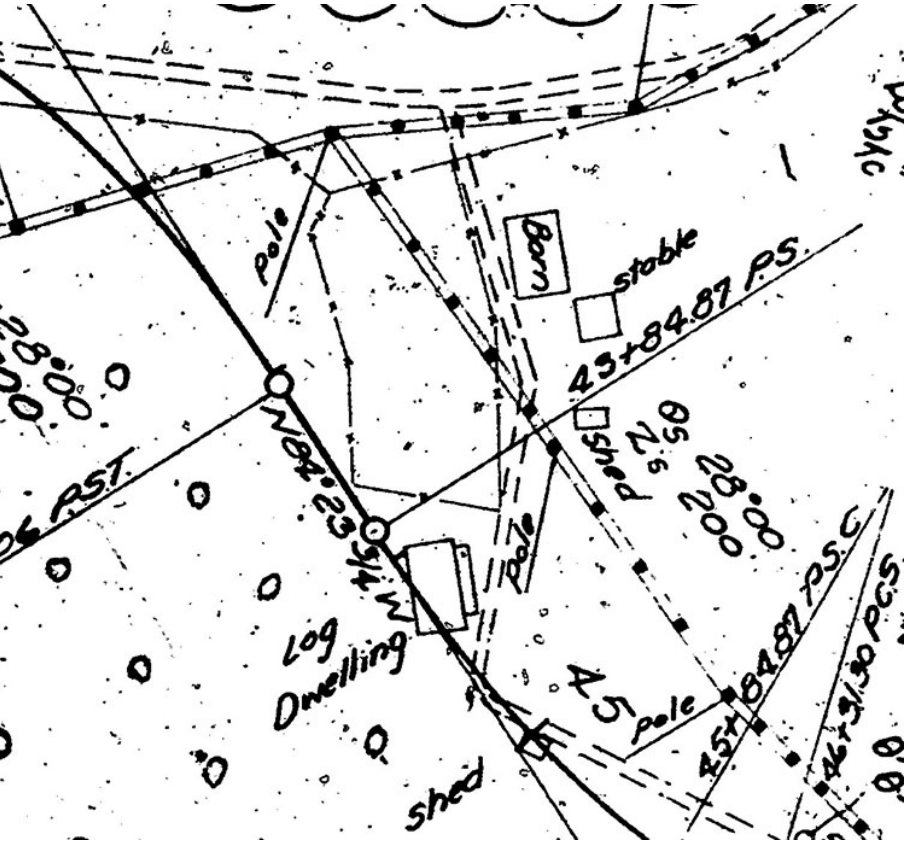


FIGURE 8. Detail of right-of-way map for parkway, 1940, showing original location of Ramsey house at Carter Farm (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 9. The chicken house at the John C. Clark Farm in 1952 before relocation to Humpback Rocks (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 10. Rehabilitation of the root cellar at Humpback Rocks in 1953 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 11. A view of the John C. Clark farm in 1952, before the moving of farm structures (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 12. Detail of right-of-way map for parkway, showing original location of John C. Clark farm structures (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

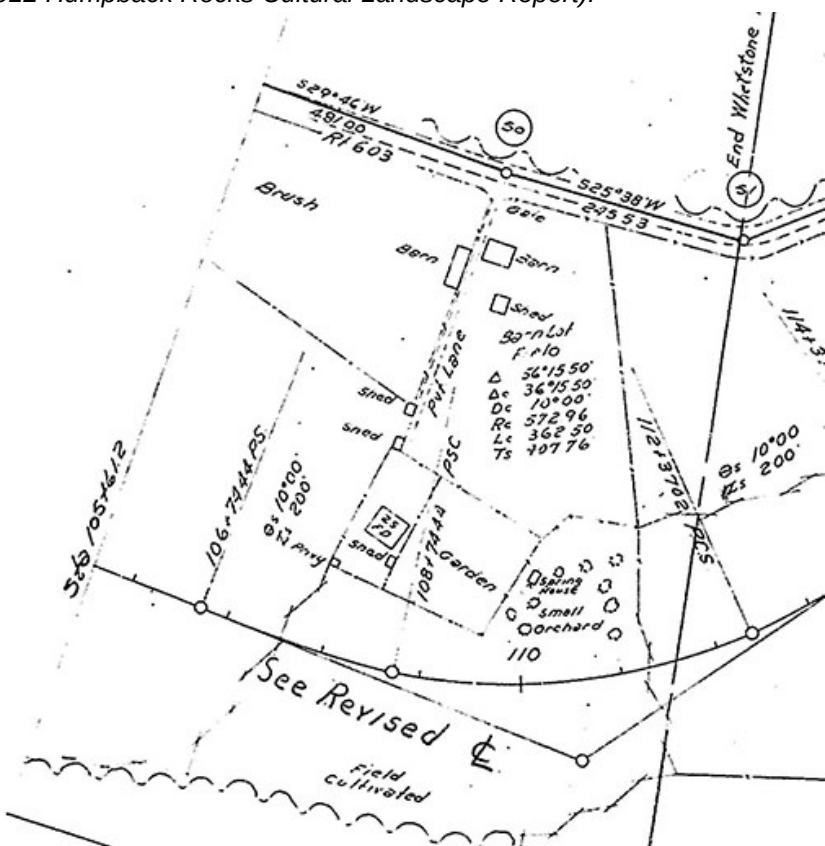


FIGURE 13. Detail of right-of-way map for parkway, showing original location of Cash Hollow structures (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 14. The newly constructed reproduction pig pen at Humpback Rocks in 1953 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

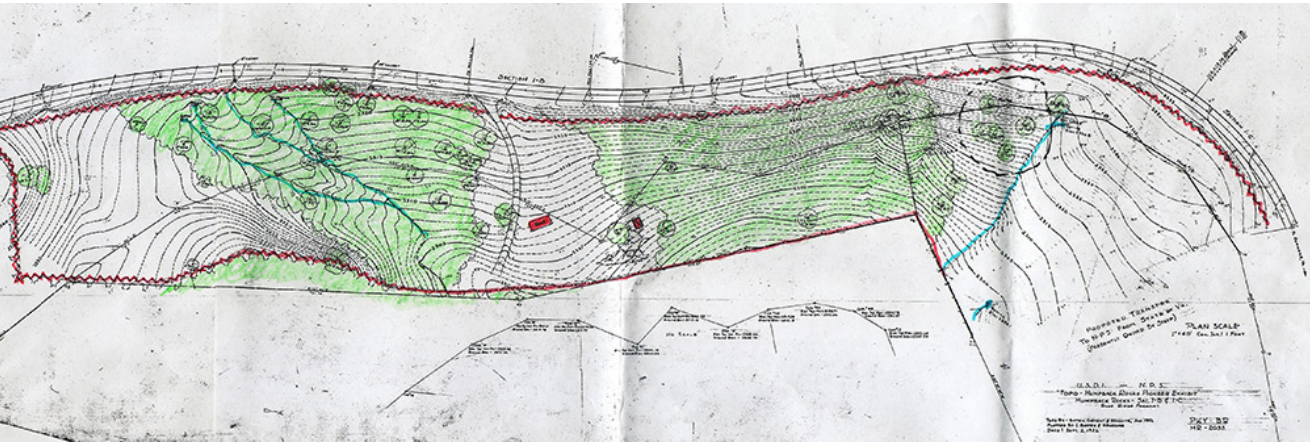


FIGURE 15. Existing conditions at the site of the future Mountain Farm exhibit, also showing future visitor center, on survey dated 1952 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

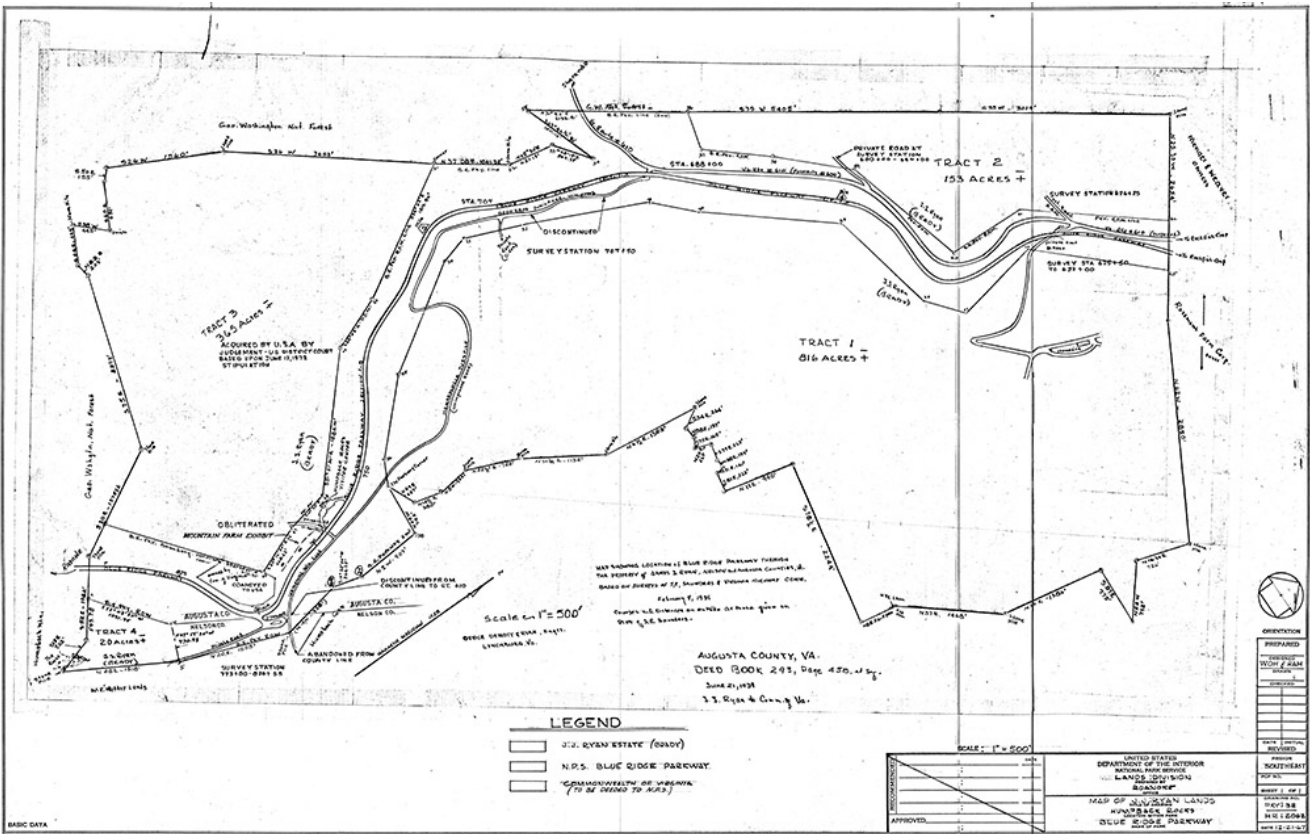


FIGURE 16. Land ownership and roads that preceded the parkway. Map dated 1967 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

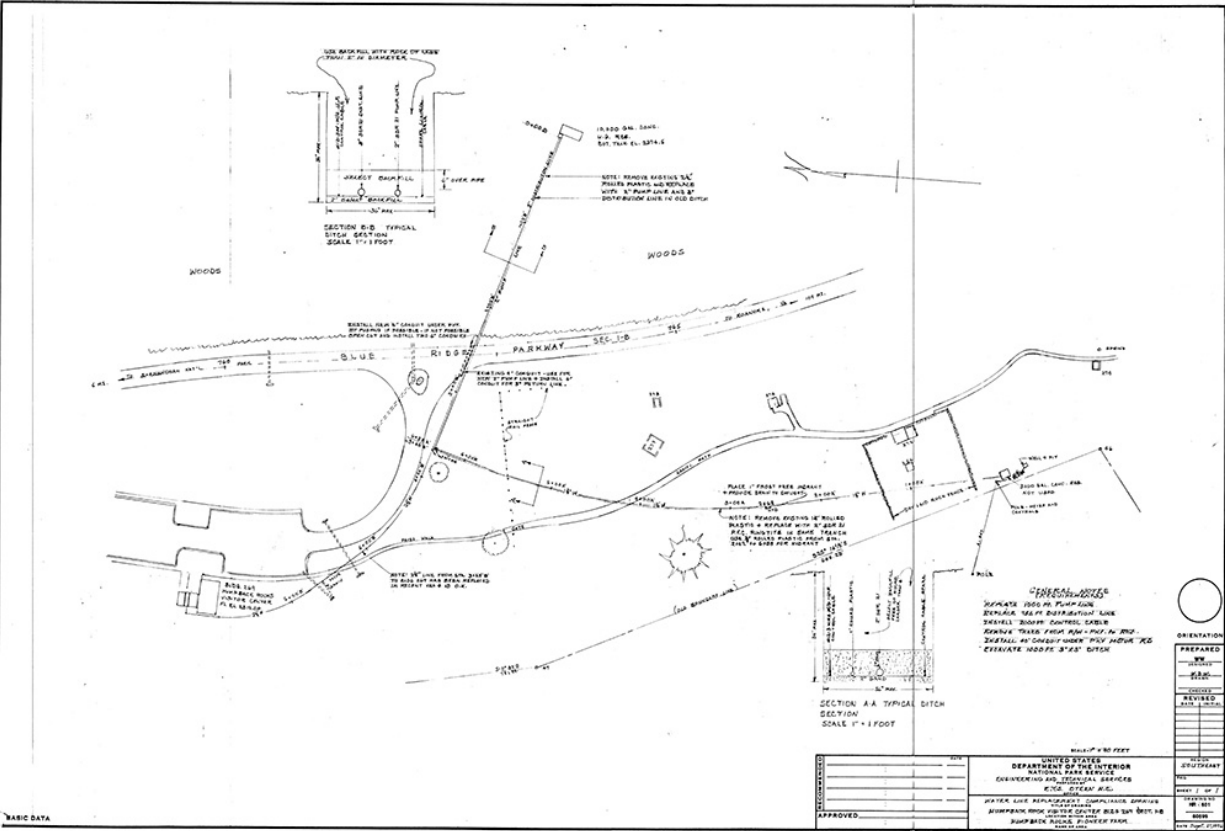


FIGURE 17. Utility map showing water supply to the visitor center from pump house in Mountain Farm exhibit, 1996 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

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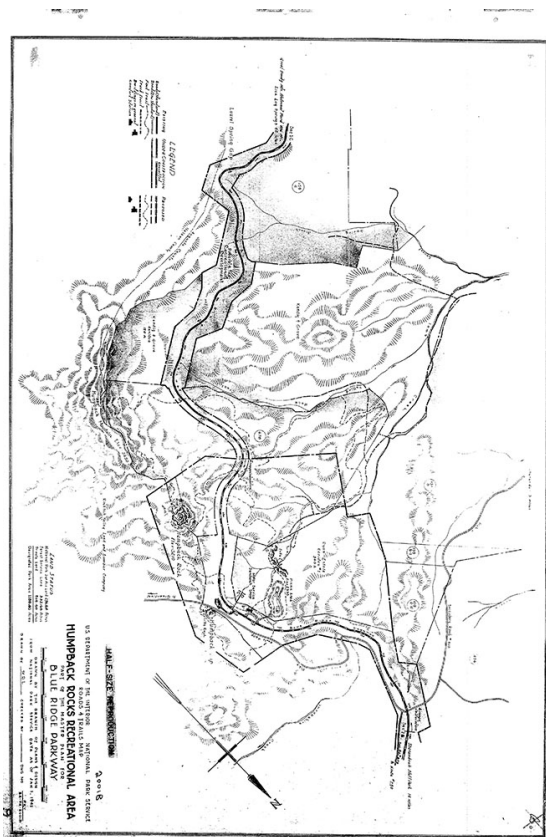


FIGURE 18. Proposed roads and trails in the Humpback Rocks area, 1941 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

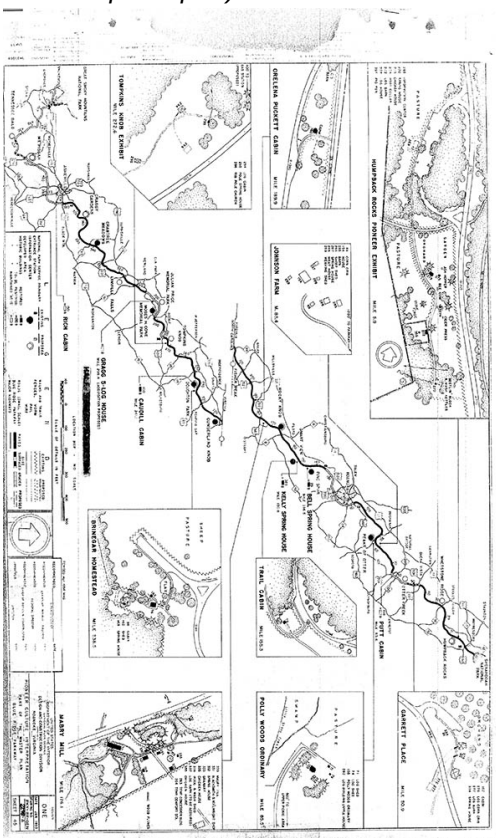


FIGURE 19. Interpretation of pioneer culture along the parkway, 1953 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

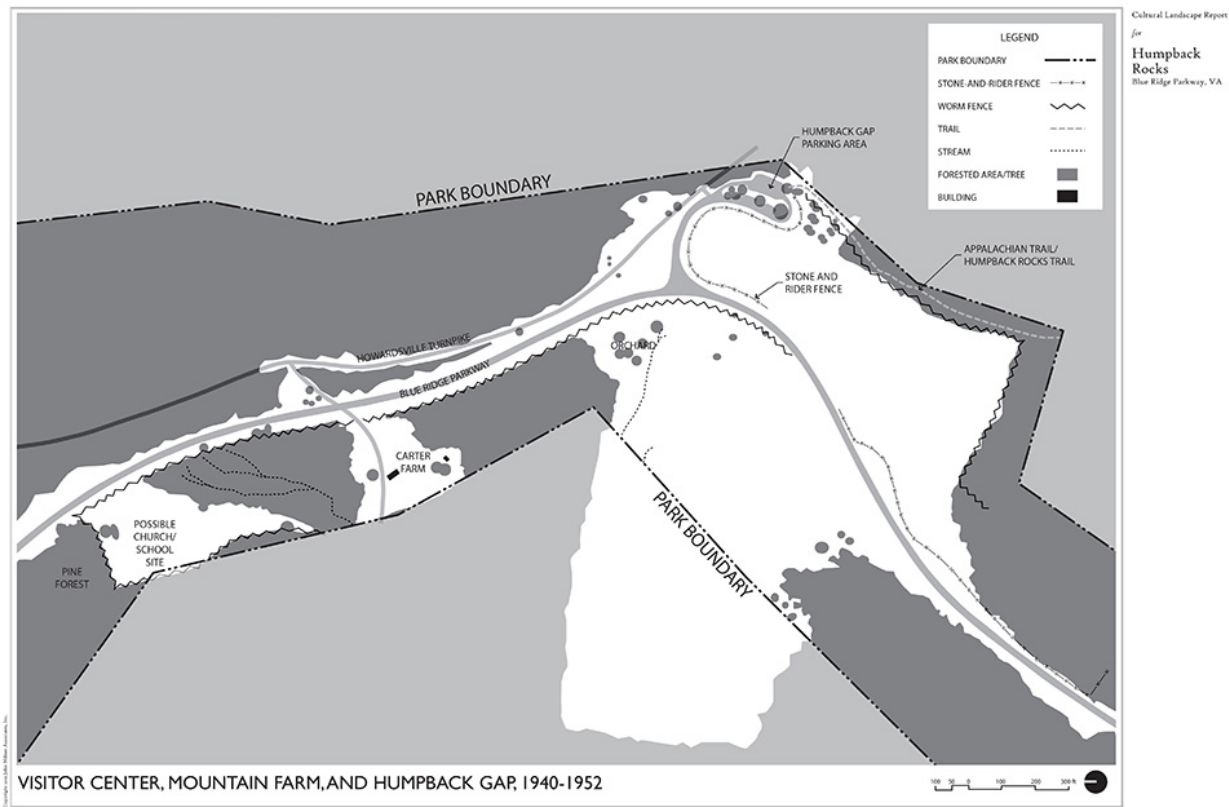


FIGURE 20. 1940-1952 Period Plan (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

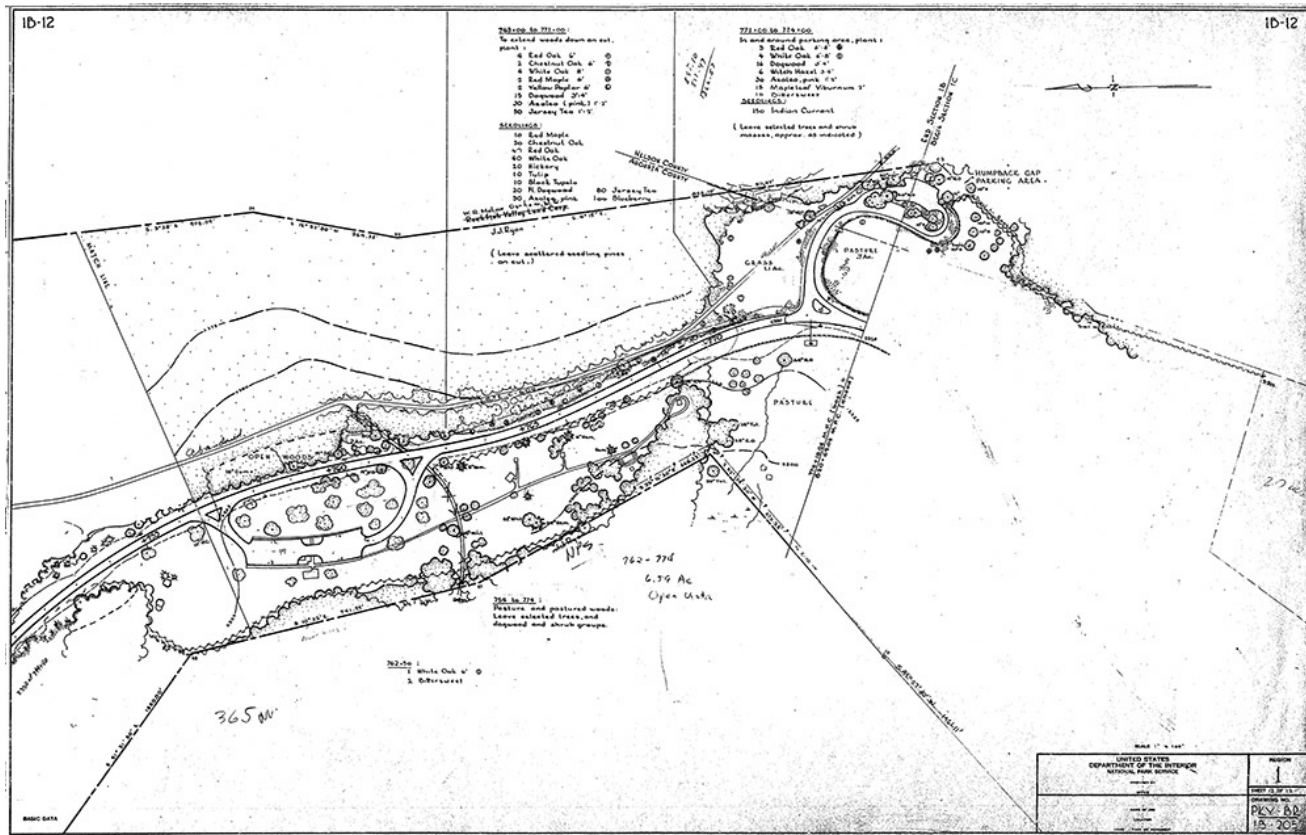


FIGURE 21. Parkway Land Use Map, Section 1-B, sheet 12, showing the visitor center, Mountain Farm exhibit, and a portion of Humpback Gap and Trail parking area (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm component landscape, within the Humpback Rocks developed area, contains landscape features related to the landscape characteristics of Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Cluster Arrangement, Land Use, Topography, Vegetation, Circulation, Buildings and Structures, Views and Vistas, Small-Scale Features and Archaeological Sites. This section provides an overview of these existing features, as well as a discussion of their integrity related to the historic significance of the parent landscape, Humpback Rocks developed area.

Because the Blue Ridge Parkway was built through a region that formerly supported cultural occupation and use, future archeological investigations may reveal the presence of resources that possess significant information potential. Therefore while they are outside of the period of significance, the knowledge of resources associated with pre-parkway cultural activities, such as the Howardsville and Rockfish Gap Turnpike, are included in this CLI to support preservation planning actions and activities, as well as interpretation.

Landscape Characteristics

The Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm component landscape exists within the natural systems and features associated with the Humpback Gap passage between Dobie Mountain to the north, and Humpback Mountain to the south. The complex is edged by native successional oak-hickory Eastern deciduous hardwood forest on the east and west sides, and contains a spring that is incorporated into the spring house of the exhibit, as well as several ephemeral streams and seeps. The overall integrity of the natural systems and features in the Mountain

Farm component landscape remains intact and contributes to its significance.

The Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm component landscape is spatially arranged along the west side of the Blue Ridge parkway, south of and connected to the visitor center complex. The exhibit is linearly structured about a central walkway, lies parallel with the parkway corridor, and is set against a backdrop of the surrounding native forest. This spatial organization is consistent with the 1947 Parkway Land Use Maps (PLUMs), and the original 1952-1953 construction of the exhibit. The expansion of some forested areas has slightly impacted spatial organization in the component landscape, with the increased density of the woodland along the east further separating the parkway from the exhibit, and along the west filling in areas that were formally open ground for agricultural interpretation.

Related to spatial organization, the cluster arrangement of facilities within the Humpback Rocks developed area along the parkway is character defining, as is the clustering of the exhibit structures along the central walk, and the clustering of small-scale features with the exhibit structures based on interpretation of former use, within the Mountain Farm component landscape. This remains consistent with the 1947 PLUMs and the 1952-1953 construction of the exhibit.

Land uses within the Humpback Rocks developed area are primarily consistent with those established beginning with parkway construction in 1939-1941. Within the Mountain Farm component landscape, interpretive/museum/educational, transportation, and agricultural land uses survive from the period of significance.

Topography in evidence from the period of significance includes the careful placement of the parkway, exhibit walkway, and buildings within the terrain, as well as the characteristic use of the Humpback Gap plateau as a relatively level platform for construction of the features of the developed area. The sensitive use of site engineering features, from retaining walls to storm water management structures, also remains evident from the period of significance. These topographic modifications survive with integrity and contribute to the historic landscape.

Vegetation remains within the Mountain Farm component landscape from the period of significance and contributes to the historic landscape. Surviving and contributing are the scattered native and specimen shade trees throughout the exhibit and along the parkway corridor, some native shrub plantings along the parkway, cherries planted as an orchard within the exhibit, and garden and pasture interpretations as crafted by the farm exhibit designers.

Several circulation features located within the Humpback Rocks developed area survive from the period of significance and contribute to the significance of the historic landscape. Within the Mountain Farm component landscape, the vehicular circulation established by the Blue Ridge parkway in 1939-1941, and the pedestrian circulation established from 1952-1953 in the form of the self-guided trail, survive from the period of significance with integrity and contribute to the historic landscape. Additionally, the trace of the Howardsville and Rockfish Gap Turnpike, dating to circa 1848-1857, remains evident in the component landscape, recalling early transportation patterns through the mountains.

Several buildings were relocated from existing farms along the Blue Ridge Parkway corridor to establish the Mountain Farm exhibit in 1952-1953. Farm buildings from the Hamilton Farm located near milepost 51, the John C. Clark farm located one mile to the north of Irish Gap at milepost 36.4, and from Cash Hollow near milepost 29, were dismantled and reassembled to create an interpretation of the Appalachian lifeways predating the parkway. One additional structure, the bear-proof pig pen, was built as a part of the exhibit at the time the other buildings were being reconstructed. These buildings and structures of roughly constructed local timber and gathered stone survive from the period of significance with integrity, and contribute to the historic landscape. A pump house and a performance stage in the component landscape postdate the period of significance.

Views of the surrounding mountain and valley landscape were a primary determining factor in the layout of the Blue Ridge Parkway, as well as the location of the Mountain Farm exhibit. The parkway was sited to allow views of the Humpback Rock formation to south-bound travelers. The exhibit was sited to allow views to the Humpback Rock formation from the north end of the component landscape. These views remain as designed and contribute to the historic landscape. Some diminishment of views has occurred due to the expansion of woodland around the area.

Small-scale features surviving within the Humpback Rocks developed area recall the intentional use by parkway designers of native materials in construction of recreational features—as seen in the stone used in the spring surround and the wall around the barnyard interpretation—as well as the fencing styles of the Appalachian agrarian traditions—evident in the wooden worm fencing at the perimeter of the Mountain Farm exhibit and the kissing gate at the southern end of the exhibit. Unique to the exhibit are small-scale features interpreting local ingenuity—such as the counterweighted gate at the entrance to the exhibit—and implements interpreting working elements of a homestead—including the wash tub, ash hopper, lye vat, and other elements throughout the exhibit. Stone headwalls on drainage features and a stone lined detention basin likewise use native materials, and are characteristic of parkway design. These small-scale features survive within the Mountain Farm component landscape, and contribute to the historic landscape.

Archeological investigations were carried out within the Mountain Farm component landscape in 1978. The work indicated that the agricultural demonstration field was worth protecting from any additional ground disturbance and looting, presumably due to the potential for future investigation to yield additional information. Additionally, the use of the area as a part of the Carter family farm, as well as the presence of springs and the turnpike, suggest the information potential of the component landscape for future investigators.

Aspects of Integrity

Based on the comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions conveyed in the 2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report, the Humpback Rocks Mountain Farm component landscape possesses sufficient integrity for the period of significance (1939-1965) to convey its important historical associations, and contribute to the integrity of the overall Humpback Rocks developed area. Plans and a report prepared for the “Appalachian Parkway” in 1934 identify the land proposed for Humpback Rocks development, including many of the recreational and visitor services components that exist today. The 1936 master plan by parkway Resident Landscape Architect Stanley Abbott further clarified the character and use of the developed area. The 1947 Parkway Land Use Maps (PLUMs) indicated the general design of components of the developed area. The Mountain Farm exhibit was conceptualized on these PLUMs, and designed as a part of the overall parkway series of pioneer life exhibits along the parkway by National Park Service architect Charles S. Grossman in 1952. The present arrangement of features in the Mountain Farm component landscape originates in these plans and documents. Three key elements convey the important associations of the Humpback Rocks developed area as part of the national significance of the Blue Ridge Parkway. These include the way designers responded to natural systems and features, the land uses incorporated, and circulation features. The exhibit is a realization of the interpretive/museum/educational land use, among others, intended by parkway designers.

1. Location: The Mountain Farm component landscape possesses integrity of location because it is located as first envisioned by Blue Ridge Parkway Resident Landscape Architect Stanley Abbott in 1934 when the site was first identified as a key recreation opportunity, and shown on the 1947 PLUMs for section 1-B of the parkway. Although work on several components of the original design was never initiated, the existing designed historic landscape survives with integrity in its original location. The Mountain Farm component landscape remains on parkway right when travelling south, on the extended plateau of Humpback Gap, sited with a view to Humpback Rocks, and in association with the Visitor Center component landscape to the north, and the Humpback Gap and Trail component landscape to the south.

2. Setting: The Humpback Rocks developed area possesses integrity of setting due to the relatively undeveloped character of the landscape within view and along the boundary of the parkway. In the Mountain Farm component landscape, the continued associations with the surrounding native Eastern deciduous forest, the level terrain of Humpback Gap, the springs and streams that led to the use of this site as a homestead prior to parkway construction, and the fields and meadow within the component landscape that recall pre-parkway conditions that were the impetus for the creation of this exhibit interpreting mountain lifeways support integrity of setting. The increased woodland has somewhat impacted the setting, as the exhibit is now likely more separated from the parkway than intended, and an area of open meadow or pasture on the west side of the exhibit is now woodland. Other than this increase, the setting remains rural and vernacular as it had been at the time the parkway was initially conceived in 1934.

3. Design: The Mountain Farm component landscape retains a high degree of integrity of design because it is consistent with the layout evident on the 1947 PLUMs, and the specific form and structure of the pioneer life

exhibit as designed in 1952, and constructed from 1951-1953. The rustic nature of the relocated exhibit buildings and NPS constructed structures, the locally-sourced wood fence designs and interpretive homestead elements scattered throughout the exhibit, the use of native timber and stone in many aspects of site construction from buildings to circulation to small-scale features, and the organization of the exhibit along an easily strolled central axial walkway, retain integrity to the design intent. Although are not in their original locations, they were chosen for their historic vernacular character and local pre-parkway-era building techniques, such as V-notching and the use of few nails in their construction, to provide visitors with an understanding of mountain life. The addition of new styles of signage and interpretive media has somewhat affected integrity of design of the component landscape, as has the appearance of social trails on the landscape, leading to various areas of the exhibit.

4. Materials: The Mountain Farm component landscape retains a high degree of integrity of materials due to the retention of the original locally-sourced stone and wood construction in the buildings, stone circulation features such as steps, the stone retaining walls, and some small-scale wood and stone features and interpretive elements. Some of the changes made to the Mountain Farm structures to adapt them to the site and to replace deteriorated or missing historic building fabric has diminished their integrity as traditional farm buildings, however, for the most part, the materials used in the original construction have been maintained or have been replaced in kind, perpetuating the integrity of the resources. Where materials that are subject to decay such as wooden fencing have been replaced, an attempt has been made to match the original design drawings, using in-kind materials. The addition of new styles of signage and interpretive media have somewhat affected integrity of materials in the component landscape.

5. Workmanship: The Mountain Farm component landscape retains a high degree of integrity of workmanship. As with integrity of design and materials, the retention of the locally-sourced, hand-worked timber—as well as native stone—in the relocated exhibit buildings, and the NPS constructed bear-proof pig pen and counterbalanced wood gate, are key to this aspect of integrity. These features portray the rustic craftsmanship of the pre-parkway homesteaders, and the artisanship of parkway builders in relocating and restoring these features, as well as that of the staff who maintain the historic integrity in their repair and cyclical maintenance efforts. The loss of a stone slab bench in the component landscape slightly affects integrity of workmanship. The addition of new styles of signage and interpretive media have somewhat affected integrity of workmanship in the component landscape.

6. Feeling: The Humpback Rocks developed area possesses integrity of feeling for the period of significance due to the continued presence of the Blue Ridge Parkway corridor and its rustic character derived from the use of locally-native materials, and visual connections to natural features and conditions representative of the Blue Ridge Mountains such as Humpback Gap, Humpback Mountain, native woodland plant communities, and stream corridors. The Mountain Farm component landscape supports integrity of feeling as it continues to have this connection to the parkway, to the terrain of Humpback Gap and the visual connection to Humpback Rock, as well as the physical relationship to the Visitor Center and Humpback Gap and Trail component landscapes. In addition, the retained integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship throughout the component landscape helps create integrity of feeling. The substantial increase in woodland vegetation that obscures the sense of openness that once characterized farming communities within the region has altered the feeling of the historic landscape to a limited degree.

7. Association: As with integrity of feeling, the Humpback Rocks developed area possesses integrity of association for the period of significance due to the continued presence of the Blue Ridge Parkway corridor and its rustic character derived from the use of locally-native materials, and visual connections to natural features and conditions representative of the Blue Ridge Mountains such as Humpback Gap, Humpback Mountain, native woodland plant communities, and stream corridors. In the Mountain Farm component landscape, the presence of the relocated exhibit structures and interpretive elements, and their retained integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship, help to create the historic association with the events interpreted by the exhibit, as well as the creation of the exhibit as a component of the developed area. The increased woodland has impacted association to a limited degree, as the former open farm land is becoming more forested.

Landscape Characteristic:

Natural Systems and Features

The Mountain Farm exhibit was built on a level plateau near Humpback Gap, in association with the visitor center complex, when constructed from 1952-1953. The exhibit was created with an open ground plane extending beneath scattered shade and fruit trees. Natural landforms influenced the selection of this site as a recreation area by early parkway designers, as well as the placement of the exhibit. The Humpback Gap plateau provided a relatively level area for development of the visitor center complex, the Mountain Farm exhibit, and the Humpback Gap and Trail parking area. A triad of peaks—Dobie Mountain at 2,680 feet above mean sea level (AMSL), Humpback Rocks at 3,080 feet AMSL, and Humpback Mountain at 3,615 AMSL—existed within or near the site; Humpback Rocks and Humpback Mountain had long served as local landmarks and tourist destinations. The developed area was predominantly wooded, with open agricultural fields and pastures interspersed throughout the native Eastern deciduous second- and third-growth oak-hickory hardwood forest. The Mountain Farm and Visitor Center component landscapes were placed in one of these open pastures that existed prior to parkway construction.

Existing Condition:

All of the extant natural systems and features associated with the Mountain Farm component landscape, including the relationship of the exhibit to the plateau of Humpback Gap, the surrounding native forest, the rural, rugged, mountainous terrain and rolling to steep landforms, and springs and streams, were present during the period of significance, and survive today with a high degree of integrity.

Like the visitor center, this component landscape is located on a broad upland plateau slightly below the Blue Ridge Parkway. The plateau is edged by more steeply-sloped topography to the south and east where it meets the road. To the west, the land falls away dramatically at the edge of the upland plateau. Woodland vegetation obscures a visual understanding of this topography.

A natural spring exists within the Mountain Farm component landscape that has been developed in association with an exhibit spring house. The outflow is diverted downslope through culverts and pipes to avoid conflicts with the nearby trail. In addition, there are several unnamed ephemeral streams that convey the overland flow associated with seeps and storm water during and after storm events.

Small clusters of native forest trees remain, in addition to the variety of ornamental and cultivated plantings in the exhibit. Eastern deciduous hardwood forest dominated by hickory and oak, typical to the region, continues to frame the component landscape to the south, east, and west. Much of the woodland is less than one hundred years of age due to late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century cultivation and logging. Forests within the component landscape are successional communities consistent with those present during the period of significance and contribute to the historic landscape.

The existing forest differs from its nineteenth-century counterpoint in several key ways, the loss of the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), the colonizing of Eurasian species with the potential to displace and disrupt native plant species, the greater percentage of fire intolerant species than were present previously, and the general maturing and expansion of the forest, resulting in a denser woodland. Described as open woods on the 1947 PLUMs, the woodlands today appear to have become more layered, limiting the distance visitors can view into them from the parkway. In the Mountain Farm component landscape, woodland has expanded along the eastern and western edges, resulting in additional separation from the parkway, as well as filling in areas initially intended for exhibit use.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name: Eastern deciduous hardwood forest
CLI Feature ID: 179937
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Rock outcrops
CLI Feature ID: 179939
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Named and unnamed streams
CLI Feature ID: 179941
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Spring at Mountain Farm
CLI Feature ID: 179943
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

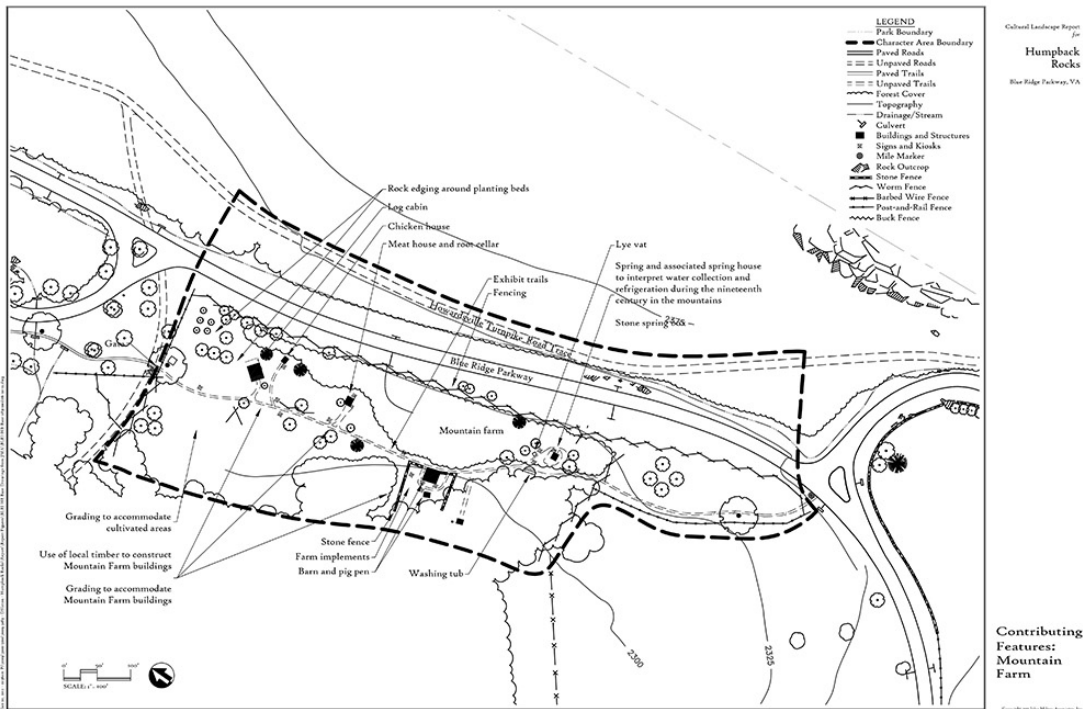


FIGURE 22. Contributing features, Mountain Farm component landscape (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

Landscape Characteristic:
Spatial Organization

Historic Condition:

The Mountain Farm component landscape was designed to be organized around a centrally-located self-guided trail that extended north/south through the exhibit features and connected the site to both the visitor center and the Humpback Rocks trailhead. Buildings, structures, and other features associated with interpretation of the site as a pioneer mountain farm were oriented along the linear trail. There was also a small agricultural field in the northwest corner of the component landscape and a small apple orchard in the northeast corner. The Mountain Farm exhibit was edged to the east by the linear corridor of the parkway.

Existing Condition:

Two extant patterns of spatial organization survive from the period of significance and contribute to the significance of the component landscape. The primary pattern throughout the developed area is established by the Blue Ridge Parkway, which passes through this component landscape. The parkway is a linear open space corridor that generally flows through a wooded landscape edged at intervals by open fields, mountainous landforms and dramatic expansive views. While portions of the corridor are more wooded today than was the case historically, the patterns of spatial organization associated with the parkway corridor survive from the period of significance with integrity.

Second, the current patterns of spatial organization exhibited within the Mountain Farm exhibit are consistent with those established on the site in 1952-1953, and survive from the period of significance with a high degree of integrity.

Missing spatial organization patterns include those of the farmsteads present prior to construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and associated fields, roads, and building complexes.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: The linear spatial corridor associated with the Blue Ridge Parkway

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Forest cover adjacent to the road corridor that creates a sense of spatial containment

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Streetscape associated with the Mountain Farm exhibit

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Use of upland plateaus to site the Mountain Farm agricultural exhibits

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Blue Ridge Parkway corridor designed to offer an ever-changing view of the dramatic and beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain scenery and to lie lightly on the land

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Woodland growth obscures some formerly open spaces associated with cultural developments and agricultural field patterns

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



FIGURE 23. A view of the Mountain Farm exhibit including the log cabin, agricultural field, and trail (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

**Landscape Characteristic:
Cluster Arrangement**

Historic Condition:
Spatial organization associated with the Humpback Rocks developed area included tightly-grouped clusters of features designed to support a discrete function such as the visitor center and Mountain Farm exhibit area, the picnic grounds, and Humpback Rocks trailhead. These clusters were located adjacent to or near the parkway corridor, and were generally modest in size, with elements designed to follow the form of the land. In the Mountain Farm component landscape, the relocated exhibit structures were placed at intervals along the central pedestrian walkway, with further clustering of exhibit elements—such as the ash hopper and laundry basin at the spring house—where appropriate for interpretive function. The orchard and the crop field were placed at the north end of the exhibit, closest to the visitor center.

Existing Condition:
Cluster arrangement associated with the Mountain Farm exhibit remains largely as constructed, with the exception of an intrusion of successional forest on the west side of the exhibit, filling the formerly open space that recalled the clearing of a mountain homestead. This arrangement contributes to the significance of the historic landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name: Exhibit structures along central walk

CLI Feature ID: 179945

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Exhibit elements in interp. groupings

CLI Feature ID: 179947

Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic:
Land Use**

Historic Condition:

Interpretive/museum/educational, transportation, and agricultural land uses were established within the component landscape during the period of significance.

Interpretive/museum/educational land uses were an important component of the Humpback Rocks developed area planning and design efforts. The primary example of this use was realized with the establishment in 1952-1953 of the Mountain Farm exhibit that interprets pioneer life and farming through the relocation of a collection of authentic local farmstead buildings and outbuildings.

Transportation has been an important land use through the Humpback Rocks region since the mid-nineteenth century when the Howardsville Turnpike was established through Humpback Gap circa 1848–1857. The Blue Ridge Parkway offered additional transportation options to travelers through the area when constructed in this region in 1939-1941.

Agricultural uses that predate parkway construction were continued in the component landscape in the form of the Mountain Farm exhibits.

Existing Condition:

Interpretive/museum/educational, transportation, and agricultural land uses survive from the period of significance and contribute to the significance of the Mountain Farm component landscape. Utility use postdates the period of significance.

The primary land use associated with this component landscape is the museum/interpretive/educational focus of the Mountain Farm self-guided trail and adjacent relocated buildings and structures used to portray aspects of pioneer life in the area during the late 1800s. A small cultivated field and an apple orchard at the north end of the component landscape are used to interpret agricultural practices in the area prior to the development of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Blue Ridge Parkway is associated with transportation land uses. The well house, a recent addition that postdates the period of significance, is associated with utility functions. The exhibit collection survives with a high degree of integrity.

Missing land uses include the educational, industrial, religious, and residential uses of the mid-19th to early 20th centuries.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name:	Agriculture
CLI Feature ID:	179951
Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature Name:	Interpretive/Museum/Educational
CLI Feature ID:	179953
Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature Name:	Transportation
CLI Feature ID:	179955
Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature Name:	Utility
CLI Feature ID:	179957
Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic:
Topography

Historic Condition:

The component landscape includes a portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Grading to establish the parkway through the Humpback Rocks area was completed in 1939–1941. Grading involved establishment of a relatively level road corridor edged by gently-sloped shoulders, smooth connections back to the natural contour of the land, and ditching in some locations. The road was designed to include mostly curvilinear alignments connected by short tangent sections. Curves were super elevated for the driving comfort of motorists. The horizontal and vertical alignments of the road were designed to be harmonious with each other, as well as with the form of the land, using minimal cut and fill sections. The corridor was designed to offer an ever-changing view of the dramatic and beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain scenery, and to lie lightly on the land. Despite these intended guidelines, extensive earth moving and some rock blasting were often required to establish the parkway corridor. Section 1C, which includes the Humpback Rocks developed area, was as “one of the roughest of the early parkway projects because of the excessive amount of rock encountered.” (Jolley 1969, 118)

Grading was required to establish relatively level precincts for the Mountain Farm exhibit buildings in 1952–1953. Minimal grading was used to construct the original trail.

Existing Condition:

Several topographic modifications are character-defining for the period of significance in the Mountain Farm component landscape, and contribute to the significance of the historic landscape. These include the manner in which the parkway, walks, cultivated areas, and buildings were carefully fit to the landform and terrain, the use of level plateaus to site developed area features, the sensitive use of site engineering in the form of retaining walls, paving, graded earth, and storm water management structures to accommodate cultural activities, and the shaping of the terrain to accommodate the relocated exhibit structures. In some cases, stone retaining walls and steps are used to access structures such as the log cabin and the second story of the cellar and meat house/gear loft.

Other topographic modifications relate to a road trace that pass through the component landscape—the Howardsville Turnpike; this grading contributes to the significance of the historic landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Grading to accommodate Mountain Farm exhibit buildings, structures, and trail

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Grading to accommodate Mountain Farm exhibit cultivated areas

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Grading to accommodate the Blue Ridge Parkway

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic:
Vegetation

Historic Condition:

Garden, pasture, and orchard exhibits were installed in the Mountain Farm component landscape during initial construction from 1952-1953. Native tree and shrub plantings were installed along the parkway road corridor to enhance the native forest. Species indicated for the plantings used to cover the initial road cuts as indicated on the 1947 PLUMS include red oak (*Quercus rubra*), chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), dogwood (*Cornus florida*), pink azalea (*Rhododendron* spp.), and Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*).

In the vicinity of the Mountain Farm exhibit, species recommended for planting on the PLUMs included red oak, white oak, dogwood, witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), pink azalea, mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), and Indian currant (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*). Seedlings of red oak, chestnut oak, white oak, hickory (*Carya* sp.), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), flowering dogwood, Jersey tea, blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.), and pink azalea were also recommended for planting. These were planted around and among individual existing trees labeled on the PLUMs to remain. The species present included hickories, walnuts (*Juglans nigra*), tulip poplar, black gum, hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), white oak, and red oak.

A grouping of cherry trees (*Prunus* sp.) was likely planted around the springhouse exhibit in the 1950s. Fruit trees were shown as present during the early years of the parkway on the ROW and PLUM mapping on the ridge prior to construction of the Mountain Farm. Apples (*Malus domestica*) were planted as part of the Mountain Farm exhibit in the 1980s. Additional apple saplings were added in 2010.

Maps of the Humpback Rocks developed area prepared in the 1950s and 1960s indicate an area maintained in open vegetative cover, including pasture and cultivated crop fields west of the exhibit, as part of the interpretation of the Mountain Farm exhibit.

Existing Condition:

Vegetation within the Mountain Farm exhibit consists of mown grass, exhibit plantings, large shade trees, a small apple orchard in the north end of the component landscape, and scattered native forest trees. Vegetation that survives from the period of significance and contributes to the significance of the historic landscape includes the garden, pasture, orchard exhibits, and native and specimen shade trees at the Mountain Farm, and the native tree and shrub plantings along the parkway corridor that were added to enhance the native forest. Many of the species of trees and shrubs indicated on 1947 PLUMs remain present within the landscape today.

Much of the component landscape is maintained in mown grasses, particularly around the cabin and other buildings. Few orchards survive within the region today. There is a grouping of cherry trees around the springhouse exhibit that may date to the 1950s, therefore these trees are contributing features. There is also a small apple orchard located between the fence and the log cabin. A few older trees, likely planted in the 1980s, are present. The park believes these to be the Red Delicious variety. Additional saplings of Virginia Winesap and Macintosh varieties were planted in 2010 to replenish the exhibit orchard. The 1980s and 2010 fruit trees are not contributing features. A cultivated field features crop exhibits. Several large shade trees are located within the area, including a large black walnut near the north entrance to the component landscape, a large white oak near the spring house, and another large red oak along the trail at the southern end of the component landscape. Successional woodland and native forest trees overhang portions of the Mountain Farm exhibit and edge it to the east, west, and south.

The northern half of the component landscape is surrounded by forest, while the southern portion is bordered by vegetative growth of a more open character. Species observed include witch hazel, dogwood, crabapple (*Malus* sp.), red oak, birch (*Betula* sp.), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), chokecherry, red maple, green and white ash (*Fraxinus americana* and *F. pennsylvanica*), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). Invasive species are also present within the area and include multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*).

Formerly open areas have been allowed to revert to woodland cover in the component landscape. A more extensive area was originally maintained in open vegetative cover as part of the interpretation of the Mountain Farm exhibit. Pasture and cultivated crop fields located west of the exhibit have reverted to successional woodland cover, and areas that may have included open-grown trees along the margins of the road and existing fields have now become forested. These woodlands postdate the period of significance and are not consistent with the intent of early parkway designers.

Fruit trees indicated on the ridge prior to construction of the Mountain Farm are no longer extant. Local farm fields and orchards preceding the establishment of the Blue Ridge Parkway through the area are no longer in existence.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name: Specimen & native shade trees at Mt Farm

CLI Feature ID: 179959

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Mown field associated w Mt Farm exhibit

CLI Feature ID: 179961

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Fruit tree plantings around Mt Farm

CLI Feature ID: 179963

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Ornamental plantings around w Mt Farm

CLI Feature ID: 179965

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Invasive plants

CLI Feature ID: 179967

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Apple trees at Mountain Farm

CLI Feature ID: 179969

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

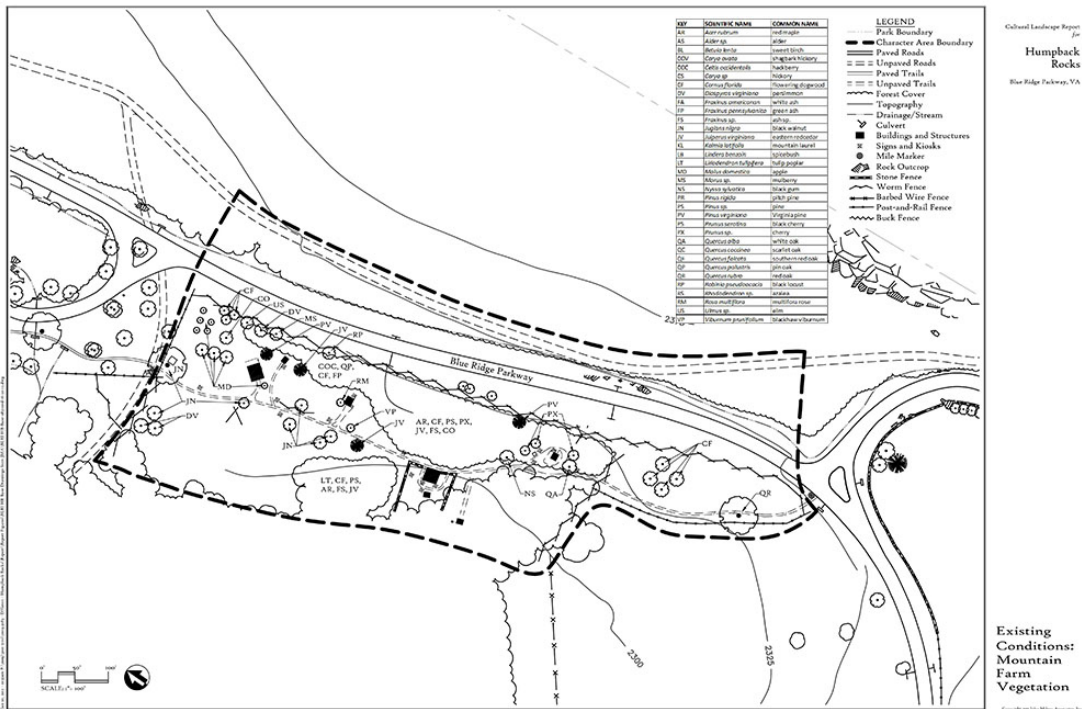


FIGURE 24. Existing Conditions: Mountain Farm vegetation (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

Landscape Characteristic:
Circulation

Historic Condition:

The Blue Ridge Parkway was constructed through this region circa 1939–1941, and paved circa 1947–1950. Sections 1B and 1C were opened to visitors on October 13, 1941.

Designed as part of the Mountain Farm exhibit in 1952–1953, the Mountain Farm Trail extended from the gate near the visitor center parking area to a loop around the spring house according to the PLUMS. It was apparently extended to the kissing gate located near the southern end of the exhibit at an unknown time. Spur paths led to some of the Mountain Farm exhibit features located to either side of the main path. The path may originally have been surfaced with hard-packed earth, or another form of gravel, although this information is not currently known.

The Howardsville Turnpike trace that dates to circa 1848–1857 existed in the area prior to development of the parkway.

Existing Condition:

The Blue Ridge Parkway extends north/south through the Humpback Rocks developed area. (See also Visitor Center Character Area in 2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report, or 2015 Humpback Rocks – Visitor Center Cultural Landscape Inventory). As it traverses the Mountain Farm component landscape, it is an undivided two-lane asphalt-paved road, approximately 20 feet wide, with grass shoulders, center striping, and no side striping. (See Appendix B of 2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report: Design Information: Roads). The parkway survives from the period of significance with a high degree of integrity.

Pedestrian circulation occurs along the self-guided trail that bisects the component landscape and provides access to the farm buildings and structures and other interpretive features. The trail extends beyond the exhibit area and terminates at milepost 6 of the Blue Ridge Parkway, allowing visitor access to the Humpback Gap parking area. The trail is approximately 8 feet wide, is surfaced with crushed brownstone gravel of varying sieve sizes, and is not universally accessible. Log water bars are employed along the trail near its southern end to help manage storm water where the topography becomes steeper. (See Appendix B of 2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report: Design Information: Culverts.) Although changes to the surfacing material of the trail have diminished its integrity to a degree, the Mountain Farm Trail survives from the period of significance.

The Howardsville Turnpike trace is located along the eastern edge of the component landscape, and parallels the Blue Ridge Parkway. The trace survives today as a hard-packed earth corridor but is becoming overgrown with vegetation, including some saplings and shrubs. Portions of the trace indicate nineteenth-century construction techniques involving grading, retaining walls, and culverts. Because the turnpike fell out of use rather than being adaptively reused, surviving sections are considered one of the best preserved examples of early state-sponsored roads over the Blue Ridge Mountains. Adopted for use as part of the state highway system in the 1920s, the turnpike was rerouted when the Blue Ridge Parkway was constructed to allow both road corridors to coexist. The trace is a contributing feature to the historic landscape.

A roughly maintained hard-packed-earth trail provides access to the pump house. This trail postdates the period of significance. Likewise social trails created to access portions of the Mountain Farm exhibit postdate the period of significance, and detract from the historic character of the component landscape.

Minor changes to circulation features within the component landscape, such as the replacement of stone door steps at some of the structures, and the expanded stone stairway at the meat house and root cellar, have not substantially impacted overall circulation integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name: Blue Ridge Parkway

CLI Feature ID: 179971

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Howardsville & Rockfish Gap Trnpg trace

CLI Feature ID: 179973

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Mountain Farm self-guiding trail

CLI Feature ID: 179975

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Social trails

CLI Feature ID: 179977

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Waterbars along trails to channel water

CLI Feature ID: 179979

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



FIGURE 25. Walk to Mountain Farm exhibit, 1973 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 26. Walk to Mountain Farm exhibit, 2010 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

**Landscape Characteristic:
Views and Vistas**

Historic Condition:

Views were one of the most important considerations in the design of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The primary objective of the parkway designers was to convey an ever-changing view of the natural scenery that included rural, pastoral, and agricultural features.

The distinctive profile of Humpback Rocks has served as a landmark for residents and travelers for centuries. The Humpback Rocks formation was featured in the design of the Blue Ridge Parkway, which is oriented so that direct views are afforded of the landform for motorists traveling south. The Mountain Farm exhibit was also purposefully sited to afford views of the Humpback Rocks formation. The views were enhanced by the open character of the large meadow along the lower slopes of the mountain.

The self-guided trail through the Mountain Farm exhibit afforded linear views of the group of buildings along its length as well as directed views of individual buildings.

Existing:

Several of the visual relationships established between the parkway road corridor and its setting are character defining. Chief among these are ever-changing scenes presented by the curvilinear roadway and a carefully orchestrated series of views that range from intimate linear spaces framed by native woodlands, to middle distance views of open fields with mountains or valleys beyond, and expansive long-distance views of dramatic mountain scenes. Within the Humpback Rocks developed area, views are consistent with this approach and range from focused views of the Humpback Rocks formation, to meadows and fields along the road, and the grandeur of the mountains and Shenandoah Valley beyond.

Within the Mountain Farm exhibit area, the buildings are arranged along the central linear path, which affords views that are similar to a streetscape. Buildings, walls, and vegetation help to frame the Mountain Farm Trail corridor. Views of Humpback Rocks are afforded at intervals at the northern end of the exhibit area. These views and the streetscape survive from the period of significance and contribute to the significance of the component landscape.

Views present in the 1930s and 1940s have been affected by subsequent tree growth. Where open spaces have been maintained through mowing, such as along the road corridor, historic views survive. The majority of developed area is currently wooded, however, which has diminished the extent of views intended by parkway designers in the vicinity of the Mountain Farm exhibit. Additionally, the surrounding forest and topography limit views between the Mountain Farm and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Views associated with a former open space south of the Mountain Farm exhibit are no longer in evidence.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name: View of the VC area from the Parkway

CLI Feature ID: 180001

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Streetscape views within Mt Farm exhibit

CLI Feature ID: 180003

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Views of Humpback Rocks from Mt Farm

CLI Feature ID: 180005

Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic:
Buildings and Structures**

Historic Condition:

The buildings and structures within the Mountain Farm component landscape were for the most part historic structures that were relocated to the site from other farms within the region. The Mountain Farm exhibit was completed in 1952–1953. The buildings and structures placed within the Mountain Farm exhibit included the log cabin, chicken house, root cellar and meat house, barn, pig pen, and spring house.

Mountain Farm log cabin. The Mountain Farm cabin was moved to the site in 1953 from the Hamilton Farm located near milepost 51. The cabin was built by William Ramsey circa 1890. At the Mountain Farm site, the Ramsey cabin was placed approximately 100 feet upslope from the Carter family cabin that had stood on the same property previously. The cabin had four rooms on two floors, with a kitchen wing added on the north, and a porch. In 1952, the house was dismantled at its original location, and the parts moved to the site of the proposed Mountain Farm exhibit, where it was rebuilt in 1953 with some replacement in kind of original materials, as well as some changes to remove early twentieth century additions and represent an earlier, more primitive period.

Mountain Farm chicken house. The chicken house was relocated to its present site east of the Mountain Farm cabin in 1952–1953 as part of the establishment of the exhibit. This structure was originally part of the John C. Clark farm, located one mile to the north of Irish Gap at milepost 36.4. The pole structure, built circa 1880, is typical of similar structures that continued to be used in the area well into the twentieth century. The building, which was intended to represent pioneer farm life among the mountaineers, retained many original features, such as rived oak boards, locust pegs, a batten door hung on wooden pintle hinges, and a small leather-hinged chicken door at the top of a notched slab chicken ladder (Speer and Haskell 1999, 177). The doors, as well as some logs and roof shingles were replaced after the building was moved to the site.

Mountain Farm meat house and root cellar. The building, also originally a part of the John C. Clark farm, was relocated to the site in 1952-1953 as part of the establishment of the exhibit. The relocated meat house, originally thought to have been constructed in 1881, was set on a more elevated foundation to adapt to the steeper grade of the Mountain Farm location. One observable difference is a stick-made summer door designed to provide ventilation shown in the post-restoration photos but not visible in the original photographs. It may have been added by the restorers in the 1950s based on local experience or observation of other nearby buildings (Speer and Haskell 1999, 178).

Mountain Farm barn. The barn, another element originally a part of the John C. Clark farm, was relocated to this site in 1952-1953 as part of the exhibit establishment. It is set within a stacked stone wall, constructed as part of the exhibit, which forms a barnyard area. The barn, said to have been built in 1881, was restored in 1953 based on documentation prepared by Charles C. Grossman on site in 1952. All of the doors were added to the barn as part of the exhibit as none existed at the time the building was moved. According to residents of the area, the building originally contained a stable and corncrib. The cowshed appears to have been added at an early date. The door design was purportedly based on local practices. Will Hall, a native of Montebello, proposed the detail of a peg on a leather thong to keep the door closed (Speer and Haskell 1999, 178).

Mountain Farm pig pen. The “bear-proof” pig pen interpreted as part of the Mountain Farm exhibit was built in 1953. The wooden pig pen was fabricated by the National Park Service based on research and knowledge of local farmstead building practices and components. Like the relocated and rehabilitated Mountain Farm exhibit outbuildings, it typified farm life in the region during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Speer and Haskell 1999, 178).

Mountain Farm spring house. The spring house was relocated to this site in 1952–1953 from Cash Hollow near milepost 29 of the Blue Ridge Parkway as part of the exhibit, and was sited above a naturally-occurring spring that likely supported Carter family use of the property during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It was in good condition and required only a new roof when it was relocated. Otherwise the spring house was likely modified to fit the existing spring site. The stone flooring and spring surround and the outflow configuration appear to be site-specific responses to the hydrologic properties of the spring. Like the cellar, it was designed to interpret food storage and preservation methods.

Pump house at Mountain Farm. This concrete structure, built circa 2000s, was located in the woods west of the Mountain Farm exhibit. It was built to support water supply needs associated with the visitor center. The pump house was associated with a well drilled in 1962.

Performance stage. This wooden stage structure, built in 2010 as a temporary feature for use during special events, was located beneath a tree at the entrance to the Mountain Farm exhibit.

Existing Condition:

Several buildings within the component landscape survive with integrity to the period of significance. These include the cabin, chicken house, root cellar and meat house, barn, and spring house. The pig pen at Mountain Farm survives from the period of significance during which the farm exhibit was developed: this structure has integrity and contributes to the significance of the landscape. The majority of the structures are roughly constructed of unpainted log, stone, and wood shingles, including wood from local timber and collected stone. These materials are vulnerable to deterioration from exposure to rain, sun, and wind and other environmental conditions. In addition, BLRI staff reports infestations of bees, mice, and ants. Buildings and structures from the local farmsteads and communities from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries that predate the Blue Ridge Parkway, including the Carter farm and school, are no longer in evidence in the component landscape.

Mountain Farm log cabin. (LCS ID005130). The Ramsey cabin (also known as Ramsey house) is a single pen log dwelling. The one-room, nearly-square, gable-roofed cabin is approximately 17 by 19 1/2 feet in size and is built of hewn logs with half-dovetailed joints at the corners and walls. The walls are chinked with a soil-cement mix applied over wood infill. The gable ends are clad with weatherboarding that is composed of narrow split clapboard. The top log plate overhangs the wall to

carry the roof structure and protect the wall against the elements. The roof is clad with wood shakes. Single pegged batten doors, offset from one another, punctuate the principal and rear facades. The principal facade, which faces west, also includes a full-width, 7 foot-wide porch. The porch is built of split and hewn material and is carried on four irregularly-spaced hewn posts mortised into the front beam, and irregular stone piers at grade.

There is a single shuttered opening on the northern gabled end, but no windows. A small opening cut into one of the logs on the west side of the chimney, midway between the chimney and the west end of the south wall, is interpreted as a viewing point for occupants to observe activities on the exterior.

A large coursed limestone chimney is located on the south wall, rising from a wide base near the ground and narrowing with sloping shoulders just above the first floor ceiling. A stone retaining wall extends from the east side of the chimney across the rear to establish a level landing behind the house. (Gibson Worsham, "Humpback Rocks Farm, Nelson County, Virginia" (Christiansburg, Virginia: National Park Service, 1999, 170–171)

The interior features a plank floor, exposed hewn pole joists, and a loft space accessed by a ladder. The building is generally in good condition as a result of ongoing cyclical maintenance by parkway facilities staff.

The existing present-day design and materials of the cabin are largely the result of the 1952-1953 restoration project. Although the building lacks integrity to the period and location of its original construction, it retains high integrity as part of the historically significant development of the Blue Ridge Parkway in the 1950s, including the development of educational and interpretive exhibits. Therefore, it contributes to the historic landscape.

Mountain Farm chicken house. (LCS ID005130). The Mountain Farm chicken house is approximately 8 by 10 feet in size. It is a rectangular log pen structure with round logs set with V-shaped notches at the corners. The walls are chinked with split wood poles held in place by locust wedges intended to prevent access by predators. The roof is composed of log purlins supported on log gable ends and covered with wood shakes. The structure stands on a low limestone rubble foundation.

There are two doors set within the front facade. The larger door is set low and off-center, hung by wooden pintles, and contains pegged jambs. The smaller door hangs on leather hinges. It is set more than 4 feet above the ground and was accessed by a chicken ladder, now missing. It is generally in good condition.

Similar to the cabin, the chicken house has limited integrity to the period and location of its original construction but retains high integrity as part of the historically significant development of the Blue Ridge Parkway in the 1950s, including the development of educational and interpretive exhibits. Therefore, it contributes to the historic landscape.

Mountain Farm meat house and root cellar. (LCS ID005129). The meat house and root cellar is a gabled two-story structure built into the hillside southeast of the Mountain Farm log cabin, with entrances to the east and west at separate grades. Stone stairs lead to the upper entrance. On the exterior, stone retaining walls extend to each side. The stone stair rises along the south side to provide access to the upper floor. The wood frame structure measures approximately 11 1/2 by 15 feet in plan. Log gable ends support pole purlins that form the roof, which is clad with split shake. The walls are round logs, V notched at the corners and chinked with strips of wood that are pegged to the logs. Vents are placed in the sides of the structure by leaving out sections of split pole chinking. The small batten door along the east side is set relatively high off the ground and is wider than it is tall.

Inside, the roof is board, while the floor is a split-plank puncheon. The log walls rest on two locust posts at the front corners of the root cellar; the space between has been infilled with stone. The cellar is entered from a centrally-placed door on the western downhill side, and has walls of dry laid coursed limestone rubble. Two doors provide access to the interior space. The outer door is referred to as the summer door, and is composed of widely-spaced rails. The inner or winter door is constructed of vertical boards. Stone bins in the lower floor indicate food storage containers. (Gibson

Worsham, "Humpback Rocks Farm, Nelson County, Virginia" (Christiansburg, Virginia: National Park Service, 1999), 170–171.) The building is generally in good condition.

As with the chicken house, the meat house and root cellar retains high integrity as part of the historically significant development of the Blue Ridge Parkway in the 1950s, including the development of educational and interpretive exhibits. Therefore, it contributes to the historic landscape.

Mountain Farm barn. (LCS ID005127). The Mountain Farm barn, which is also referred to as a stable in some documents, is located near the southern end of the exhibit area. The main block of the tall wood-frame, single-crib barn houses a stable and corn crib and measures 16 feet square. A later addition, which measures 9 by 15 feet, houses a cow shed. Both sections are constructed of unsquared logs. The gable roof is carried with pole purlins and is covered with wood shakes. The building faces north towards the cabin. The logs that comprise the stable and corn crib include V notches at the corners, while the cow shed has saddle notches. Wood chinking lines the walls to the height of the interior hay loft; hay stored in the loft and placed on the log flooring was intended to insulate the barn below. The corn crib is located in the east side of the structure, and is formed by a pole partition extending across the stable from north to south. The corn crib is accessed through a small hatch in the north exterior wall. A central door with pegged jambs in the north wall provides access to the interior of the stable, while the loft is reached through a small door in the east gable end, and a ladder provides access to the loft from the east side. Poles laid across the stable form the floor of the loft above. A manger extends across the south wall. A small entrance in the south side of the structure serves as the entrance into the cow shed, which also contains a loft. The cow shed is also of pole construction. Its roof is continuous with that of the main building, but clad with wider shakes. The door to the cow shed is formed with a high sill and pegged jambs with wooden hinges. The structure is generally in good condition.

Similar to the cabin, the barn has limited integrity to the period and location of its original construction but retains high integrity as part of the historically significant development of the Blue Ridge Parkway in the 1950s, including the development of educational and interpretive exhibits. Therefore, it contributes to the historic landscape

Mountain Farm pig pen. (LCS ID005131). Located west of the stable/barn, the pig pen is approximately 8 by 10 feet in plan, and 4 feet high. The structure is composed of five stacked V-notched logs covered with split wooden rails. The rails are secured by a cross rail that passes between crossed poles on each side to secure it from entry by bear. The poles are pegged to the logs. The floor of the structure is a split-log puncheon. A wooden feed trough is set at one end of the pen. (Gibson Worsham, "Humpback Rocks Farm, Nelson County, Virginia" (Christiansburg, Virginia: National Park Service, 1999), 170–171.)

The pig pen survives with integrity from the installation of the Mountain Farm exhibit and thus contributes to the significance of the developed area.

Mountain Farm spring house. (LCS ID005126). The Mountain Farm spring house is located near the southern end of the exhibit complex. The one-story rectangular frame structure is approximately 8-1/2 by 10 feet in size and constructed of squared hewn logs set with V notching at the corners and a wooden board gabled roof covered with shakes. The gables are filled with conventional framing. The foundation is composed of coursed limestone rubble. A low, 3 1/2 foot high door set on wooden hinges provides access to the interior from the center of the east gable end. Water from a free-flowing spring is channeled through pipes to a cooling trough set along the centerline of the building interior. The door provides access to the trough, which is edged by a flagstone floor. The water exits the rear of the building into a small rock pile where it is culverted beneath the path or infiltrates the ground. Oak boards line the interior walls, and in some locations wooden shakes are nailed to the logs to cover the spaces between. (Gibson Worsham, "Humpback Rocks Farm, Nelson County, Virginia" (Christiansburg, Virginia: National Park Service, 1999), 170–171.)

The spring house survives with integrity from the installation of the Mountain Farm exhibit and thus contributes to the significance of the historic landscape.

Pump house at the Mountain Farm. The pump house is an 8 foot 5 inch by 7 foot single-story frame structure with a gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. The roof has deep overhangs on all sides. The structure has vertical board siding and a concrete foundation. Vents are located at the top of the walls in the gable ends. The roof includes gutters and downspouts. A single door is recessed within the center of the long dimension of the principle facade, which faces east. A routed wood sign identifies the building number as B410. A utility meter is attached to the rear facade. The well supplies potable water to drinking fountains and the visitor center, is 65 feet deep, and can produce 60 gallons of water per minute.

The structure postdates the period of significance and does not contribute to the significance of the developed area. An earlier cistern associated with the well is no longer present today.

Performance stage. This wooden stage is composed of a plywood plank platform, approximately 12 feet square, with vertical boards tightly set across the base. Cut logs are placed at intervals along the sides and rear of the structure and rise above the height of the stage. The performance stage is used for special events and is removed at the end of each season.

The structure postdates the period of significance and does not contribute to the significance of the developed area.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name: Mountain Farm log cabin
CLI Feature ID: 179981
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Mountain Farm chicken house
CLI Feature ID: 179983
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Mountain Farm root cellar and meat house
CLI Feature ID: 179985
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Mountain Farm barn
CLI Feature ID: 179987
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Mountain Farm pig pen
CLI Feature ID: 179989
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Mountain Farm spring house
CLI Feature ID: 179991
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Use of native materials in construction
CLI Feature ID: 179993
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Pump house at Mountain Farm
CLI Feature ID: 179995
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Performance stage
CLI Feature ID: 179997
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



FIGURE 27. The mountain farm exhibit at Humpback Rocks in 1957 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 28. Log cabin at the Mountain Farm exhibit, 2010 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 29. The chicken house at the Mountain Farm exhibit, 1971 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 30. The chicken house at the Mountain Farm exhibit, 2010 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 31. The meat house and root cellar at the Mountain Farm exhibit, 1971 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 32. The meat house and root cellar at the Mountain Farm exhibit, 2010 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

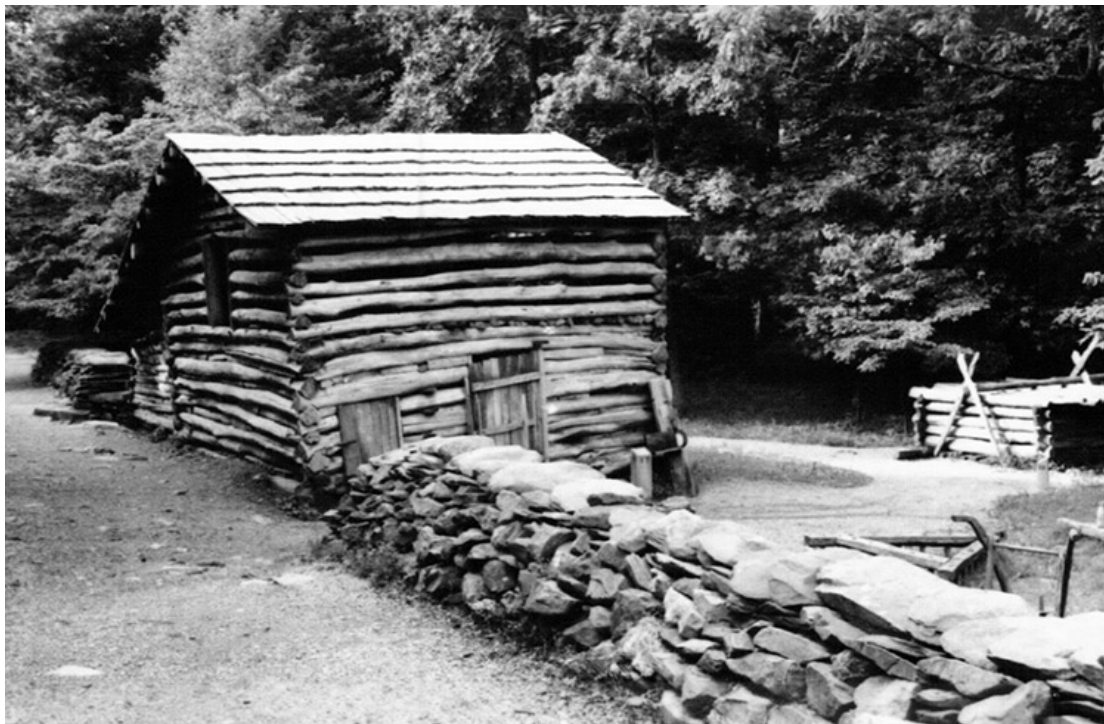


FIGURE 33. The barn and stone fence at the Mountain Farm exhibit, 1975 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 34. The barn and stone fence at the Mountain Farm exhibit, 2010 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 35. The pig pen at the Mountain Farm exhibit, 1975 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 36. The pig pen at the Mountain Farm exhibit, 2010 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 37. The spring house and the ash hopper at the Mountain Farm exhibit, 1971 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 38. The spring house and the ash hopper at the Mountain Farm exhibit, 2010 (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 39. The contemporary pump house structure (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 40. The contemporary wooden performance stage (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

**Landscape Characteristic:
Small Scale Features**

Historic Condition:

Several types of small-scale features were placed within the Mountain Farm component landscape during the period of significance, including site furnishings, fences and gates, signs and interpretive features, and utilities.

Site furnishings. The design for trash receptacles at the time the component landscape was constructed is not currently known. Whiskey barrel trash receptacles were installed at an unknown time.

A backless bench resembling the stone slab benches with concrete supports in front of the visitor center was installed at some point according to a historic photograph of the springhouse, but was removed at an unknown time. Repositionable wood benches were installed at an unknown time.

Fences and gates. Worm fencing surrounding the exhibit was installed during initial construction from 1952-1953, and designed to replicate vernacular fencing types typical to the region. (See also Appendix B of 2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report: Design Information: Fences.) The fencing was shown on the PLUMS for the area, and has been changed since 1971 from a stake and rider style to a double-post snake fence.

The kissing gate and fencing near the springhouse was installed as a part of the original 1952-1953 construction. The kissing gate and fencing that connects the exhibit to the parkway near the access road to the Humpback Rocks trailhead was installed at an unknown time following the period of significance.

A unique wood gate pivoting on a large post and assisted in operation by the addition of a counterbalance was built as part of the original Mountain Farm exhibit in the 1950s. The counterbalance consisted of a hollowed log containing fieldstones.

A rock fence interpreting a barnyard was constructed as part of the exhibit in 1952–1953 by local stonemasons.

Signs and Interpretive Features. Regulatory and directional signs were installed beginning in 1939 along the parkway, and interpretive signs were installed in 1952-1953 in the Mountain Farm exhibit area. Directional and regulatory signs, including stop signs, yield signs, speed limit signs, were originally designed to be mounted on steel that would be allowed to rust. The dark color of the rust was intended to render the signs less visually intrusive than galvanized steel, which would be shiny and reflective.

Concrete milepost markers were placed along the parkway corridor from 1941-1943 [or] in 1947.

Small metal interpretive signs were installed throughout the exhibit in the 1970s to replace an earlier numbered concrete post system related to a brochure.

Several small-scale elements specific to the Mountain Farm exhibit landscape were part of the original design for the exhibit and established circa 1952–1953, including the wash tub, lye vat, ash hopper, etc.

Rock edging around planting beds, a rock-lined fire pit, and rock edging near the spring house were all installed at an unknown time.

Utilities. Stormwater drainage features associated with the parkway were installed during initial construction of the parkway beginning in 1939, and included culverts, stone headwalls, and a stone lined detention basin. Other utility features within the component landscape, including the cistern covers, appear to be associated with the enlarged visitor center constructed in 1982.

Existing Condition:

There are several types of small-scale features present within the Mountain Farm exhibit area

component landscape. These include site furnishings, fences and gates, rock edging, signs and interpretive features, and utility-related features. Small-scale features surviving from the period of significance and contributing to the significance of the historic landscape include fences and gates, signs and interpretive features, and utilities.

Site Furnishings. A wooden barrel that serves as a trash receptacle is located near the meat house and root cellar. There are also several newly-constructed repositionable wooden backless benches near the log cabin and beside the orchard, which are the only site furnishings in the Mountain Farm component landscape. These benches were not present during some of the project team site visits, indicating they are moved onto the site periodically for interpretive purposes. The date of origin for the whiskey barrel trash receptacles and the benches has not yet been identified. These features were likely later additions that postdates the period of significance and do not contribute to the significance of the component landscape.

Fences and Gates. The fences that appear to survive from the period of significance in the Mountain Farm component landscape include the worm fencing around the Mountain Farm exhibit, and the mortise and tenon rail gate and counterweight opening system at the entrance into the exhibit. A wooden worm fence with locks edges the Mountain Farm to the east along the Blue Ridge Parkway, while standard post-and-rail fencing edges the west side of the component landscape along the southern end of the Mountain Farm trail. A short section of worm fencing with locks is located along the Mountain Farm trail just south of the log cabin. (See Appendix B of 2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report: Design Information: Fences.) These fences and gates contribute to the significance of the historic landscape, although it is likely that many of the individual wooden components have been replaced over time due to their tendency to deteriorate in the humid climate. The park appears to have attempted to replace these materials in kind as possible.

There are three gates associated with the component landscape: two different types of kissing gates and a unique wooden gate at the exhibit entrance. The first kissing gate is set within the post-and-rail fencing at the southern end of the exhibit. This gate survives and is a contributing feature. The second kissing gate is located at the intersection of the Mountain Farm trail with the parkway. The kissing gates are composed of three panels of four-rail post-and-rail fence sections, with two panels forming a V-shape and the third panel almost completely bisecting the V, but allowing a small passage for pedestrians at the base of the V. While it is an interpretation of a historic fence type, this second gate postdates the period of significance, and does not contribute to the significance of the developed area.

The unique wooden gate is located at the northern entrance to the Mountain Farm exhibit. The gate was intended to represent mountain ingenuity; “the gate illustrates what could be handcrafted from the native trees nearby. The handmade gate pivots on the single 12 inch diameter post and is counterbalanced by fieldstones placed inside a hollowed out log. The fenceline connects behind the large posts.” (Carlton Abbott and Partners 1997, 272)

There are four rock walls present within the developed area which survive from the period of significance. Two are hog fences, and the other two rock fences were constructed as part of the Humpback Rocks recreation area to replicate local vernacular patterns and connect motorists with the agricultural heritage of the region. One of these second type interprets a barnyard at the exhibit, and survives with a high degree of integrity.

Signs and Interpretive Features. There are several sign types located within the Humpback Rocks developed area. For the most part, these signs are derived from design styles and guidelines adopted after period of significance and do not contribute to the significance of the historic landscape. Newer signs are fashioned from vinyl and recycled plastics. (See also Appendix B of 2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report: Design Information: Signs.) Signs that incorporate the parkway branding components of blue-gray color, wood panels, routed lettering painted white, and mounted on wood posts potentially contribute to the significance of the parkway, although further research is needed to determine the date of origin of individual signs.

Concrete milepost markers along the parkway are consistent with the features initially installed.

Although some may have been replaced over time due to damage caused by vehicles, falling trees, or weather, the examples at Humpback Rocks developed area are generally consistent with the historic design and contribute to the significance of the historic landscape.

Signage along the parkway indicating upcoming features associated with Humpback Rocks has changed, thus does not contribute.

Interpretation of Mountain Farm features occurs through a system of small metal signs located along the trail and adjacent to buildings and structures. The signs are approximately 20 to 30 inches tall and are supported by a 2.5 inch by 4 inch steel post. The sign faces are set at an angle on posts. They are 9.5 inches wide by 7.5 inches tall with engraved type. In general, these signs are in poor condition due to damaged text panels, illegible text, and erosion around the concrete bases. This signage postdates the period of significance.

Regulatory and directional signs have likely been replaced since the period of significance to conform to federal highway standards.

Several small farm-related implements and small-scale elements are sited along the interpretive trail. These features include a wooden wash tub, a lye vat, an ash hopper, a laundry basin, a plow, and various small craft features used for seasonal demonstrations near the log cabin. The wash tub, lye vat, ash hopper, and farm implements, as well as the stone work that contains the spring, were part of the original design for the exhibit and established circa 1952–1953. They survive with integrity and contribute to the significance of the developed area.

Rock edging. Rock edging is used to define a planting bed and a fire pit near the log cabin. A small fire pit is located along the self-guided trail surrounded by a small tightly-angled section of worm fence. This fire pit is used for interpretive discussions and exhibits. There is also a ring of rocks near the spring house, which may have been placed to provide drainage and prevent erosion. The dates of origin for the rock edging around planting beds, the rock-lined fire pit, and the rocks near the spring house, have not yet been identified. These features were likely later additions that do not contribute to the significance of the historic landscape.

Utility. Culverts are found along the parkway east of the Mountain Farm component landscape. These storm water management features are edged by headwalls faced with stacked stone and are used to direct storm water under the parkway in several locations. (See Appendix B of 2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report: Design Information: Culverts.) Some empty within the component landscape, and are directed into a broad shallow detention basin near the meat house and root cellar. The basin includes an overflow spillway edged with stone and small check dams. Storm water drainage features, including culverts and stone headwalls associated with the parkway, and the stone lined detention basin, contribute to the significance of the component landscape.

Other utility features within the component landscape, including the cistern covers and a well cover located in the area of the pump house, appear to to postdate the period of significance for the area and thus do not contribute to the significance of the historic landscape.

Other. Small-scale features associated with properties that pre-date parkway construction are no longer in evidence.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name: Worm fencing w locks and rail at Mt Farm

CLI Feature ID: 180007

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Gate into Mountain Farm

CLI Feature ID: 180009

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Kissing gate near spring house

CLI Feature ID: 180017

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Stone wall surrounding barn at Mt Farm

CLI Feature ID: 180011

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Fence on trail btw Mt Farm & Blue Ridge

CLI Feature ID: 180013

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Mountain Farm washing tub

CLI Feature ID: 180019

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Mountain Farm lye vat

CLI Feature ID: 180021

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Mountain Farm ash hopper
CLI Feature ID: 180023
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Stone spring box
CLI Feature ID: 180025
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Stone headwalls
CLI Feature ID: 180027
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Stone lined basin for pkwy stormwater
CLI Feature ID: 180029
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Use of native materials in construction
CLI Feature ID: 180031
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Wooden backless benches at Mt Farm
CLI Feature ID: 180033
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Whiskey barrel trash receptacles
CLI Feature ID: 180035
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Kissing gate near Blue Ridge Parkway
CLI Feature ID: 180037
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Small metal interpretive signs
CLI Feature ID: 180039
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Rock-lined fire pits
CLI Feature ID: 180041
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Rock edging around planting beds
CLI Feature ID: 180043
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Cistern covers
CLI Feature ID: 180045
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



FIGURE 41. Five rail post-and-rail fencing edges a small pasture near the Mountain Farm (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 42. The spring located in the Mountain Farm exhibit is marked by stacked stone and a wooden sign (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 43. A stone-lined pool captures water in the interior of the spring house (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 44. Drainage flows from a culvert beneath the parkway into the Mountain Farm (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

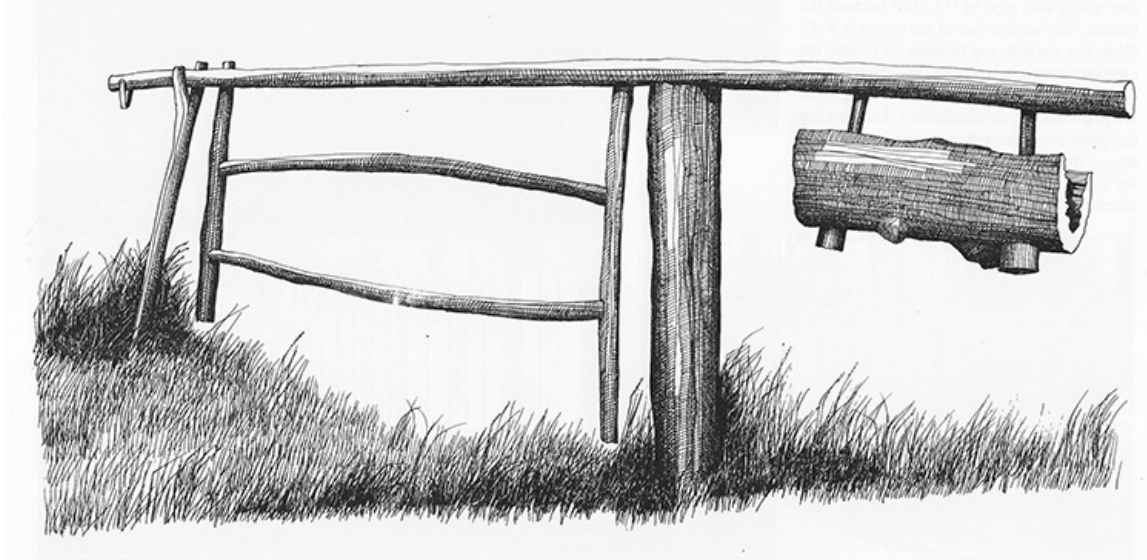


FIGURE 45. The wooden gate at the northern entrance to the Mountain Farm exhibit (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 46. At the south end of the Mountain Farm Character Area visitors enter through the "kissing gate;" large red oak in mid-ground (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 47. The ash hopper used to interpret the production of lye used for soap (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).



FIGURE 48. A wooden plow near the log barn illustrates the types of equipment used to break the ground (2012 Humpback Rocks Cultural Landscape Report).

**Landscape Characteristic:
Archeological Sites**

Historic Condition:

An archeological investigation was conducted in the area of the Humpback Rocks Visitor Center and Mountain Farm exhibit in 1978.

Existing Condition:

Douglas McLearen of Washington and Lee University conducted a walk-over survey, minor subsurface testing, and shovel tests during the 1978 investigation. Two sites were identified – one in the Visitor Center component landscape and one in the Mountain Farm component landscape – and investigated further. The report prepared regarding the investigation concluded that the area that is now the agricultural demonstration field located in the Mountain Farm component landscape was identified as an area worthy of protection from looting and ground disturbance more invasive than the plowing that had already occurred. Nothing further is currently known about archeological resources within this component landscape. Use of the property by the Carter family as part of their farmstead, and the presence of free-flowing springs, level topography, and proximity to the Howardsville Turnpike, suggest that this site may contain archeological evidence of past cultural activities and uses of interest.

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 6

Next Assessment Due Date: 09/30/2023

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/07/2017

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In general, most of the features of the Humpback Rocks developed area are maintained in good condition. Notable exceptions include the asphalt sidewalks associated with the visitor center and the Humpback Gap parking area, interpretive signage within the Mountain Farm exhibit, interpretive signage at the Humpback Gap parking area, and stone curbing in the picnic area. Additionally, portions of the Mountain Farm exhibit trail and the Humpback Rocks Trail are threatened by erosion associated with storm water.

Feature condition assessments are based on the guidance afforded in the Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports. Four categories—Good, Fair, Poor, and Unknown—are used to assess all existing landscape features.

Invasives are present in the woodlands that may threaten the health of the forest. Some problematic invasive species have established colonies within the developed area. These include barberry; Russian olive; and tree-of-heaven.

Log water bars are employed at the Mountain Farm exhibit along the trail near its southern end to help manage storm water where the topography becomes steeper. The logs are set at an angle to direct runoff away from the surface of the trail. Many are set so high that they may represent a pedestrian trip hazard and may also exacerbate erosion.

The Mountain Farm trail is not universally accessible. Storm water has eroded the gravel surfacing in some areas, particularly around the barn area. The gravel surface is not firm and is spilling into surrounding grass areas. The southern segment is eroding, water bars may constitute a trip hazard.

Social trails are present where visitors leave the gravel trail to get a closer look at the Mountain Farm features. Many of these trails are exhibiting problems with erosion.

The majority of the structures in the Mountain Farm exhibit are roughly constructed of unpainted log, stone, and wood shingles. These materials are vulnerable to deterioration from exposure to rain, sun, and wind and other environmental conditions. In addition, BLRI staff reports infestations of bees, mice, and ants. Repair is on-going; the park works to replace materials in kind as needed.

The Howardsville and Rockfish Gap Turnpike trace is exhibiting problems with erosion and there is vegetation growing in the road prism.

Some of the ornamental plants exhibit dieback.

The older apple trees located near the Mountain Farm are in decline.

Many of the small metal interpretive signs are damaged, the text is not always legible, and the concrete foundations are exposed.

Stabilization Measures:

Impacts

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description:

Type of Impact: Erosion

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description:

Type of Impact: Improper Drainage

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description:

Type of Impact: Inappropriate Maintenance

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description:

Type of Impact: Pests/Diseases

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description:

Type of Impact: Release To Succession

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description:

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description:

Type of Impact: Visitation

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description:

Stabilization Costs

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Rehabilitation

Approved Treatment Document: Cultural Landscape Report

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

Based upon the park's objectives in developing the 2012 Humpback Rocks Developed Area CLR, which suggest a need to make specific changes to the cultural landscape to meet current and projected future interpretive, functional, and management goals, rehabilitation is recommended as the most appropriate overarching treatment approach for the Humpback Rocks developed area. Because rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property, this approach allows for protection of the site's historic character and resources while carefully addressing the need for limited enhancement of interpretive opportunities and circulation routes, ecological maintenance and restoration, and the improvement of visitor amenities.

As part of rehabilitation, stabilization, protection, and preservation of historic and natural resources are assumed even when new uses are accommodated. Areas of the landscape that are particularly sensitive to change and disturbance, such as sites of known and potential archeological resources, should be treated with great care. In general, the CLR recommends preservation of archeological resources unless a compelling research question or informational need justifies disturbance or excavation, or mitigation to accommodate unavoidable change as necessary.

In considering the other treatment alternatives recognized by the Secretary of the Interior for the Humpback Rocks developed area, the CLR found them inappropriate for the following reasons:

Preservation is overly restrictive because it does not allow for changes to the landscape to accommodate contemporary needs such as universal accessibility enhancements and evolving interpretive programming.

Restoration and reconstruction are inappropriate approaches to apply to the Humpback Rocks developed area landscape because they assume, as a prerequisite, that sufficient documentation exists to accurately portray a lost historic condition. At this time, it does not appear that there are documentary sources detailed enough to support comprehensive restoration or reconstruction of the park's cultural landscape to a specific date or time period, and removal of some of the features that have been added to address contemporary needs is not currently recommended.

The overarching treatment concept for the cultural landscape at the Humpback Rocks developed area proposed within the 2012 Humpback Rocks developed area CLR is to balance the protection and enhancement of the site's historic integrity with contemporary park visitor access and interpretation requirements and sustainable land management practices. Vegetation and natural resource management, interpretation, and consideration of the overall visitor experience are the main focus of the treatment plan, as they are the highest-priority needs identified by the park. Landscape treatment actions are recommended that are intended to facilitate conveying the story of life in the mountains prior to parkway construction, the development of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the National Park Service's ongoing efforts to protect and best manage natural and cultural resources.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

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Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Title:	See Humpback Rocks parent landscape for a full list of references.
Year of Publication:	