National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, Maryland



Cultural Landscape Report
Camp Round Meadow

November 2025

Prepared by the Urban Heritage Project
Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania

Cultural Landscape Report, Parts I and II

Catoctin Mountain Park

Camp Round Meadow

Thurmont, MD

November 2025

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Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Cultural Landscape Report

Urban Heritage Project

Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
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Final Submission, November 2025

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Figure 1: View to the northeast of Dormitory 2, highlighting the naturalistic qualities of architecture and landscape designs. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Camp Round Meadow is located within Catoctin Mountain Park in Sabillasville, Frederick County, Maryland. The developed area that comprises this CLR's study area is a component landscape of the larger park. Although this CLR marks the first documentation of Camp Round Meadow as an individual cultural landscape, the area has been included within several parkwide documentation reports, including: a 1989 National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form for "Emergency Conservation Work Architecture in Catoctin Mountain Park"; a 2002 Cultural Landscape Inventory for Catoctin Mountain Park; and additional National Register documentation for the park, accepted by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in December 2024.

This Cultural Landscape Report recommends a period of significance of 1936-1981 for Camp Round Meadow. The period of significance begins with the establishment of the administrative headquarters and Central Garage Unit at Camp Round Meadow, as part of the creation of the Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area, and subsequently encompasses the landscape's association with the Office of Strategic Services, Mission 66 and Parkscape USA programs, the Job Corps Conservation Center, the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), and environmental education programs. The period of significance ends in 1981 with the construction of the final dormitory associated with environmental education programs at Catoctin Mountain Park.

Camp Round Meadow was constructed as part of Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area (RDA), a model for other New Deal-era RDA projects throughout the United States. The RDA program sought to identify and redress agricultural land that was deemed to be underutilized and "submarginal," transforming the selected landscapes into recreational resources near urban centers. As one of 46 RDAs established across the country, the Catoctin RDA transformed the fields, farmsteads, and timberlands associated with agriculture and industry into a park landscape for rustic recreational tourism.

Constructed as the "Central Garage Unit" for the RDA, Camp Round Meadow was initially constructed by the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. These New Deal-era employment programs were the first of several successive federal programs that were headquartered at Camp Round Meadow, influencing the park's built environment and public land management. Subsequent federal programs included the Job Corps Conservation Center (Camp Round Meadow hosted the first JCCC in the country) and the Youth Conservation Corps.

Camp Round Meadow also derives significance from its role during World War II as part of the Office of Strategic Services' training facilities at Catoctin Mountain. Beginning in 1942, the OSS used Camp Round Meadow as its operational headquarters.

The cultural landscape exhibits 11 of the 13 landscape characteristics defined by the National Park Service, including:

- Natural Systems and Features
- Topography
- Land Use
- Spatial Organization
- Cluster Arrangement
- Views and Vistas
- Buildings and Structures
- Constructed Water Features
- Circulation
- Vegetation
- Small-Scale Features

Camp Round Meadow retains overall integrity with respect to the period of significance. The area's landscape characteristics and associated features continue to convey the property's historic significance, consistent with the conditions that existed during the period of significance.

This CLR recommends rehabilitation as the overall treatment approach. This approach allows for the necessary flexibility to preserve the resources and enhance the historic character of the Camp Round

Meadow area, while addressing existing issues and accommodating future growth.

The treatment goals outlined in the report should serve as the overarching objectives of any future treatment at Camp Round Meadow. The overall treatment goals are:

1. Rehabilitate historic buildings and structures, allowing for limited modern amenities on the interior while preserving the historic exteriors.
2. Plan for future growth and additional land uses.
3. Clarify and reorganize conflicting uses in each character area.
4. Reorient the vehicle routing through the landscape to separate rental/public traffic from NPS operational routes.
5. Construct additional amenities to enhance group rentals.
6. Establish robust on-site interpretation.
7. Re-establish vegetative design intent, establish successional canopy, and promote climate-adaptive plantings.
8. Increase accessibility while improving historic circulation features.
9. Ensure consistency and compatibility of landscape features.

The treatment recommendations also address treatment tasks according to five character areas within Camp Round Meadow:

- Maintenance and Administrative Areas
- Foxville Plaza
- Rental and Dormitory Area
- Ballfield
- Auxiliary Areas

The treatment section includes treatment tasks organized by landscape characteristics, offering preliminary guidance on achieving the treatment goals. Finally, this section is followed with recommendations for further research and potential partnerships.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Camp Round Meadow within Catoctin Mountain Park is to help the National Park Service (NPS) develop an informed and consistent approach to managing change of the cultural landscape located in Sabillasville, Frederick County, Maryland.

This guide builds on previous documentation efforts and offers holistic, coordinated management strategies. The project began with a kickoff and planning meeting in November 2022, and the final report was presented in 2025.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

National Park Service CLRs are the primary tool to inform long-term management decisions regarding cultural landscapes. The CLR documents the history and existing conditions of a cultural landscape, evaluates its significance according to National Register of Historic Places (National Register; NRHP) program standards, and provides design and management recommendations for the property. The CLR is part of the park's planning process and is a fundamental tool for integrating information and determining relationships between the cultural landscape and other resource types, and site objectives.

The CLR goal is to preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the historic character of the developed area, while providing for opportunities to enhance facilities maintenance, resource management, and interpretive opportunities within the historic district. The CLR is the primary planning document for the treatment of the cultural landscape and provides site managers with a comprehensive understanding of the physical evolution of the cultural landscape, its current condition, and guidance for the future landscape management.

The CLR scope includes identifying cultural landscape significance and current condition, and developing treatment strategies to preserve, restore, and rehabilitate resources within the cultural landscape.

REPORT METHODOLOGY

A thorough investigation and evaluation of the cultural landscape has been conducted using the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, with *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* and the *NPS Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques*. Documentation of historic significance and evaluation of integrity of the landscape serves as a framework upon which treatment recommendations are developed.

The history is documented to focus on the changes to the cultural landscape over time within the previously established National Register eligibility of the cultural landscape under specific contexts and period of significance. These contexts and period of significance were re-examined to provide the full context needed to establish the character-defining features of the cultural landscape.

The historical documentation was utilized to compare existing site conditions to historic conditions. Through this analysis, contributing and non-contributing features and characteristics of the cultural landscape were identified. This information was then used as the basis for the treatment recommendations, with the goal of preserving character-defining features and characteristics, restoring character-defining features when important to conveying the historical significance of the cultural landscape, and rehabilitating features to preserve their character-defining qualities to allow for current and future uses within the cultural landscape.

In keeping with the National Park Service's best practices and issued guidance for Cultural Landscape Reports, this project was designed according to several different (at times, overlapping) tasks:

RESEARCH

Using primary and secondary sources, the team conducted research to understand the physical history of Camp Round Meadow. Key repositories and archives included: the existing documentation (including a National Register of Historic Places nomination and addendum and a

Cultural Landscape Inventory); Catoctin Mountain Park photograph collections; National Archives at College Park; National Archives at Philadelphia; and other research collections.

Based on the research, the team prepared a chronology and physical history to document the evolution of the historic site.

DETERMINATION OF PERIODS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Using the physical history and prior documentation as a guide, the period of significance was determined as 1936-1981 (refer to the Statement of Significance for an explanation of this period).

FIELDWORK AND DATA COLLECTION

The team conducted fieldwork and site visits during the project. An initial site visit with park and regional staff took place in June 2023. Fieldwork to document existing conditions and geolocate extant features took place in June through August of 2023. During this time, researchers collected and recorded GIS data using Eos Arrow equipment. The team identified, photographed, and recorded characteristic landscape features within the project area boundaries.

MAPPING

Maps for this CLR were produced following NPS National Capital Regional Office's (NCRO) GIS standards. The team collected data in the field, including small- scale features, circulation features, structures, and vegetation. This data was then edited in ArcPro.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Based on our understanding of the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape through research, fieldwork, and mapping, our team evaluated the current conditions and integrity of the cultural landscape features. This feature-by-feature assessment, contextualized within a larger study of each applicable landscape characteristic, comprises the Analysis & Evaluation section of the CLR.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

In order to gain first-hand perspective on the use, perceptions, strengths, and weaknesses of Camp Round Meadow, the project team interviewed several stakeholders including current and former Catoctin Mountain Park staff, user groups, neighboring entities, volunteers, and others. Virtual interviews were conducted in December of 2024 and January of 2025 and surveys were sent to user groups in December of 2024. These interviews informed our treatment recommendations.

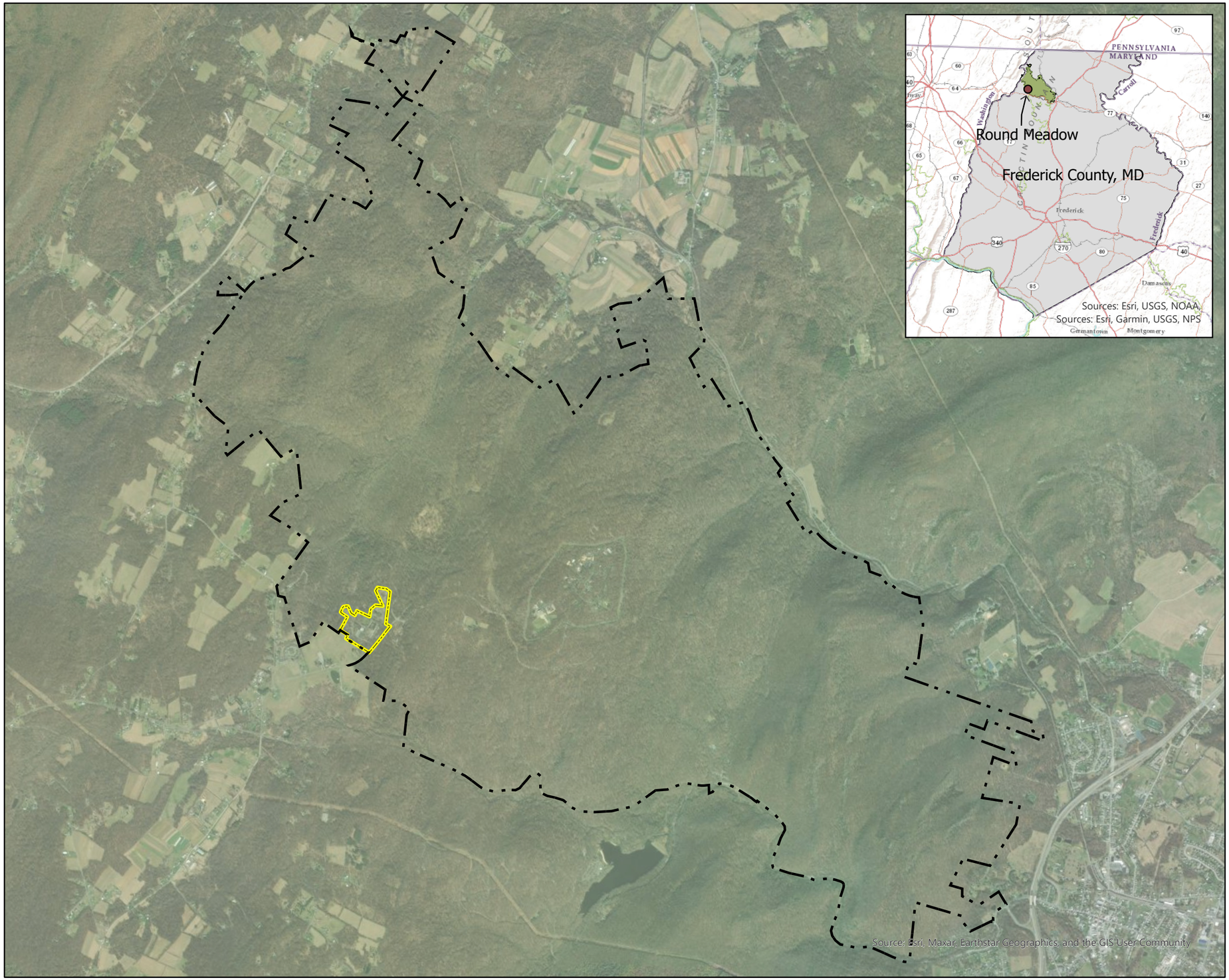
TREATMENT WORKSHOP

Our team consulted with National Park Service staff throughout the project, including members of the National Capital Regional Office and the Catoctin Mountain Park administration. Most intensively, our team convened a treatment workshop on April 11, 2025, at Camp Round Meadow to present our findings-to-date and our preliminary treatment priorities

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the feedback received at the treatment workshop, and all other phases of work, the team prepared treatment recommendations for the historic site.

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Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Location Map

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023
3. Boundary File, CATO, NPS, 2021

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson and Zhijie Wang, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Map Version, October 2025

N 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

Drawing 1

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PART 1: HISTORY + EVALUATION

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Statement of Significance

Camp Round Meadow is a 30.85-acre developed area located within Catoctin Mountain Park, in Sabillasville, Frederick County, Maryland. Located within Maryland's Blue Ridge region, Catoctin Mountain and its neighboring South Mountain (located west of the park) form the easternmost ridge of the Appalachian Mountains. Catoctin Mountain Park is a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) within its National Capital Region (NCR). The NPS manages the approximately 5,890-acre park unit for public recreation and conservation of the natural environment.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorized the creation of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) as the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The NPS administers the National Register and has developed criteria for evaluating historic resources to determine their eligibility for listing. The significance of Camp Round Meadow was first documented as part of a 1989 National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) for "Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Architecture in Catoctin Mountain Park"; that form was followed by a 2014 historic district nomination for all of Catoctin Mountain Park, also called Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area. Additionally, a Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) was completed in 2002 for all of Catoctin Mountain Park, including Camp Round Meadow (although there was no official concurrence at this time by the park superintendent). The Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) signed their concurrence for the report in 2004. A condition assessment for the cultural landscape was completed in 2008, and signed by the park superintendent. At this time the landscape was listed in Fair condition. The landscape condition was reassessed in 2014 and 2023, and both times listed in Good condition.

Additional National Register documentation was accepted by the Keeper of the National Register in December of 2024. This documentation evaluated resources introduced between 1954 and 1981, expanded the period of significance of the historic district, included additional areas of significance, and identifiedand re-evaluated contributing and non-contributing resources within the district.

Located in the southwest quadrant of Catoctin Mountain Park, the boundaries of Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape are defined by Manahan Road on the east, the park boundary on the south, the forested area to the west of the sewage lagoon, and the forested area north of "the ballfield" maintenance yard. Today, the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape includes several buildings and structures, parking areas, drives and walkways, recreational areas, a maintenance yard (which NPS staff refer to as "the ballfield"), a former trailer court site and associated features, a former sewage lagoon, small-scale features, and plantings, among other features. This Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) documents the landscape's period of significance spanning from 1936 through 1981. This period encompasses: the development of the administrative headquarters and Central Garage Unit at Camp Round Meadow, which were the first facilities built for the Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area (RDA); the era associated with the Mission 66 and Parkscape USA programs, when the project area served as the first Job Corps Conservation Center; and the Youth Conservation Corps' (YCC) pilot program (as one of the first YCC sites in the country) and initial implementation. The period of significance ends in 1981 with the conclusion of YCC projects at Catoctin, coinciding with the completion of the final dormitory (of four total) as part of the rehabilitation of Camp Round Meadow for environmental education initiatives.

The Camp Round Meadow historic district is eligible for listing in the National Register at the national

level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of: Politics/Government; Entertainment/Recreation; Social History; Conservation; and Military. At the state level of significance, the historic district is eligible in the areas of: Social History; Conservation; and Entertainment/Recreation. The historic district is also eligible for listing at the national level under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture; Landscape Architecture; and Community Planning and Development. Finally, the district is eligible under Criteria Consideration G, as resources within the district have achieved significance within the past 50 years.

National Register of Historic Places Summary

The National Register provides the basis for documenting and evaluating the historic significance and integrity of the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape. Certified in 1989, the MPDF for "Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Architecture at Catoctin Mountain Park" (NR #89001582) encompassed the entire park, including Camp Round Meadow. The nomination provides a summary of the history, integrity, and elements that comprise the park boundaries and focuses on the historic contexts of "the development of Recreational Demonstration Areas within the larger scope of ECW construction projects, and the concurrent development of a style of rustic architecture specifically generated by National Park Service architects" (Leach 1989 Statement of Historic Contexts).

The 2014 National Register historic district nomination for Catoctin Mountain Park, also called Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (NR #14000325 or 14000484; Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties #F-6-147 #WA-IV-269) included all federally managed lands within the park unit, including Camp Round Meadow.[1] The documentation provided new information on historic resources contained within two parcels added to Catoctin Mountain Park in the 2010s—the Lewis Property (incorrectly spelled "Lewes" in the 2014 nomination) and the Braestrup Farm property (incorrectly spelled "Braestrap" in the 2014 nomination). According to the nomination, these two properties include resources that meet NRHP eligibility requirements under Criteria A and D.

The 2014 parkwide nomination notes local, state, and national levels of significance for Catoctin Mountain Park under Criteria A, B, C, and D, with Criteria Consideration G. The areas of significance are: Architecture; Archeology–Prehistoric; Archeology–Historic, Non-Aboriginal; Entertainment/Recreation; Industry; Military; and Social History. The periods of significance are recorded as: 3000 BCE-1954 CE, beginning with early human use of the land and extending through the park's development as a Recreational Demonstration Area and later as a National Park Service unit; and 1942-1978 CE, associated with the Presidential Retreat/Camp David. Significant dates are recorded as 1776, 1903, 1936, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1942-1945, 1947, 1949, 1954, 1959, and 1978. Significant persons associated with the resource are former presidents Franklin Delano Roosevelt and James Earl (Jimmy) Carter, Jr. The historic district includes 95 contributing resources and 77 non-contributing resources, in addition to the 57 contributing resources previously identified in the three 1989 NRHP documents.

Additional National Register documentation was accepted by the Keeper of the National Register in December of 2024 that expanded the periods of significance to include later periods

1. The nomination does not include detailed information on the presidential retreat Camp David, which is located within the park boundaries.

and contexts in the park's history that have been identified as significant since the 2014 nomination. Previously considered non-contributing due to their age, the additional documentation proposes the reevaluation of resources dating from 1954 through 1978 based on their associations with the Mission 66 program period (1956-1966)[2,3], Parkscape USA program period (1967-1972)[4], Jobs Corp Conservation Center period (1965-1969), and youth environmental programming, including the Summer in the Parks and Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) pilot program period and initial implementation (1969-1981). The addendum also expands the areas of significance under Criterion A to include: Community Planning and Development; Social History; and Conservation, in association with the Mission 66 program, Parkscape USA, Job Corps, Youth Conservation Corps, and related federal programs. The period of significance for this additional documentation begins in 1954, when Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area was divided into two sections and early Mission 66 planning began, and ends in 1981, when YCC concluded most of its projects at Camp Round Meadow. The nomination expands the significance of Camp Round Meadow to recognize resources added up until 1981, including the final extant dormitory.

The addendum also includes archeological sites that had not yet been identified by the time the 2014 nomination was listed. These sites are located outside of the study area boundaries for this CLR. Site 18FR977, the site of a prehistoric short-use camp (outside this CLR's study area), dates to approximately 8200 BCE and is considered the oldest identified archeological site at Catoctin Mountain Park. The addition of the site expands the period of significance much earlier than previously documented, establishing to a start date of 8200 BCE (compared with the 2014 nomination's start date of 3000 BCE).[5]

Cultural Landscapes Summary

A parkwide Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Catoctin Mountain Park was completed in 2002 (CRIS-CL #600017). The CLI records two periods of significance: 1770-1903, and 1934-1942. The CLI determined that the landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C in the areas of: Conservation; Politics/Government; Architecture; Industry; Agriculture; and Social History. The Maryland State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the findings of the CLI on September 17, 2004, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The landscape's condition was updated was on September 10, 2008, and listed in Fair condition. Upon reassessment in 2014 and in 2023, the cultural landscape was listed in Good condition both times.

CLR Boundary Summary

The 30.85-acre study area boundary for this CLR includes several resources associated with the development and significance of the cultural landscape. Beginning at its southeasternmost point, the irregular cultural landscape boundary follows Manahan Road to the northeast; Manahan Road is the eastern boundary of the cultural landscape. The boundary continues along Manahan Road to Park Central Road, then follows the northward curves of Park Central Road. The boundary travels west along the north side of the maintenance yard, then follows the unpaved maintenance access road to the southeast before traveling southwest along the north side of the former trailer court. The boundary then encompasses the westernmost part of the

2. The Mission 66 initiative was approved by President Eisenhower and funded by Congress in 1956. Planning for Mission 66 efforts began the year prior and National Capital Parks included Catoctin Mountain Park in its Mission 66 Prospectus released in November 1955.
3. This date range for Mission 66 resources is from the 2015 National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources National Register nomination (NRHP #65501248) and differs from the 2024 Catoctin NRHP updated nomination. The updated nomination records the Mission 66 era as 1954 through 1972, which incorporates the planning era of Mission 66 through Parkscape USA.
4. This date range for Parkscape USA is from the 2015 National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources National Register nomination (NRHP #65501248). Please note the 2015 National Register nomination includes both 1972 and 1973 as the end dates for Parkscape USA.
5. There are no known archeological sites within Camp Round Meadow. Hence, its individual period of significance is restricted to later periods, spanning 1936-1981.

former trailer court, traveling further west along the north side of the former tennis court area. The boundary then travels along the edge of the woods to incorporate the sewage lagoon at the western extent of the cultural landscape. The southern boundary of the cultural landscape coincides with the park boundary.

Statement of Significance Summary

The Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of: Politics/ Government; Entertainment/Recreation; Social History; Conservation; and Military. It is also eligible at the national level of significance under Criterion C, in the areas of Architecture; Landscape Architecture; and Community Planning and Development. As there are resources within the project area that have gained significance within the past 50 years, the cultural landscape is also eligible under Criteria Consideration G.

The period of significance for the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape begins in 1936 and ends in 1981. This period encompasses the initiation of physical improvements for the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area, including the development of administrative sites and the establishment of the maintenance yard; it extends through the construction of Dormitory 4 in 1981, as part of the rehabilitation work at Camp Round Meadow for environmental education initiatives. Although the last substantial building campaign associated with the environmental education center ended in 1979[6], the period of significance extends to 1981 to include the construction of one final dormitory. That year also saw the cessation of Camp Round Meadow operations for the DC Environmental Outdoor Laboratory, an environmental education initiative, and the Folk Culture Center.

The period of significance encompasses various development campaigns at Camp Round Meadow, including the RDA period (1936-1941), the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) period (1942-1944), the greater Mission 66 era of development (1945-1972) (including planning for the program (1945-1955), the formal Mission 66 program (1956-1966), and the Parkscape USA program period (1967-1972), which overlapped with the establishment of the Job Corps Conservation Center (1964-1969), and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) pilot program and initial program implementation (1971-1981).

CRITERION A

Areas of Significance: Politics/Government; Entertainment/Recreation; Conservation; Social History
Level of Significance: National
Period of Significance: 1936-1981

The Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Politics/Government; Entertainment/Recreation; Conservation; and Social History in association with several successive federal programs that impacted public lands and public land management. The project area has been the site of several federal social reform programs that reshaped the design and use of public parklands in the 20th century, beginning with the 1936 construction of the Central Garage Unit (also called Central Administration Area and later, Camp Round Meadow) as the headquarters of the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area and Civilian Conservation Corps camp. This association between the study area and significant federal reform and social investment programs extended throughout the period of significance, encompassing the Job Corps program, Mission 66 and Parkscape USA campaigns, the Summer in the Parks program, and other environmental education initiatives, including the Youth Conservation Corps, that sustained the significance established in the RDA era.

As the Great Depression swept the country beginning in 1929, politicians looked for ways to repurpose agricultural and industrial areas as recreational landscapes, in order to address what they considered underutilized, “submarginal” lands.

6. The scope of that campaign included the construction of three dormitories.

Seeking to provide lower-income, generally urban groups with access to outdoor recreation, the government purchased or condemned private lands to establish Recreational Demonstration Areas. As one of 46 RDAs established across the country, the Catoctin RDA was developed beginning in 1936, reshaping a collection of fields, farmsteads, and timberlands used for agriculture, charcoaling, and logging into a park landscape associated with recreation and tourism.

The workers who transformed the land into an RDA were funded through two federal programs: the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Created in 1935, the WPA was a New Deal employment and infrastructure program that hired millions of job seekers to carry out public works projects across the country. In December of that year, the NPS began cooperating with the WPA on various park projects, and on January 2, 1936, a group of WPA workers began transforming the Catoctin landscape. The first set of buildings needed for the RDA were administration offices and storage spaces for vehicles, supplies, and tools. Thus, from 1936 through 1939, the WPA employed hundreds of local men (including former residents who had lived on the land before the creation of the RDA) to build several of the first park structures, including the buildings in the Central Garage Unit that would later be called Camp Round Meadow.

The second group of workers to transform the RDA were Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollees. On March 31, 1933, Congress passed the Emergency Conservation Work Act (ECW) as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal program. The ECW effectively created the CCC, which, like the WPA, was a conservation, social reform, and relief program that sought to employ millions of out-of-work young men through civic conservation projects. Workers lived on site and would participate in park construction or conservation projects in exchange for education, room and board, and wages to send home to their families.

WPA laborers began working at the site in 1936 and were joined by the CCC in 1939. CCC Company 1374, an all-white and all-male crew, set up camp in a former farm field north of the Central Garage Unit, which served as the headquarters and maintenance area for the CCC. Over time, the Central Garage Unit would include offices, workshops, garages, bunkhouses, and other structures associated with the development of the RDA for public use. During their tenure at Catoctin, CCC enrollees planted trees; built roads, trails, structures, and buildings; and engaged in other conservation projects throughout the park. Company 1374 disbanded in November 1941, prior to the formal disbanding of the CCC program the following year in June 1942. A series of successive work and reform programs at Catoctin Mountain Park would later follow the precedent established by the CCC and WPA.

Two decades after the disbandment of the CCC, the creation of the Job Corps program brought social reform back into NPS policy and operations in the 1960s. Established by the Johnson administration's War on Poverty initiative as a job training opportunity for young men, the Job Corps program was one of the first social programs developed under the Economic Opportunity Act of August 1964. The central goal of the Job Corps was, ''the improvement of the physical, mental, and moral strength of our young people—the greatest resource of our Nation."[7] To that end, the program offered educational, vocational, and recreational programming for its participants. Modeled after the CCC, the Job Corps responded to the nation's high youth unemployment rate by establishing nine Job Corps Conservation Centers (JCCC) on NPS lands. In operation between 1964 and 1969, the first of these sites was located at Catoctin (whose name changed to Catoctin Mountain Park in 1954) and based in Camp Round Meadow.

Unlike the CCC, the program's participants were racially integrated. In the wake of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Jobs Corps administrators were cognizant of the racial makeup and backgrounds of their enrollees, noting that, "the thinking is that not more than 30% of the enrollees in any one camp will be from the same ethnic group" (Cook, memorandum 1964). In order to ensure geographic mixing as well, the program stipulated that all

7. Quoted in Angela R. Sirna, *Human Conservation Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park: A Special Resource Study* (Murfreesboro, TN: Middle Tennessee State University, 2015), 106.

enrollees would be sent to camps at least 200 miles away from their homes (Cook, memorandum 1964). At Catoctin, local community members expressed concern about too many minority residents in the camp; in response, the Job Corps began issuing regular reports of racial distribution as enrollees arrived and departed.

The establishment of the JCCC at Camp Round Meadow coincided with two major NPS development campaigns; together, these campaigns reinforced the impacts of the federal JCCC program. Mission 66 was a 10-year building and design campaign that sought to expand visitor services and recreational opportunities to meet or exceed postwar demand in time for the 50th anniversary of the NPS in 1966. Its successor, Parkscape USA, existed from 1967 through 1972, building on the momentum of Mission 66 to complete planned projects and expand the park system for the end of the 20th century. Improvements made at Camp Round Meadow from the late 1960s during the JCCC era were likely funded under the Parkscape USA initiative.

The Job Corps Conservation Center's first headquarters were built within the boundaries of the former CCC camp and Central Garage Unit. The JCCC reused several CCC-era buildings, as well as constructed new buildings. In 1965, 26 years after the CCC set up camp at Camp Round Meadow, 30 young men from Maryland, Virginia, and Kentucky took up residence at the site and participated in training on conservation projects. Much like the CCC, JCCC enrollees refurbished park trails, worked on the trailhead areas, and built small structures and park signs, in addition to working on off-site projects in nearby communities. Existing resources constructed at Camp Round Meadow for the JCCC as part of the Mission 66 and Parkscape USA campaigns are reflective of the NPS' programmatic response to social conditions, protests, and unrest in the 1960s.

A range of escalating external challenges, including budget cuts and the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, led to reductions in Johnson's domestic programs. In 1969, the Job Corps program moved from the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Department of Labor, and several Job Corps Centers shut down. Nevertheless, the establishment of the JCCC left a significant imprint on the park landscape, demonstrating the federal government's physical, financial, and social investment in Camp Round Meadow. Today, the legacy of the War on Poverty remains evident in the Job Corps buildings left at Camp Round Meadow, including the dining hall, administration office, and gymnasium. Moreover, much of the site's extant spatial organization dates to the Job Corps period due to the retention of much of that period's circulation features and buildings. The program marked a significant federal investment in youth employment, making use of recreational landscapes to teach underemployed youth new skills. By the time the Catoctin JCCC closed in 1969, approximately 1,015 enrollees had passed through the center. As the national pilot JCCC, the Catoctin center offered important lessons for subsequent youth programming in the park and for other Job Corps programs still in operation today.

As Catoctin Mountain Park's programming shifted away from the Job Corps, the park's programming engaged more directly with local and regional communities through national environmental education initiatives. This shift is representative of the goals of Parkscape USA, which included "cooperative programs with other agencies" and "utilizing the national park concept" to improve life in American cities. Under Parkscape USA, the NPS established public outreach programs that incorporated new approaches to interpretation, environmental education, social justice, and anti-poverty and job training.

Within six weeks of the departure of the Job Corps, Camp Round Meadow was again in use, this time for a residential environmental camp. Children from Washington, D.C., occupied what was called "Round Meadow Camp" during the summers of 1969 and 1970, as part of the Summer in the Parks initiative. This program was part of Parkscape USA programming, as the NPS sought to expand its programming to urban populations.

Although Catoctin had hosted outdoor education programming for local county schools since the mid-1950s, Summer in the Parks was a federal program created in the aftermath of the 1968

protests following the murder of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program sought to mitigate further violence by encouraging residents to use local parks; in doing so, the NPS hoped to redress its legacy of discrimination against Black citizens by connecting D.C.-area urban residents with park programming.

The community-based program was created by NPS officials, local Black leaders, D.C. government officials, volunteer organizations, and experts on public space; it included recreational opportunities and social gatherings for adults and children, including concerts, sports events, enrichment programs, and community-building activities. Activities for children included week-long sleepaway camps in nearby national parks, including at Camp Round Meadow in Catoctin Mountain Park. Beginning in July of 1969, a group of 10- to 13-year-olds spent a summer camping, fishing, hiking, and swimming at Catoctin. In the program's second summer, the park ran three separate three-week-long cultural arts camps[8] staffed by art and dance professionals from Washington, D.C.

Meanwhile, the growing modern environmental movement, as well as changes within the NPS, influenced the development of Service-wide environmental education initiatives in which Camp Round Meadow was once again a national model. NPS Director George Hartzog sought to diversify and increase interpretation activities across the system, focusing on environmental education and "living history" programming. Thus, in addition to the growth of nationally significant residential camps at Camp Round Meadow, Catoctin Mountain Park Superintendent Frank Mentzer initiated a living history program at the park in 1968 and helped launch the Folk Culture Center and Environmental Museum (also referred to historically as the Folk Craft Center or Folk Life Center) in 1970; both programs were emblematic of broader NPS trends in this era related to living history and interpretation. (Prior to 1968, there was limited interpretive programming at the park.)

The Folk Culture Center, housed within the maintenance area of Camp Round Meadow, focused on the interpretation of local mountain life in the late 18th and 19th centuries. In its evolving engagement, interpretation, and educational programming, the park increasingly emphasized the cultural use of mountain resources.

While the residential campers utilized the existing dormitories, the Folk Culture Center used several of the maintenance and administrative facilities (including the garage unit area) previously occupied by the Job Corps, Civilian Conservation Corps, and Works Progress Administration. Maintenance building space was reconceived for pottery making, shingle riving, spinning, weaving, broom making, and kitchen crafts, among other activities. The headquarters building was converted to a general store, and the WPA-era blacksmith shop was reactivated for public demonstrations. By the mid-1970s, park funding cuts impacted programming across the NPS. This, among other factors, led to the closing of the Folk Culture Center c. 1981.[9]

Shortly after the closing of the JCCC, President Richard Nixon signed into law the creation of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) on August 13, 1970. The initiative focused on environmental education programming, hands-on experience in resource management and stewardship, and the completion of maintenance and conservation projects on public lands—all themes emerging from an increasing nationwide environmental consciousness. Continuing the rich legacy of experimental conservation programs at Catoctin, the NPS chose Camp Round Meadow as one of eight pilot sites for a YCC residential camp. Modeled loosely after the CCC, the YCC program was open to high school students between the ages of 15 and 18,

8. Cultural arts camps typically apply to a particular community; these camps may have been African-American cultural arts camps focused on art and dance.

9. The National Register update records the last year of the Folk Culture Center as 1975. The 2014 National Register nomination notes that the Folk Culture Center closed in 1981. The 1988 and 2020 Administrative Histories echo the 1981 date. The Assessment of Alternatives completed in 1980 for the 1982 Development Concept Plan for Round Meadow noted that "a craft center, which provides living history interpretations of mountain crafts, is located on the site" (NPS Assessment of Alternatives, Camp Round Meadow 1980, vii). The document describes the Folk Culture Center as open to the public on weekends and holidays and available to school groups on certain days during the summer (*NPS Assessment of Alternatives, Camp Round Meadow* 1980, 3).

with participation evenly distributed between male and female participants. During the first eight-week residential program, half of the students came from rural areas in Frederick County, while the other half were from more urban areas. Unlike the CCC, which was all-male and segregated, and the Job Corps, which was all-male and sought to fill racial quotas, the YCC program was integrated and co-ed; six of the 50 students in the first residential program were Black.

Against the backdrop of the growing environmental movement, including the establishment of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 and other significant environmental legislation, the YCC program expanded throughout the 1970s, moving beyond its pilot phase in 1974 in partnership with local school districts. The YCC occupied buildings at Camp Round Meadow that had been built and/or repurposed by the CCC and the JCCC. YCC enrollees worked on conservation projects and constructed several structures throughout Catoctin Mountain Park, including within Camp Round Meadow.

Changes to the design of the Camp Round Meadow campus occurred between 1979 and 1981 to accommodate the growing environmental education programming at the site. At this time several Job Corps buildings were removed while the mess hall, office, gym, tennis court, gazebo, nurse's station, and a few of the counselor's trailers were retained. Four new one-story dormitories clad in board-and-batten siding with hip-and-valley metal roofs were constructed. Some of the paved driveways were removed and new plantings, notably around dormitory foundations, were added.

In 1981, Congress slashed funding for the YCC. Thereafter, the program was reformulated as a non-residential initiative, although it remained active in the park.[10] Like its predecessors, the YCC left a legacy within the built environment of Catoctin Mountain Park.

From the initial transformation of the mountainous landscape into a Recreational Demonstration Area in the 1930s, through the establishment of the first Job Corps Center and Summer in the Parks programming in the 1960s, and the YCC environmental initiatives in the 1970s, the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape has been shaped by successive eras of federal investment in social and conservation programs on public lands. The cultural landscape is therefore nationally significant based on its association with these major social, economic, and environmental federal initiatives.

CRITERION A

Areas of Significance: Military
Level of Significance: National
Period of Significance: 1936-1944

Camp Round Meadow is also significant at the national level under Criterion A in the area of Military significance, in association with its role during World War II as the headquarters for the Office of Strategic Services' (OSS) military training programs at Catoctin Mountain Park. In July of 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created a civilian agency within the White House to oversee American intelligence. The following year, on June 13, 1942, Roosevelt issued an executive order creating the OSS, considered America's first unified intelligence agency and the predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The mission of the OSS was to obtain information and to sabotage the military efforts of enemy nations during World War II.

The OSS selected Catoctin as one of its training facilities, based on its remote location, heavy forestation, and federal ownership. The War Department leased the facilities in Catoctin from the Department of the Interior and used several thousand acres in the northwestern part of the park for paramilitary training and field exercises. The center of the OSS training area was Cabin Camp 2 (Greentop), designated Area B-2, located less than one mile east of today's Camp Round Meadow. Area B-2 was rehabilitated to support a year-round paramilitary training facility with numerous resources including obstacle courses, physical training areas, target ranges, demolitions areas for instruction in the use of explosives, storage for

10. Today, Catoctin receives its YCC support through a regional NPS fund that employs crews of high school students who work on park maintenance projects.

munitions, classrooms, and a mockup house to train in urban fighting. The cabins, dining facilities, and recreation halls were winterized for year-round use.

While Area B-2 initially housed the entire OSS cadre, in September 1942, the permanent staff from OSS Detachment B responsible for operations moved to today's Camp Round Meadow, designated Area B-5. The Army Corps of Engineers made improvements to the existing infrastructure within Area B-5 to accommodate the OSS headquarters. Compared to the training facilities at B-2, the OSS used Area B-5 as their headquarters for operations, occupying the existing officers' quarters, educational building, recreational building, mess hall, kitchen, dispensary, post exchange, barracks for accommodations, and storage facilities. Army vehicles were stored and maintained in what is today the gymnasium parking lot. By the end of 1943, the Army Corps of Engineers had constructed a small rifle range, measuring 300 yards in length, near Area B-5. As of October 1943, the camp in Area B-5 could host 265 individuals, including 25 officers, 40 enlisted men, and up to 200 trainees.

The OSS ceased training operations at Catoctin in May 1944, and the Department of the Interior terminated the War Department's special use permit. Although relatively brief, the OSS period at Camp Round Meadow was a key factor in the United States' military success in World War II. The operational activities at Camp Round Meadow also helped make the case for the postwar continuation of clandestine activities; although the OSS dissolved a month after the end of World War II, the National Security Act of 1947 established the Central Intelligence Agency and the CIA adopted some of the former OSS functions. Thus, Camp Round Meadow's role as OSS headquarters had international implications throughout World War II and the ensuing decades.

CRITERION C

Areas of Significance: Architecture; Landscape Architecture; Community Planning and Development

Level of Significance: National
Period of Significance: 1936-1981

The Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape is nationally significant under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture; Landscape Architecture; and Community Planning and Development, based on its association with several generations of design, construction, and rehabilitation that deployed and promoted NPS-associated architectural styles throughout the period of significance. Beginning with the WPA and CCC in the 1930s and continuing through later federal design/construction campaigns as part of Mission 66 and Parkscape USA, the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape reflects multiple eras of significant architectural and landscape architecture movements deployed by National Park Service designers.

In 1936, within a year of its creation, the WPA began work at Catoctin designing and building nearly all the structures for the RDA, including the buildings in the Central Garage Unit (within the study area). These buildings typified the Rustic Style design principles and practices codified by NPS architects in the 1920s and 1930s, which sought to harmonize buildings and structures with the surrounding natural environment, often by using local building materials. Park architect A.R. Vanston used local workers' skilled labor and local building knowledge for his designs at Catoctin, incorporating traditional log construction and stonework to fit the desired rustic design.

RDA designers carefully planned—and WPA workers constructed—each building in the Central Garage Unit as a national showcase for the Rustic Style architecture of the RDA program. The Camp Round Meadow study area features several examples of Rustic Style buildings and structures from this period, including: the Resource Management Building (Building 1; built 1936), blacksmith shop (Building 4; built 1936), gas pump house (Building 5; 1936), and the infirmary (Building 12; built 1936). Once erected, the buildings at Camp Round Meadow served as prototypes for other RDAs and national parks (and for other areas within Catoctin itself, including Camps Greentop and Misty Mount). Rustic Style design efforts continued within the study area until 1941, when the Catoctin CCC camp disbanded, and the RDA shifted temporarily to military use.

Although visitation steadily increased at national parks after World War II, most parks had seen minimal investment in their infrastructure since the 1930s. As a result, many park facilities needed repair and/or were inadequate to accommodate the increasing number of visitors. In an effort to address the backlog of deferred maintenance and to modernize these facilities, the NPS established the Mission 66 program in 1956. This 10-year building and design campaign sought to expand visitor services and recreational opportunities in order to meet or exceed postwar demand in time for the 50th anniversary of the NPS in 1966. Mission 66 introduced new architectural styles to national parks, departing from the traditional Rustic Style of the WPA and CCC eras in favor of the International Style and Modernism. The Modern Style allowed the NPS to use cost-effective, standardized materials, plans, and construction methods developed in the postwar building boom, all while blending buildings with their park's surroundings and minimizing their obtrusiveness with clean lines, horizontality, and simplicity.

With Mission 66 plans and funding, Catoctin Mountain Park embarked on the first substantial park investment in infrastructure and programming since initial construction of the RDA in the 1930s. The National Capital Office of Design and Construction prepared drawings and landscape plans for the park, interpreting the NPS's Mission 66 Modern Style at Catoctin and deploying standardized methods of construction that blended into the regional setting of Maryland's Blue Ridge.

At Camp Round Meadow, the Mission 66 era of design coincided with the establishment of the Job Corps Conservation Center (JCCC), and segued into a subsequent initiative, Parkscape USA; implemented in quick succession, these programs demonstrated the evolving design practices of the NPS in the second half of the 20th century. The utilitarian JCCC buildings constructed at Camp Round Meadow generally featured multiple construction methods and types, including concrete block, wood panel exteriors, steel frame, and pre-fabricated elements. With the exception of the two-story gymnasium, the buildings adopt low-profile and functional modern designs. Buildings were sited to take advantage of the grading established by the CCC and were arranged within many of the same locations as former CCC buildings. New circulation and vegetation features were introduced in order to integrate these later additions with the landscape design established in earlier periods.

In the years following the closure of the JCCC, the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) occupied buildings at Camp Round Meadow. The design of Camp Round Meadow was altered once again, this time to accommodate environmental education programming. Although the last substantial building campaign associated with the environmental education center ended in 1979, one dormitory was added in 1981. Today, Camp Round Meadow exemplifies several overlapping phases of National Park Service design and development history. The study area's architecture and landscape architecture offer a case study of evolving design practice, as Rustic Style buildings and landscape features remain interwoven with Mission 66-era Modernist architecture and landscape architecture. The cultural landscape is therefore nationally significant as the embodiment of several generations of design adopted by the federal government for its recreational landscapes.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION G

Camp Round Meadow is eligible for listing under Criteria Consideration G as a property that has achieved significance within the past 50 years. Resources within the project area that were added within the past 50 years are associated with nationally significant youth environmental education initiatives, including the YCC pilot program and other environmental education initiatives that took place between 1971 and 1981. These resources include four dormitories that were designed in the 1970s to replace Job Corps-era dormitories; three of these buildings were constructed in 1979, and the fourth and final one was erected in 1981. The development of these YCC facilities, and the adaptation of the broader study area for environmental education, did not radically alter the site's landscape, although the circulation patterns, both pedestrian and vehicular, were somewhat changed. Additionally, ornamental dogwoods, hemlocks, and other associated landscaping were added around the dormitories to help the new

structures blend with the natural landscape. Such improvements are consistent with sustained federal investment in the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape throughout the period of significance.

Conclusion

The Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape has been shaped by federal work and conservation programs that shared the goal of social reform and reflected the NPS' programmatic response to social and economic conditions throughout the 20th century. Initially developed as an RDA during the New Deal and subsequently improved under the Job Corps program, Mission 66/Parkscape USA initiatives, and the YCC, the cultural landscape represents the federal government's ongoing investment in testing and implementing new social initiatives within a recreational landscape. These federal programs established and altered the park's physical resources and engaged generations of youth and young adults through employment and environmental conservation initiatives. Today, the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape reflects each of these overlapping layers, representing the various aspects of its developmental history from which it derives significance.

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Chronology

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
9600 BCE	2200 BCE	Inhabited	During the Archaic Period, groups of Native Americans depended on Catoctin Mountain for its natural resources, hunting wild game, gathering plants, and extracting stone, such as metarhyolite, to make tools and spearpoints. To accommodate travel to the region, they established small transitory camp sites along the streambanks of Catoctin Mountain.
2200 BCE	1350 BCE	Inhabited	During the Terminal Archaic Period, the placement and use of camp sites shifted. People spent most of their time at larger settlements established along the Monocacy River. They established larger metarhyolite quarries, and their artifacts shifted from spearpoints to broadspears.
1400 BCE	800 CE	Explored / Established	In the Early and Middle Woodland Periods, Native Americans began crafting pottery for use at Monocacy River settlements. Expeditions to extract rhyolite and/or to hunt likely continued at Catoctin Mountain.
800 CE	1600 CE	Established	During the Late Woodland Period, Native people who spoke Algonquian and Iroquoian languages, such as the Susquehannocks and Shawnee, continued to visit Catoctin Mountain to extract rhyolite; they likely also hunted deer and gathered nuts.
1580 CE	1720 CE	Colonized	Evidence suggests that by 1600, organized Indigenous groups no longer lived along the Monocacy River, having been forced to leave the area by European colonizers. However, the Susquehannocks, the Haudenosaunee (or Iroquois), and the Shawnee used the mountain and Great Valley region for activities such as hunting, trade, and travel. The Haudenosaunee made use of a path that ran along the east side of Catoctin Mountain, following the approximate route of U.S. Route 15.
1720 CE	1720 CE	Colonized	By the 1720s, European colonizers, mostly of Swedish or Finnish descent, began occupying the Monocacy region, trading furs with the Susquehannock and establishing trading posts and other small-scale settlements.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1722 CE	1722 CE	Established	The Haudenosaunee barred settlement until 1722, when the Treaty of Albany was signed. The treaty required the Haudenosaunee (or Iroquois) to give up ownership claims "to large tracts of land east of the mountains and to concede that their warriors would no longer use the path east of the Blue Ridge" (Quoted in Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 42). The displacement of the Haudenosaunee opened large areas of western Maryland to European expansion and settlement, enticing colonizers from the Chesapeake region to move farther inland.
1732 CE	1732 CE	Established	To encourage colonists to settle in Maryland, Lord Baltimore issued a proclamation in March 1732, offering 200 acres of land to any family that would arrive in Maryland within three years and settle west of the Monocacy River. As a result, settlement increased significantly in the ensuing decades.
1740 CE	1775 CE	Colonized	Sustained European colonization began on and near Catoctin Mountain, prior to the American Revolution (1775-1783). A small number of Germans patented large tracts of land east of the mountain, and others claimed smaller parcels on the west and central portions of the mountain. The smaller parcels were generally owned by absentee landlords, who likely rented the properties to tenant farmers or sold them as land speculators.
1740s CE	1740s CE	Established	At some point–likely in the 1740s–Thomas Cresap surveyed and patented a property encompassing 742 acres, which he called Round Meadow. His survey encompassed the full extents of the cultural landscape study area.
1752 CE	1752 CE	Developed	As they colonized the area, Europeans cleared land for agriculture and built sawmills to produce cut lumber from the cleared trees. The first sawmill at Catoctin Mountain Park, named "Ambrose's Mill," was built by the Ambrose family at their property on Owens Creek (which was patented in 1752), near present-day Thurmont, MD. It was followed by a series of mills constructed throughout the present-day boundaries of the park.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1760 CE	1929 CE	Established	As early as the 1760s, mountain residents distilled whiskey. As of 1791, approximately 400 stills were active in Frederick County. To avoid paying the Excise Whiskey Tax, distillers sought out secluded mountain sites to house and conceal stills. The practice continued through the Prohibition Era in the 1920s, including the infamous Blue Blazes Still on Catoctin Mountain (near the present-day Visitor Center), where the forest provided seclusion for distilling illegal "Catoctin moonshine."
1760 CE	1935 CE	Farmed/ Harvested	Farming began and prospered in the region. Agriculture was the main source of income for most families during this period. They supplemented their income through craft, timbering, charcoaling, and day labor.
1767 CE	1775 CE	Established	The 1767 survey of the Mason-Dixon Line concluded a border conflict between Maryland and Pennsylvania. For decades, the boundary between the colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland had remained vague, resulting in confusion for land tracts along the borders. With the formalization of the “Mason-Dixon Line” between the two colonies in 1767, settlement picked up pace.
1771 CE	1771 CE	Purchased/ Sold	The 4th Baron Baltimore, Benedict Calvert, and his business partner, Thomas Johnson, patented "Mountain Tract," a 7,715-acre area on the eastern half of Catoctin Mountain Park along the lower slopes. They eventually divided the land into two parts, with Calvert taking the northern portion, subdividing and selling his landholdings in smaller parcels; Johnson retained the southern portion, consolidating it with other landholdings in the area.
1774 CE	1774 CE	Established	Thomas Johnson, landholder, and his three brothers established an iron furnace on the retained southern portion of the “Mountain Tract” in 1774. The Catoctin Iron Furnace was located at the head of the Blue Blazes tributary, southeast of the study area. During the furnace’s first five decades of operations, the Johnsons forced enslaved Africans to labor at the furnace, where they worked as blacksmiths, colliers, founders, and forge men.
1775 CE	1783 CE	Established	The American Revolution increased the demand for weaponry and equipment, spurring additional local iron production, including at the Catoctin Iron Furnace.
1776 CE	1890 CE	Exploited	Through several ownership changes, the Catoctin Furnace served a growing American iron industry beginning in 1776. Catoctin Mountain's forests, particularly the areas around the furnace, were cut to produce charcoal to fuel the furnace; these deforestation practices continued for over a century, likely ending in the 1890s. Charcoal was manufactured at hearths on both sides of Catoctin Mountain, as many mountain families supplemented their income with charcoal and iron production. Colliers, who managed charcoal production, lived in huts near the hearths.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1790 CE	1820 CE	Established	The enslaved population doubled in Frederick County at the start of the 19th century, peaking in 1820 at 6,685.
1793 CE	1899 CE	Established	By the early 19th century, several small industries sprung up east of the mountains, especially in the town of Mechanicstown (present-day Thurmont). Tanning was one of the first regional industries, tied into the local farm economy and reliant on the bark of mountain oak, chestnut, and hemlock trees as the tanning agent. The first tannery was constructed at Owens Creek by Daniel Rouzer, a German immigrant. Rouzer's tannery made use of the tanning agent found in the bark of the trees, primarily oak, that grew abundantly in the area. Tanners used heavy stones to crush the bark and extracted tannins for dying animal hides with water from nearby creeks. Other tanneries soon followed in the area, operating until the close of the 19th century.
c. 1800 CE	c. 1800 CE	Established	By c. 1800, a north-south route (later called Manahan Road) connected the study area and the Harbaugh Valley, in the northwestern corner of present-day Frederick County. Two small hamlets, later known as Foxville and Lantz, were located at either end of the road, with several early farms along the road between them. A wide band of land between these two hamlets would later be included within the park boundaries.
c. 1800 CE	c. 1935 CE	Exploited	In addition to farming and charcoal production, the land was also used for logging, producing timber for local and distant sawmills. Other local industries included barrel production and manufacturing of railroad car pins. Residents also made shingles, sold cordwood, and gathered chestnuts and blueberries.
1808 CE	1808 CE	Developed	The road that flanks Owens Creek (present-day Maryland Route 550) was in existence by 1808 (if not earlier) and may have been part of Cartledge's Old Road. The road linked Mechanicstown (present-day Thurmont) with the Harbaugh Valley and was an alternate route to the study area.
1810 CE	1816 CE	Developed	As industry expanded and the city of Baltimore grew, an improved network of roads developed, radiating out from the city. In the Catoctin area, the first phase of transportation upgrades occurred between 1810 and 1816, as the east-west road across the mountain (now Route 77) was incorporated into the Westminster-Hagerstown Turnpike. The turnpike connected to the National Road in Hagerstown, MD and ran through Mechanicstown (present-day Thurmont) and Harmon's Gap, MD.
1826 CE	1826 CE	Built	A decade later, the Frederick-Emmitsburg Turnpike (now Route 806) was completed as a north-south road from Frederick, MD, passing through the villages of Catoctin Furnace and Mechanicstown, MD.
c. 1850 CE	c. 1850 CE	Purchased/ Sold	William B. Brown acquired a farmstead that included the Camp Round Meadow study area. He owned the property for around 50 years.
1852 CE	1852 CE	Established	The Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick County Railroad was chartered.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1861 CE	1865 CE	Established	By 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, there were 21 enslaved individuals in Mechanicstown (present-day Thurmont), with 3,243 enslaved individuals in Frederick County overall. During the Civil War, several battles were fought in western Maryland, including the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. The Battle of Antietam ended the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion into the North and prompted Abraham Lincoln to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.
1871 CE	1871 CE	Established	By 1871, the Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick County Railroad had been subsumed by the Western Maryland Railroad, which arrived in Mechanicstown by 1871, bordering the future park to the east. Originally intended to serve industry, the rail ultimately fostered an important tourism economy for the area just as local manufacturing and industry began to decline.
1877 CE	1877 CE	Built	In 1877, John Mifflen Hood, president of the Western Maryland Railroad, constructed a vacation resort at Pen Mar, on the Pennsylvania-Maryland border.
1885 CE	1903 CE	Established	When its owner died in 1885, the Catoctin Iron Furnace shut down, impacting the livelihoods of foundry workers, charcoal burners, and many others. The operation permanently closed in 1903.
1885 CE	1934 CE	Built / Developed	Spurred by the success of the Pen Mar resort, a nascent tourism industry emerged in the Mechanicstown-Foxville area, and other mountain resorts, inns, and boarding houses were constructed in the region. Some of the homes in what would become Catoctin Mountain Park served as boarding houses in the summer tourist season. In the 1920s, Herbert Hoover regularly fished at Catoctin Mountain, adding further publicity to the area's budding tourism industry. The area developed a reputation as a destination for recreation and a bucolic escape for city-dwellers from Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and elsewhere.
1900 CE	1900 CE	Purchased/ Sold	Chester Brandenburg purchased land from the Brown family that included the study area, a tract that had been the farmstead of William B. Brown for over 50 years.
1920 CE	1920 CE	Purchased/ Sold	Roy Lewis bought the farm from Chester Brandenburg, including the land that what would become the Camp Round Meadow area.
1929 CE	1939 CE	Established	The Great Depression deeply impacted individuals and institutions across the country as unemployment soared, banking systems collapsed, and industrial production diminished. By the time Franklin D. Roosevelt became President in 1933, one in four Americans was out of work. Roosevelt quickly enacted a series of programs and projects known as the New Deal that aimed to address and alleviate the impacts of the Great Depression. The New Deal created several agencies that provided employment, including the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA).

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1933 CE	1933 CE	Established	The National Industrial Recovery Act, proposed by President Roosevelt and passed by Congress, provided relief funds for public work projects.
1934 CE	1934 CE	Established	In January 1934, the Land Planning Committee was set up within FERA to address underperforming agricultural lands. National Park Service (NPS) representatives attended Committee meetings.
1934 CE	1934 CE	Established	In July 1934, the Submarginal Land Acquisition Program was created to buy depleted farmland in order to repurpose the land for other uses. Government agencies interested in rural land utilization were asked to submit their land-use program plans to the Land Planning Committee. The NPS program focused on acquiring lands that were "no longer suitable for agriculture but that, if returned to natural condition and if within a reasonable distance of metropolitan areas, would provide a much-needed recreation facility for large numbers of people." The proposed properties were called Recreational Demonstration Areas, or RDAs. Administrators marginally compensated landowners for their land, sometimes offering relocation services.
1934 CE	1934 CE	Established	In late summer 1934, the State of Maryland recommended Catoctin Mountain as a Recreation Demonstration Area (RDA), submitting a proposal in cooperation with Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Maryland.
1935 CE	1935 CE	Planned	In early January 1935, the National Park Service's Branch of Planning and State Cooperation submitted "A Preliminary Proposal for the Catoctin Recreational Area in Washington and Frederick Counties." The report concluded that the Catoctin area, comprising over 10,000 acres, featured "many submarginal farms" that constituted "a problem area," and would be a strong candidate for an RDA. The NPS chose Garland B. (Mike) Williams as project manager and W.W. Simmonds to manage the land acquisition process at Catoctin RDA.
1935 CE	1936 CE	Planned	In March 1935, project manager Mike Williams began the planning process for the Catoctin RDA. Planning continued through the following year, with the arrival of landscape architect J.C. Milson in January 1936, and project architect A.R. Vanston in late March 1936. Park buildings were designed according to *Park Structures and Facilities,* a style guide developed for national park development and published in 1935. The style manual specified that buildings were to use natural colors, rough stone foundations, and log construction.
1935 CE	1940 CE	Established	As of January 1935, the proposed project area included 12,456 acres (176 tracts). Surveyors from the Land Policy Section arrived in the Catoctin area to begin land acquisition. By October 1935, acquisition was limited to a maximum of 10,333 acres. Lengthy title clearance processes and other problems, including local resistance, prolonged the acquisition process over several years. By 1940, the federal government owned 9,878 acres in fee simple.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1936 CE	1942 CE	Established	On November 14, 1936, Executive Order No. 7496 officially transferred authority over recreational demonstration projects from the Resettlement Administration (RA) to the Secretary of the Interior. (Note: Some NPS histories state that this action took effect on August 1, 1936, before the date of the executive order). Thus, by early 1936, the NPS controlled the Catoctin project in full, renaming it the "Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area." Between 1936 and 1942, the NPS developed organized camps, picnicking facilities, maintenance structures, and roads and trails throughout the RDA, with support from the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps.
1936 CE	1936 CE	Built	Development of the Catoctin RDA began in 1936, with WPA funds and local labor. Beginning in early 1936, the Central Garage Unit, also known as the Administrative Area or Utility Group and later called Camp Round Meadow, was designed and constructed. As of March 1936, an architectural drawing by A.R. Vanston of the "Layout, Temporary Maintenance Group" depicts the Central Garage Unit with the "Property of Roy E. Lewis, Tract No. 18" represented to the south. The drawing features two rows of buildings (separated by parking), including the administrative office/headquarters building, a multi-bay garage and repair shop, an equipment shed, lumber sheds, a tool house, an oil storage house, a blacksmith shop, and pit latrines for men and women; an existing stone fence is depicted to the north of the buildings. A flagstone path leading to the headquarters building was also constructed around this time but was not depicted on the drawing.
1936 CE	1939 CE	Built	The WPA workers built a service road through the RDA, incorporating an existing farm lane or logging road from the Central Garage Unit (present-day Camp Round Meadow) that reached the central plateau of Catoctin Mountain. Several other developed areas were constructed along the service road (outside of the study area boundaries).
1936 CE	1936 CE	Built	Building 12 was originally constructed as a storage shed or latrine.
1937 CE	1942 CE	Planned	NPS staff prepared a Master Plan for the entire RDA. G.B. Williams prepared the "Report to Accompany Master Plan," which was submitted on February 24, 1942. These documents would continue to guide the RDA's (and later, the park's) development in the ensuing decades.
c. 1938 CE	c. 1938 CE	Built	Building 83 was constructed by the CCC, initially serving as a "garage annex."
1938 CE	1938 CE	Demolished	WPA workers razed, burned, and dismantled farm buildings on nearly all of the farmlands purchased or condemned to create the RDA.
1939 CE	1939 CE	Established	The NPS sought legislation to initiate the return of most RDAs to their respective states, to fulfill an original tenet of the program.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1939 CE	1941 CE	Developed / Established	In April 1939, the all-white, all-male Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 1374 (Camp NP-3-MD) arrived at the Catoctin RDA. Between 1939 and 1941, CCC enrollees worked on conservation projects throughout the RDA, including trail, water line, electrical wiring, and construction projects. The CCC company was housed in the Central Garage Unit. Enrollees initially lived in tents in one of the Lewis farm's fields, across the farm road from the Central Garage Unit. Barracks were later constructed in the same area. Support buildings—including garages, shops, and sheds—were constructed in the Central Garage Unit, west of the existing administrative and maintenance facilities.
1941 CE	1941 CE	Established	Development at Catoctin RDA ceased due to the threat of U.S. involvement in WWII.
1941 CE	1960s CE	Inhabited	Beginning in 1941 and concluding in the mid-1960s, the headquarters building in the Central Garage Unit (now Camp Round Meadow) was used for staff housing.
1942 CE	1944 CE	Land Transfer	During World War II, a jurisdiction transfer allowed the War Department to utilize the northern portion of Catoctin RDA (north of Route 77) for troop training. The War Department leased the facilities from the Department of the Interior, and members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) moved into the former CCC camp within the study area in September of 1942, designating it Area B-5. The Army Corps of Engineers made improvements to the existing infrastructure within the OSS's headquarters in Area B-5. The OSS ceased training operations at Catoctin in May 1944.
1942 CE	1942 CE	Established	Dealing with the stresses of wartime budgets, Congress passed legislation on June 6, 1942, authorizing the transfer of RDAs from the Secretary of the Interior to their respective states. However, Catoctin RDA remained under federal ownership because of the military operations within Catoctin, and because the presidential retreat was located nearby.
1943 CE	1943 CE	Established	On August 30, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved the addition of Catoctin RDA to the national park system.
1948 CE	1970 CE	Paved	Park roads and the section of the state road (Route 77) that crossed the mountains were paved with asphalt.
1953 CE	1954 CE	Land Transfer	In 1953, an agreement was reached with the state of Maryland, dividing the Catoctin Area into two units. In June 1954, 4,445 acres of Catoctin Area located south of Route 77 were transferred to the State of Maryland, becoming Cunningham Falls State Park. On July 12, 1954, what remained of the RDA (the northern part) was redesignated Catoctin Mountain Park.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1955 CE	1955 CE	Altered	The National Park Service allocated the northern portion of the study area to the Commander of the Naval Support Facility at Camp David for use as a housing area. The former CCC barracks were removed to clear the site for a mobile home park for Navy personnel. In the 1950s, the original access road to the Central Garage Unit was repurposed as the main access road for the Navy Trailer court. A new main entrance road approaching the study area was established from the south.
1956 CE	1966 CE	Established	The decade between 1956 and 1966 is the Mission 66 period in NPS history, named for the service-wide program of repair and expansion that compensated for years of reduced budgets during World War II. Embarking on a rigorous building campaign, park designers and planners moved away from the Rustic Style of the CCC-era and embraced modern design. At Catoctin Mountain Park, facilities were refurbished and expanded, and new ones were added. Utilities and roads were also improved.
1958 CE	1958 CE	Established	A 1958 aerial shows the study area surrounded by dense woods; the developed area is fairly limited and encircled by a road. The access road remains in place, approaching the developed area from the east.
c. 1959 CE	c. 1969 CE	Established	By the 1960s, the Navy housing area at the old CCC barracks site had grown to 20 trailers, despite its authorized limit of only five units. The large open field north of the trailer court, remained an open space that was likely used during this time as a playing field.
1959 CE	1961 CE	Developed	The Naval Support Facility paid to improve the trailer court, adding water and sewage facilities, roads, walks, and parking pads for trailers. A 1961 drawing titled “Trailer Court Site Plan and Details” features a children’s play area within the court; it is unknown if the play area was added at this time.
1964 CE	1964 CE	Established	President Lyndon B. Johnson’s administration established the Job Corps as one of the first social programs in its Great Society legislative mission and War on Poverty. Like the defunct CCC, the new Job Corps was a job training program for young men. Catoctin Mountain Park was chosen as the location of the first Job Corps Conservation Center (Job Corps, or JCCC), and the NPS rehabilitated the former CCC camp and administrative area within the study area to host the program.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1964 CE	1965 CE	Built	The Job Corps initially used several trailers within the study area, but as the program grew, a number of facility construction and rehabilitation projects were necessary. Between the spring of 1964 and January 1965, new buildings were added to the maintenance area at Camp Round Meadow, while others were rehabilitated or removed. Local contracted labor erected the maintenance building/storage building/lunchroom/paint room (Building 144). Additionally, four trailers for Job Corps counselors were added to the northwest part of the site, among other facilities. The flight of concrete stairs at the end of the sidewalk between Building 83 and Building 144 was likely constructed during the Job Corps period. It is likely that the other concrete stairs that provide access to several buildings also date to the 1960s. Several existing buildings were repurposed. The WPA-era latrine was converted into a nurse's station/infirmary (Building 12), and the oil house was moved to its current location. The bunkhouse/environmental classrooms building (Building 83) was rehabbed; a north-south oriented section of the building dates to the 1930s, while the new east-west section was constructed in 1964. The dining hall (Building 3) was initially built as a wood frame garage and repair shop in 1936; it was rehabilitated and expanded to serve as the Job Corps mess hall in 1964.
1965 CE	1965 CE	Established	The agreement of use for the Naval trailer court was made a matter of record by a White House memorandum, dated December 27, 1965.
1965 CE	1965 CE	Built	A new section of Park Central Road was built to connect Manahan Road with Foxville-Deerfield Road.
1965 CE	1965 CE	Designed	A 1965 “Proposed Planting Scheme” by E.B. Willard for the Job Corps Center area recommended plant materials and trees throughout, including azalea (*Rhododendron* sp.), dogwood (*Cornus* sp.), scarlet firethorn (*Pyracantha coccinea*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), Burford holly (*Ilex cornuta*), and creeping juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*). It is unknown to what extent the planting plan was realized.
1965 CE	1965 CE	Developed	Driveways and parking areas within the Central Garage Unit complex were expanded and paved with asphalt, replacing the earlier gravel surfaces. Job Corps enrollees built concrete sidewalks and improved the vegetation around the program buildings. By May, “excellent progress” was made on the installation of concrete and asphalt walkways and general plantings (D22, May 7, 1965, Memo). In July, more Job Corps labor hours were spent on landscape improvements at within the study area than any other construction task in the park. In September, the camp’s sidewalks were completed, the grounds were graded and leveled, and the seeding of bare topsoil had begun. The flagpole near Building 83 was in place by this time.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
c. 1966 CE	c. 1966 CE	Built	Building 177, a large metal-roofed gymnasium, was constructed on the south end of the site for Job Corps enrollee recreation, displacing a CCC-era fire cache. A playing field was also created around this time next to the gym (present-day parking lot) and an area was graded in the northwest part of the site for the addition of a tennis court.
1966 CE	c. 1969 CE	Established	In early 1966, the Job Corps began making directional, informational, and interpretive signs for the park at its sign shop located within the study area.
1966 CE	1966 CE	Built	The laundry/warehouse building (Building 176) was constructed on the footprint of a former CCC-era warehouse but was larger in scale.
1967 CE	1972 CE	Established	Parkscape USA, an NPS initiative from 1967 through 1973, sought to continue the momentum established by Mission 66 to complete planned projects and to expand the park system for the end of the 20th century. Improvements made within the study area beginning in the late 1960s (during the Job Corps era) were likely funded under the Parkscape USA initiative.
1967 CE	1967 CE	Built	The laundry building/buildings and utilities office/storage building (Building 175) was constructed in the maintenance area, west of Manahan Road, and originally used as a storage building.
1967 CE	1967 CE	Planned	A Master Plan for Catoctin was completed. It was reviewed in 1972, but never received final approval.
1967 CE	1968 CE	Built	The maintenance shop (Building 189) was constructed as a one-story, six-bay, brick-faced concrete block building. The Job Corps constructed it to be the “Garage and Welding Shop.”
c. 1967 CE	c. 1967 CE	Built	The Job Corps constructed two stone retaining walls: one was near the maintenance yard, and the other alongside the tennis court. At this time, there was an existing, pre-RDA stone wall just north of the Resource Management Office (Building 1). The pre-RDA stone wall had been modified by the CCC and a portion may have been removed in 1967.
1968 CE	1968 CE	Established	The National Park Service established the Summer in the Parks initiative in the aftermath of the 1968 riots, which broke out after the murder of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program sought to combat the NPS’s legacy of discrimination against Black citizens and aimed at connecting urban residents with park programming in and around Washington, DC.
1969 CE	1969 CE	Altered	The Job Corps ceased use of the site in 1969. Thereafter, the study area was modified for new activities. The federal Office of Economic Opportunity directed that the area be utilized for “socially useful purposes.”

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1969 CE	1970 CE	Established	Children from Washington, DC, camped in "Camp Round Meadow" during the summers of 1969 and 1970 as part of the "Summer in the Parks" initiative. The Summer in the Parks program remained active until 1976, but it is unknown if the program operated in Catoctin after 1970.
1970 CE	1970 CE	Rehabilitated	Catoctin's new superintendent, Frank Mentzer, initiated a living history program at the park and helped launch the Folk Culture Center in 1970; the study area hosted the Folk Culture Center's activities. The purpose of the Folk Culture Center was "to preserve and interpret the cultural development of the Mountain as part of the story of man's use of this environment." At this time, the park conducted research in historic deed records and renamed the study area as "Round Meadow," based on the original patent name. Many of the Job Corps buildings and spaces at Camp Round Meadow were adapted for use as the Folk Culture Center. The original park headquarters building (Building 1) was used as a general store, and an herb garden, vegetable garden, and small orchard of fruit trees were planted near the building. Some of the former Job Corps buildings were used for demonstrations and exhibits.
c. 1970 CE	c. 1970 CE	Altered	As Camp Round Meadow shifted from the Job Corps use to the Folk Culture Center, many changes occurred in Camp Round Meadow. The playing field adjacent to the Gymnasium (Building 177) was converted to a gravel parking lot for the visitors, and a sewage lagoon was constructed downhill from the tennis court.
1970 CE	1970 CE	Established	The Summer in the Parks program overlapped with the DC Public School System's Environmental Outdoor Laboratory. The Environmental Outdoor Laboratory was an environmental education program for DC public schools. Eighty students participated in each two-week session and were divided into groups of twenty. These groups spent half their day in study and the other half participating in outdoor activities.
1971 CE	C. 1981 CE	Established / Built	The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) was established in 1971, and Catoctin served as the site of a summer residential pilot program. YCC projects focused on conservation work on public lands. At Catoctin Mountain, participants were housed at Camp Round Meadow in the buildings vacated by the Job Corps. The YCC enrollees maintained trails, constructed small buildings, and worked on erosion control and stream repairs. The YCC built a campfire circle at Camp Round Meadow, as well as the Brown's Farm Trail, a short interpretive loop that passes through the remnants of the Victor Brown farm, the trailhead of which is at Camp Round Meadow. In 1971, a gazebo (Building 199) was constructed east of Building 3 to support the YCC program, though it is unclear who built the structure. In 1977, the YCC built a wood shed (Building 213) at Camp Round Meadow. The vehicle storage shed (Building 207) was constructed in 1976 by the YCC.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1973 CE	1973 CE	Planned	A Conceptual Master Plan was completed for the park. The master plan noted the success of the Folk Culture Center and considered moving the operation to the Owens Creek campground.
1975 CE	1975 CE	Inhabited	As of 1975, 22 trailers were located within the Foxville Plaza trailer court.
1977 CE	1977 CE	Developed	Park staff initiated Phase I planning for the update and replacement of Camp Round Meadow facilities. Two outdated trailers that were used as employees' quarters were demolished, and a contract was awarded for the construction of two new dormitories. Plans were also prepared for Phase II, which entailed the replacement of the NPS trailers with a duplex residence for Park staff.
1977 CE	1977 CE	Established	The "Friends of Catoctin Mountain Park" volunteer group formed "to assist staff and the management of the park."
1978 CE	1978 CE	Demolished	One dormitory associated with Job Corps in Camp Round Meadow burned down.
1979 CE	1981 CE	Built	Four new dormitories (Buildings 216, 217, 218, and 232) were added at Camp Round Meadow on the downhill part of the site, replacing other Job Corps-era structures. Sidewalks were also established around the dormitories at this time. Plantings—notably, dogwoods and hemlocks—were added around the new dormitories. The dorms and education buildings brought in for the Job Corps were removed, as were some of the associated paved driveways. The mess hall, office and museum, gym, tennis court, gazebo, laundry/restroom, nurse's station, and a few of the counselor trailers were retained.
1979 CE	1979 CE	Built	A residence (Building 214) was constructed at the south end of Camp Round Meadow as a one-story ranch style building.
1979 CE	1979 CE	Built	Building 215, used today as a ranger station and visitors' services Building, was constructed on the south end of Camp Round Meadow as a one-story ranch style building.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1979 CE	1982 CE	Planned	In 1979, the draft Development Concept Plan (DCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Camp Round Meadow was completed. This plan explored four alternatives: 1) partial dormitory replacement; 2) total dormitory replacement and rehabilitation of the Folk Culture Center; 3) total dormitory replacement, relocation of the Folk Culture Center to another location onsite, and relocation of the Navy Trailer Court offsite; and 4) total dormitory replacement and conversion of the Folk Culture Center into a conference center. An Assessment of Alternatives completed in 1980 recorded that there were 18 trailers and related utility systems at this time within the trailer court, along with four trailers and two single-family homes for staff housing at Camp Round Meadow. A map within the Assessment of Alternatives referred to the open space north of the trailer court as a "Sports Field." A final Development Concept Plan (DCP) was completed for Camp Round Meadow in June 1982, to guide its future management and use.
c. 1980 CE	c. 1981 CE	Abandoned	The Folk Culture Center closed.
c. 1980 CE	c. 1980 CE	Rehabilitated	An existing open pavilion at Camp Round Meadow, located just east of the Resource Management Office (Building 1) was repurposed as a storage building (Building 212).
1981 CE	1981 CE	Established	The DC Environmental Outdoor Laboratory closed due to insufficient funds.
1981 CE	1991 CE	Established	The park initiated a horse program in 1981, which resulted in adding infrastructure in various locations throughout the park, including stables and trails. In the ensuing years, the program expanded and grew. When the program was reorganized in February 1991, the park reduced the number of horses and associated programming.
1982 CE	1982 CE	Established	Volunteers became increasingly important at Catoctin when budget cuts did not allow for the hiring of seasonal employees in 1982. Superintendent Thomas McFadden engaged the help of the Catoctin Area Mountain Parks Environmental Resources, Inc. (CAMPER), the official registered entity (incorporated on March 18, 1982) of the friends group. CAMPER consisted of volunteer members, officers, and a board of directors.
1982 CE	1982 CE	Built	NPS updated the Gymnasium (Building 177) with an addition on the north elevation of the to encompass conference rooms and a closet. The enclosed vestibule entrances were also added at this time.
c. 1982 CE	c. 2000 CE	Established	The DC public school system operated a Nature Computer Camp at Camp Round Meadow. This program accommodated 80 to 90 6th grade students from DC public schools each week for six consecutive weeks. The program provided students with the opportunity to become computer literate while also increasing their understanding of, and appreciation for, the natural environment. The program ran into the early 2000s.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
c. 1983 CE	c. 1984 CE	Built	According to a 1984 aerial photograph of the Camp Round Meadow, two staff residences (likely Buildings 154 and 155) were extant on the far west side of at Camp Round Meadow, south of the sewage lagoon, by this time. The turnaround on the east side of the Gymnasium (Building 177) was also in place by 1984. Buildings 154 and 155 are visible on a 2002 site map of Camp Round Meadow. While the precise date of removal is unknown, neither of the staff residences are visible in aerials by the mid-2000s.
1984 CE	1984 CE	Built	A riding ring for horses was built at Camp Round Meadow.
c. 1985 CE	c. 1985 CE	Built	Two water tanks were constructed at Camp Round Meadow, likely on the west side of the study area.
1985 CE	1985 CE	Established	CAMPER assumed management of Camp Round Meadow group facilities. Camp hosts were on-site at Camp Round Meadow to assist groups and ensure the dorms and other facilities remained clean. The work performed by volunteers on Camp Round Meadow, and the funds raised through various programs, allowed CAMPER to host the DC Public School System for a reasonable price.
1989 CE	c. 1992 CE	Established	Frederick County Public Schools began hosting an Outdoor School for 8th graders at Camp Round Meadow. By this time, the Frederick County school system had been active for decades at Camp Greentop, also in Catoctin Mountain Park.
c. 1989 CE	c. 1990 CE	Established	During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Camp Camp Round Meadow hosted several conferences, training programs, and various weekend and short-term groups.
1990 CE	1990 CE	Built	Carports (Building 259 and 262) were added next to the residences at the south end of Camp Round Meadow (Buildings 214 and 215).
1990 CE	1991 CE	Established	The park reopened the blacksmith shop (Building 4) for the Frederick County Outdoor School in 1990. Beginning in 1991, the shop was open to the public on select dates.
1991 CE	1991 CE	Established	In the early 1990s, the horse program was reorganized and the number of horses was reduced; the program ended entirely by the mid-1990s.
1991 CE	1991 CE	Purchased/ Sold	CAMPER purchased and donated the ranger guard post (Building 253), a prefabricated storage shed, to the park. Originally installed along Park Central Road, at an unknown date between 1991 and 2009, the NPS relocated the building to “the ballfield” maintenance storage area.
1993 CE	c. 1995 CE	Moved	A storage building (Building 198)—constructed by the Job Corps at Camp Misty Mount in 1968—was relocated to the Camp Round Meadow (Horse) Riding Ring. At some point after 1995, it was relocated again from Camp Round Meadow to Owens Creek Campground. This building was demolished in its final location at Owens Creek Campground in 2023.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
2000 CE	2000 CE	Removed	A CCC-era building, remodeled in the mid-1960s as Dogwood Dormitory (Building 135, was demolished and removed from Camp Round Meadow.
c. 2000 CE	c. 2000 CE	Planted	Early 2000s. The park planted a grouping of white pine trees (*Pinus strobus*) between Building 144, Building 3, and Building 83 to act as a screen between the maintenance buildings and the public section of Camp Round Meadow.
c. 2000 CE	c. 2010 CE	Retained	According to aerial photographs, some trailers remained in place within the trailer court as late as 2008 and 2009.
c. 2000 CE	Present	Established	In the years after the DC Computer Nature Camp came to an end, the majority of the groups who rented Camp Round Meadow were church groups, including the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
2002 CE	2002 CE	Established	A 2002 map depicted an athletic court northeast of the gym.
2003 CE	2004 CE	Built	Building 261, a one-story frame manufactured home, was added in the southwest portion of the study area.
2004 CE	2004 CE	Built	A cell phone tower (Site 98) was constructed on the west side of Camp Round Meadow.
c. 2005 CE	c. 2005 CE	Established	By the mid-2000s, the open area north of the trailer court was in use as a storage area for maintenance equipment.
2010 CE	2010 CE	Established	The National Capital Region and the Latin American Youth Center of Washington, D.C. co-sponsored a “2nd Nature Camp” was sponsored at Camp Round Meadow. This program gave youth the opportunity to experience national parks through the media of art, music, dance, photography, and video.
c. 2010	c. 2020	Removed	In the 2010s, the remaining trailers were removed from the trailer court, although the site continued to be used occasionally for temporary use.
c. 2011 CE	c. 2012 CE	Planted	Park staff planted a rain garden at Camp Round Meadow on the east side of the dining hall (Building 3) to collect and filter water. An interpretive wayside for the rain garden was also installed at this time.
c. 2011	c. 2013	Removed	By 2011, the former tennis court/basketball court was no longer in use; according to aerial photographs, it was removed by 2013 at the latest.

START YEAR	END YEAR	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
2014 CE	2014 CE	Established	In 2014, the National Capital Region was one of 39 recipients of the National Park Foundation's "America's Best Idea" grant program. With the funding, national park units in the greater Washington area, in cooperation with One Common Unity, held a series of after-school workshops and retreats. One of the retreats was held at Camp Round Meadow in August 2014. Forty youths, led by 25 adult professionals and facilitators, spent a week at the park, participating in "arts-based peace education workshops [designed] to inspire inquiry, intellectual creativity, self-expression, empowerment and emotional literacy through inter-generational dialogues and workshops in nature" (Elder-Norquist 2020: 177).
c. 2015 CE	c. 2015 CE	Established	A double charging station for electric vehicles was added to Camp Round Meadow in the gravel parking lot south of the Gymnasium.
2020 CE	2020 CE	Altered	An Eagle Scout volunteer replaced the 18 benches and the fire ring at the Camp Round Meadow firepit in 2020. This project added eight benches to the original design and altered the overall configuration of the fire ring.
2021 CE	2021 CE	Demolished	The park demolished a storage building (Building 246) within Camp Round Meadow.
2023 CE	2023 CE	Demolished	The park demolished a storage shed (Building 229) within Camp Round Meadow.
2024 CE	2025 CE	Rehabilitated	Portions of Catoctin Mountain Park, including Round Meadow, underwent a major utility project.

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Physical History

Catoctin Mountain: Pre-Contact and Early Colonial History (9600 BCE – 1732 CE)

Catoctin Mountain geologically formed 270 million years ago, and the area has been inhabited by humans for thousands of years.[1] The earliest confirmed human activity in the region occurred during the Paleo-Indian period (11,500 – 9600 BCE), as part of the Clovis culture, although no Paleo-Indian sites or artifacts have been found within the boundaries of Catoctin Mountain Park itself.[2] During the subsequent Archaic period (9600 – 1350 BCE), hunters and gatherers visited the Catoctin Mountain area on a regular basis, hunting with spears and using traps and snares to capture small game. In the early years of this period, Archaic people were spread out and the population density in the region was low. By the end of the period, however, there were likely 10 times as many people in the area, and small camp sites (or "base camps") existed throughout the region.[3]

Investigations in 2020 and 2022 revealed an archeological site within Catoctin Mountain Park (Site 18FR977) to be the oldest archeological site recorded, dating to approximately 8200 BCE. The archeological site suggests information about the small groups of Native Americans who quarried and worked stone in the park, and others who visited and camped along its streams. The site adds to the understanding of the rhyolite tool industry and how metarhyolite (a volcanic stone used to make tools) was traded across the region and throughout the Mid-Atlantic.[4]

By 2200 BCE, the settlement patterns had shifted from scattered small campsites to fewer, larger habitations concentrated along rivers. The Monocacy River, which is oriented north-south and located approximately nine miles east of the study area, featured many of these Terminal Archaic base camps along its shorelines; sometimes, as many as five sites were located within one mile. The people of this period fished in the river and harvested marsh plants and roots, spending less time upland foraging nuts and hunting deer. As they developed more woodworking tools, they made dugout canoes, which allowed for increased travel via the waterways.[5]

During the Early and Middle Woodland Periods (1350 BCE-900 CE), the settlement patterns in the Monocacy River Valley remained generally consistent with the later centuries of the Archaic Period. Indigenous peoples began to create pottery; archeologists have found evidence of this activity within the present-day boundaries of Catoctin Mountain Park.[6] The region's population fluctuated during these periods, perhaps due to impacts from changes to climate, but the area continued to host several large settlement sites.

1. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain: Archaeological Overview, Assessment, Identification, and Evaluation Study of Catoctin Mountain Park Maryland, Volume I* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region, 2011), 1.
2. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain*, 2011, 2-3.
3. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain*, 2011, 3-4.
4. Keyes Williamson, Sean Dunlap, and Olivia Head (WLA Studio); Kathleen Wackrow (NPS/CATO); Emily Button-Kambic (NPS/NCR); Sofia Krom (NPS/CATO), *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation) [DRAFT],* National Register of Historic Places Form Draft (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2024) 5-4; 7-68; 8-3.
5. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain*, 2011, 3-4.
6. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain*, 2011, 5.

During this period, the people in this region spoke Algonquian languages.[7]

During the Late Woodland Period (900 CE – 1600 CE), Native American societies increasingly cultivated the land with imported crops of corn, beans, and squash, to supplement their seed production and hunting/gathering practices. They formalized their societies into chiefdoms, although this formalization at times resulted in disputes over territories and wars between chiefdoms. These societal changes resulted in physical changes to Native American villages, including the construction of protective barriers around many settlements. People in the Late Woodland Period traded across large areas as they seasonally traveled from their villages.[8]

One of the excavated villages from this period is known by archeologists as the Biggs Ford Site, located southeast of the project area on the eastern bank of the Monocacy River. Several archeological investigations have focused on this site since the 1970s and have identified evidence of a village constructed between 1000 CE and 1300 CE. Archeologists believe they have located several rectangular wigwams (measuring up to 10′ x 25′), and evidence of protective palisades around the village. They have also found traces of rhyolite, which was likely quarried from nearby Catoctin Mountain.[9]

There is still evidence of those extractive processes in Catoctin Mountain Park today, including mounded traces of the debitage discard piles.[10] The Louis Berger Group conducted archeological investigations in Catoctin Mountain Park and identified traces of toolmaking and extraction near the Blue Blazes Creek and Camp Misty Mount.[11]

Beginning in the 17th century, European colonizers traded goods with Native Americans along the East Coast of North America. Contact increased after the establishment of the English colony at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, and the establishment of the colony of Maryland in 1634 by the 2nd Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert. Initially, contact between Indigenous peoples and European colonizers in the Mid-Atlantic Region centered on trading relationships and later, on wars over land use and habitation as English colonizers pushed farther inland for furs and game.

Archeologists from the Louis Berger Group believe that by the 17th century, there were no remaining organized settlements of Indigenous people along the Monocacy River, as they had been driven out or killed by European settlers by this time. Despite this assertion, undoubtedly some Native Americans remained in the area, including the Susquehannocks, the Haudenosaunee (or Iroquois), and the Shawnee who traversed the area. They used several roads around Catoctin Mountain to move through the region for travel, trade, or warfare, including a road along the approximate route of present-day U.S. Route 15, east of Catoctin Mountain Park.[12]

By the 1720s, Swedish and Finnish fur traders had migrated to the Monocacy River Valley from the old Swedish colony on the Delaware River (near present-day Philadelphia). There, the Haudenosaunee barred settlement west of the river, but in 1722, the Treaty of Albany (negotiated in New York between the colonial governor and the Haudenosaunee Confederation) forced the Haudenosaunee to surrender their claim "to large tracts of land east of the mountains and to concede that their warriors would no longer use the path east of the Blue Ridge".[13] The displacement of the Haudenosaunee opened up large areas of western Maryland to European expansion and settlement, enticing colonizers from the Chesapeake region to move farther inland.

7. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain*, 2011, 8.
8. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain*, 2011, 10.
9. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain*, 2011, 10.
10. Judith Earley and Daniel Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory, Catoctin Mountain Park, National Park Service* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2018), 41.
11. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 41.
12. Gregory Katz, Meredith McCulley, and Jaqueline Poverom (WSP USA Inc.), *Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of the Lewis Area, Catoctin Mountain Park* (Frederick County, Maryland: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2021), 10.
13. Quoted in Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory,* 42.

European colonization increased in the ensuing decades, with German and Scottish settlers, in particular, relocating to the Monocacy River region around Catoctin Mountain, joining the English colonists who already lived in Maryland and Virginia. To encourage these newer colonists to settle in Maryland, Charles Calvert, the 5th Lord Baltimore issued a proclamation in March 1732, offering 200 acres of land to any family that would arrive in Maryland within three years and settle west of the Monocacy River. As a result, settlement around Catoctin Mountain increased significantly in the ensuing decades.[14]

Colonial Settlement and 19th Century Industrialization

Although German colonists and others began to settle in the Catoctin Mountain area after the 1722 Treaty of Albany and Lord Baltimore's 1732 proclamation, they did not begin to claim land and establish title for several more years. In 1744, German immigrant Johannes Weller became one of the first to do so near the cultural landscape when he filed claim to a 50-acre parcel. According to Weller's patent certificate, the tract (named "Beauty") was located "near the foot of Catoctin Mountain on the head of a branch that leads to Big Hunting Creek, a draught to Monocacy".[15] Likely in the 1740s, Thomas Cresap surveyed and patented a property encompassing 742 acres, including the full extent of the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape.

In 1750, Henry Rhodes patented a 50-acre tract known as "Round Meadow," encompassing the cultural landscape boundaries, and in 1754, he added another 28-acre tract known as "Stones Enough." By 1763, Rhodes owned 375 acres in the region, including a portion within the current boundaries of Catoctin Mountain Park. He built a house within the Stones Enough tract and used the Round Meadow tract, including the project study area, for agricultural purposes.[16]

In 1752, Mathias Ambrose patented a 100-acre parcel of land on Owens Creek called "Gap," which was located northeast of the present-day Camps Misty Mount and Greentop. In 1754, Mathias sold the property to his son, Jacob, and subsequent generations of the Ambrose family established a sawmill on the creek. Ambrose's Mill was the first of many sawmills in the area and within the boundaries of Catoctin Mountain Park, capitalizing on the dense forest and establishing a more efficient means of producing logs for settlements than hand-sawing could achieve. The proximity of Owens Creek and other waterways made it easier to transport the finished boards.[17]

The boundary between the colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland remained vague during these decades of European settlement, resulting in confusion for land tracts along the borders. Between 1765 and 1767, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon conducted a survey of 244 miles of disputed territory. With the 1767 formalization of the "Mason-Dixon Line" between the two colonies, settlement picked up pace.[18]

In 1771, Richard Lily patented 213 acres of land to supplement an existing tract; he named the resulting 258-acre property "Good Luck," located northwest of the project area. Meanwhile, the 4th Baron Baltimore, Benedict Calvert, and Thomas Johnson purchased over 7,700 acres known as the "Mountain Tract," which included the eastern half of Catoctin Mountain Park. The Calvert and Johnson families eventually subdivided the Mountain Tract into a northern section (for the Calverts) and a southern section (owned by the Johnsons).[19]

14. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory,* 10-11.
15. Quoted in Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory,* 43.
16. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain*, 2011, 18.
17. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain*, 2011, 43.
18. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain*, 2011, 43.
19. Louis Berger Group, Inc., *The People of the Mountain*, 2011, 44.

Catoctin Iron Furnace

Thomas Johnson and his three brothers established a furnace on their portion of the Mountain Tract in 1774. The Catoctin Iron Furnace was located southeast of the project area, outside the boundaries of today's Catoctin Mountain Park. This location and the landscape character offered several advantages for iron production, including raw material in the form of iron ore banks, as well as fast-flowing streams, limestone beds, and thousands of acres of forest for fuel. The outbreak of the American Revolution in 1775 created an even stronger demand for weapons and equipment that required manufactured iron.[20]

The Catoctin Iron Furnace began production around 1776 and remained in use for over a century, until its closure in 1903. During that period, it produced pig iron, which was subsequently refined at a separate forge nearby into heavy castings for pots, kettles, hollow ware (for example, Dutch ovens), and stove plates. The original furnace was replaced in 1787; the new facility was constructed closer to the ore banks, southeast of the cultural landscape.[21]

In 1810, Thomas and Willoughby Mayberry of Philadelphia purchased the furnace from the Johnson family. They sold it 10 years later to Colonel John McPherson and his son-in-law John Brien. McPherson and Brien expanded the furnace's footprint in 1831 and converted it to a steam-power, hot-blast process.[22]

The construction of the Westminster-Hagerstown Turnpike in 1816 greatly benefited the iron furnace at Catoctin. The turnpike project incorporated the east/west road across the mountain (Route 77) into the turnpike route to the National Road in Hagerstown, passing through Mechanicstown (now Thurmont, Maryland) (*see Figure 2*).[23] A decade later, the Emmitsburg Turnpike (Route 806) was constructed east of Catoctin Mountain, offering a new north-south road between Emmitsburg and Frederick, Maryland. The latter turnpike passed through the villages of Catoctin Furnace and Mechanicstown and later became part of U.S. Route 15.[24] Both roads served to connect the industries, villages, and communities of Catoctin Mountain with the surrounding region.

By c. 1800, a north-south route (later called Manahan Road) connected the study area and the Harbaugh Valley, located in the northwestern corner of present-day Frederick County. Two small hamlets, later known as Foxville and Lantz, were located at either end of the road, with several early farms along the road between them. A wide band of land between these two hamlets would later be included within the park boundaries. Additionally, the road that flanks Owens Creek (present-day Maryland Route 550) was in existence by 1808 (if not earlier) and may have been part of Cartledge's Old Road. The road linked Mechanicstown (present-day Thurmont) with the Harbaugh Valley and was an alternate route to the study area.[25]

The furnace changed hands several times in the mid-19th century. By 1859, the furnace complex included the central furnace, as well as a foundry, blacksmith, sawmill, flour mill, a wheelwright shop, a company store, a chapel, the iron master's house, workers' houses, stables, and gardens (*see Figure 3*).[26] The most productive years for the Catoctin Iron Furnace were under the ownership of John Kunkel, whose tenure began in 1859 and extended into the mid-1880s. At its peak, the furnace employed 500 people; in the years before slavery was abolished, the furnace relied on white laborers, Black

20. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 44.
21. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 44-45.
22. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 45.
23. Judith Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory, Catoctin Mountain Park, National Park Service* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2002), 33; Edmund Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study* (Thurmont, MD: U.S. Department of the Interior, Catoctin Mountain Park and National Park Service, 2000), 47.
24. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory,* 33.
25. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory,* 33.
26. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 45.



Figure 2: Detail of map of Frederick, Berkeley, & Jefferson counties with Catoctin Furnace visible in red circle, map created by Charles Varle and Benjamin Jones, 1809. (Library of Congress, Control number: 2008621756, annotated by CLR authors)

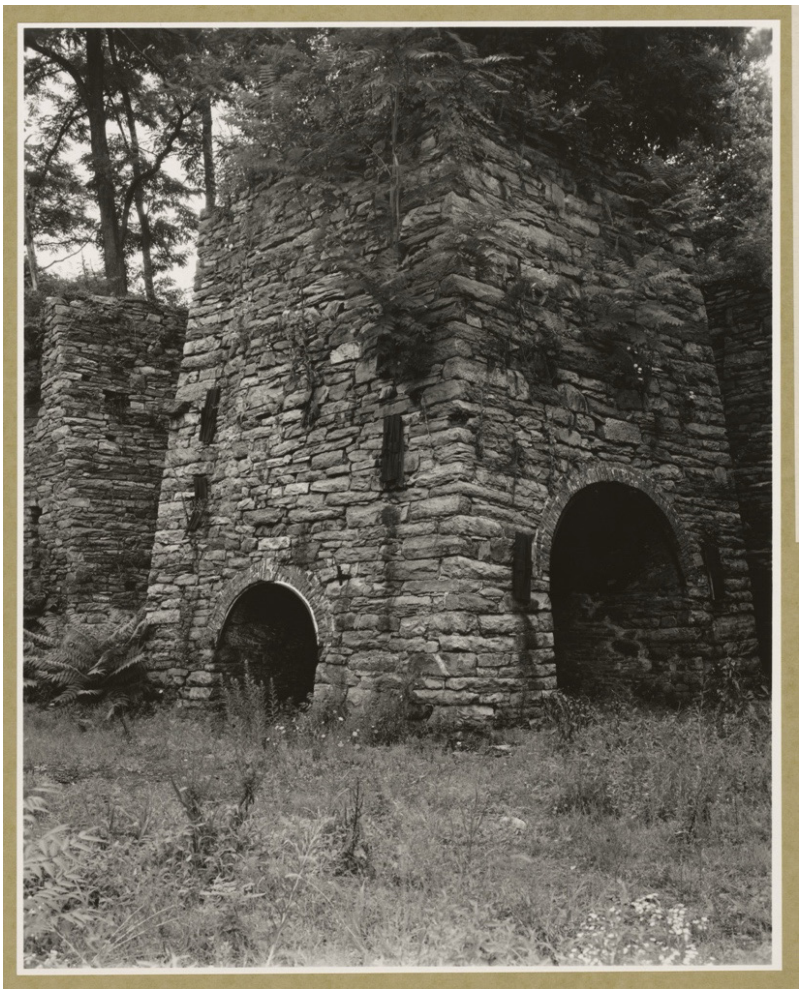


Figure 3: Catoctin Furnace iron smelter, photograph by Frances Benjamin Johnston, c. 1936. (Library of Congress, Control number: 2017887471)

freedmen, and enslaved laborers in order to fill its rosters.[27] Between 1790 and 1820, the enslaved population doubled in Frederick County, peaking in 1820 at 6,685; at least 271 enslaved and an unknown number of free African Americans worked at Catoctin and its surrounding village, performing a host of highly skilled labor roles.[28]

When John Kunkel, Jr. died in 1885, the furnace languished for nearly two decades. It closed permanently in 1903.[29]

The success of the iron furnace took a toll on the forests of Catoctin Mountain, as iron production required a near-constant supply of timber from the mountain and its surrounding area. Contemporary estimates from the U.S. Census of Manufactures estimated that, for a furnace like Catoctin's at peak production in the 19th century, it would take 1,500 acres of forest to supply one year's worth of charcoal for production.[30] By this time, the mountain's vegetation consisted primarily of oaks (*Quercus* sp.), chestnut (*Castanea* sp.), and other hardwoods.[31] Loggers cleared trees in 40′ circles at a time, hauling the timber to the furnace via mountain trails and roads. They felled the larger trees (on a 20- or 30-year rotation) but left the smaller and thinner trees, which meant that Catoctin Mountain was never clear-cut during this period before the park was established.[32]

Historic charcoal hearth sites associated with the furnace are located within the park. The hearths consisted of broad and shallow pits in which wood was piled and covered by dirt; in the resulting low-oxygen environment, the wood became charcoal. This process left traces in the form of blackened soil where the pits were located. This land was never owned directly by the furnace, so the presence of these charcoal hearths, and the likelihood of logging operations on the site during this period, suggests that the park was part of a larger industrial ecosystem that served—and benefited from—the Catoctin Iron Furnace.[33]

The mountain was productive in other ways during this period and several small industries sprung up east of the mountains, especially in Mechanicstown (present-day Thurmont). In addition to the logging operations that supplied fuel for the furnace, the mountain's local sawmills harvested trees for telegraph poles, as that technology became a more popular mode of communication in the late 19th century. Tanning was one of the first regional industries, tied to the local farm economy and reliant on the bark of oak (*Quercus* sp.), chestnut (*Castanea* sp.), and hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) trees as the tanning agent.[34] Tanners used heavy stones to crush the bark and extracted tannins to dye animal hides with water from nearby creeks.

The first tannery was constructed at Owens Creek, east of the cultural landscape, by Daniel Rouzer, a German immigrant. Rouzer's tannery used the tanning agent found in the bark of the trees, primarily oak, that grew abundantly in the area. Other tanneries soon followed in the Catoctin Mountain area, operating until the end of the 19th century.[35]

As early as the 1760s, mountain residents distilled whiskey. As of 1791, approximately 400 stills were active in Frederick County. To avoid paying the Excise Whiskey Tax, distillers sought secluded mountain sites to house and conceal stills. The practice continued through the Prohibition Era in the 1920s, including the infamous Blue Blazes Still on Catoctin Mountain (near the present-day park Visitor Center), where the forest provided seclusion for distilling illegal "Catoctin moonshine".[36]

Elsewhere in the area, local farmers on the west side of Catoctin Mountain used the land for subsistence farming. (The east side of the mountain

27. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 31.
28. "African Americans," Catoctin Mountain Park website, National Park Service, last modified June 29, 2022, https://www.nps.gov/cato/learn/historyculture/africanamericans.htm.
29. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 45.
30. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 31.
31. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 52.
32. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 45.
33. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 46.
34. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 47.
35. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 44.
36. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 32-33.

was not conducive to agriculture.) The agricultural landscape of Catoctin Mountain existed in and among the mountain's forests, with individual crops planted in clearings surrounded by trees. Farmers often demarcated their land with walls made from stacked rhyolite they had removed from their fields. They also typically used the quarried stone to construct their farm buildings, including the foundations for their houses and barns, as well as chimneys and pier supports. This created a mountain landscape of buildings and structures crafted from local materials, which later informed the design and construction of buildings and structures within Camp Round Meadow and other developed areas in the park.[37] One such farmstead (located within tract 18) was acquired by William B. Brown in the mid-1800s; it included the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape. Brown owned and farmed the property for around 50 years.[38]

By 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, there were 21 enslaved individuals in Mechanicstown (present-day Thurmont), with 3,243 enslaved individuals in Frederick County overall.[39] (It is not known if any of the owners within the cultural landscape were enslavers.) During the Civil War, several battles were fought in western Maryland, including the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. The Battle of Antietam ended the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion into the North and prompted Abraham Lincoln to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation of 1862.[40]

Mountain Tourism in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries (1886 CE – 1929 CE)

As the Catoctin Iron Furnace fell dormant in 1885 (and closed permanently in 1903), a different industry began to replace it: tourism. Driven by urban residents from Baltimore and Washington, D.C., in search of a retreat, the tourism industry at Catoctin Mountain picked up around the turn of the 20th century. The influx of tourists was made possible by the introduction of the railroad in the 19th century. Although the city of Frederick, located south of the study area, was connected to Baltimore via railroad as early as the 1830s, it was not until the second half of the 19th century that the railroad reached the area around Catoctin Mountain.[41]

In 1852, the Maryland General Assembly chartered the Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick County Railroad, which would later become the Western Maryland Railroad. The difficult terrain, and then the Civil War, delayed the construction of railroad tracks in the area around Catoctin Mountain, but by 1871, railroad construction reached Mechanicstown (now Thurmont) and extended through Frederick County. Originally intended to serve industry, the rail ultimately fostered an important tourism economy for the area just as local manufacturing and industry began to decline. Twice a day, trains ran through the area to link Catoctin Mountain with Baltimore (and the country beyond), marking a substantial improvement to the road network between the mountain and the city.[42]

Although the railroad introduced new connections to the region, it could not save the Catoctin Iron Furnace from decline. Located six miles north of the furnace, the rail route was too far away to save the languishing facility in the last few decades of the 19th century (despite the fact that the furnace produced the pig iron that was necessary to make railroad car wheels before the rise of steel).[43] Instead, the railroad offered a scenic, rather than an industrial, experience to travelers from Baltimore and elsewhere; some contemporary publications described the setting as "some of the most romantic scenery in the county".[44] The Western Maryland Railroad tracks passed by several local landmarks, including Owens Creek Gorge (east

37. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 33.
38. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 55.
39. "African Americans," National Park Service, last modified June 29, 2022,
40. "Antietam," American Battlefield Trust, accessed May 14, 2024, https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/antietam; Wehrle 2000, 89.
41. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 89.
42. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 90-92.
43. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study*, 90, 94.
44. Quoted in Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 38.



Figure 4: Blue Mountain House at the Pen Mar resort (northwest of the study area), 1892. (Library of Congress, Control number: 2016818996)

of the study area), an amusement park and resort at Pen Mar (northwest of the study area, near the Pennsylvania border), and an array of new hotels, cottages, boarding houses, and restaurants along the route—all of which associated western Maryland, and the area around Catoctin Mountain, with middle- and upper-class leisure and travel (*see Figure 4*).[45] The railroad was even involved in financing some of these outposts to encourage further leisure travel.[46] These new destinations in Maryland coincided with national trends in the decades after the Civil War, as shifting patterns in employment, industrialization, and wealth offered many Americans more leisure time and disposable income for travel.[47]

The marketing campaigns, tourist events, and new investments paid off in the area around Catoctin Mountain, as the number of visitors increased in the last few decades of the 19th century. In 1885, the local newspaper *The Catoctin Clarion* observed that "in no summer since we have known Mechanicstown [Thurmont] has there been so large a number of visitors as during this season".[48] (In 1894, the Maryland General Assembly voted to change the town's name from Mechanicstown to Thurmont, to avoid confusion with other nearby towns with "Mechanic" in their names.) On the west side of the mountain, Foxville experienced similar growth and surges in popularity during these years. The name Foxville was derived from the Fox family, another of the early settlement families, who operated a general store on the main road near the tavern west of the project area and owned significant amounts of timber land.[49]

In 1903, the Catoctin furnace shut down permanently. The mountain continued to supply raw materials and support subsistence farmers, but its heavy industrialized use ceased in the early 20th century with the closure of the furnace. The farmers who owned land within what is now Catoctin Mountain Park typically owned 40-70 acres of land at a time, making them small-scale subsistence farmers. Frequent crops included corn, potatoes, and orchard crops such as apples

45. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 38.
46. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 102.
47. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 102.
48. Quoted in Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 103.
49. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 32.

and peaches.[50] Huckleberry and blueberry crops were also popular.[51] Around 1900, Chester Brandenburg—a carpenter and member of the Modern Woodworkers of America—purchased farmland from the Brown family that included the study area, a tract that had been the farmstead of William B. Brown for over 50 years. In 1920, Roy Lewis bought the farm from Chester Brandenburg, including the land that would become the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape.[52]

Meanwhile, beginning in 1910, the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) population on the east side of the mountain began to decline due to chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*), a pathogenic fungus that causes tree death. The mountain remained otherwise forested with oak (*Quercus* sp.), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and locust (*Robinia* sp.) trees in various stages of regrowth as the economy shifted away from heavy industry and extraction.[53]

Although World War I dampened leisure travel, by the 1920s, the Catoctin Mountain area was famous nationwide as a vacation destination for city-dwellers. The railroad continued to make such trips possible, as did the rise of the automobile in the early 20th century. Between 1910 and 1920, American car purchases skyrocketed from 500,000 cars at the beginning of the decade to 8,000,000 automobiles by the end.[54] With all those cars ready for a drive, the relatively short distance between Baltimore or Washington, D.C., and Catoctin Mountain attracted scores of automobile travelers.

But the impacts and windfalls of tourism were uneven: even as the travel industry precipitated new construction throughout western Maryland, it did not sustain all the existing communities, including the village of Catoctin Furnace. Many village residents could not find work, and the east side of the mountain increasingly became a "no man's land" of poverty and unsanctioned logging—even as "auto-tourists" flocked to the former industrial sites as curiosities and relics.[55]

These overlapping patterns of settlement resulted in a disparate population on Catoctin Mountain by the 1920s and 1930s—although at the time, the state and federal governments did not necessarily recognize the range of residents. Catoctin Mountain communities included local businessmen who had made or augmented their fortunes in the tourism industry, as well as prosperous fruit farmers, more modest subsistence farmers, and finally, some number of genuinely poor families (a class that grew in number as the Great Depression hit). According to historians, it was this last class of residents that dominated government reports in the early years of the Great Depression, and perceptions of their poverty—and their depleted landscape—would shape the creation of Catoctin Mountain as a destination for recreation during the New Deal era.[56]

Meanwhile, an emerging social movement aimed to create "rugged" recreation and outdoor education opportunities in the area, particularly for children from urban areas. In 1922, a Jewish youth organization established Camp Louise in the foothills of Catoctin Mountain (north of the study area), which marked the first organized youth recreational use of the mountain. Seven years later, in 1931, the Boy Scouts created a 258-acre camp on Hunting Creek (south of the study area), although the camp closed after two years.[57]

These camps were part of the back-to-nature trend that took root in America (and elsewhere) in the late 19th century, as a counter to the industrialization that had transformed the American landscape by that point. In contrast to the tolls of urban life—including poor air quality, overwork, frayed social fabric, etc.—the movement glorified the restorative effect that nature could have. Resorts in natural settings, such as the one at Pen Mar, became

50. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 106-107.
51. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 107; Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 53.
52. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 55.
53. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 53.
54. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 110-114.
55. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 110-115.
56. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 129-130.
57. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 117.

popular for much the same reason. Summer camps became popular as a way to mimic, and in many cases fabricate, a wilderness experience. Over time, the concept of wilderness and summer camp came to include a "supposedly authentic encounter with folk life," as historian Abigail Van Slyck calls it. The definition of "folk life" varied, but often included a commodified version of Native American culture, including rituals and features such as totem poles.[58]

Great Depression, New Deal, and Recreation Demonstration Areas (1930 – 1936 CE)

With the stock market crash in 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression, tourism took a hit at Catoctin Mountain and around the country. The Great Depression deeply impacted individuals and institutions across the country as unemployment soared, banking systems collapsed, and industrial production diminished. Families could no longer afford the same level of leisure spending, and the mountain communities felt the effects even as they continued to market themselves to travelers. These problems in the wealthier echelons of the mountain were compounded among the subsistence farmers by a hot and dry spring in 1930 that resulted in a major fire. It began at Fishing Creek (south of the study area) and spread north toward Catoctin Furnace in what the Frederick News called "the most disastrous [fire] in the history of Frederick County." By the time it was extinguished four days later, the fire had consumed several thousand acres and at least 15,000 trees.[59]

That same summer, a drought struck the area, wreaking havoc for the remaining agriculture outposts on the mountain; in October, the reservoir on South Mountain (southwest of the study area) dried up, impacting the local population. State officials estimated the total drought losses to be more than $4 million, and with the Great Depression raging, farmers had few opportunities for relief from such deficits.[60] The Frederick County Drought Emergency Association (a temporary committee) coordinated efforts by the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and others to distribute food; in 1931, Frederick County made the association permanent (an acknowledgment that there was no end to the crisis in sight), renaming it the County Emergency Relief Association.[61] By 1932, Thurmont's newspaper lamented "the amazing decline in property values" and the economic events that had conspired to make "many owners [allow] home and places of business to fall into extremely poor condition".[62]

Frederick County employed as many laborers as possible for road-building projects, but this local attempt at relief through employment could not keep pace with demand. Catoctin Mountain residents created illicit moonshine stills to make money, although this kind of illegal activity often faced police raids.[63] The situation called for more dramatic intervention, and in the presidential election of 1932, most voters from the area cast their ballots for Franklin D. Roosevelt and his promised "new deal for the American people".[64]

By the time Franklin D. Roosevelt became President in 1933, one in four Americans was out of work. Roosevelt took office in March 1933. Shortly after, his administration launched the "New Deal," a series of sweeping changes implemented in his first 100 days as president to address and alleviate the devastating consequences of the Great Depression.

Through relief, reform, and recovery efforts, the New Deal sought to create jobs, offer aid, and stabilize the economy and the nation's agriculture systems. Two agencies created under the New Deal that would later work on improvements at Catoctin Mountain Park were the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The CCC was one of the first programs to

58. Abigail Van Slyck, *A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth, 1890-1960* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2006), xix-xx.
59. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 139.
60. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 140.
61. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 142-143.
62. Quoted in Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 148.
63. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 145.
64. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 148.

be implemented in 1933, and provided thousands of unemployed young men with jobs related to the conservation of the natural environment and historic sites. The WPA, founded shortly thereafter in 1935, was another New Deal agency that employed individuals to construct public infrastructure throughout the country.

The Roosevelt Administration also created the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) of Public Works to help states and municipalities synchronize their efforts, including direct relief funds and programs to support specific populations, with projects to include "conservation and development of natural resources, including control, utilization, and purification of water, prevention of soil or coastal erosion".[65]

In 1933, Maryland's Governor Albert Ritchie submitted a request for federal aid.[66] The Maryland Emergency Relief Administration took the lead in administering the federal aid. In Frederick County, the Frederick County Welfare Board coordinated public and private initiatives for direct relief.[67]

In January 1934, the Land Planning Committee was set up within FERA to address underperforming agricultural lands. National Park Service (NPS) representatives attended Committee meetings.

According to a memorandum from July 16, 1934, the Land Program of FERA was to have six objectives:

- Conversion of poor land to other and more proper uses;
- Prevention of the misuse of land by erosion or other causes, and a restoration of land productivity;
- Improvement of economics and social status of families occupying poverty farms;
- Improvement of the economic and social status of "industrially stranded population groups," occupying essentially rural areas, including readjustment and rehabilitation of Indian [sic] population by acquisition of lands to enable them to make appropriate and constructively planned use of combined land areas in units suited to their needs;
- Reducing the costs of local governments and of local public institutions and services; and
- Encouragement of land-use planning by setting up experimental projects which will serve as reputable demonstrations of types of adjustments applicable to various regions in the United States.[68]

To carry out those objectives, FERA outlined three types of communities that it would target with its programs:

- Distressed families in rural areas;
- Post-industrial communities that were considered "stranded" based on a shuttered industry; and
- Unemployed residents in large cities.

The Catoctin Mountain area was relevant to two of three FERA targets, as it was a rural area that was considered "economically obsolete." This was a formal governmental classification, based on a determination that the land in question was unlikely to return to agricultural or industrial prosperity. Agricultural economists proposed removing such "economically obsolete" farmland from agricultural use and, under the auspices of the New Deal, creating some new land use instead.[69]

In the case of Catoctin Mountain, the federal government determined that the "economically obsolete" farmland was "submarginal"—the lowest category on its spectrum, after "good," "poor," and "marginal." Submarginal land was agriculturally deemed unproductive and/or unsuitable; in the case of Catoctin Mountain, this was due to decades of logging, erosion, and depletion of the soil.[70] Classifying land based solely on its production capacity neglected to factor in the economic and

65. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 54.
66. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 148.
67. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 148-149.
68. Harlan D. Unrau and Williss, G. Frank, *Administrative History: Expansion of the National Park Service in the 1930s* (Denver, CO: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1983), https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/unrau-williss/adhi4i.htm.
69. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 54.
70. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 54.

kinship networks of families that had resided near the mountain for decades. For land that it deemed submarginal, the federal government incorporated the area into its Land Program, which marginally compensated the landowners for their land and sometimes offered relocation services, before taking ownership of the land for public use as a "Recreational Demonstration Area" (RDA).[71]

RDAs existed at the intersection of several overlapping objectives, including: economic relief for farm families; the recapture and rehabilitation of unproductive agricultural land; conservation of natural lands; and the creation of public health and recreation opportunities.[72] In July 1934, the Submarginal Land Acquisition Program was created to buy depleted farmland in order to repurpose the land for other uses. The program was overseen by a Land Planning Committee that included Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, FERA chief Harry Hopkins, and Conrad Wirth of the National Park Service. Once it acquired the land, the federal government put the territory under the jurisdiction of the FERA's Division of Rural Rehabilitation and Stranded Populations.[73] The NPS was also involved in the administration and improvement of RDAs. The NPS program focused on acquiring lands that were "no longer suitable for agriculture but that, if returned to natural condition and if within a reasonable distance of metropolitan areas, would provide a much-needed recreation facility for large numbers of people".[74]

FERA established several criteria for the RDA program and invited states to submit proposals for lands within their boundaries that achieved those metrics. RDA eligibility was based on:

- Size (2,000 – 10,000 acres);
- Proximity to a large city (within one hour's drive);
- A ready supply of local building materials;
- Opportunities for water recreation (based on existing water bodies or topography suitable for flooding to construct water features);
- Reasonable prices (at an average of $5 per acre); and
- A classification as submarginal land.[75]

By late 1934, the state of Maryland recommended Catoctin Mountain as a potential RDA, arguing that Catoctin Mountain met the conditions of the program based on several criteria:

- It was located only 55 miles away from several populous cities; (*see Figure 5*)
- The land was submarginal for agriculture based on 150 years of depletion (one NPS official estimated that only 10% of the land was useable for tilling and pasture by this point);
- The forest was in poor condition (where it hadn't already been logged) due to decades of timber harvesting for the furnace and other industries, and the loss of chestnuts because of blight;
- Big Hunting Creek and Owens Creek offered water recreation opportunities; and
- The defunct iron furnace was a point of historical interest.[76]

In early January 1935, the NPS's Branch of Planning and State Cooperation submitted "A Preliminary Proposal for the Catoctin Recreational Area in Washington and Frederick Counties." The NPS report concluded that the Catoctin area was a strong candidate for an RDA, and Garland B. (Mike) Williams was chosen as the project manager, with W.W. Simonds chosen to manage the land acquisition process at Catoctin RDA.[77]

By March 1935, program officials had begun to map the land purchases for the RDA, which would extend northwest/southeast and encompass the Catoctin ridge, central plateau, and portions of the South Mountain slope. They encountered opposition from some landowners who objected

71. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 54-55.
72. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 55.
73. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 155.
74. Conrad Wirth, *Parks, Politics, and the People* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980), Chapter 7.
75. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 55.
76. Elise Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, in partnership with Organization of American Historians/National Park Service, 2020), 7-8.
77. Wehrle, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Historic Resource Study,* 161.

to the proposed RDA at Catoctin Mountain. In November 1935, 27 mountain residents and Frederick County taxpayers sent a petition to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to protest the project, and in early 1936, several suspicious fires broke out in the nascent park.[78] Nevertheless, land acquisition for the RDA proceeded, relying primarily on purchases but also on condemnation proceedings.[79] By the time the Catoctin Mountain RDA was fully assembled, it comprised 10,333 acres (acquired as 133 different tracts of land). The Catoctin RDA was one of 46 RDAs established during the New Deal as a solution to underutilized land and the failing economy, using depleted farmland to create publicly accessible recreation areas.[80]

At the beginning of the RDA program, FERA intended to eventually transfer most of the RDAs to the individual states, to be absorbed into their state park systems. In many cases, however, the federal government ultimately retained ownership of RDAs and incorporated them into the NPS system.[81] This proved to be the case for much of the Catoctin Mountain RDA: although the southern section (south of Route 77) was eventually transferred back to the state of Maryland in 1954 to be Cunningham Falls State Park, the northern section has remained federally managed since its New Deal acquisition.[82]

The Catoctin RDA's headquarters was located within the 90-acre farm most recently owned by Roy E. Lewis (*see Figure 6*). For more than 50 years in the 19th century, this had been the farm of William B. Brown, before he sold it to Chester Brandenburg in 1900, who in turn sold it to Lewis in 1920.[83] The headquarters location was suitable as the land had already been cleared and was close

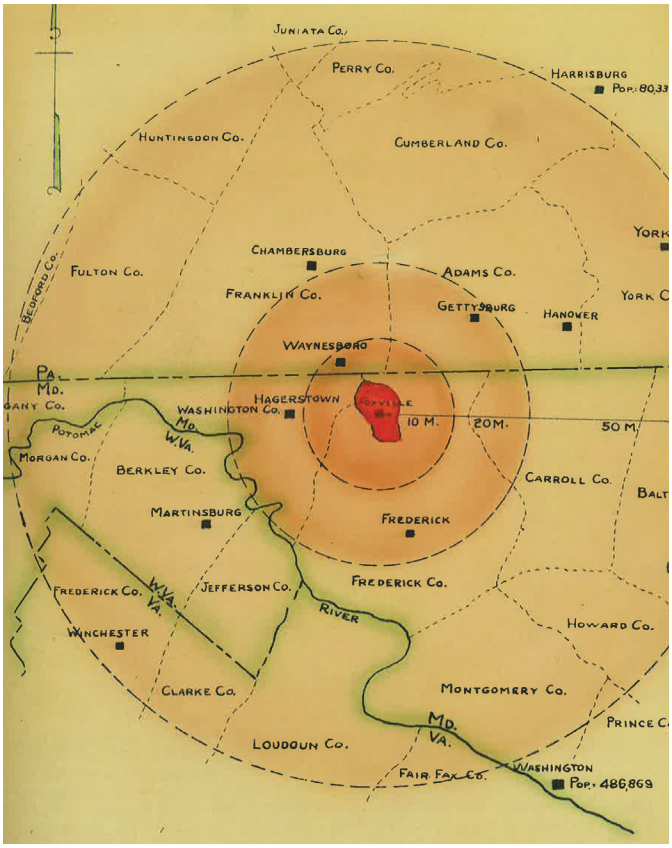


Figure 5: The Recreation Demonstration Area program identified sites based on their proximity to major population centers. This diagram analyzed Catoctin Mountain's relationship to Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and other major cities. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

78. Angela R. Sirna, "Tracing a Lineage of Social Reform Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park," *The Public Historian*, Vol. 38, No. 4 (November 2014): 173; Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 11-12.
79. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 13-14.
80. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 55-56.
81. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 55-56.
82. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 55-56.
83. Catoctin Mountain Park tract files: Tract 18; Bond 1858; Titus; Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 44.



Figure 6: Roy Lewis's land, home, and outbuildings were acquired by the federal government for the maintenance and administrative headquarters of the Catoctin RDA, c. 1935. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

to Thurmont-Foxville Road (Route 77), which also provided access to telephone and electric lines. The structures associated with the Lewis farmstead, located outside the project area, remained standing until early 1938, when laborers razed the structures in this tract and on nearly all farmsteads purchased for the RDA.[84]

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CATOCTIN RECREATION DEMONSTRATION AREA

The headquarters and maintenance complex for the Catoctin RDA was established at what is today called Camp Round Meadow, located in the southwestern portion of today's boundaries of Catoctin Mountain Park; historically, this area was within the original Round Meadow patent (dating to 1750) and within the former Lewis farm property. The planning process for the Catoctin RDA began in March 1935 and continued through the following year, under the leadership of project manager Mike Williams, landscape architect J.C. Milson (who

84. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 55.

arrived in January 1936), and project architect A.R. Vanston (who arrived in late March 1936).[85]

In March of 1936, Williams submitted the paperwork to begin construction of the RDA headquarters and maintenance area for the storage of trucks, equipment, and materials. When it was established, the maintenance area was alternately referred to as the Central Garage Unit, Central Service Group, Administrative Area, Utility Group, and the Area Service Group; this document will refer to it hereafter as the Central Garage Unit. The first set of buildings needed were structures for workspaces and for the storage of vehicles, supplies and tools, as well as an office for project administration and design.[86]

The Central Garage Unit complex was developed on Tracts 18 and 152.[87] The location for the complex was chosen due to its proximity to future building activities of proposed group camps in the RDA (what would become Camps Misty Mount and Greentop), in addition to access to potable water, electricity and telephone lines.[88] The Central Garage Unit buildings were designed according to *Park Structures and Facilities*, a style guide developed for national park development and published in 1935 (***see Figure 7***). The style manual specified that buildings were to use natural colors, rough stone foundations, and log construction.[89]

On January 2, 1936, 55 WPA workers arrived at Catoctin to begin work on construction projects throughout the RDA (***see Figure 8***). The WPA workers were men from local relief rolls in Western Maryland. By May 1936, a peak number of workers was reached when 595 men were employed at the project to log, clear slash, and perform other jobs.[90] These workers did not live at the RDA, but commuted to the site from nearby communities.

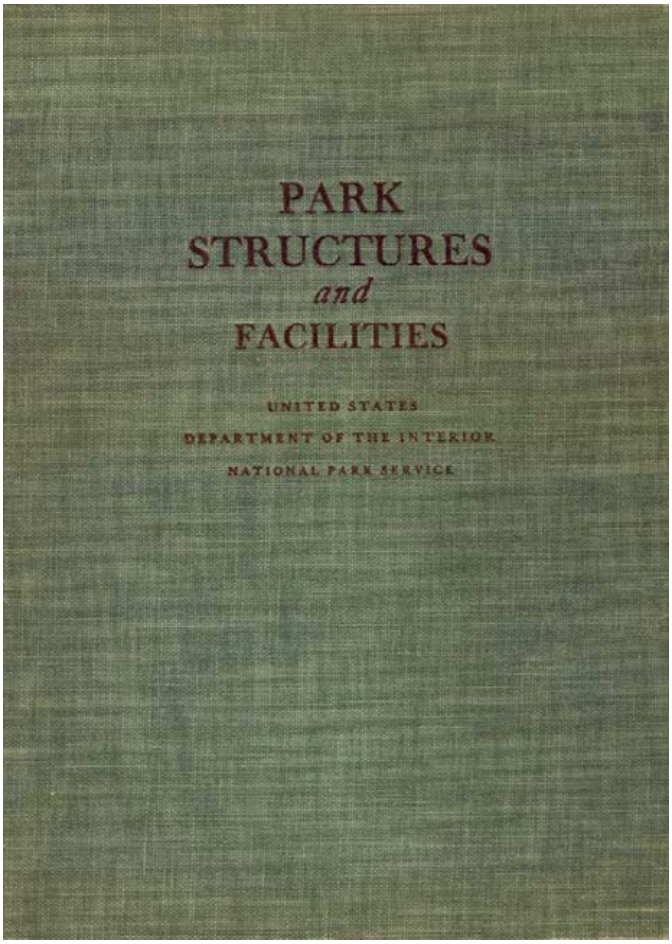


Figure 7: 1935 Park Structures and Facilities book. (Good 1935)

In March 1936, A.R. Vanston developed an architectural drawing for the "Layout, Temporary Maintenance Group"; it depicts the Central Garage Unit, with the "Property of Roy E. Lewis, Tract No. 18" represented to the south (***see Figure 9***). The drawing depicts two rows of buildings (separated by an open parking area) including the administrative office/headquarters building, a multi-bay garage and repair shop, an equipment shed, lumber sheds, a tool house, an oil storage house, a blacksmith shop, and pit latrines for men and

85. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 27.
86. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 55.
87. Barbara M. Kirkconnell, Fred Kuss, and Robert E. Kauffman, *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region, 1988), 24.
88. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 24-25; Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 55.
89. Albert Good, editor, *Park Structures and Facilities* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1935).
90. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 26.



Figure 8: Entrance sign for Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area c. 1940. This sign was likely located along Manahan Road, pointing to the Central Garage Unit and headquarters within today's Round Meadow. (Catoctin Mountain Park vertical files, CPP-027, Thurmont, MD)

women. An existing stone fence is depicted to the north of the buildings.

The first building constructed for the RDA was a project headquarters (Building 1), located in the corner of a former farm field, south of a stone wall that ran along the field's edge. Building 1 was under construction by April 1936 and completed in July (***see Figure 10, Figure 11, and Figure 12***). The building was designed as a temporary headquarters to oversee operations, design, and construction of the RDA, with plans to convert it later to an employee residence. It was constructed of logs and had a stone fireplace, chimney, and foundation.[91] A flagstone path leading to the headquarters building was constructed in 1940 and is not represented in the 1936 architectural drawing.

As additional buildings were added to the Central Garage Unit according to Vanston's drawing, they were positioned in relation to existing features of the Lewis farmstead, including the farm road, stone wall, and fields (***see Figure 13, Figure 14, Figure 15, Figure 16, Figure 17, and Figure 18***).[92] The blacksmith shop (Building 4) and gas house (Building 5) were of log construction like the headquarters building, while the other buildings were wood-frame, affixed to stone piers, including the eight-bay wood-frame garage and repair shop (Building 3) and tool house. A gently sloping open space separated the two rows of buildings. During the New Deal years, a parking lot occupied some of this space on the north side, and elm trees and grass filled the remainder.[93]

In 1936, WPA workers built a service road through the RDA. The service road incorporated an existing farm lane and reached from the Central Garage Unit to the central plateau of Catoctin Mountain. The road was gated at both ends and measured 14′ wide with a 6" crushed stone base, and was sealed with chips, stone dust, and compacted clay.[94] An opening in the stone wall, created by the WPA located adjacent to Building 1 (a legacy of the former farmstead), offered access from the

91. Susan G. Horner, Kathryn G. Smith, and Dean Herrin, *Catoctin Mountain Park (MIHP #F-6-147): National Register Nomination [Unrestricted Version]* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region, 2011/2014), 7-20, 21.

92. Horner et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park (MIHP #F-6-147): National Register Nomination [Unrestricted Version],* 7-21.
93. Earley, "Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory, Catoctin Mountain Park, National Park Service," 78.
94. Horner et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park (MIHP #F-6-147): National Register Nomination [Unrestricted Version],* 7-24.

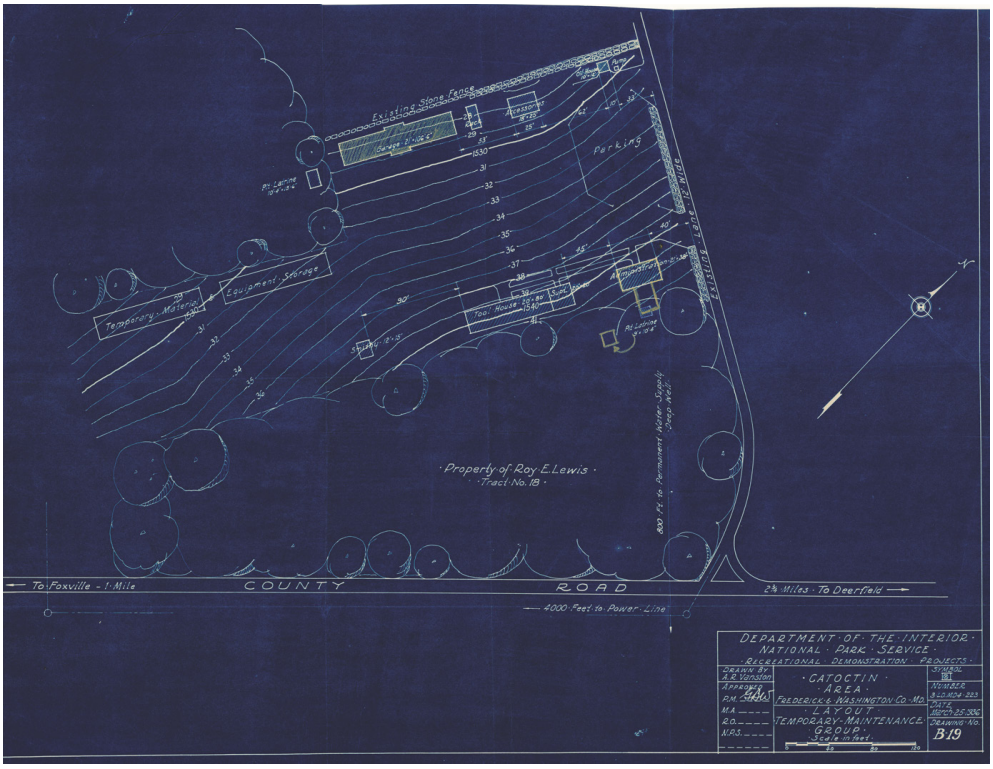


Figure 9: Plan for the Temporary Maintenance Area, 1936. (National Park Service ETIC 1879249-CATO_841_80003)

farm road into the Central Garage Unit. The row of storage sheds and the multi-bay garage were constructed at a right angle to the stone wall and farm road (*see Figure 9*).

A gas-operated sawmill was set up across Manahan Road to process dead wood culled from the forest for construction projects. Later, mature timber was also harvested from areas that were under construction in the RDA. Some millwork, such as the windows, was completed on site, while additional oak was purchased "on the stump" from neighboring communities, and subsequently milled into shingles and flooring. In addition to timber production, a rock crusher was set up to produce road building materials and sand for mortar. Rock was collected locally for projects, including some from existing walls. Laborers also installed water lines to direct water from an existing 55′-deep well within tract 152 to the project headquarters.[95]

On November 14, 1936, Executive Order No. 7496 transferred authority of the RDAs from the Resettlement Administration (RA) to the Secretary of the Interior (Executive Order 7496, November 14, 1936).[96] The NPS controlled the Catoctin project in full, naming it the "Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area" (or Catoctin RDA). In coordination with the NPS, the WPA constructed several other developed areas along the service road, outside of the study area boundaries. By the end of 1936, the WPA had completed the West Picnic Area and started construction on Camp 1/ Camp Misty Mount.[97]

From 1937 to 1942, NPS staff prepared a Master Plan for the Catoctin RDA. Garland B. Williams prepared the "Report to Accompany Master Plan," which was submitted on February 24, 1942. These documents would continue to guide the RDA's development in the following decades.[98]

In 1938, WPA workers razed, burned, and dismantled the majority of standing buildings on the farmlands acquired or condemned during the creation of the RDA.[99] This included the Lewis Farm.

95. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 11, 55-56; Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History,* 64-65.

96. Some NPS histories state that this action took effect on August 1, 1936, before the date of the executive order.
97. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 11.
98. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 60.
99. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 55.

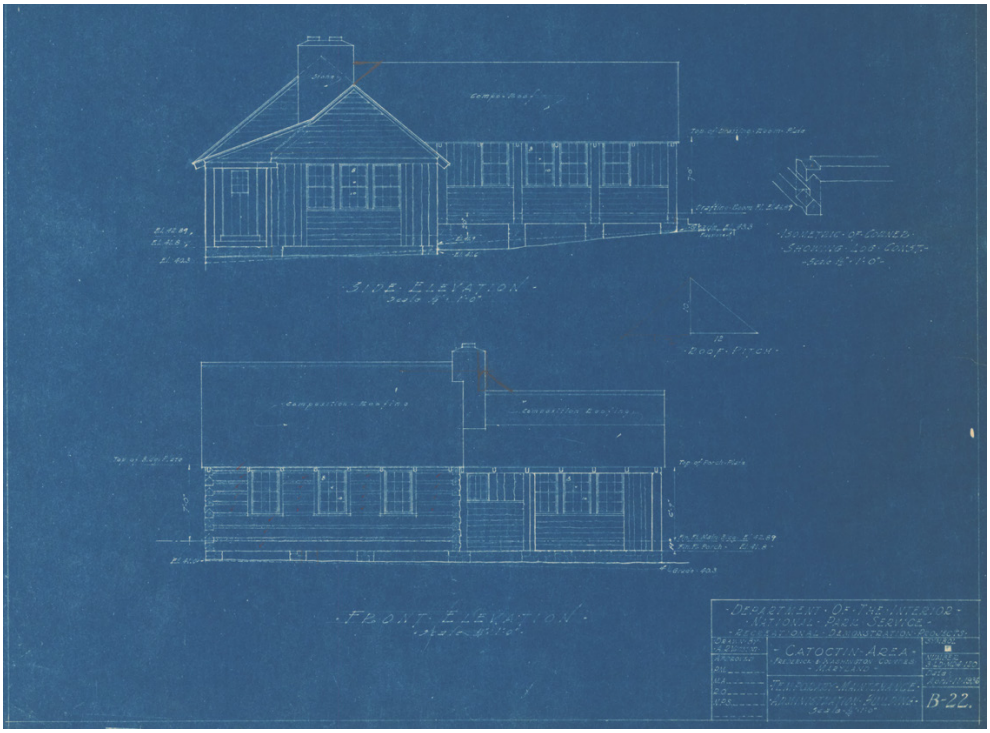


Figure 10: Elevation drawings for Building 1, 1936. (National Park Service ETIC 1879249-CATO_841_80003)



Figure 11: Tool house building (torn down in 1964) and dirt road, with Building 1 in background, c. 1950s. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 12: Building 1 (left) and tool house (right), looking across open field, c. 1950s. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 13: Blacksmith shop (Building 4), 1936. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

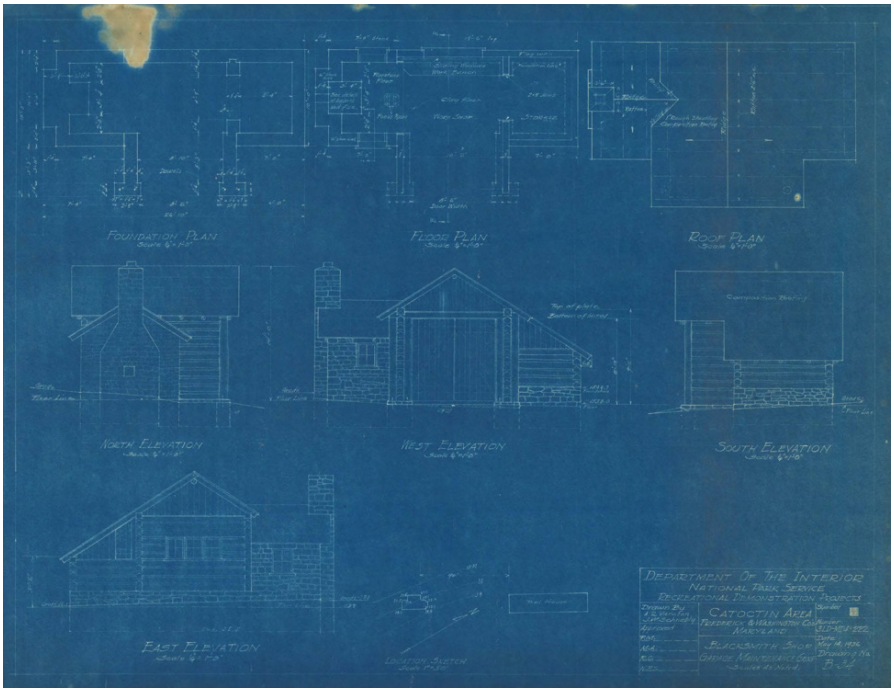


Figure 14: Blacksmith shop (Building 4) elevation drawings, 1936. (National Park Service ETIC 1879260-CATO_841_179571-1)



Figure 15: Gas pump house (oil storage house/Building 5), built in 1936. (Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 16: Eight-bay wood-frame garage and repair shop (Building 3), c 1936. (Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 17: View looking west across the Central Garage Unit from the wood-frame garage and repair shop (Building 3), with Lewis's fallow fields visible, c. 1936. (Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 18: Photograph of the Central Garage Unit with stone wall in the foreground, c. 1940. The building on the left is the current resource management office (Building 1). The middle building was a tool house that was torn down in 1964. The building to the right of the tool house was the blacksmith shop (Building 4), which is still extant today. (Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 19: CCC Company 1374. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

The following year, the NPS sought legislation to initiate the return of most RDAs to their respective states, which would fulfill an original tenet of the RDA program, even as it continued to acquire land at Catoctin (a process that extended into 1939).

As part of that acquisition process, the NPS sought to condemn 810.3 acres within the proposed RDA boundaries; the District Court of Maryland ultimately ruled in favor of the condemnation of over 40 tracts, as the titles were considered too convoluted.[100] Many landowners felt the federal government had forced condemnation of their lands and that local banks had pressured them into selling their land to pay off mortgages and interest payments. These landowners challenged the purportedly voluntary nature of the program and suggested that the local population and the federal government were not aligned on what constituted submarginal land. Additionally, tenant farmers made up 26% of farmers in Frederick County, and often did not have the resources to relocate, as required by the establishment of the RDA.[101]

In April 1939, 35 men and one officer from the all-white, all-male CCC Company arrived at Catoctin to locate a site for their camp (Camp NP-3-MD; Company 1374). The rest of the company, consisting of 200 young men aged 17 to 29 from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, arrived soon after (***see Figure 19***). Between 1939 and 1941, CCC enrollees worked on conservation projects throughout the RDA, including stream improvements and revegetation projects, in addition to trail, water line, electrical wiring, and other construction projects.[102] Meanwhile, the WPA continued to work on projects within the RDA; the two groups occasionally worked side by side until the WPA ceased operations at the RDA in 1939.[103]

The CCC company was housed near the Central Garage Unit buildings constructed by the WPA, camping in canvas wall tents until they completed construction on their barracks in July 1939 (***see Figure 20***).[104] The tents were located in one of the former Lewis farm's fields, across the former farm laneway and entrance to the Central Garage Unit. Barracks were completed c. 1940 in the same area, measuring 20' x 165' and housing 50 individuals

100. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 12.
101. Sirna, "Tracing a Lineage of Social Reform Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park,"174.
102. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 18.
103. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 55.
104. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 57.



Figure 20: Tents in which the CCC enrollees originally lived, photographed by Jack King, c. 1939. (Round Meadow, Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 21: View looking northeast of CCC barracks, photographed by Jack King, 1939. (Round Meadow, Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

each.[105] The barracks were of wood-frame construction and considered both temporary and portable (***see Figure 21, Figure 22, Figure 23***). Each barrack included a central bunk room with a shared tile-lined bathroom at one end, equipped with water hot water that was heated in a central building between the series of barracks.[106]

Support buildings for CCC operations were constructed in the Central Garage Unit, west of the existing administrative and maintenance facilities. The CCC company constructed a 20'x110' mess hall with a 20'x30' kitchen ell addition; a 20'x100' recreation hall; a 20'x70' administration building; 20'x40' officers' quarters; a 20'x30' infirmary; foreman's quarters; a 20'x130' educational building; an oil house; and three garages. There was also a 10'x25' central heating plant with a coal-burning boiler to heat the barracks (***see Figure 24 and Figure 25***). Well water and septic tanks served the CCC camp, which was also connected to the local electrical system. CCC enrollees also re-laid a dry stacked stone wall, constructed a bumper rail around the CCC camp area, and trimmed

105. Angela R. Sirna, *Human Conservation Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park: A Special Resource Study* (Murfreesboro, TN: Middle Tennessee State University, 2015), 65.
106. Lisa Pfueller Davidson and James A. Jacobs, *Civilian Conservation Corps Activities in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, HABS DC No. 858*, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Capital Parks – Central (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2004), 48.



Figure 22: View of the CCC camp, looking southwest, late 1930s. (Round Meadow, Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

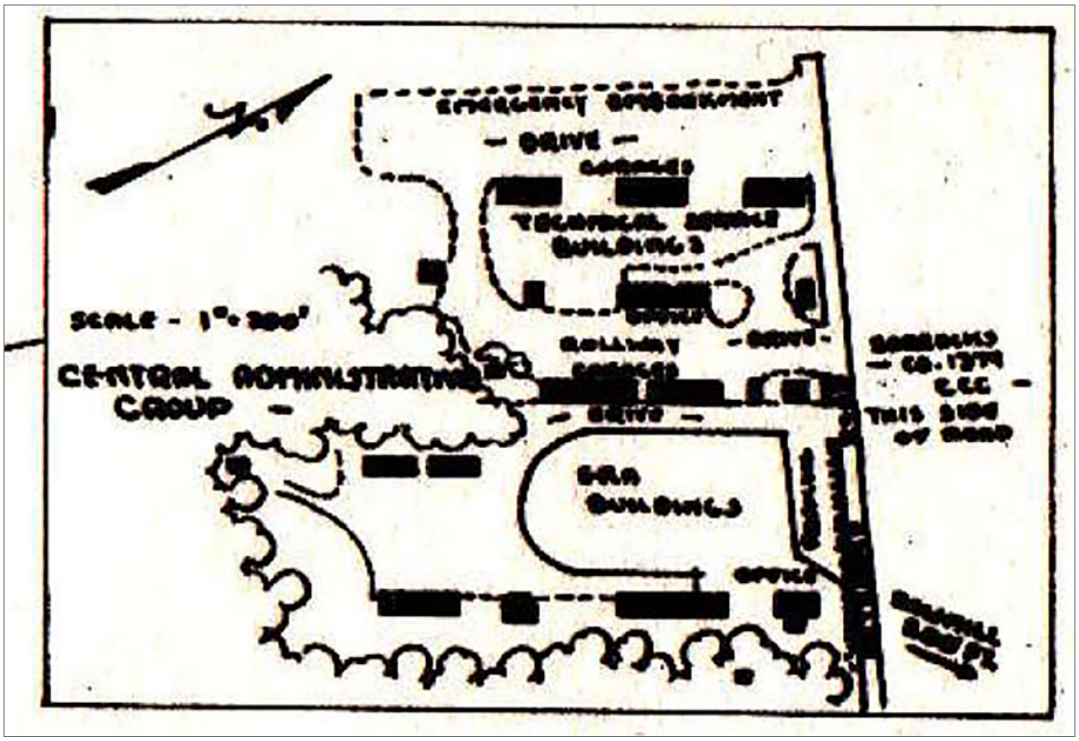


Figure 23: Drawing of Central Garage Unit, 1941. (National Archives)



Figure 24: Aerial image of the CCC camp, looking north, undated c. 1940 .(National Museum of American History, NMAH. AC.0930 Box 242, Folder 112-113)



Figure 25: Aerial image of the CCC camp, with building key. (National Museum of American History, NMAH.AC.0930 Box 242, Folder 112-113; annotated by CLR authors)

undergrowth. Construction of Camp NP-3-MD was completed on September 15, 1939.[107]

Camp NP-3-MD, like other CCC camps, was run by a military officer and included educational and recreational opportunities for enrollees. In their free time, CCC laborers had the opportunity to take classes on-site in reading, arithmetic, history, carpentry, painting, surveying, woodworking, photography, and shorthand, in addition to opportunities to take night classes in Hagerstown, MD. The CCC company had access to a library of 1,500 volumes, a film strip projector, and a 16mm movie projector. Sports were popular, with horseshoe pitching, baseball, volleyball, and swimming available. Enrollees also participated in church services, bowling, movies, and barn dances within the community.[108]

Company 1374's initial work at Catoctin entailed clean-up and conservation projects, including small dam construction along Hunting and Owens Creeks to enhance the fish habitat, as well as reforestation and trailblazing projects. Company 1374 also provided fence rails for use by the Company 1355-C, a segregated camp for Black laborers that was stationed at Gettysburg National Military Park. By the summer of 1941, a report recorded that the CCC crew had completed several construction projects at Catoctin, including completion of the park custodian's residence, installation of 12.5 miles of power lines, construction of two sewage systems, a filter system, a water supply system, two trailside shelters on the Appalachian Trail, 4.5 miles of foot trails, one retaining wall along old Route 15, a bathhouse, four drinking fountains, 0.3 miles of roads, and a forest fire danger station. CCC workers also fought fires, planted trees and shrubs, developed 400 acres of "fire hazard reduction," and assisted with the preparation and transport of construction materials. After several years of construction that transformed the RDA landscape, the CCC camp at Catoctin was disbanded in November 1941, on the eve of the United States' entrance into World War II.[109]

Elsewhere in the park during this period, the original plans for the Catoctin RDA called for four organized group cabin camps outside the project area. The planning and construction of the camps and two picnic areas took place from early 1936 through the fall of 1939, with construction undertaken by the WPA. Camp 1/Camp Misty Mount was built in 1937 on 30 acres comprising tracts 3, 98, and 146. It opened for camp use in the summer of 1937, as the Maryland League for Crippled Children (MLCC) camped at Camp Misty Mount in the first season. In 1938, Camp 2/Camp Greentop was built northwest of Camp Misty Mount, on tracts 26 and 26a; cleared fields and level ground offered easy access. After the completion of Camp Greentop, the MLCC transitioned to this camp, as it was better suited to the needs of the campers. This left Camp Misty Mount open for use by other organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America. Hi-Catoctin (subsequently known as Shangri-La/Camp David and reserved as a presidential retreat, and thus not open to the public)[110] and 4-G (never completed) were sited on the brow of a hill north of tracts 26 and 26a, overlooking the Monocacy River Valley. Tract 91 became a three-acre day-use picnic area, and a large picnic area was planned for the Catoctin Furnace Area Tract.[111]

107. Sirna, *Human Conservation Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park: A Special Resource Study*, 65.
108. Davidson and Jacobs, *Civilian Conservation Corps Activities in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, HABS DC No. 858,* 48.
109. Davidson and Jacobs, *Civilian Conservation Corps Activities in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, HABS DC No. 858,* 49.
110. Beginning in July 1942, Camp 3/Hi-Catoctin went out of service as a recreational cabin camp at Catoctin Mountain RDA, becoming instead the presidential retreat known as Shangri-La. President Dwight D. Eisenhower later renamed it Camp David, and it is not officially known as the Naval Support Facility Thurmont, or NSF Thurmont. At the end of World War II, the reopening of the park necessitated a formal agreement between the Naval Service Facility-Thurmont and the NPS. On November 1, 1948, a cooperative agreement was signed, placing the presidential retreat under NPS jurisdiction. It has remained a restricted-access presidential enclave ever since.
111. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 30.

World War II and the OSS at the Camps (1941 – 1945 CE)

In July of 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created a civilian agency within the White House to oversee American intelligence. The following year, on June 13, 1942, Roosevelt issued an executive order creating the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), considered America's first unified intelligence agency and the predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The mission of the OSS was to obtain information and to sabotage the military efforts of enemy nations during World War II.[112]

At Catoctin, RDA development ceased due to the threat of U.S. involvement in WWII, and the entire Catoctin RDA closed to the public in 1942 when President Roosevelt established a wartime retreat within the RDA.[113] At the end of May 1942, US Marine Lt. Col. Charles Brooks, USSS Chief Michael Reilly, Signal Corps Lt. Col. William A. Beasley, and Conrad Wirth of the NPS met to discuss security for the president. They agreed that 20 to 40 Marines would be stationed at the RDA at all times, with 100 Marines present when the president was in residence.[114]

In addition to its association with the presidential retreat, Catoctin RDA played an active support role in World War II. In early 1942, the War and Navy Departments requested the use of several national parks and RDAs around the country for the Marines and OSS. The public lands were to be used for defense purposes, including strategic planning, training, rest camps, and other classified efforts.[115]

In spring 1942, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes authorized the War Department's use of Catoctin RDA (*see Figure 26 and Figure 27*).[116] In its permit, the NPS authorized military use of its lands, but stipulated

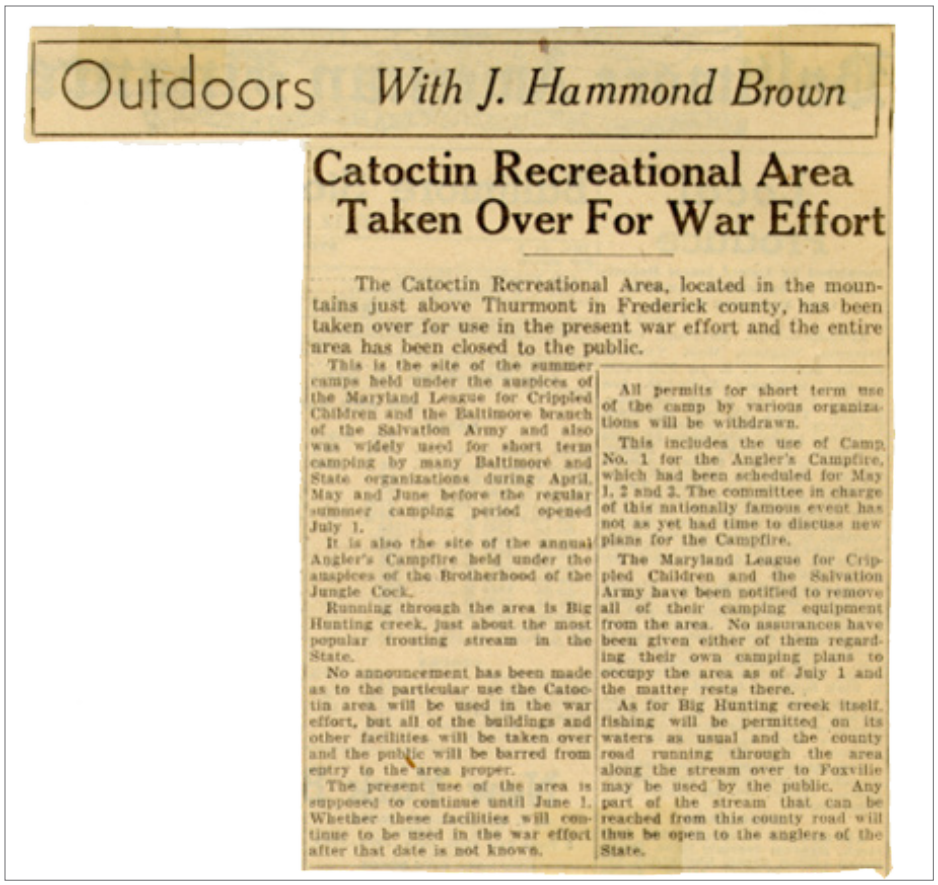
> that precaution [should] be taken to preserve and protect all objects of a geological and historical nature...that wherever possible, structures, roads, as well as trees, shrubs and other natural terrain features, shall remain unmolested... [and] that every precaution shall be taken to protect the Area from fire and vandalism.[117]

The NPS also directed the War and Navy Departments to consult with the agency before constructing any new buildings, and mandated that all sites should be restored to their prewar condition when the Army eventually left. With this authorization in place, the War Department utilized the northern portion of Catoctin RDA (north of Route 77) from 1942-1944 for troop training, including the special training of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).[118]

Meanwhile, on June 6, 1942, Congress passed legislation authorizing the transfer of most RDAs from the Secretary of the Interior to their respective states. However, Catoctin RDA remained under federal ownership because of the military operations within Catoctin, and because the presidential retreat was located within the RDA boundaries.[119]

The remote location, heavy forestation, and federal ownership made Catoctin appealing as a location for the War Department's training facilities. The agency used several thousand acres in the northwestern part of the RDA for paramilitary training and field exercises. The center of OSS training was located less than a mile east of the study area, at Cabin Camp 2 (today called Greentop). Designated Area B-2, the camp was rehabilitated to support a year-round paramilitary training facility that included obstacle courses, physical training areas, target ranges, demolition areas for instruction in the use of explosives, storage for munitions, classrooms, and a mockup

112. "Creation of the Office of Strategic Services," Catoctin Mountain Park, National Park Service, last updated May 7, 2020, https://www.nps.gov/cato/learn/historyculture/oss1.htm.
113. John Whiteclay Chambers II, *OSS Training in the National Parks and Service Abroad in World War II* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2008), 123.
114. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 33.
115. Chambers II, *OSS Training in the National Parks and Service Abroad in World War II,* 54-55.
116. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 26.
117. Quoted in Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 26.
118. Chambers II, *OSS Training in the National Parks and Service Abroad in World War II,* 101-102.
119. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 92.



Outdoors *With J. Hammond Brown*

Catoctin Recreational Area Taken Over For War Effort

The Catoctin Recreational Area, located in the mountains just above Thurmont in Frederick county, has been taken over for use in the present war effort and the entire area has been closed to the public.

This is the site of the summer camps held under the auspices of the Maryland League for Crippled Children and the Baltimore branch of the Salvation Army and also was widely used for short term camping by many Baltimore and State organizations during April, May and June before the regular summer camping period opened July 1.

It is also the site of the annual Angler's Campfire held under the auspices of the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock.

Running through the area is Big Hunting creek, just about the most popular trouting stream in the State.

No announcement has been made as to the particular use the Catoctin area will be used in the war effort, but all of the buildings and other facilities will be taken over and the public will be barred from entry to the area proper.

The present use of the area is supposed to continue until June 1. Whether these facilities will continue to be used in the war effort after that date is not known.

All permits for short term use of the camp by various organizations will be withdrawn.

This includes the use of Camp No. 1 for the Angler's Campfire, which had been scheduled for May 1, 2 and 3. The committee in charge of this nationally famous event has not as yet had time to discuss new plans for the Campfire.

The Maryland League for Crippled Children and the Salvation Army have been notified to remove all of their camping equipment from the area. No assurances have been given either of them regarding their own camping plans to occupy the area as of July 1 and the matter rests there.

As for Big Hunting creek itself, fishing will be permitted on its waters as usual and the county road running through the area along the stream over to Foxville may be used by the public. Any part of the stream that can be reached from this county road will thus be open to the anglers of the State.

Figure 26: Newspaper article "Catoctin Recreational Area taken Over For The War Effort." (Baltimore American, April 5, 1942).



Figure 27: 1944 General Development Plan for Catoctin, 1944. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

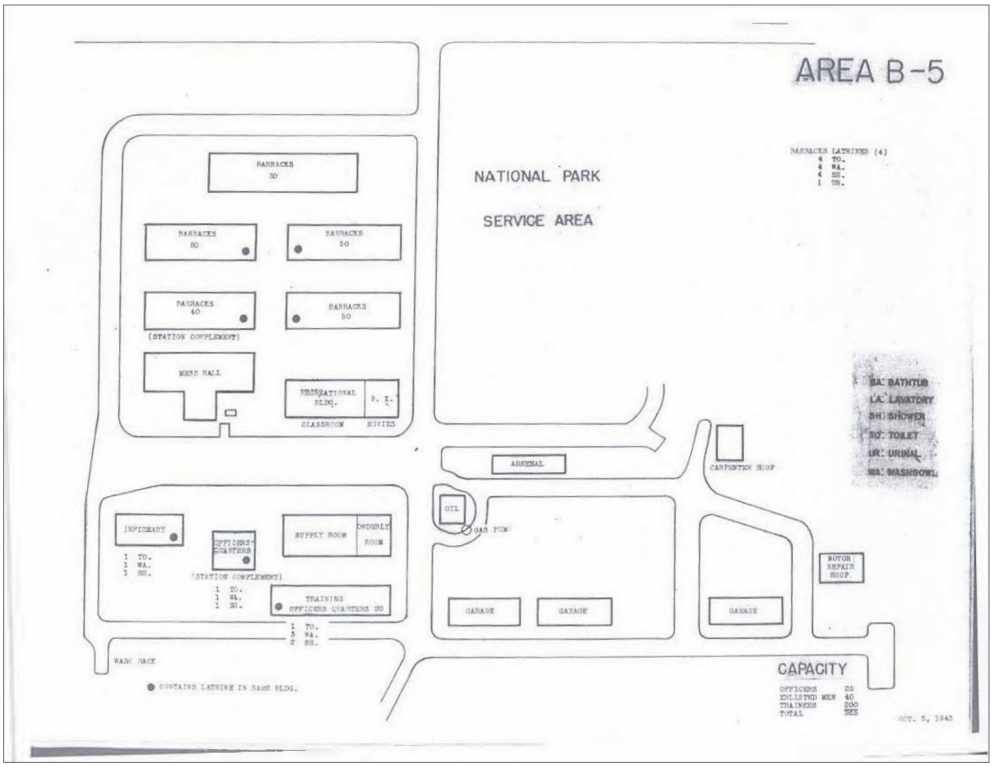


Figure 28: Site plan for Area B-5, 1943. (Chambers 2008, 628)

house to train in urban sabotage. The existing cabins, dining facilities, and recreation halls were winterized for year-round use.[120]

In September 1942, the permanent staff from OSS Detachment B (responsible for operations) moved into the study area, relocating from Area B-2 to the former CCC Camp, which was designated Area B-5 at this time (*see Figure 28*). The Army Corps of Engineers made improvements to the existing infrastructure within Area B-5 to accommodate the OSS headquarters (complementing the training facilities in Area B-2). The OSS occupied the existing buildings that had served as the CCC's officers' quarters, educational building, recreational building, mess hall, kitchen, dispensary, post exchange, barracks, and storage facilities. Army vehicles were stored and maintained in what is today the gymnasium parking lot. By the end of 1943, the Army Corps of Engineers had constructed a small rifle range, measuring 300 yards in length, near Area B-5, about 500 yards west of the RDA maintenance buildings. As of October 1943, the camp in Area B-5 could host 265 individuals, including 25 officers, 40 enlisted men, and up to 200 trainees.[121]

The OSS ceased training operations at Catoctin in May 1944, and the Department of the Interior terminated the War Department's special use permit.[122] Although the OSS dissolved a month after the end of World War II, the National Security Act of 1947 established the Central Intelligence Agency, and the CIA adopted some of the former OSS functions.[123] Thus, Catoctin RDA—and the activities within the study area specifically—were foundational to the creation of the CIA.

In early 1943, the NPS announced that all but six RDAs would be returned to their respective states. The six RDAs were to be studied for possible permanent inclusion in the federal park system. Catoctin RDA had initially been considered for inclusion as part of the Blue Ridge parkway. However, on, August 28, 1943, Secretary Ickes informed Roosevelt that the Catoctin RDA would

120. Chambers II, *OSS Training in the National Parks and Service Abroad in World War II,* 108-109.

121. Chambers II, *OSS Training in the National Parks and Service Abroad in World War II,* 112-113, 116.
122. Chambers II, *OSS Training in the National Parks and Service Abroad in World War II*, 134.
123. Chambers II, *OSS Training in the National Parks and Service Abroad in World War II*, 495.

not be added to the Blue Ridge Parkway extension, but would make an excellent addition to the National Capital Park system once it returned to recreational use after the war.[124] Thus, on December 4, 1945, the "Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area" was renamed the "Catoctin Area," as part of the NPS National Capital Park System.[125]

Post-World War II and Mission 66 Era (1945 – 1966)

By mid-1947, the camping areas in the northern half of the RDA reopened to the public. At this time, most of the New Deal-era buildings were still standing in two rows within the Central Garage Unit. These included the headquarters building (Building 1) (used by this point as staff housing, a function it would maintain from 1941 until the mid-1950s), the tool house, the blacksmith shop (Building 4), warehouses (Building 8), garage (Building 3), equipment storage (Building 83), sheds, and oil house (Building 5). A sloping field had been previously planted with American elm trees (*Ulmus americana*). The CCC technical services buildings were located immediately west of the row of buildings including the oil house (Building 5), equipment storage building (Building 83), and vehicle storage (Building 3).[126]

In 1953, one decade after Roosevelt approved the addition of Catoctin RDA to the national park system, the National Park Service reached an agreement with the state of Maryland, dividing the former RDA into two parks. In June 1954, NPS transferred 4,447 acres of the Catoctin Area to the state of Maryland, spanning the area south of Route 77, including the former Catoctin Furnace and Manor House area, Big Hunting Creek and its Cunningham Falls area; this tract became Cunningham Falls State Park. On July 12, 1954, the northern portion of the RDA, comprising approximately 5,760 acres, was redesignated Catoctin Mountain Park.[127]

NAVY TRAILER COURT

By 1955, the NPS allocated the northern portion of the study area (the site of the CCC barracks) to the Commander of the Naval Support Facility at Camp David for use as a year-round trailer housing area for Navy personnel and their families.[128] The former CCC barracks were removed to clear the site, and subsequently sold to the highest bidder.[129]

The NPS and the Navy made a verbal agreement that the number of trailers was not to exceed five; however, by 1959, there were 18 trailers within the housing area.[130] By the 1960s, the Naval Support Facility trailer court had grown to 20 trailers. The large open field north of the trailer court, remained an open space that was likely used during this time as a playing field. In the decade between 1961 and 1969, the Naval Support Facility paid to improve the trailer court, adding water and sewage facilities, roads, walks, and parking pads for trailers. A 1961 drawing titled "Trailer Court Site Plan and Details" features a children's play area in the middle of the court; it is unknown if a play area was added at this time (***see Figure 29***). (For more on play equipment, see the Buildings and Structures section of the Analysis and Evaluation.) On December 27, 1965, a White House memorandum made the agreement of use for the Naval trailer court a matter of record.[131] An image from 1965 shows a handful of modular trailers with minimal ornamentation located within the trailer court (***see Figure 30***). As of 1975, 22 trailers were located within the Naval Support Facility trailer court.

This area was later named "Foxville Plaza," though it is unclear when precisely this name was first instituted. The earliest located reference to the name appears in a 1967 newspaper listing selling

124. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 48.
125. "Catoctin Mountain Park," National Park Service History Electronic Library and Archive, http://npshistory.com/publications/cato/index.htm.
126. "General Development Plan, rev. 1942," National Park Service, Catoctin Mountain Park Vertical Files: CH-016 - General Development Plan 1942, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, Maryland
127. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 70.
128. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 61.
129. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 160.
130. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 62.
131. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 62.

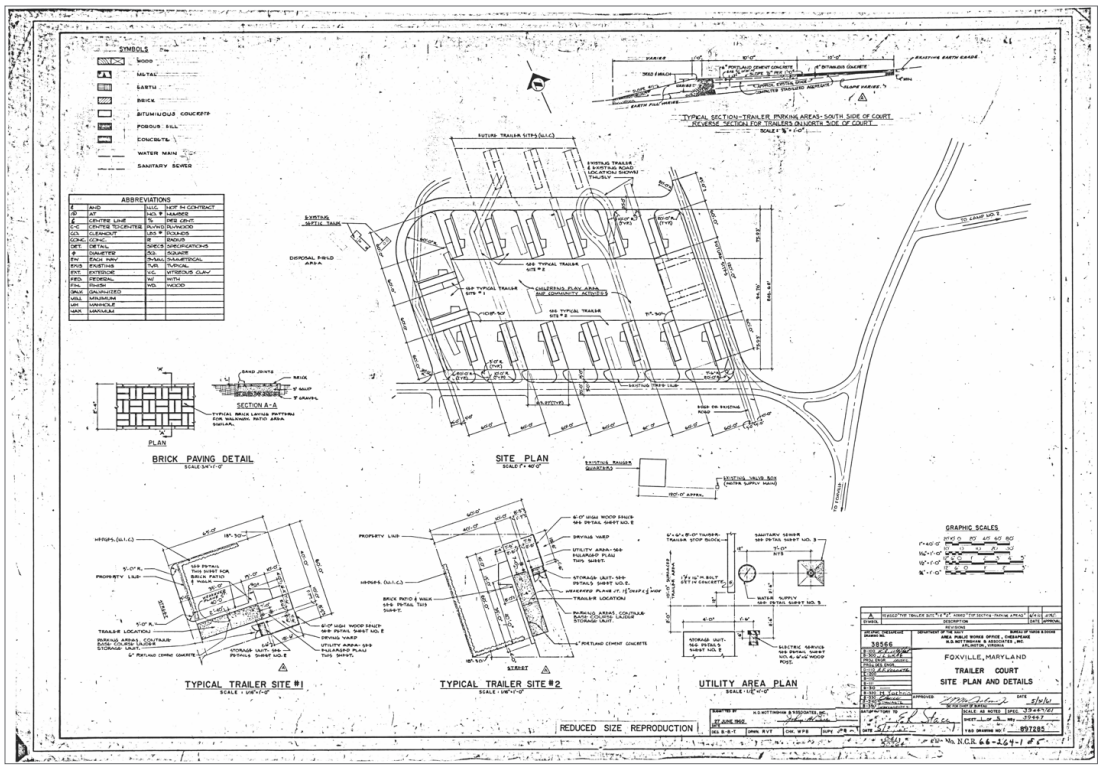


Figure 29: Plan of Trailer Court, 1961. (National Park Service ETIC 52226-CATO_841_80264)



Figure 30: Trailers within the Naval Support Facility trailer court, or Foxville Plaza, visible in background, 1965. (Excerpt from Don Wadase, CPP-005-6, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

a three-bedroom trailer lease. The paper notes the trailer for sale is "located in Foxville Plaza. Next to Catoctin Job Corps" (The Morning Herald [Hagerstown, Maryland], July 7, 1967, 24). Similar references announcing births, marriages, or the sale of property appear in various newspapers from this time into the 1990s.

MISSION 66 PROGRAM

While visitation steadily increased at national parks after World War II, there had been minimal investment in park infrastructure since the 1930s. The combination of reduced budgets during the war, limited staffing, and the elimination of New Deal programs left a backlog of maintenance at the parks with a significant need for repair and expansion. To address the much-needed investment in parks, NPS Director Conrad L. Wirth proposed to Congress a 10-year, NPS-wide design and construction program known as Mission 66 to modernize facilities, expand visitor services, and offer more recreational opportunities. With planning beginning in 1954, the program was "intended to modernize, enlarge, and even reinvent the park

system by 1966, the fiftieth anniversary of the National Park Service."[132]

Rather than submitting a yearly budget, the NPS asked Congress for an entire decade's worth of funding for the repair and building of roads, the hiring of additional employees, and the design and construction of new public use facilities. President Eisenhower approved the Mission 66 plan in January 1956, and on July 1, 1956, the NPS was allocated $786,545,600 for the program (though the costs would ultimately amount to more than $1 billion).[133] While 1956 was the year that the Mission 66 initiative was approved by President Eisenhower and funded by Congress, planning for Mission 66 efforts began the year prior.

Departing from the traditional Rustic Style of the New Deal era, Mission 66 introduced new architectural styles to the park system. Mission 66 design favored the International Style and Modernism, which allowed the NPS to use cost-effective and standardized materials, plans, and construction methods developed in the postwar building boom. The styles sought to blend the buildings with the park's surroundings and championed clean lines, horizontality, and simplicity.[134]

National Capital Parks included Catoctin Mountain Park in its Mission 66 Prospectus, released in November 1955.[135] With Mission 66 plans and funding, Catoctin Mountain Park embarked on the first substantial park investment in infrastructure and programming since initial construction of the RDA in the 1930s. Catoctin Mountain Park inaugurated its Mission 66 program on August 22, 1956, with ceremonies held at Blue Blazes.[136] The National Capital Office of Design and Construction prepared drawings and landscape plans for the park, interpreting the NPS' Mission 66 Modern Style at Catoctin and deploying standardized methods of construction that blended into the regional setting of Maryland's Blue Ridge.

The majority of Mission 66 projects within Catoctin Mountain Park were outside of the study area. However, in the last years of the Mission 66-decade, substantial change arrived within the project area (*see Figure 31 and Figure 32*). These changes in the final years of the Mission 66 program coincided with the establishment of the nationwide Job Corps program and the first Job Corps Center, which was housed within the Central Garage Unit within the study area.

Job Corps Center, Parkscape USA, and Other Major Initiatives (1965-1981)

Approximately two and a half decades after the CCC camp closed at Catoctin Mountain Park, social reform returned to the forefront of NPS operations at the park when President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a ''War on Poverty'' as part of his administration's ''Great Society'' legislative plan. In August of 1964, Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA), a significant legislative piece of the War on Poverty agenda that created the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). The OEO was the agency responsible for significant social reform efforts such as the Job Corps (a job training program); Head Start (a preschool program for disadvantaged children); VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America, the domestic counterpart of Kennedy's Peace Corps); and the Community Action Program (CAP).[137]

132. Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, and Len Warner, *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2015), E-3.
133. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 106.
134. Carr et al., *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources*, E-2,4.
135. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 106-107.
136. Judith Robinson, Tim Kerr, Janel Kausner, and NCR History Program Staff, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia Parks of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form* (Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2022), E-24.
137. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 46.



Figure 31: Fire cache, constructed c. 1940, in the Central Garage Unit prior to Job Corps-era updates. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 32: The tool house visible on the left and blacksmith shop on the right within the Central Garage Unit prior to Job Corps-era updates, c. 1942-1964. (Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Archives, Thurmont, MD)

The OEO selected Catoctin Mountain Park as the location for the first Job Corps Conservation Center (JCCC) in the country, one of nine JCCCs established between 1964 and 1969. Given the JCCC's similarities to the New Deal-era Civilian Conservation Corps, NPS officials made the Job Corps program their priority as the Economic Opportunity bill made its way through Congress. NPS officials sought to identify suitable locations for the first Job Corps Center, and on May 15, 1964, NPS Job Corps coordinator Lawrence Cook escorted a group to Catoctin Mountain Park that included George Gowans and Ken Goslin (NPS), Dwight Rettie and Allan Dakan (Department of the Interior), and Col. John Carley (President's Committee on Economic Opportunity). Arriving by helicopter (a reminder of Catoctin's proximity to Washington, D.C.), the group met with Superintendent Paul Webb for a tour of the park's Central Garage Unit.[138] NPS officials ultimately offered a portion of the Central Garage Unit as a ''Poverty Program Training Facility".[139]

JOB CORPS CENTER ENROLLMENT

The Job Corps facility at Catoctin Mountain Park was considered a conservation center by the OEO, which meant it was located on federal land and was centered on the conservation and management of public natural resources and public recreation areas. The Job Corps program was only open to male participants aged 16 to 21 years old.[140] Unlike the CCC, the Job Corps was integrated. In the wake of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the OEO and NPS were conscious of racial composition in the selection of Job Corps staff and enrollees, noting that "the thinking is that not more than 30% of the enrollees in any one camp will be from the same ethnic group".[141] The NPS instructed the Job Corps personnel at Catoctin to aggressively recruit minorities; in an effort to ensure geographic mixing as well, the program stipulated that all enrollees would be sent to camps at least 200 miles away from their homes.[142]

Initially, the Catoctin JCCC had two Black staff members in teacher and counselor positions, but only one of the 18 resident workers (workers living in the dorms with the enrollees) was Black.[143] By January 15, 1965, the number of Black enrollees was relatively equal to the number of white enrollees. While there were only 30 total enrollees in early 1965, the number of enrollees eventually grew to 157.[144]

Within six months of the establishment of the JCCC, nearly 40 percent of the enrollees had left. Reasons for departure included the persistent media and visitor interest in the center, the proximity of the presidential retreat, staffing issues, and the lack of indoor recreation facilities during winter.[145] The predominately white communities around the park also created tension, objecting to the presence of what they saw as too many minority residents in the camp. In response, the Job Corps began issuing regular reports of racial demographics as enrollees arrived and departed over the years of the JCCC's existence.[146]

The Job Corps relied on Progressive Era theories on poverty that suggested hard work and favorable working conditions would move marginalized and impoverished citizens up the socioeconomic ladder. This philosophy did not examine the interplay between race and socioeconomic status and ignored the complex systemic and structural issues that contribute to poverty and inequality, including segregation and barriers to educational opportunities, housing, and healthcare, among other issues. For this reason, the program had a

138. Sirna, *Human Conservation Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park: A Special Resource Study*, 89-90.
139. Sirna, *Human Conservation Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park: A Special Resource Study*, 90.
140. Sirna, "Tracing a Lineage of Social Reform Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park," 182.
141. Cook, memorandum, "Weekly information concerning Job Corps," August 14, 1964, NARA, Record Group 79, Entry-148, Job Corps Program Files, Stack 570, Row C, Compartment 73, Shelf 7, Box 6, D22 Memorandum May 1964 to June 1965 Folder.
142. Cook memorandum, August 14, 1964
143. Sirna, *Human Conservation Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park: A Special Resource Study*, 107.
144. Sirna, *Human Conservation Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park: A Special Resource Study*, 08; Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 48.
145. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 48.
146. Sirna, *Human Conservation Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park: A Special Resource Study*, 108-109.



Figure 33: Raising the Job Corps flag in front of the administrative office at the JCCC's dedication on February 27, 1965. Stewart Udall and Sargent Shriver are holding the flag, with Job Corps enrollees kneeling in front of them. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

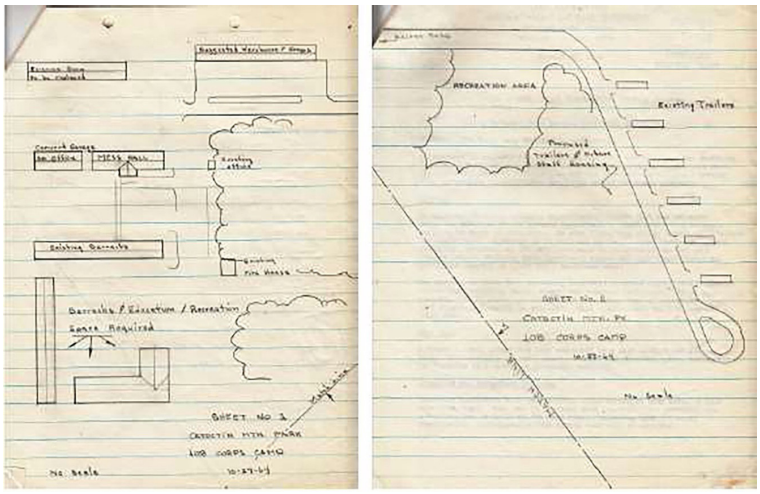


Figure 34: Sketch of proposed Job Corps Center facilities showing recreation and administrative buildings on the left, and housing trailers on the right, drawn by George Gowans on October 27, 1964. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

less measurable impact on the overall trajectory of JCCC enrollees' economic status than intended.[147]

CHANGES TO THE CENTRAL GARAGE UNIT AREA

After the OEO designated Catoctin as the first JCCC, NPS staff hastened to make improvements to the Central Garage Unit and surroundings in time for the activation date of January 7, 1965.[148] Just as the CCC had done in the 1930s, a group of young men took up residence in the former CCC camp in the project study area, to work on conservation efforts and participate in educational programming (*see Figure 33*).

When it was selected by NPS administrators in 1964, the Central Garage Unit site was largely unchanged since the CCC had vacated the area in 1941. (The primary exception was the 1955 addition of the Commander of the Naval Support Facility at Camp David, which used a portion of the site as a mobile home park for Navy personnel.) Other than this residential use, the site remained a maintenance and storage area for the park. The Job Corps initially used several trailers in the southwestern portion of the study area for housing, in addition to trailers for administrative purposes in other locations, but as the program grew, facility construction and rehabilitation projects were necessary (*see Figure 34 and Figure 35*). Between the spring of 1964 and January 1965, the JCCC added new buildings to the maintenance area in the Central Garage Unit, and rehabilitated or removed several others.

Anticipating the arrival of enrollees, National Capital Parks (NCP) planners and designers sought to rehabilitate the landscape to incorporate educational, residential, recreational, and utilitarian uses for the JCCC. Between the spring of 1964 and January 1965, the NPS hired local contractors from surrounding areas to build or convert facilities for the JCCC, taking advantage of previous grading work and placement of New Deal-era buildings. Workers built the laundry building (Building 12), administration building (Building 83), a wood-frame dorm extension (Building 135), and a concrete block and brick work area (Building 144) (*see Figure 36*).

147. Williamson, et al. *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 8-8.
148. Sirna, *Human Conservation Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park: A Special Resource Study*, 96.



Figure 35: Job Corps temporary trailers, 1964. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

Magnolia Mobile Homes of Virginia received the contract for six prefab trailer units, 52' long and 10' wide, to be delivered and set up on site by January 1965 (***see Figure 37***).[149] Differing from the trailers pictures in Figure 35 that were located in the southwest portion of the site, of the six prefab units, two served as dorms, one as an educational building, and three were used for counselor housing in the northwest portion of the site.

A 1966 "Proposed Planting Scheme" created by landscape architect E.B. Willard of the National Capital Office of the NPS for the Job Corps Center area recommended plant materials and trees throughout, including azalea (*Rhododendron* sp.), dogwood (*Cornus* sp.), scarlet firethorn (*Pyracantha coccinea*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), Burford holly (*Ilex cornuta*), and creeping juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*) (***see Figure 38***).

The Willard plan included vegetative screens of hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) between the Naval Support Facility trailer court and the JCCC buildings, and a partial tree screen of randomly planted pines (*Pinus* sp.) and hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) along Manahan Road, separating the Central Garage Unit from easy public view.

The plan included evergreen foundation plantings (species not specified) along the trailers in the JCCC staff trailer court area (present-day dormitory area). Foundation plantings of bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*), dwarf evergreen azalea (*Rhododendron eriocarpum*), and annual flowers are represented at the JCCC dispensary (at the crest of the present-day bus circle).

A planting bed between the warehouse parking lot and the retaining wall feature flowering crabapple (*Malus* sp.), azaleas (*Azalea* sp.), and seasonal flowers (unspecified species). Azaleas (*Azalea* sp.) are pictured along the upper edge of the JCCC office (Building 83) retaining wall, while creeping juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*) planting beds are represented flanking the staircase from the JCCC office (Building 83) to the maintenance building (Building 144).

Hick's yew (*Taxus x media* 'Hicksii') hedges are depicted on the outside edge of the flagpole plaza outside the JCCC office (Building 83). Nearby, the planting beds between the sidewalk and JCC dining hall/office buildings consist of interspersed Burford holly (*Ilex cornuta*), azalea (*Azalea* sp.), and seasonal flowers. The JCCC campus walk and assembly field include concentric hedges of Wintergreen Barberry (*Berberis julianae*) and seasonal flower beds.

Flowering shrubbery in the plan include scattered flowering trees in the lawn bounded by Building 1, the sidewalk, and the JCCC buildings, including dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.), Eastern redbuds (*Cersis canadensis*), and sour gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). Dogwoods are also depicted adjacent to the blacksmith shop and JCCC dormitories. Dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.) and pyracantha (*Pyracantha* sp.) are visible along the southeast façade of the Dogwood Dormitory/Building 135 (present-day playing field).

149. Sirna, *Human Conservation Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park: A Special Resource Study*, 91.



Figure 36: Job Corps administration office (Building 83) after expansion, 1965. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 37: A Magnolia trailer home housed Job Corps staff and their families in the present-day dormitory area. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 38: E. B. Willard, "Proposed Planting Scheme," for the Job Corps Center, 1966. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

Sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*) are depicted along the primary vehicular circulation routes throughout the JCCC campus, especially along the road to the JCCC dining hall loading dock and the road through the JCCC trailer court (present-day dormitory area).

The plan also included the reforestation of a clearing near the multi-use court with native plantings (of unnamed species); scattered planting of hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) along the edges of developed areas and the forest, paired with careful thinning of undesirable growth; and the plantings of native trees (of unnamed species) throughout the lawn between the maintenance area and the JCCC dining hall and office.

While there is no known documentation to suggest to that the planting plan was fully realized, photographs of the JCCC campus in the 1960s and 1970s suggest that Willard planting plan was indeed carried out.

Due to poor weather, site improvements at the JCCC began slowly. When the first batch of enrollees arrived in January 1965, much of the landscape was unfinished, with the exception of road placement and some buildings. By May, however, "excellent progress" had been made on the concrete and asphalt walkways and general landscape.[150] In July, Job Corps laborers devoted more hours to landscape improvements within the conservation center than any other construction task. In September, they completed the camp's sidewalks, graded the grounds, and began seeding the bare topsoil. Job Corpsmen spent the early months of 1965 completing the camp by building sidewalks, underpinning the trailers, and finishing the vegetation.[151]

Several existing buildings were repurposed (***see Figure 39***). The WPA-era latrine was converted into a nurse's station/infirmary (Building 12), and the oil house was moved to its current location. The bunkhouse/environmental classrooms building (Building 83) was rehabbed (***see Figure 40***); the



Figure 39: CCC building (later, Dogwood Dormitory/Building 135) rehabbed for Job Corps dormitory in 1964 and renamed "Dogwood." (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 40: Buildings 3 and 83 in 1965. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

150. Williamson et al., *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-15 from D22, May 7, 1965, Memo.
151. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 25.



Figure 41: Building 3 before conversion to a dining hall. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 42: Building 3 after rehabilitation into a Job Corps dining hall, 1968. (Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

original CCC-era section (constructed as a six-stall garage) is oriented north-south, while the newer JCCC-era section is oriented east-west. The dining hall (Building 3)—initially built in 1936 as a wood-frame garage and repair shop—was rehabilitated and expanded to serve as the Job Corps mess hall in 1964 (***see Figure 41 and Figure 42***).[152]

While contractors built most of the JCCC structures, enrollees put the final touches on the center, and constructed signs and picnic tables for Catoctin Mountain Park and other parks in the NCP system. Catoctin JCCC enrollees also built a new maintenance facility near Camp Misty Mount, constructed fireplace circles at the organized group camps, and rehabilitated Camp Peniel (present-day park headquarters).[153]

Other changes during the early Job Corps era included the 1964 razing of the tool house, a timber-framed, multi-bay building on stone piers adjacent to the early headquarters building (***see Figure 16 and Figure 17***). In 1965, a brick and concrete block building (Building 144) replaced the tool house, doubling the footprint of the older building (***see Figure 43***).

152. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 77.
153. Sirna "Tracing a Lineage of Social Reform Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park," 186.



Figure 43: JCCC dedication ceremony in front of the Central Garage (Building 144), which replaced the tool house in 1965. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

The roads within the Central Garage Unit were also altered at this time. In 1965, driveways and parking areas within the Central Garage Unit complex were expanded and paved with asphalt, replacing the earlier gravel surfaces. Job Corps enrollees built concrete sidewalks and improved the plantings around the program buildings as they were added.[154]

In 1965, a new section of Park Central Road was built to connect Manahan Road with Foxville-Deerfield, running roughly north-south through the park parallel to Manahan Road. Park Central Road is located north and west of the cultural landscape.[155] The JCCC-era entrance road also extended west from Manahan Road, but roughly 700′ to the south. From here, the drive extended west-northwest, terminating at the camp's dormitory and housing complex. The core of the site was accessed via a secondary drive that extended north from the entrance drive, connecting to a long stretch of paved parking lots and drives that served the maintenance area. These parking spaces were established during the JCCC period, although they followed a similar pattern that was present during the CCC period. Additional vehicular circulation features included the now-paved parking area at the gymnasium (Building 177), a semi-circular bus loop, as well as dormitory driveways and parking spaces. Overall, between 1948 and 1970, park roads and the section of the state road (Route 77) that crossed the mountains were paved with asphalt (with the exception of the road accessing the "ballfield").[156]

The flight of concrete stairs at the end of the sidewalk between Building 83 and Building 144 was likely constructed during the Job Corps period. It is likely that the other concrete stairs that provide access to the JCCC-era buildings, including their workshops also date to the 1960s.[157]

In 1966, a large metal-roofed gymnasium (Building 177) was constructed on the south end of the site to host recreational programming for Job Corps enrollees, displacing a CCC-era fire cache (***see Figure 44 and Figure 45***). A playing field was also created around this time next to the gym, and an area in the northwest part of the site was graded for the addition of a tennis court. That same year, the laundry/warehouse building (Building 176) was

154. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 77; Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History,* 125.
155. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 26.
156. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 25.
157. Williamson, et al. *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-25.

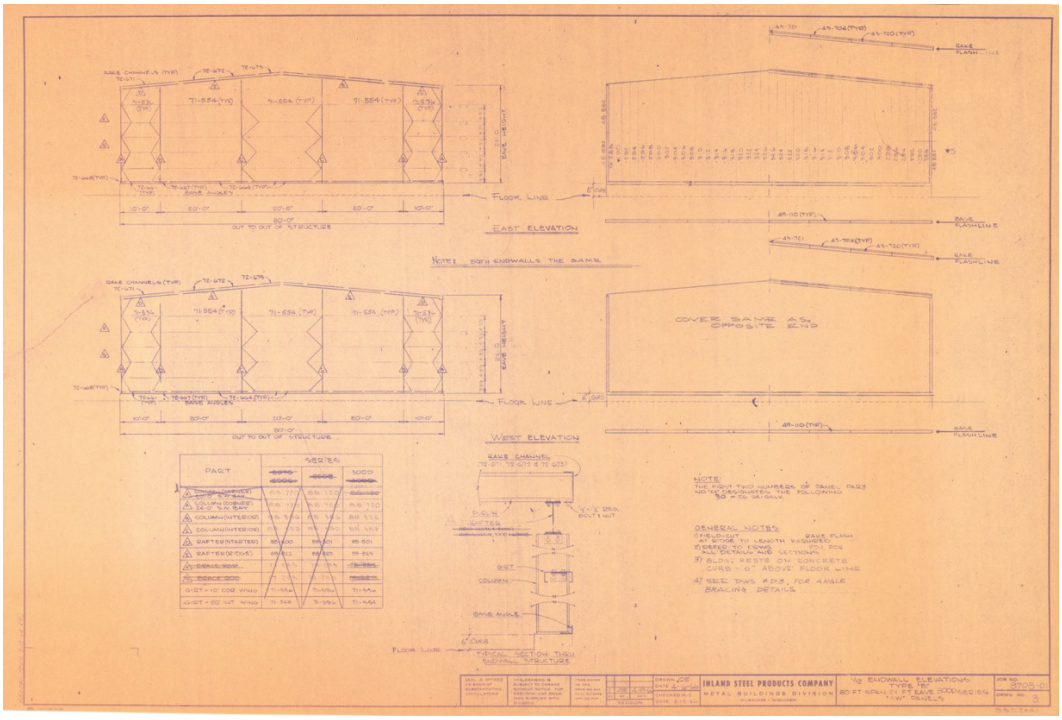


Figure 44: Architectural drawing of the Gymnasium (Building 177). (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 45: Gymnasium (Building 177), 1966. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 46: Job Corps enrollees constructing a stone wall at the parking lot near the current entrance to Camp Round Meadow, 1967 (Catoctin Mountain Archives, Thurmont, MD).

constructed on the footprint of a former CCC-era warehouse, although it was larger in scale.[158]

PARKSCAPE USA

Parkscape USA, another NPS development campaign, sought to continue the Mission 66 momentum when that program ended. Extending from 1967 through 1972, Parkscape USA intended to complete planned projects and expand the park system for the end of the 20th century.[159] During this campaign, the NPS established public outreach programs that incorporated new approaches to interpretation, environmental education, social justice, and anti-poverty and job training. The Job Corps program at Catoctin overlapped with the final years of the Mission 66 program and the launch of the Parkscape USA period.

In 1967, the laundry building/buildings and utilities office/storage building (Building 175)—originally used as a storage building—was constructed in the maintenance area, west of Manahan Road.[160] Also c. 1967-68, the maintenance shop (Building 189) was constructed as the Garage and Welding Shop, a one-story, six-bay, brick-faced concrete block building.[161] Additionally, around 1967, the Job Corps constructed two stone retaining walls (***see Figure 46***). One wall was located near the maintenance yard, and the other alongside the tennis court.[162] A master plan for Catoctin was completed in 1965. It was reviewed in 1972, but never received final approval.[163]

Under President Richard Nixon, many of Johnson's domestic programs were curtailed. A range of escalating national challenges, including budget cuts and the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, led to reductions in domestic programs. In April 1969, the Catoctin JCCC administrators were informed that the JCCC was to be closed, one of several centers slated for closure that year as the program moved from the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Department of Labor.

158. Williamson, et al. *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-19.
159. Carr et al., *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources*, E-46.
160. Williamson, et al. *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-17.
161. Williamson, et al. *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-24.
162. Williamson, et al. *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-25.
163. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 64.

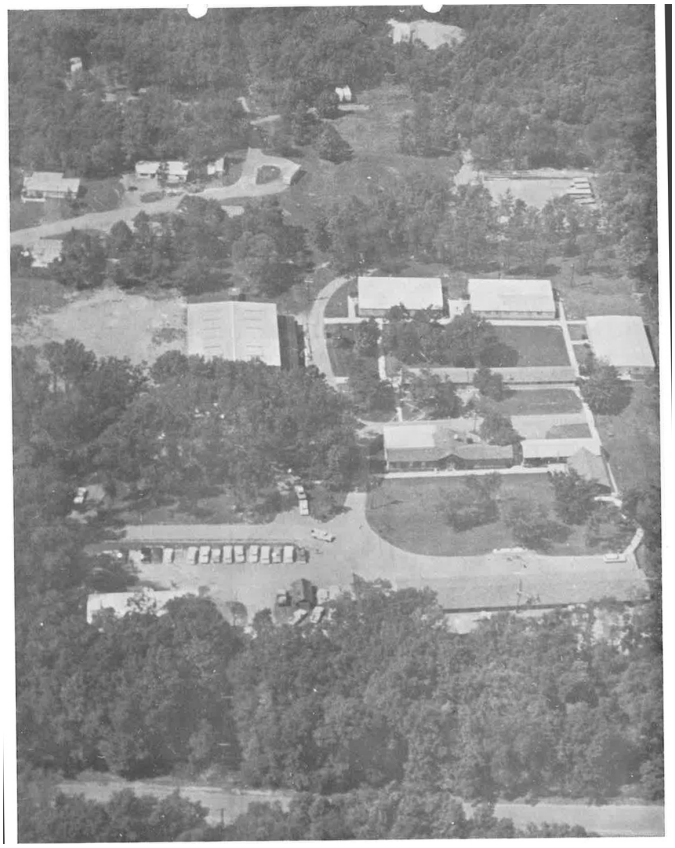


Figure 47: Aerial image of the JCCC campus, c. 1969. (Resource Management Files, Round Meadow, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

By this time, approximately 1,015 enrollees had passed through the Catoctin JCCC.[164]

Although the JCCC camp at Catoctin experienced many obstacles, it was an important program in the War on Poverty initiative, and left an imprint on the park's landscape. While the Catoctin JCCC faced many problems in the beginning, the pilot program paved the way for subsequent youth programs and the other Job Corps Centers that remain in operation today. It was also a catalyst in bringing minorities into the NPS workforce, which was overwhelmingly male and white to this point. Today, the legacy of the Job Corps remains evident in several features within the study area, including the dining hall (Building 3), administration office (Building 83), gymnasium (Building 177), circulation features, and overall spatial organization (*see Figure 47 and Figure 48*). Following the closure of the JCCC, the federal Office of Economic

164. Sirna, "Tracing a Lineage of Social Reform Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park," 187.



Figure 48: Aerial image of the project area, undated but likely around 1970. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 49: Environmental Center sign in background, 1974. (Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

Opportunity directed that the area be utilized for "socially useful purposes."[165]

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the modern environmental movement gained momentum. The movement emerged as a grassroots campaign and emphasized ecological integrity as well as quality-of-life concerns for all Americans, focusing on clean air and water, wilderness areas, endangered species, and other related issues. Within this framework, NPS Director George B. Hartzog diversified and increased the interpretive activities of national parks across the country, focusing on environmental education and "living history" presentations with the intention of improving public understanding of environmental matters. Hartzog was deeply committed to the values of Johnson's Great Society, and focused several NPS efforts on inner-city populations, primarily children.[166]

Director Hartzog added programming, including the National Environmental Education Development (NEED) program, the Cooperative Program for Environmental Education, and the Environmental Study Area (ESA) program. NEED provided materials and curricula for environmental studies (kindergarten through high school), especially in schools near NPS units. Hartzog's ESA program identified special areas in the parks where student groups could conduct field studies. In January 1970, the National Park Service reported that it was operating 67 study areas throughout the system, and that 50,000 children were participating in the education program, a number that was expected to grow. At Catoctin, Superintendent Frank Mentzer (who had arrived at the park in 1968) pushed forward the agency's environmental education agenda.[167]

Following the closure of the JCCC, programming at Catoctin Mountain Park shifted away from programs with national audiences toward programming that engaged more directly with local and regional communities through environmental education initiatives (*see Figure 49*). This shift is representative of the goals of Parkscape USA, which included "cooperative programs with other agencies" and "utilizing the national park concept" to improve life in American cities.[168]

SUMMER IN THE PARKS

Six weeks after the Job Corpsmen vacated the area later called Camp Round Meadow, 60 boys and girls from the District of Columbia were bused

165. Diane C. Kastello, "Public Hearing on Assessment of Alternatives for Camp Round Meadow" (Denver, CO: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1980), 3.
166. Sirna, "Tracing a Lineage of Social Reform Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park," 136.
167. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 64.
168. Carr et al., *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources*, E-46.

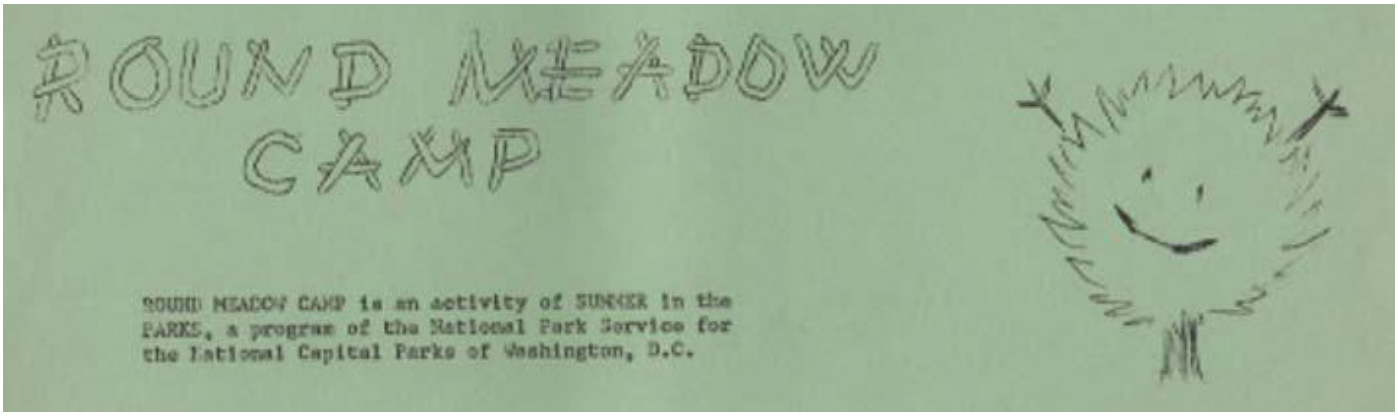


Figure 50: Round Meadow Camp. (National Park Service, Summer in the Parks Special Ethnography Study, 2020)



Figure 51: Summer in the Parks campers arriving at Round Meadow Camp, 1970. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 52: Summer in the Parks participants cooking on an outdoor grill at Catoctin Mountain Park, July 1969. (National Park Service, Summer in the Parks Special Ethnography Study, 2020)

to Catoctin Mountain Park for weeklong trips that included camping, fishing, hiking, and swimming.[169] While Catoctin had hosted outdoor education programming for local county schools since the mid-1950s, this program, known as Summer in the Parks (SITP), was a new federal initiative.

NPS Director Hartzog unveiled his plans for Summer in the Parks prior to the assassination of Reverand Martin Luther King, Jr., and subsequent April 1968 unrest, but his idea gained momentum in the aftermath of the assassination. Program officials hoped to quell the turbulence in Washington, D.C., by connecting urban residents with parks in the National Capital Region.[170] Influenced by industrial designer Russel Wright's similar program in NYC's Central Park, SITP would include trips to surprise destinations in the region's outlying parks, as well as D.C.-based events and activities such as musical performances, sporting events, and craft instructions.[171] Much of this programming was directly aimed at D.C.'s Black population, as organizers planned concerts, dance performances, craft fairs, and exhibits that centered on Black culture.

The program aimed to redress the NPS's legacy of discrimination against Black citizens. From July through September of 1969, the NPS brought children from Washington, D.C., to Catoctin as part of the SITP program. Designed to bring children

169. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 69.
170. Felicia Garland-Jackson and Debra Lattanzi Shutika, *Summer in the Parks (1968-1976): A Special Ethnography Study* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2020), 14-15.
171. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 68.

who had never left their city neighborhoods out to the park to experience nature firsthand, the program—referred to as Round Meadow Camp—was a success (*see Figure 50, Figure 51, and Figure 52*). This was the first documented use of the name Round Meadow Camp, later often referred to as Camp Round Meadow. The Director of Management Operations of the OEO asked that Round Meadow host a program "designed to reach disadvantaged youth," and in 1970, Catoctin received $75,000 to run a three-week cultural arts camp staffed by music and dance professionals with an education background.[172] The cultural camp held three three-week sessions, each of which had about 60 children in attendance.[173]

The SITP program remained active until 1976, but it is unknown if the program operated in Catoctin after 1970.[174]

DC ENVIRONMENTAL OUTDOOR LABORATORY

The Summer in the Parks program also overlapped with the DC Public School System's Environmental Outdoor Laboratory, an environmental education initiative that hosted its pilot phase at Round Meadow in the summer of 1970. The program was conceived in 1968 by Marguerite Selden, Assistant Superintendent of the Department of Summer Schools, Continuing Education and the Urban Service Corps. As Selden did not have a relationship with the NPS nor the funds to start the program, Patricia Carr Kirk, the wife of a special assistant to Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel (Jan. 1969–Nov. 1970) facilitated the establishment of the program. By the summer of 1970, the DC Public School System hosted its pilot program at Camp Round Meadow.[175]

The school system was responsible for teaching at the Environmental Outdoor Laboratory, while the NPS provided transportation and recreation opportunities within the park. Student groups spent half of their day studying and half of their day participating in outdoor activities. A total of 320 students in 4th through 6th grades participated in the program in 1970; in 1971, the program operated at Round Meadow for 13 consecutive weeks, from the end of January through the end of May.[176] In 1973, the Environmental Lab became standard for 6th grade students.

The program suffered budget cuts and eventually shuttered in 1981. By the time of its closure, the program had hosted thousands of students.[177]

FOLK CULTURE CENTER

In 1968, while the JCCC was still in operation, Superintendent Mentzer initiated a living history program at the park. When the JCCC left Catoctin, the National Capital Region approved Superintendent Mentzer's request to establish a Folk Culture Center in the recently vacated JCCC building complex at Camp Round Meadow. The Folk Culture Center and Environmental Museum opened to the public on June 20, 1970.[178]

Housed in Buildings 1, 4, and 144 within this project's study boundaries, the Folk Culture Center was established to preserve and interpret the cultural development of the mountain in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In its evolving engagement, interpretation, and educational programming, the park increasingly emphasized the cultural use of mountain resources. At this time, the park conducted research in historic deed records and renamed the study area as "Round Meadow," based on the original patent name.

While the residential Summer in the Park campers utilized the existing former-JCCC dormitories, the Folk Culture Center used Buildings 1, 4, and 144 previously occupied by the NPS maintenance, Job Corps, CCC, and WPA. Some of the former Job Corps buildings were used for exhibits and craft demonstrations; for example, the central garage building (Building 144) was converted into a

172. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 69.
173. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 69.
174. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 71.
175. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 70.
176. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 70-71.
177. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 97.
178. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 65.



Figure 53: Broom making at the Folk Culture Center. (Interpretation Files Photographs, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 54: Dyeing wool, undated. (Interpretation Files Photographs, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

series of spaces for volunteer-led demonstrations. Demonstrations included broom making, pottery making, leather working, blacksmithing, carpentry, spinning and weaving, quilting, and kitchen crafts (***see Figure 53, Figure 54, Figure 55, and Figure 56***). A reproduction country doctor's office was also established on the site, as well as an environmental museum depicting the natural history of Catoctin from 1732 to 1850, as "it was soon after this latter date that the major changes in lifestyle occurred."[179]

The Folk Culture Center launched with temporary exhibits in the summer of 1970; they were subsequently upgraded in the winter of 1970-71. Based on the early success of the Folk Culture Center, the park received permission from the NCR to expand its operations, resulting in several changes to the project area. For example, the playing field adjacent to the Gymnasium (Building 177) was converted to a gravel parking lot for visitors, and a sewage lagoon was constructed downhill from the tennis court to accommodate the increased use of the area (***see Figure 57***).[180] The original park headquarters building (previously used as park housing) (Building 1) was converted to use as a general store, selling jams, jellies, breads, penny candy, and other items (***see Figure 58***). The park reactivated the blacksmith shop (Building 4) in Camp Round Meadow for demonstrations. An herb garden, vegetable garden, and small orchard of fruit trees were planted.[181] At this time apple trees and cherry trees were planted east of the Resource Management Building (Building 1).[182]

In the 1970s, a series of buildings were constructed behind the existing maintenance buildings closer to Manahan Road; they included a pavilion (enclosed in 2001 as a storage area) (Building 212), a lumber storage building (Building 213), and vehicle storage (Building 207).[183] The NPS paved the space between the two rows of buildings. In 1973, the park completed a conceptual master plan, which noted the success of the Folk Culture Center and considered moving the operation to the Owens Creek Campground, although this proposal was never implemented.[184]

Beginning in 1976, park staff began a rehabilitation effort to repair the lagoon and remediate the park water supply, reshaping and expanding the footprint of the original lagoon. In 1978, professional services staff at the National Capital Regional Office (NCRO) inspected the lagoon and recommended

179. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 168.
180. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 77-78.
181. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 65.
182. Conversation with Becky Lancosky December 12, 2024.
183. Horner et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park (MIHP #F-6-147): National Register Nomination [Unrestricted Version]*, 7-40.
184. *Catoctin Mountain Park Conceptual Master Plan* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1973).



Figure 55: Demonstration to make apple butter, undated. (Interpretation Files Photographs, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 56: Boiling down sap, undated. (Interpretation Files Photographs, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 57: Sewage lagoon at Camp Round Meadow, 1979. (Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 58: The headquarters building (Building 1) was used as a general store for the Folk Culture Center in 1974. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 59: Campfire circle constructed by the YCC in 1971, undated photo. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 60: The gazebo (Building 199) in the winter of 1974. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

a new aeration system, which was installed in December 1979.[185]

In 1977, the Folk Culture Center recorded its highest visitation.[186] However, in the following years, the park cut the budget for the center; it ultimately shuttered by 1981.[187] Camp Round Meadow was reconceived for the existing environmental education programs.

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS PILOT PROGRAM

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program grew out of the modern environmental movement in the United States. Against the backdrop of the movement, including the establishment of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 and other significant environmental legislation, Congress first considered a bill to create a Youth Conservation Corps in 1957. After several years of deliberation, President Nixon signed the YCC bill into law on August 13, 1970. Per the enabling legislation, groups of boys and girls, aged 15 to 18, would complete conservation projects on public lands, gain firsthand experience in resource management, and attain an understanding of and an appreciation for America's outdoor heritage and environment. The Department of the Interior (DOI) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) were charged with coordinating the YCC program. When selecting applicants, administrators considered racial, economic, and social demographics. In identifying host sites, the agencies evaluated candidates based on available housing, potentially meaningful projects, and geographical distribution.[188]

Catoctin Mountain Park was selected as a pilot residential YCC program, and welcomed 50 enrollees in March 1971 for an eight-week period. (The YCC program coincided with the Folk Culture Center activities and events at Catoctin.) While CCC enrollees had been limited by race and gender, and the Job Corps had been limited by gender, there were no restrictions on who could participate in the YCC. In the first class of participants, girls accounted for 26 of the 50 participants. The majority of participants were local to the area, with half coming from rural areas in Frederick

185. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 120.
186. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 170.
187. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 93; Horner et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park (MIHP #F-6-147): National Register Nomination [Unrestricted Version],* 7-40.

188. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 73.



Figure 61: Beginning in 1979, the new dormitory buildings were arranged along the existing JCCC trailer court road. Also pictured is the gravel parking area adjacent to the Gymnasium (a former ballfield). (Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

County and the other half from more urban local communities. YCC participants were housed at Camp Round Meadow in buildings vacated by the Job Corps.[189] As new dormitories were constructed, YCC participants occupied both new and old dormitory buildings. This period of residential transition continued until the final dormitory was completed in 1981.

The first YCC camp at Catoctin was administered by Ken Morgan, the Park's administrative officer, and was supervised by the park's chief of maintenance and an interpretive park ranger. Teachers contracted from the Frederick County Public School System led the program, with local social studies teacher Paul Lambertson serving as the YCC Director.[190] A storage facility building (likely Building 176) in Round Meadow functioned as the YCC's main office, though they later operated out of the infirmary (Building 12).[191]

YCC projects focused on conservation work on public lands. Enrollees maintained trails, constructed small buildings, and worked on erosion control and stream repairs. YCC projects included trout stream rehabilitation efforts on Owens and Hunting Creeks; removing invasive species in the lake at Fort Ritchie (outside of the park) and installing riprap; trail work across the park including Thurmont Vista, Hog Rock, Chimney Rock, and Wolf Rock; construction of rain shelters on all trails; a horse trail for President Ronald Reagan; storage shed construction at Round Meadow; construction of the stone wall at the Visitor Center; repair of the park pavilion at Misty Mount; painting the interior and exterior of the gymnasium; laying tile floor in the gymnasium; maintenance on the Charcoal Exhibit and Blue Blazes Whiskey Still exhibits; construction of wheelchair ramps, and the installation of picnic grills. The YCC built a campfire circle at Camp Round Meadow and constructed the Brown's Farm Trail, a short interpretive loop that passes through the remnants of the Victor Brown farm; the trailhead for that loop is at Camp Round Meadow (***see Figure 59***). In 1971, a gazebo (Building 199) was constructed east of the dining hall (Building 3) to support the YCC program, although it is unclear who built the structure190 (***see Figure 60***). The YCC was also responsible for the construction of a vehicle storage shed (Building

189. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 73.
190. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 73.
191. Conversation with Ronald Albaugh, January 6, 2025.

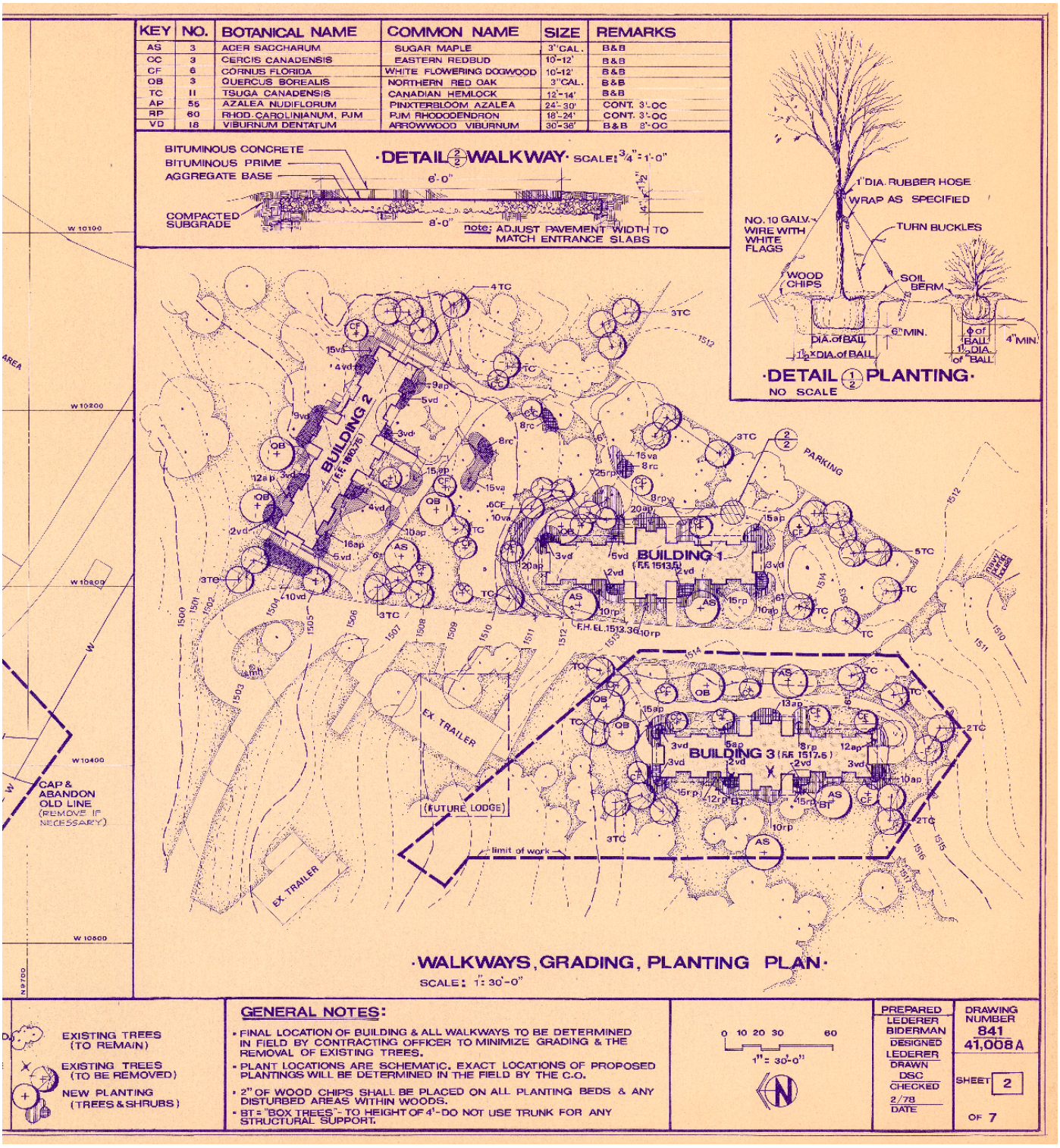


Figure 62: The 1978 planting plan for the dormitories called for a wide variety of native plantings and flowering specimens, many of which were used in earlier planting campaigns at Round Meadow. (Biderman and Lederer, "Walkways, Grading, Planting Plan," Sheet 2, 1978 in ETIC CATO_841_41008_0001)

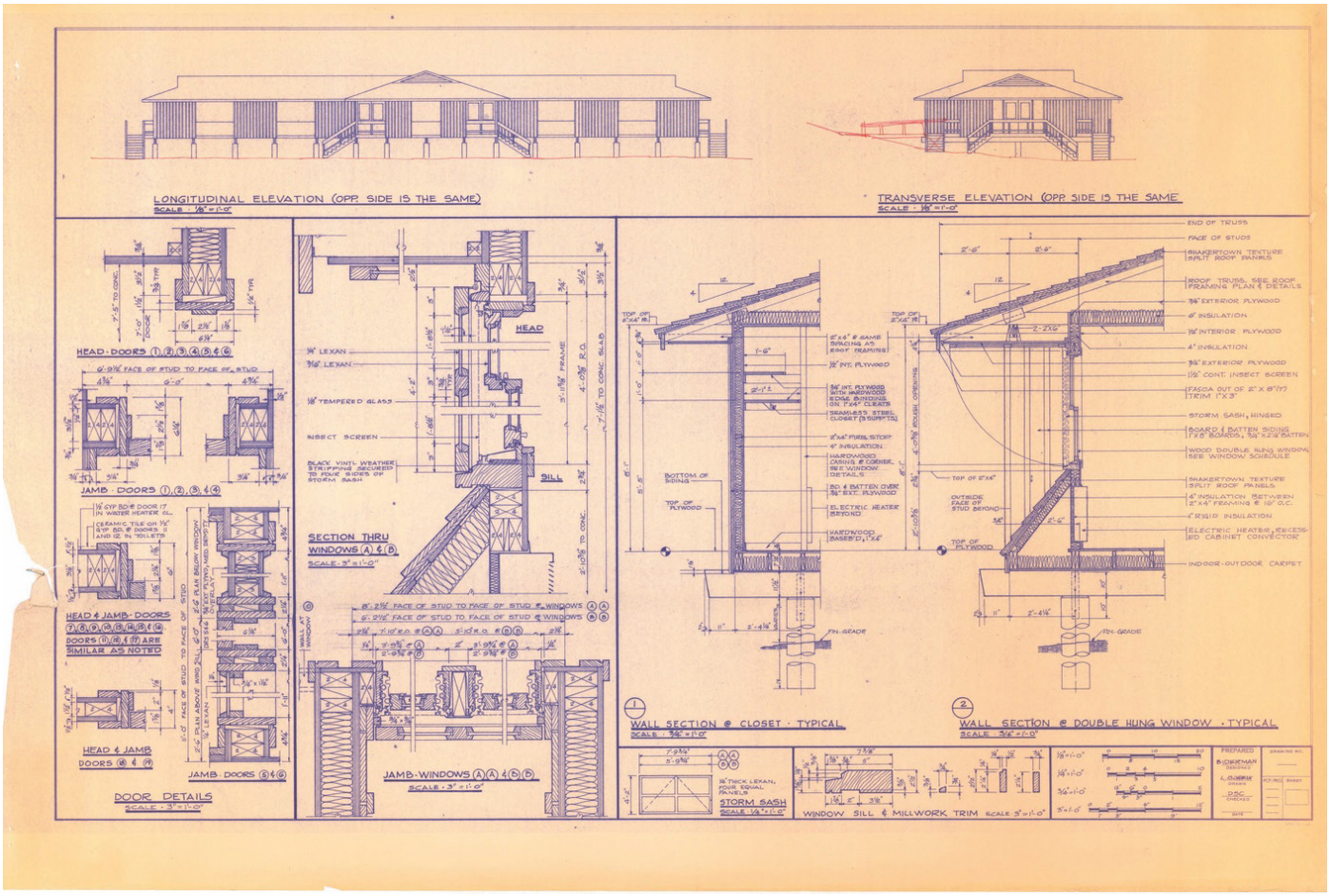


Figure 63: Architectural drawing for Round Meadow dormitory. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

207) in 1976, and a woodshed (Building 213) in 1977.[192]

Educational programming at Round Meadow was provided by YCC staff and guest speakers including on pond and stream ecology; forestry; wildlife; edible plants; soil conservation; land use; noise pollution; energy; cancer; and substance abuse. The first-floor classroom of the gymnasium was used for evening programs with second-floor classrooms providing additional space when necessary. Evening programming for YCC was quite varied, including programs on dulcimer construction; black and white photography; sports such as basketball, softball, and swimming; manual communication; weaving and sewing; first aid; and options for independent study.[193]

Overnight YCC trips included canoe camping on the Potomac River and hiking on the Appalachian Trail.

192. Williamson, et al. *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-24; conversation with Ronald Albaugh, January 6, 2025.
193. Conversation with Ronald Albaugh, January 6, 2025.



Figure 64: Construction of Building 214 began 1979 in an adjacent forested area near the entrance to Camp Round Meadow. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

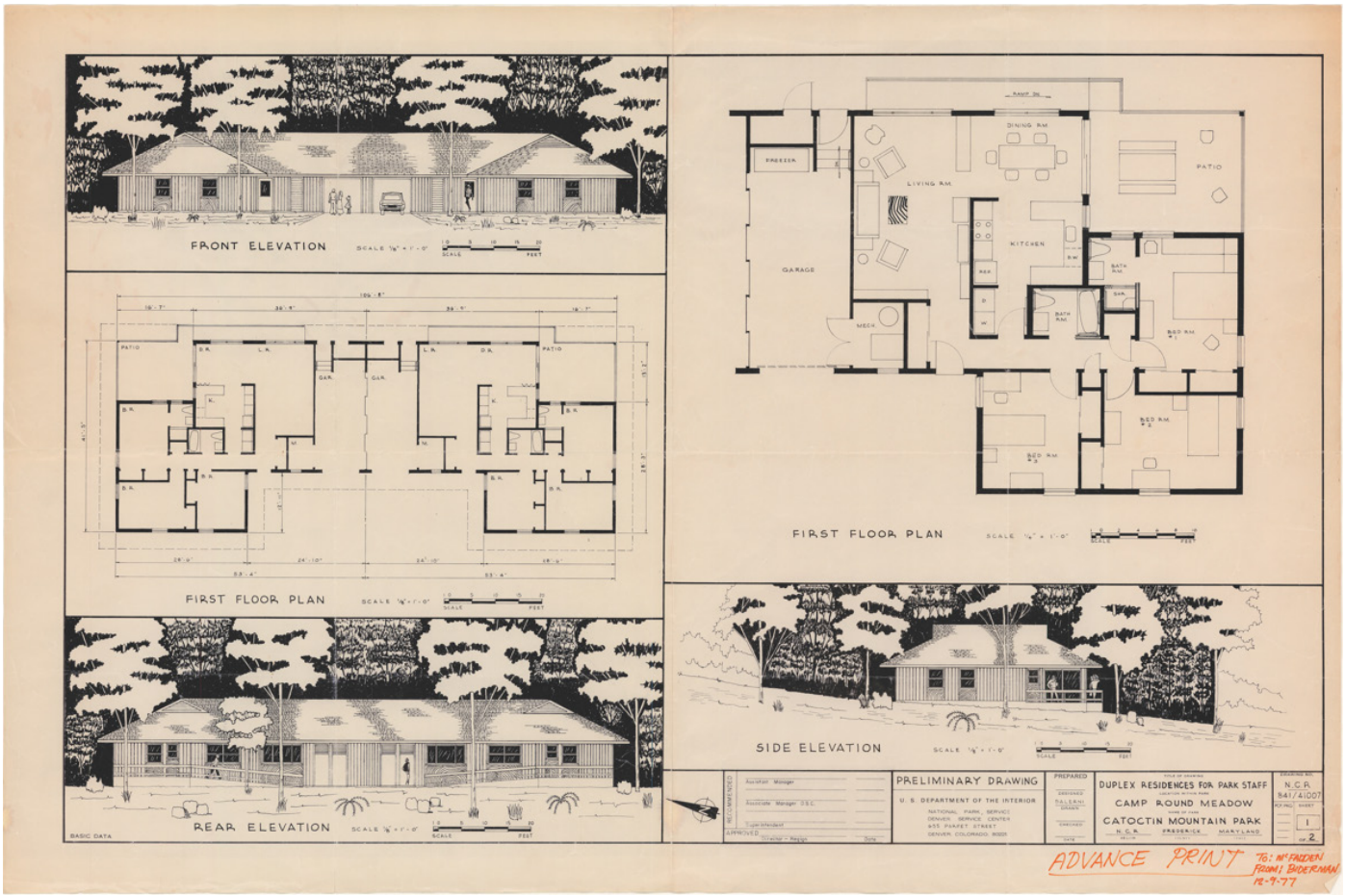


Figure 65: Drawing of duplex residences designed by Biderman for park staff, 1977. Buildings 214 and 215 were constructed instead of these duplexes. (National Park Service ETIC 1879953-CATO_841_41007_0001)

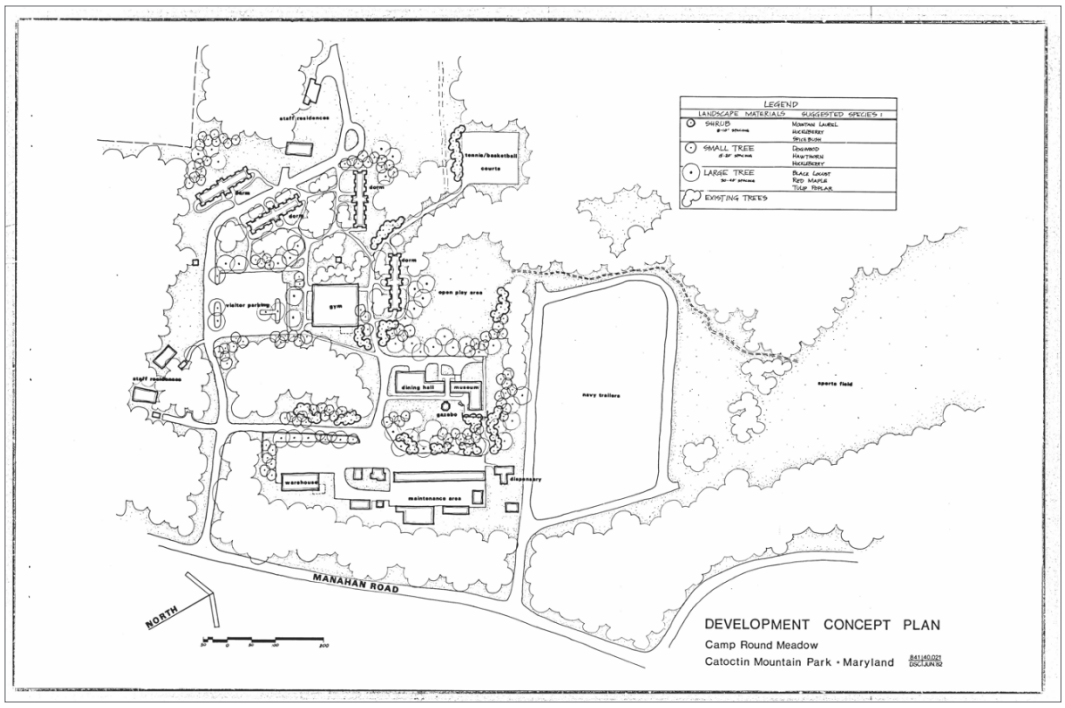


Figure 66: Site map from the Round Meadow Development Concept Plan. (National Park Service Round Meadow Development Concept Plan 1982)

In western Maryland, enrollees participated on trips to Swallow Fall State Park; Savage River Reservoir and State Forest; Deep Creek Lake for water sampling; Maryland DNR Wildlife Field Station in Flintstone; a trout hatchery; and WestVaCo Pulp and Paper Mill for water and air quality activities. Trips to Baltimore included an overnight at Fort Meade with activities including water sampling at Baltimore Harbor and Bethlehem Steel Plant; the Back River Sewage Treatment Plant; and the Ashburton Water Treatment Plant. Overnight field trips to Assateague Island National Seashore & Chincoteague National Seashore included activities on sand dune ecology, fresh and saltwater marshes, barrier island and seashore ecology.[194]

The YCC program expanded throughout the 1970s, moving beyond its pilot phase in 1974 in partnership with local school districts. Decreases in the 1981 budgets for the YCC altered the Catoctin arrangement from an on-site residential program to a day program that lasted for six weeks. The number of enrollees also diminished throughout the 1980s, decreasing from 44 enrollees in 1981, to just 6 enrollees in 1989.[195] Teachers from Frederick County Schools continued to provide the leadership to fulfill the education goals of the program.

Erosion control, trail work, and stream improvements were the primary field projects for the YCC in the 1980s. Although YCC's facilities development did not radically alter the site's landscape beyond building alterations, the program did introduce some changes to the pedestrian and vehicular circulation patterns.[196]

Today, Catoctin Mountain Park employs a crew of six to eight local high school students, who complete essential park maintenance projects while learning about conservation.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

In 1977, park staff initiated Phase I planning for the update and replacement of Camp Round Meadow facilities. In 1978, one JCCC-era dormitory (the Maple Dorm) burned down. As environmental programming at Catoctin Mountain Park flourished, the Round Meadow campus saw several changes in the late 1970s to accommodate the expanded programming at the site. Several Job Corps buildings, including the dorms and education

194. Conversation with Ronald Albaugh, January 6, 2025.
195. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 103.
196. Williamson, et al. *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-16.



Figure 67: Horses in the riding ring at Round Meadow, undated. (Catoctin Park Photograph Collection, RM Horse Ring, CPP-018-0609, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 68: The horse program in the Round Meadow riding ring, formerly the "ballfield" area, undated. (Catoctin Park Photograph Collection, RM Horse Ring, CPP-018-0800, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)

buildings, were removed. Buildings that were retained included the mess hall (Building 3), office and museum (Building 83), Gymnasium (Building 177), tennis court, gazebo (Building 199), laundry/restroom (Building 175), nurse's station (Building 12), and a few of the counselor trailers.[197]

Between 1979 and 1981, four new one-story dormitories (Buildings 216, 217, 218, and 232) were constructed[198] (***see Figure 61***). These dormitories, designed by NPS architect Benjamin H. Biderman, were arranged along the former JCCC trailer court road in the southwestern portion of the cultural landscape, which the designers repurposed as a central organizing feature. Most parking spurs along the road were removed, while new sidewalks and plantings were added to connect the dormitories to the road—in particular, dogwoods, irises, and hemlocks around the new dormitory foundations.[199]

The planting plan to accompanying the dormitory development was completed in 1978 (***see Figure 62***). The 1978 planting plan was overseen by Biderman and drawn by NPS landscape architect Paul Lederer. Biderman called for dense planting beds along the foundations of each dormitory. Beds consisted of a mixture of dwarf azalea (*Azalea nudiflorum* 'Pinxterbloom'), rhododendron (*Rhododendron carolinianum* 'PJM'), and Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentaum*). Generally, Biderman placed the taller Arrowwood viburnums at the outside and inside corners of the dormitories, where the species could mature without blocking views into and out of the buildings. The height of the viburnums also helped to frame building fenestration. In contrast to these features, he called for shorter dwarf azaleas and rhododendrons underneath windows, flanking entrances, and along walkways and ramps.

While the bulk of the development project took place by 1979, one final dorm was added in 1981, identical to the other three dorms.[200] The buildings

197. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 78.
198. Williamson, et al. *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-20.
199. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 78.
200. Williamson, et al. *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-21.

were arranged on the downhill part of the site. The dormitories are one-story, seven-bay buildings that are generally oriented east-west in the southwest portion of the site (*see Figure 63*).[201]

Also in 1979, two one-story ranch style buildings (Buildings 214 and 215) were constructed side-by-side at the south end of Camp Round Meadow, to serve as park residences (*see Figure 64*).[202] Today, Building 215 is used as a ranger station and visitors' services building, while Building 214 remains a residence. An unbuilt plan called for the residences to be constructed as duplexes in the same style as the dormitories (*see Figure 65*).

Recent Changes to Camp Round Meadow (1980-2024)

CAMP ROUND MEADOW IN THE 1980S

In July of 1980, the National Park Service produced an Assessment of Alternatives for a Development Concept Plan for Camp Round Meadow. The document states, "The problems of Camp Round Meadow result primarily from the lack of a definitive plan for the site."[203] The document explored four alternatives for the future of Camp Round Meadow:

- Partial dormitory replacement (the recommendations for Alternative 1 were all accomplished under existing work orders);
- Partial dormitory replacement and rehabilitation of the Folk Culture Center (this alternative included construction of the 4th dormitory);
- Total dormitory replacement, relocation of the Folk Culture Center to another location onsite, and relocation of the Naval Support Facility trailer court offsite (this alternative included building three additional dormitories and several other alterations to the site); and
- Total dormitory replacement and conversion of the Folk Culture Center into a conference center (this alternative also included building three additional dormitories and several other alterations to the site).[204]

As of 1980, the Assessment of Alternatives recorded that there were 18 trailers and related utility systems within the Naval Support Facility trailer court, along with four trailers and two single-family homes for staff housing at Camp Round Meadow. A map within the Assessment of Alternatives referred to the open space north of the trailer court as a "Sports Field" (*see Figure 66*). The plan includes proposed new vegetation, including: shrubs such as mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), huckleberry (*Vaccinium* sp.), and spice bush (*Lindera benzoin*); small trees such as dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.), hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.), and huckleberry (*Vaccinium* sp.); and large trees such as black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). The map also depicts existing trees but does not indicate their species. It notes that the tennis/basketball court was in use at this time, northwest of the open play area.[205]

A final Development Concept Plan (DCP), which documented the decisions reached during the planning for the management and use of the site, was completed for Camp Round Meadow in June 1982.

In the preferred alternative, most closely aligned with Alternative 2, the craft center exhibits would be removed from the Folk Culture Center, and the maintenance buildings would revert to their original use. The central core of the campus, which by this time included four dormitories (Buildings 216, 217, 218, and 232), a dining hall (Building 3), museum (Building 83), gymnasium (Building 177), and gazebo (Building 199), would continue being used by the YCC and other environmental education programs.[206]

201. Williamson, et al. *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-20.
202. Horner et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park (MIHP #F-6-147): National Register Nomination [Unrestricted Version]*, 7-56.
203. National Park Service, *Assessment of Alternatives for a Development Concept Plan, Camp Round Meadow, Catoctin Mountain Park*, 1980 viii
204. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 97.
205. "Development Concept Plan, Camp Round Meadow, Catoctin Mountain Park" (Washington, D.C.; Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1982).
206. "Development Concept Plan, Camp Round Meadow, Catoctin Mountain Park."



Figure 69: Aerial image of Round Meadow, 1984. (United States Geological Survey, February 26, 1984, Geospatial Data Files)

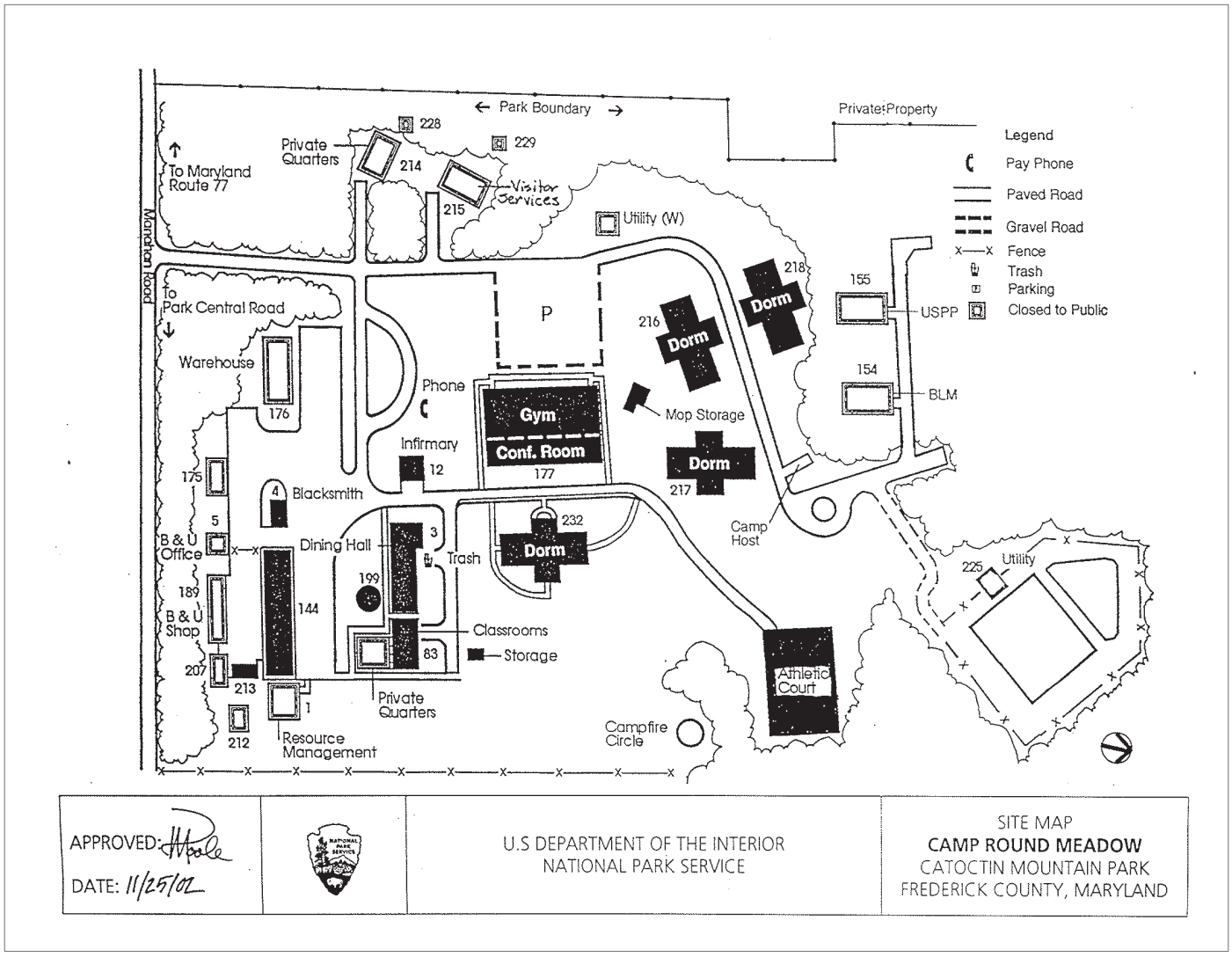


Figure 70: 2002 map of Camp Round Meadow. (Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)

The Naval Support Facility trailer court was to remain onsite until NSF-Thurmont and the park could identify a solution. Until the NPS trailers were removed, one of the trailers would house the U.S. Park Police on detail during presidential activities, while the other would house practicum students, Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns, volunteers, and seasonal employees.[207]

In 1977, the Friends of Catoctin Mountain Park volunteer group was formed "to assist staff and the management of the park." The friends' group incorporated on March 18, 1982, under their new name as the Catoctin Area Mountain Parks Environmental Resources, Inc. (CAMPER). CAMPER consisted of volunteer members, officers, and a board of directors, and filled many roles for the

207. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 98.



Figure 71: Cell tower in Round Meadow, 2023. (Urban Heritage Project)

park.[208] When budget cuts restricted the hiring of seasonal employees in 1982, CAMPER volunteers stepped in. In 1982, approximately 300 CAMPER members assisted in the operation of the visitor center, ran nature walks, served as YCC leaders, and sponsored several work weekends.[209]

In addition to fundraising and managing hundreds of volunteers, CAMPER assumed management of the cabin camp operations at Camps Misty Mount and Greentop. In 1985, CAMPER also assumed management of Camp Round Meadow's group facilities. The work performed by volunteers at Camp Round Meadow, and the funds raised through various programs, allowed Catoctin Mountain Park to host the DC Public School System for a reasonable price.[210]

Over time, the boundaries between the friends' group and official park management became blurry. As such, in 1992, under Superintendent J.D. Young, the park chose not to renew the cooperative agreement with CAMPER, resuming in-house management and operation of Camps Misty Mount, Greentop, and Round Meadow.[211]

In 1981, the park started a horse program, which resulted in new infrastructure, including stables and trails, in various locations throughout the park. Three years after the program was established, a riding ring was built at Camp Round Meadow in the open field at the north end of the cultural landscape, referred to as the "ballfield" (***see Figure 67 and Figure 68***).[212] In the early 1990s, the horse program was reorganized, and the number of horses was reduced.[213] Between 1993 and 1995, a storage building (Building 198)—constructed by the Job Corps at Camp Misty Mount in 1968—was relocated to the Camp Round Meadow horse riding ring. At some point after 1995, it was relocated

208. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 82.
209. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 82-83.
210. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 90.
211. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 124.
212. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 86.
213. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 88.

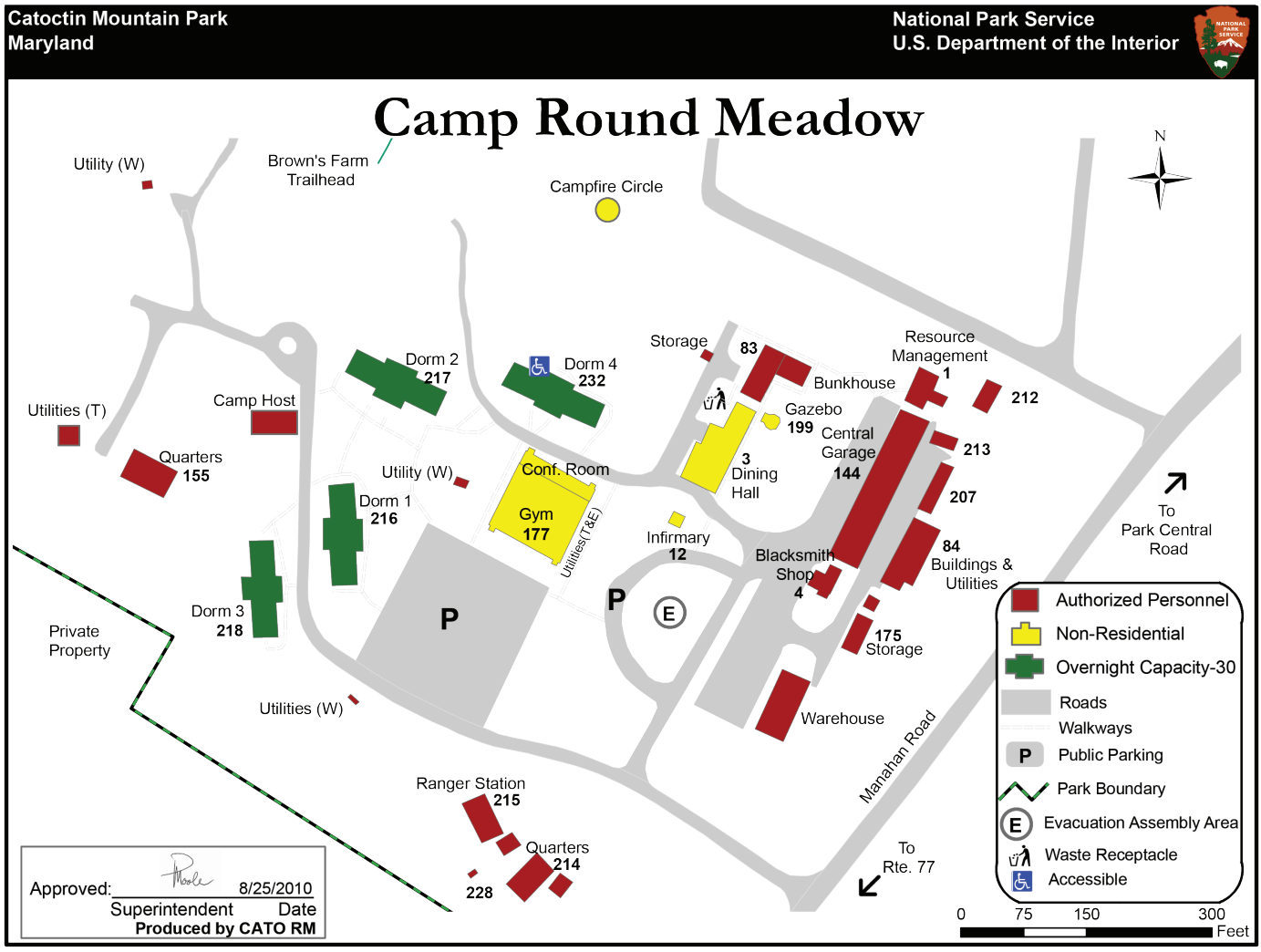


Figure 72: 2010 map of the Round Meadow. (Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)

again from Camp Round Meadow to Owens Creek Campground. This building was demolished in its final location at Owens Creek Campground in 2023. The riding program ended entirely by the mid-1990s.[214]

Beginning in approximately 1982, the D.C. public school system operated a Nature Computer Camp at Round Meadow. Each week for six consecutive weeks, the program served between 80 and 90 6th-grade students from D.C. public schools. It taught computer literacy to students and increased their understanding of and appreciation for the natural environment. The program ran into the early 2000s.[215]

214. Williamson et al., *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-35.
215. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 98.

Additional changes to the study area in the 1980s included the 1980 conversion of an existing open pavilion (Building 212), located behind Building 1 at Camp Round Meadow, to a storage building; it remains extant just east of the Resource Management Office (Building 1). In 1982, the NPS updated the Gymnasium (Building 177) with an addition on the north elevation of the building to encompass conference rooms and a closet. The enclosed vestibule entrances were also added at this time. According to a 1984 aerial photograph, two staff residences (likely Buildings 154 and 155) were extant by this time on the west side of Camp Round Meadow, south of the sewage lagoon (*see Figure 69*); these buildings are no longer in place today.[216] Around 1985, two water tanks were constructed at Camp Round Meadow, likely on the west side of the study area. The park's Resource Management Plan was revised and updated in 1987 and 1991.

In the late 1980s, the park established a tree and shrub nursery and an American chestnut experimental area northeast of Camp Round Meadow, outside of the cultural landscape. In 1990, the Chestnut Restoration Plot was abandoned after most of the trees were impacted by blight.[217]

CAMP ROUND MEADOW IN THE 1990S

Between 1989 and 1992, Frederick County Public Schools hosted an outdoor school for 8th graders at Camp Round Meadow. By this time, the Frederick County school system had been active for decades at Camp Greentop, but this marked the first use of Camp Round Meadow for this purpose. Around 1990, the park reopened the blacksmith shop (Building 4), which had ceased operations in 1981 with the closure of the Folk Culture Center, for the Frederick County Outdoor School. Beginning the following year, the shop was open to the public on select dates.[218]

In addition to the outdoor schools, Camp Round Meadow hosted several conferences, training programs, and various weekend and short-term groups during the late 1980s and early 1990s. In the years after the DC Computer Nature Camp ended, most groups that rented Camp Round Meadow were church groups, including the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.[219]

In 1990, two carports (Building 259 and 262) were added next to the residences (Buildings 214 and 215) at the south end of Camp Round Meadow.[220] In 1991, CAMPER purchased and donated a prefabricated storage shed to the park to serve as a ranger guard post (Building 253). Originally installed along Park Central Road, the NPS relocated the building at an unknown date between 1991 and 2009 to "the ballfield" maintenance storage area.[221]

By the mid-1990s, the park sought to connect Camp Round Meadow with the nearby Foxville Garden sewage treatment plant (west of Camp Round Meadow, outside the park boundaries), in lieu of the sewage lagoon. In 1995, park and regional staff conducted a feasibility study to abandon the sewage lagoon and convert it to a wetland. By 1997, the park was fully connected to the Foxville Garden sewage treatment plant, and the feasibility study favorably approved the conversion of the lagoon to wetland. However, full conversion of the lagoon lagged. Instead, park officials left the lagoon's aeration system running, and the water feature was converted to a duck pond for the park's Canada geese and wood ducks.[222]

CAMP ROUND MEADOW IN THE 2000S

Since the Job Corps era, maintenance functions at Camp Round Meadow have been concentrated in the cluster of buildings on the southeast section of the site, parallel to and about 200′ from Manahan Road. These include the old RDA headquarters (Building 1), the Job Corp projects buildings and

216. Buildings 154 and 155 are visible on a 2002 site map of Camp Round Meadow. While the precise date of removal is unknown, neither of the staff residences are visible in aerials by the mid-2000s.
217. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 126; Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 117.
218. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 174.
219. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 174.
220. Horner et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park (MIHP #F-6-147): National Register Nomination [Unrestricted Version]*, 7-57.
221. Williamson et al., *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-24.
222. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 140.

warehouses (Buildings 144, 175, and 176), the blacksmith building (Building 4), and the relocated oil house (Building 5). The YCC constructed a second tier of buildings behind these, closer to Manahan Road, during the 1970s. These include a maintenance shed (Building 207), a lumber shed (Building 213), and a pavilion (Buildings 212), which was enclosed in 2001 and now used as a storage area. The space between the two rows of buildings remains paved.

Deciduous trees have been planted around the maintenance buildings. Elm trees planted during the New Deal era have died, and in the early 2000s, white pines (*Pinus strobus*) were planted between the original two rows of buildings, closing an open space that dated to the WPA period. The trees were planted to create a screen between Building 144, Building 3, and Building 83 to separate the maintenance buildings from the public section of Camp Round Meadow.[223]

A CCC-era building, remodeled in the mid-1960s for the Job Corps as Dogwood Dormitory (Building 135), was demolished and removed from Camp Round Meadow in 2000.[224]

A 2002 map depicts an athletic court northeast of the Gymnasium (Building 177) (*see Figure 70*). Around 2003, Building 261, a one-story frame manufactured home, was added in the western portion of the study area. The following year, a cell phone tower (Site 98) was constructed on the west side of Camp Round Meadow, across from Building 261 (*see Figure 71*). By the mid-2000s, the open area north of the trailer court was in use as a storage area for maintenance equipment, referred to by park staff as "the ballfield."[225]

In 2003, work began to remove the sewage lagoon entirely; it was completed in 2005. The two-acre site was almost entirely filled in, with the exception of a small area retained as an amphibian habitat. The infilled area was mulched, seeded, and planted with 40 trees.[226]

At an unspecified time, likely in the 1990s or 2000s, the NPS regional biologist was particularly interested in tree diseases and experimented with flowering dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.) upon the detection of anthracnose. The biologist planted a variety of dogwood trees (*Cornus* sp.), including Kousa dogwoods, east of the Resource Management Building (Building 1) to determine which ones would survive. Some of the surviving dogwoods were replanted elsewhere, while some remained adjacent to the Resource Management building.[227]

There were hemlock trees (*Tsuga* sp.) along the west side of the gymnasium parking lot. Many were in poor health due to Wooly Adelgid. Forest Service workers tried spraying them with insecticidal soap to improve their health. Some trees survived, while several did not.[228]

Young serviceberry trees (*Amelanchier* sp.) located to the east of the gymnasium parking lot may have been added as screening for housing. Former Catoctin Mountain Park biologist Becky Loncosky recalled this area as dominated by large red and white oak trees (*Quercus rubra* and *Quercus alba*), and ash trees (*Fraxinus* sp.), but many have since been removed. Loncosky recalled the area as including canopy trees with some smaller trees for screening.[229]

RECENT CHANGES AT CAMP ROUND MEADOW

According to aerial photography, some trailers remained in place at Foxville Plaza as late as 2008 and 2009; the Navy managed and occupied Foxville Plaza until 2010 when they transferred the administration and operation of the area back to the NPS. During the 2010s, all remaining trailers were removed. In the years after its closure, Foxville Plaza has been used for various programs and events by the groups leasing out the adjacent Camp Round Meadow. Beginning in October 2024,

223. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 78; *Horner et al., Catoctin Mountain Park (MIHP #F-6-147): National Register Nomination [Unrestricted Version],* 7-39, 40.
224. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 26.
225. Catoctin Mountain Park Map, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, Maryland.
226. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 206-207.
227. Conversation with Becky Loncosky, December 12, 2024.
228. Conversation with Becky Loncosky, December 12, 2024.
229. Conversation with Becky Loncosky, December 12, 2024.

it was used as a construction staging area for the parkwide utility improvement project.

In 2010, the National Capital Region and the Latin American Youth Center of Washington, D.C., co-sponsored a "2nd Nature Camp" at Camp Round Meadow. Based in Round Meadow, this program gave high school students the opportunity to experience national parks through the media of art, music, dance, photography, and video, in addition to interpretive and natural resource programming.[230]

Around 2010, the viburnum at the administrative office (Camp Peniel) were dug up and replanted along the south side of the gymnasium at Round Meadow.[231] Around 2011, Catoctin Mountain Park staff planted a rain garden on the east side of the dining hall (Building 3) to collect and filter water. An interpretive wayside for the rain garden was also installed at this time. By this time, the former tennis court/basketball court was no longer in use; aerial photographs suggest that the court was removed by 2013 at the latest.[232] In a conversation with former Park Biologist Becky Loncosky, she noted that the park had difficulty fully removing the paving in the tennis court area. Instead, they broke holes into the pavement and planted trees and shrubs to naturalized the area.[233]

In the gravel parking lot south of the gymnasium, a double charging station for electric vehicles was installed around 2015.[234]

In 2020, an Eagle Scout volunteer replaced the 18 benches and the fire ring at the firepit originally constructed by the YCC. This project added eight benches to the original design and altered the overall configuration of the fire ring.[235]

Recently, the park demolished two storage buildings within the project area; Building 246 was demolished in 2021, and Building 229 was demolished in 2023.[236]

Beginning in 2024, a portion of Catoctin Mountain Park including Round Meadow underwent a large-scale utility project.

Today, Camp Round Meadow generally operates between mid-February and mid-December for rental operations (*see Figure 72*).

Conclusion

Today, the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape reflects its many layers of developmental history. The landscape retains character-defining resources related to the New Deal era, Job Corps era, and youth environmental programming, including the YCC pilot program period and initial implementation. As each successive federal program took root at Camp Round Meadow, the cultural landscape offered evidence of the many significant federal programs that transformed public lands in the 20th century.

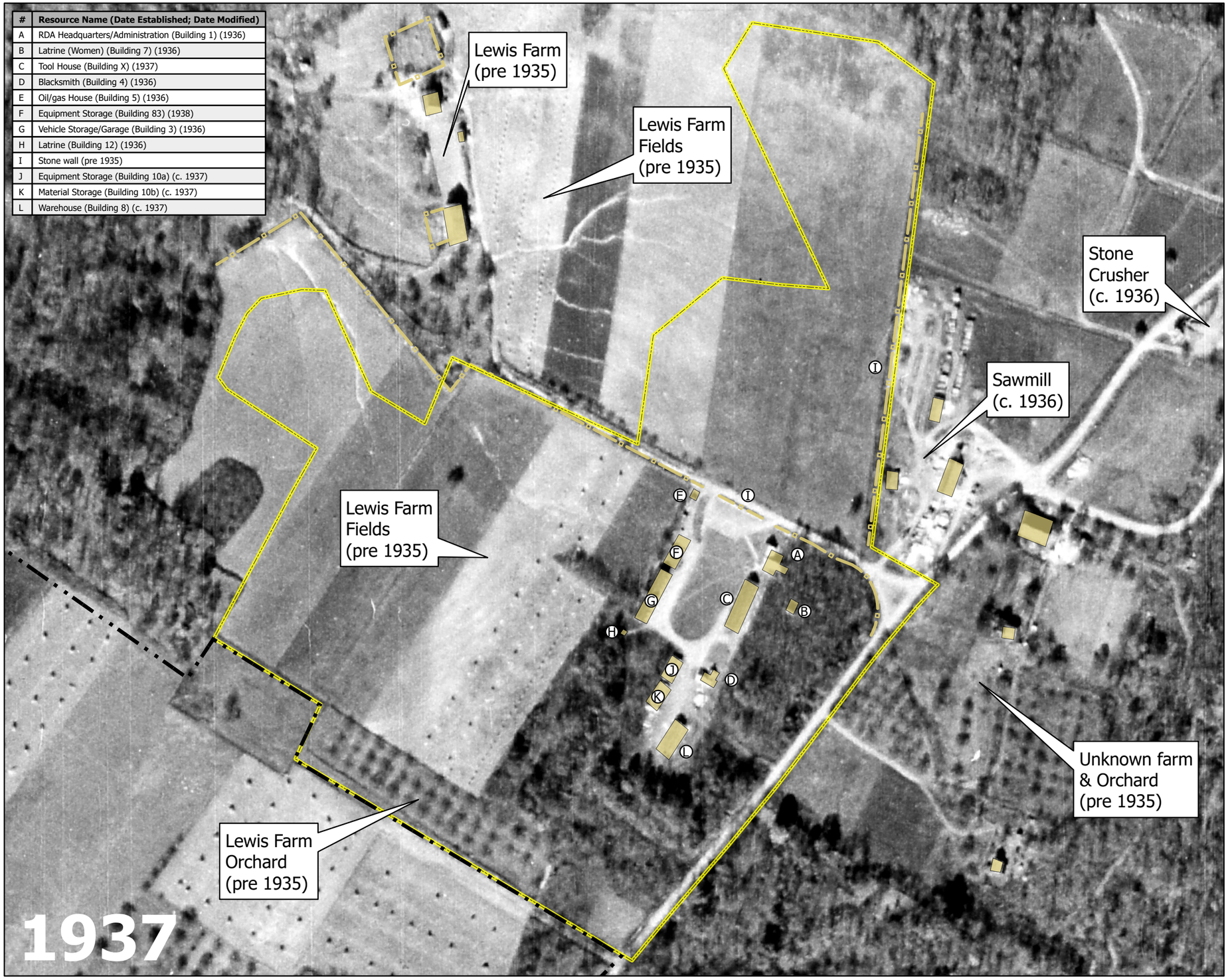
230. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 177.
231. Conversation with Becky Loncosky, December 12, 2024.
232. Google Earth historic aerial imagery of Catoctin Mountain Park, Google Earth.
233. Conversation with Becky Loncosky, December 12, 2024.
234. Project ID 58871, National Park Service, Planning, Environment, and Public Comment Documentation.
235. Williamson et al., *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation),* 7-25.
236. Project ID 105106, National Park Service, Planning, Environment, and Public Comment Documentation 2021; Project ID 112797, National Park Service, Planning, Environment, and Public Comment Documentation 2023.

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Period Plans

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#	Resource Name (Date Established; Date Modified)
A	RDA Headquarters/Administration (Building 1) (1936)
B	Latrine (Women) (Building 7) (1936)
C	Tool House (Building X) (1937)
D	Blacksmith (Building 4) (1936)
E	Oil/gas House (Building 5) (1936)
F	Equipment Storage (Building 83) (1938)
G	Vehicle Storage/Garage (Building 3) (1936)
H	Latrine (Building 12) (1936)
I	Stone wall (pre 1935)
J	Equipment Storage (Building 10a) (c. 1937)
K	Material Storage (Building 10b) (c. 1937)
L	Warehouse (Building 8) (c. 1937)



Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

1937 Period Plan

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. 1937 Aerial Photo, CATO Resource Management GIS Files, NPS

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area Boundary
- Fence Lines as of 1937
- Buildings and Structures as of 1937

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Map Version, October 2025

N
0 70 140 280 420
Feet

Drawing 2

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#	Resource Name (Date Established; Date Modified)
A	RDA Headquarters/Administration (Building 1) (1936)
B	Latrine (Women) (Building 7) (1936)
C	Tool House (Building X) (1937)
D	Blacksmith (Building 4) (1936)
E	Oil/gas House (Building 5) (1936)
F	Equipment Storage (Building 83) (1938)
G	Vehicle Storage/Garage (Building 3) (1936)
H	Latrine (Building 12) (1936)
I	Stone wall (pre 1935)
J	Equipment Storage (Building 10a) (c. 1937)
K	Material Storage (Building 10b) (c. 1937)
L	Warehouse (Building 8) (c. 1937)



#	Resource Name (Year Established; Year Modified)
M	CCC Education Building (c. 1940)
N	CCC Enlisted Men's Quarters (c. 1940)
O	CCC Utility/Boiler Building (c. 1940)
P	CCC Mess Hall and Kitchen (c. 1940)
Q	CCC Hospital and Dispensary (c. 1940)
R	CCC Supply Room (c. 1940)
S	CCC Recreation Room and Canteen (c. 1940)
T	Army Office (c. 1940)
U	CCC Officer Quarters (c. 1940)
V	CCC Superintendent's Office (c. 1940)
W	CCC Vehicle Storage/Garage (c. 1940)
X	CCC Tool Storage (c. 1940)
Y	Fire Cache (c. 1940)

Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

1942 Period Plan

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. 1943 Aerial Photo, CATO Resource Management GIS Files, NPS

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Fence Lines as of 1942
- Buildings and Structures as of 1942

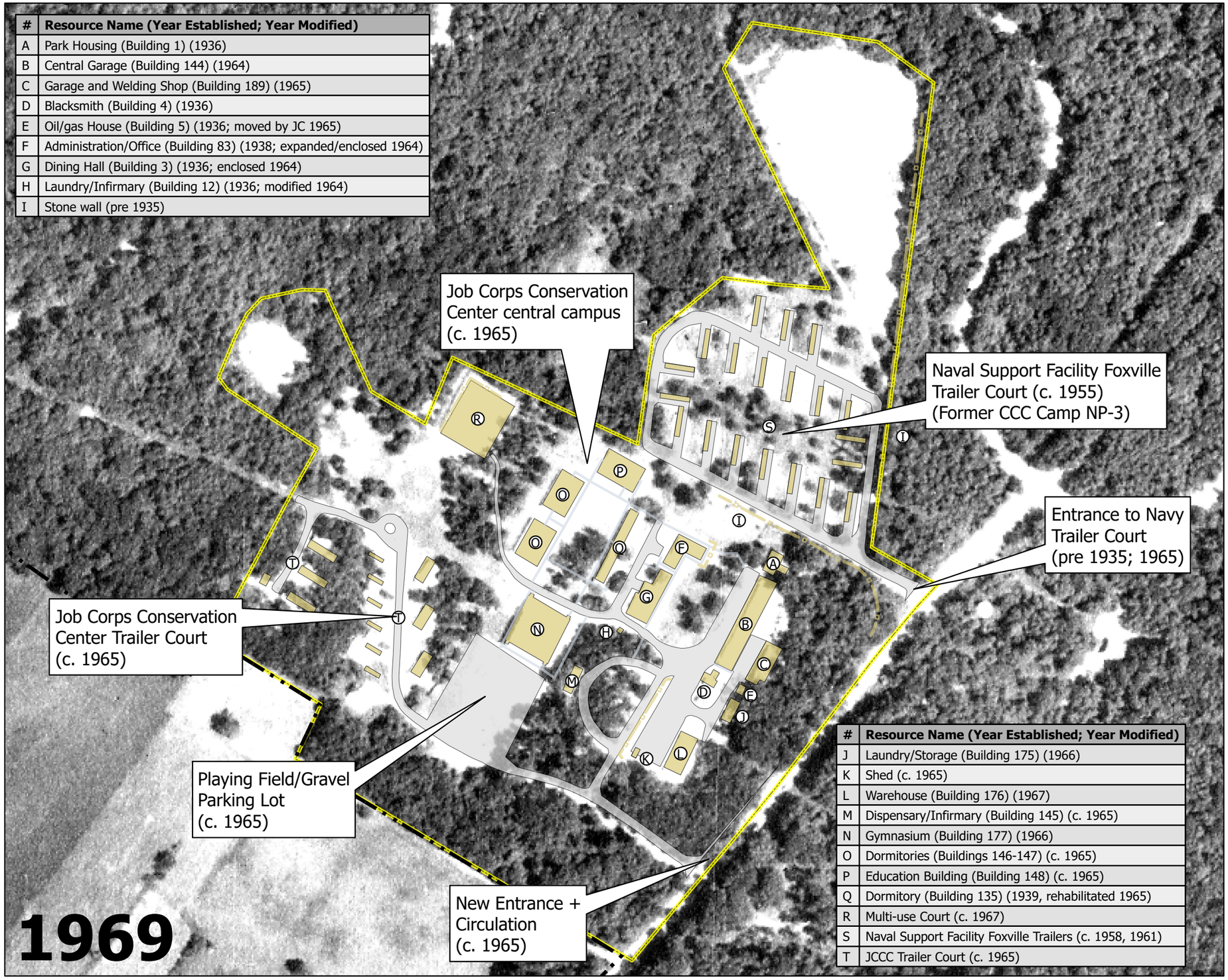
Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Map Version, October 2025

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Drawing 3

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#	Resource Name (Year Established; Year Modified)
A	Park Housing (Building 1) (1936)
B	Central Garage (Building 144) (1964)
C	Garage and Welding Shop (Building 189) (1965)
D	Blacksmith (Building 4) (1936)
E	Oil/gas House (Building 5) (1936; moved by JC 1965)
F	Administration/Office (Building 83) (1938; expanded/enclosed 1964)
G	Dining Hall (Building 3) (1936; enclosed 1964)
H	Laundry/Infirmary (Building 12) (1936; modified 1964)
I	Stone wall (pre 1935)



#	Resource Name (Year Established; Year Modified)
J	Laundry/Storage (Building 175) (1966)
K	Shed (c. 1965)
L	Warehouse (Building 176) (1967)
M	Dispensary/Infirmary (Building 145) (c. 1965)
N	Gymnasium (Building 177) (1966)
O	Dormitories (Buildings 146-147) (c. 1965)
P	Education Building (Building 148) (c. 1965)
Q	Dormitory (Building 135) (1939, rehabilitated 1965)
R	Multi-use Court (c. 1967)
S	Naval Support Facility Foxville Trailers (c. 1958, 1961)
T	JCCC Trailer Court (c. 1965)

Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

1969 Period Plan

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. 1952, 1958, 1964, 1970 Aerial Photos, CATO Resource Management GIS Files, NPS

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Buildings and Structures as of 1969
- Pedestrian Circulation as of 1969
- Buildings and Structures as of 1969
- Vehicular Circulation as of 1969

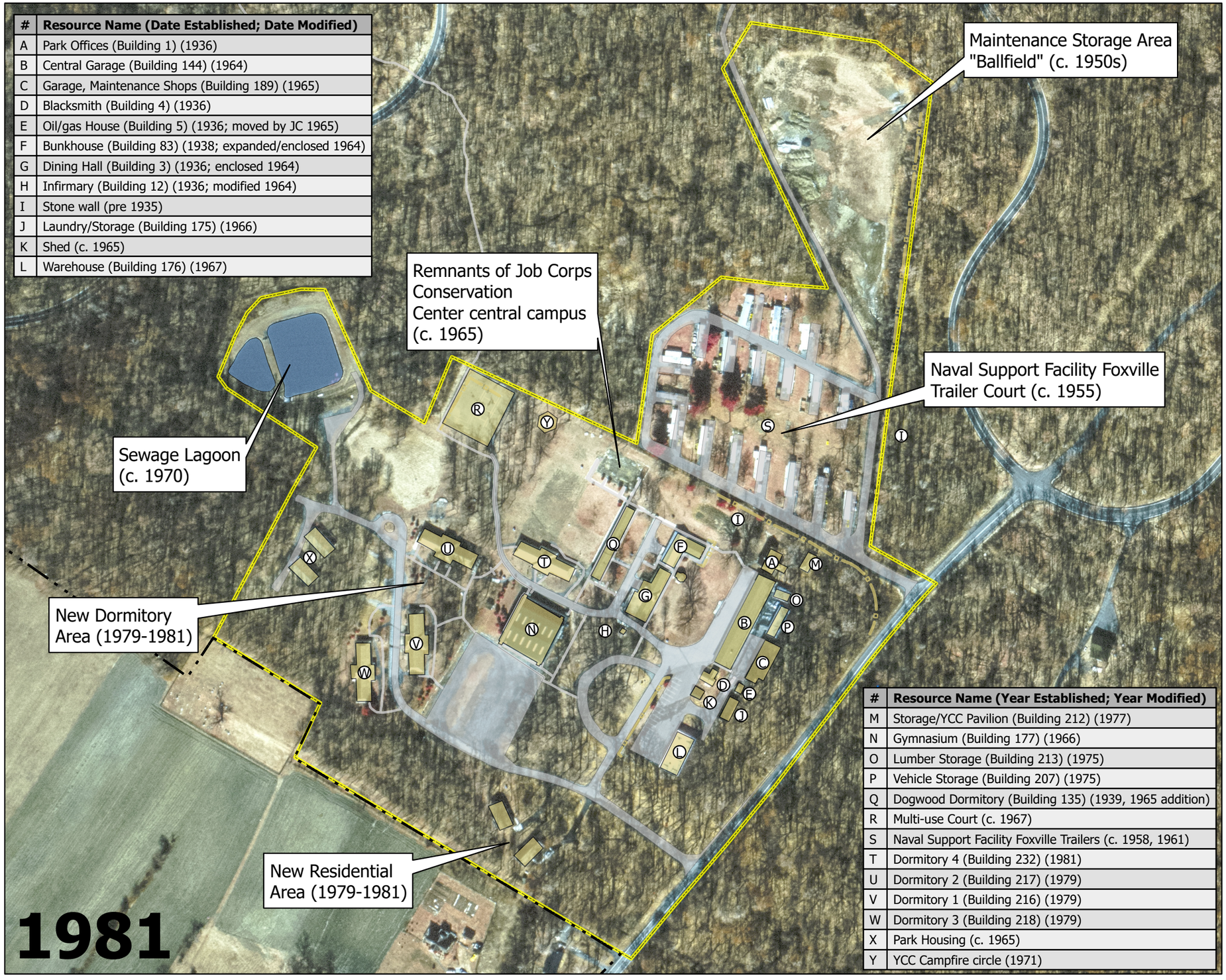
Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Map Version, October 2025

N 0 70 140 280 420 Feet

Drawing 4

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#	Resource Name (Date Established; Date Modified)
A	Park Offices (Building 1) (1936)
B	Central Garage (Building 144) (1964)
C	Garage, Maintenance Shops (Building 189) (1965)
D	Blacksmith (Building 4) (1936)
E	Oil/gas House (Building 5) (1936; moved by JC 1965)
F	Bunkhouse (Building 83) (1938; expanded/enclosed 1964)
G	Dining Hall (Building 3) (1936; enclosed 1964)
H	Infirmary (Building 12) (1936; modified 1964)
I	Stone wall (pre 1935)
J	Laundry/Storage (Building 175) (1966)
K	Shed (c. 1965)
L	Warehouse (Building 176) (1967)



#	Resource Name (Year Established; Year Modified)
M	Storage/YCC Pavilion (Building 212) (1977)
N	Gymnasium (Building 177) (1966)
O	Lumber Storage (Building 213) (1975)
P	Vehicle Storage (Building 207) (1975)
Q	Dogwood Dormitory (Building 135) (1939, 1965 addition)
R	Multi-use Court (c. 1967)
S	Naval Support Facility Foxville Trailers (c. 1958, 1961)
T	Dormitory 4 (Building 232) (1981)
U	Dormitory 2 (Building 217) (1979)
V	Dormitory 1 (Building 216) (1979)
W	Dormitory 3 (Building 218) (1979)
X	Park Housing (c. 1965)
Y	YCC Campfire circle (1971)

Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

1981 Period Plan

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Otho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

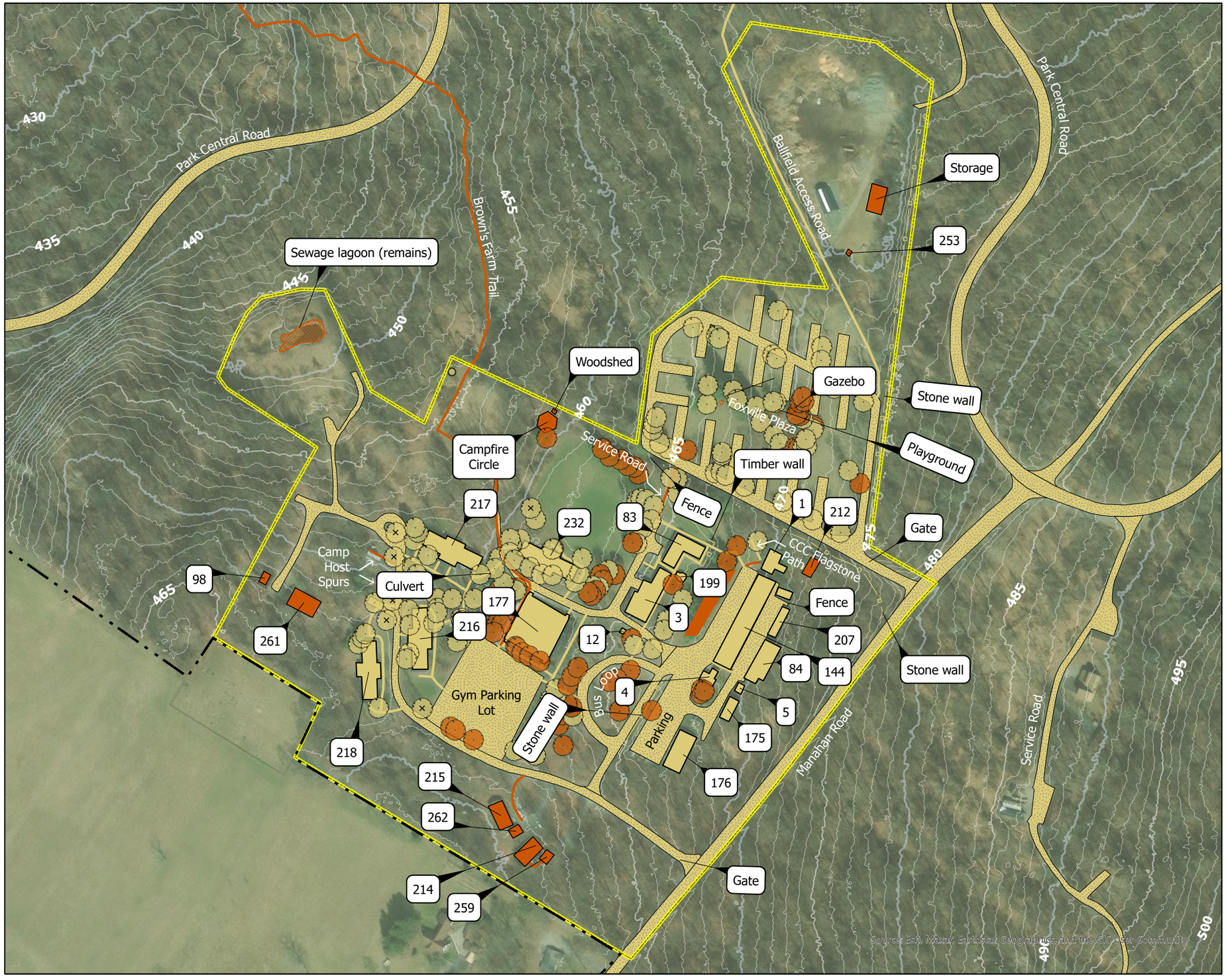
Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Buildings and Structures as of 1981
- Circulation as of 1981
- Buildings and Structures as of 1981
- Circulation as of 1981
- Constructed Water Features as of 1981

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Map Version, October 2025

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Drawing 5

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Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Existing Conditions Overview

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson and Zhijie Wang, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Buildings and Structures, Contributing
- Vegetation, Non-contributing
- Vegetation, Contributing
- Buildings and Structures, Non-contributing
- Buildings and Structures, Contributing
- Constructed Water Features, Non-contributing
- Vegetation,No
- Buildings and Structures, Non-contributing
- Buildings and Structures, Contributing
- Circulation, Non-contributing
- Circulation, Contributing
- Circulation, Contributing
- Topography, Contributing (Contour interval = 1 foot)
- 84 Annotations (Numbers refer to CATO Building ID #s)
- × Trees Removed During 2025 Utility Project

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Small-scale features not shown
3. Map Version, October 2025

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Analysis + Evaluation

Analysis and Evaluation Summary

This section analyzes the historic and existing conditions of the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape and provides an evaluation of the site's integrity. This information is organized as an inventory of landscape characteristics and associated features maintained in the Cultural Resources Inventory System – Cultural Landscapes (CRIS-CL) database. The Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape (CRIS-CL # 600017) is a component landscape of the Catoctin Mountain Park cultural landscape (CRIS-CL # 975990), a unit within the National Park Service (NPS) system.

The following analysis considers the landscape characteristics and features that were extant during the period of significance and compares these conditions against what is extant in the cultural landscape in the present day. Camp Round Meadow is significant at the national and state level under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A and C. The period of significance spans 1936, the year the RDA's construction of its headquarters area began, to 1981, the year if construction of the final dormitory constructed for oudoor education programming.[1] Camp Round Meadow's landscape characteristics and associated features convey the property's historic significance and as such, this comparative analysis determines the overall integrity of the cultural landscape. The inventory assigns each associated feature a status of contributing, non-contributing, or undetermined based on its relationship to the cultural landscape's historic significance.

The elements determined to be contributing are character-defining features of the cultural landscape. For landscape features to be contributing, they need to have been present during the property's period of significance and retain integrity to that period. If a feature is listed as noncontributing, then it either was not present during the historic period or it lacks the ability to convey the property's significance. Non-contributing features may be determined "compatible" or "incompatible" in order to help guide resource management decisions, but they do not need to be sorted into these subcategories. Compatible features do not detract from the property's historic significance or otherwise diminish its integrity. Incompatible features are those that diminish a property's historic character or integrity. Features are "undetermined" if further research is needed beyond the scope of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) to ascertain the date and significance of the feature in relation to the property's historic period. Features that post-date the property's period of significance but support its historic significance or integrity may be given the status "managed as a cultural resource."

The Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape comprises features within the following landscape characteristics: natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, cultural traditions, topography, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, constructed water features, small-scale features, and archeological sites. Landscape features may fit under several landscape characteristics. Therefore, some landscape features are discussed in the narratives of multiple landscape characteristics in this section. However, each feature is inventoried only once within the table associated with its primary landscape characteristic.

Summary of Integrity

Historic integrity is the ability of a property to convey it significance through both its extant physical characteristics and cultural associations that are associated with its period(s) of significance.

1. Sirna 2015: 106.

The NRHP identifies seven aspects of integrity to be considered when evaluating a property: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A property must demonstrate several or all the aspects of integrity to qualify for listing in the NRHP. The summary below examines the cultural landscape in relation to the seven aspects of integrity. The definitions for the seven aspects of integrity detailed below are adapted from *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (1997).

LOCATION

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. Within Camp Round Meadow, all features retain their historic locations, except for the oil/gas house (Building 5). This building was moved during the period of significance by the Job Corps to its present-day location in Camp Round Meadow. Workers moved Building 5 to accommodate the construction of the Job Corps campus and to centralize maintenance functions to one area. The building's relocation perpetuated existing geometries established by the Lewis Farm and earlier 1930s land patterns, resulting in minimal impacts on the spatial organization. Since the building was moved during the period of significance, this location change is considered a part of the landscape's significance. The cultural landscape—and its significant features—continues to occupy its historic location, and thus maintains its integrity of location.

SETTING

Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. The setting of Camp Round Meadow has evolved over its nearly 100-year tenure at Catoctin Mountain Park. When Catoctin RDA was established in 1935, the area consisted of farm fields, and the forest was regenerating. In the ensuing decades, the forest at Camp Round Meadow has matured and created a secluded and less open setting, in keeping with the long-term planning principles promoted by Waugh, Meinecke, and Good.[2] Camp Round Meadow retains its reforested context, hemmed in by roads closely following earlier land patterns, including farm fields. The former Job Corps Center campus is marked by an open field where it once stood. Meanwhile, the environmental education area, including the dormitories, features a mature canopy cover that conveys a retreat atmosphere. At times, many present-day land uses exist uneasily next to one another: public rental uses via the dormitories and dining halls conflict with the adjacent maintenance and administrative functions that disrupt secluded camp experiences. This friction results from a lack of historical planning during, at times, rushed building campaigns to adapt readily available open space to new uses during the period of significance. However, the overall present-day setting is faithful to the end of the period of significance and thus retains integrity, despite being poorly conceived.

DESIGN

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. As a collection of overlapping building campaigns, Camp Round Meadow remains intact as an excellent and readily identifiable example of successive human conservation and environmental education programs. The early WPA and CCC landscape features exemplify the principles of Rustic design, which were developed during the construction of the Catoctin RDA. The designs for Camp Round Meadow's early buildings undoubtedly informed how other buildings within the RDA were later constructed. Indeed, several later buildings at Catoctin were used in Albert Good's *Park and Recreation Structures* to exemplify the Rustic design style. Among other features, Camp Round Meadow retains its designed views and vistas, ornamental camp plantings adjacent to buildings, and rustic log and board buildings and structures. The design intent of the Central Garage Unit, expressed via its

2. Frank Waugh, *Landscape Conservation* (Washington, D.C: Civilian Conservation Corps, National Park Service, 1937); E.P. Meinecke, *Camp Planning and Camp Construction* (California: U.S. Forest Service, 1934-1935) https://foresthistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Meinecke_Camp_Planning_1935.pdf; Albert Good, *Park and Recreation Structures, Volumes I-III* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1938).

layout that adhered to the patterns of the earlier Lewis Farm (including spatial organization and cluster arrangement), remains clear.

The NPS' Mission 66-era of design coincided with the establishment of the Job Corps Conservation Center (JCCC) at Camp Round Meadow. During Mission 66, the International Style and Modernism were introduced at Camp Round Meadow, deploying standardized methods of construction that blended into the regional setting of Maryland's Blue Ridge.

During Mission 66 and the ensuing Parkscape USA era, new buildings were designed and sited to take advantage of the grading established by the CCC, thus maintaining some of the overall spatial relationships. As new buildings were added, circulation and vegetation features were designed to integrate these later additions with the landscape design established in earlier periods.

The Job Corps, Environmental Education programs, Folk Culture Center, and Youth Conservation Corps introduced new design principles to Camp Round Meadow during the later years of the period of significance; some of these alterations disrupted the Rustic Style design of earlier eras. However, new modern designs adapted earlier principles of camp design to meet the needs of its current users, maintaining historic land use over time. As a collection of overlapping building campaigns, Camp Round Meadow retains a high degree of integrity with respect to its many historic designs, particularly related to the Rustic, Job Corps, and Environmental Education eras of construction.

MATERIALS

Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. Camp Round Meadow retains characteristic Rustic materials such as waney board siding, wood-frame windows, stone paving, and mature tree species. Buildings and structures throughout the study area also reflect the shift from the bespoke materials used during Rustic construction to later modern campaigns that use concrete, board siding, milled wooden elements, and decorative or flowering tree species. Thus, the extant materials demonstrate the chronology of construction: earlier landscape features retain their characteristic Rustic Style materials (e.g. stones and logs), and features constructed later retain their simpler, standardized and modern materials (e.g. lumber, boards, decorative plantings). Non-contributing landscape features postdate the period of significance but closely adhere to the historic material and planting palettes or are located out of view from historic areas. These additions do not detract from Camp Round Meadow's integrity of materials, resulting in a high degree of integrity of materials across all development campaigns during the period of significance.

WORKMANSHIP

Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. As a collection of development eras, Camp Round Meadow remains an excellent example of how park landscapes were adapted over time to accommodate new uses. Examples of early craftsmanship at Camp Round Meadow include Buildings 1, 4, 5, and 12, as well as rustic stone walls throughout. In later decades of the period of significance, improvements under the Job Corps and late 1970s environmental education programs introduced a new style of landscape features that exemplified the workmanship of the Modernist era. Today, the collection of buildings and structures retains landscape features that exemplify both the Rustic principles of landscape design and their extension into the modern era. Collectively, these landscape characteristics demonstrate a high degree of integrity of workmanship.

FEELING

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. Visitors to and employees at Camp Round Meadow experience both its naturalistic camp and administrative/maintenance qualities and functions. Camp Round Meadow's public-oriented features remain rural retreats in a remote wooded setting, while administrative and maintenance functions readily convey these uses. Camp Round Meadow retains these land uses and thus retains its integrity of feeling.

ASSOCIATION

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Camp Round Meadow remains clearly linked to the historic development of the Catoctin RDA as its former Central Garage Unit and RDA Headquarters. Camp Round Meadow also conveys the continuous link of landscape changes to its physical fabric, including the 1930s New Deal programs, the OSS, Job Corps, Folk Culture Center, Environmental Education, and YCC initiatives. Camp Round Meadow also remains in continual use as an administrative and maintenance facility. Based on its continued association with recreational land use through public rentals and its utilitarian uses, Camp Round Meadow retains a high degree of integrity with respect to association.

Analysis + Evaluation of Landscape Characteristics

Documenting existing conditions and analyzing and evaluating natural and human-made historic resources is critical in the development of a strategy for their management and treatment. This chapter presents an evaluation of the historic significance of the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape and a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions. The objective of this analysis is to identify the specific features associated with the period of significance and assess to what degree they continue to convey their historic significance.

Cultural landscape analysis involves two primary activities: evaluating historic significance and assessing historic integrity. Both use criteria determined by the National Register of Historic Places, which has developed nationally recognized methods for evaluating the significance and integrity of historic buildings and landscapes. The evaluation of historic significance identifies the important historic associations of the property, as well as its architectural, archeological, and social values. The property's significance is tied to the period(s) of significance in which its important contributions were made and the broader historic contexts (historic context themes) within which the activities that occurred on the property may be placed.

This section of the CLR inventories the existing conditions of Camp Round Meadow using a combination of photographs, narrative description, and plan-view graphics. This inventory organizes the site features by landscape characteristics, which are the broad patterns, systems, and feature categories that compose the cultural landscape. Landscape characteristics are the "tangible and intangible aspects of an inventory unit which have either influenced the history of the development of the landscape, or are products of its development."[3]

3. Page, Gilbert, and Dolan 1998, 139.

The NPS identifies 13 landscape characteristics. These landscape characteristics are defined as follows:

- **Natural Systems and Features**: Natural aspects that often influence the development and resultant form of a landscape.
- **Topography**: Three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface, characterized by features and orientation.
- **Land Use**: Organization, form, and shape of the landscape in response to land use.
- **Spatial Organization**: Arrangement of elements creating the ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.
- **Cluster Arrangement**: The location of buildings and structures in the landscape.
- **Views and Vistas**: Features that create or allow a range of vision, which can be natural or designed and controlled.
- **Cultural Traditions**: Practices that influence land use, patterns of division, building forms, and the use of materials.
- **Buildings and Structures**: Three dimensional constructs such as houses, barns, garages, stables, bridges, and memorials.
- **Constructed Water Features**: The built features and elements that utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions.
- **Circulation**: Spaces, features, and materials that constitute systems of movement.
- **Vegetation**: Indigenous or introduced trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, and herbaceous materials.
- **Small-Scale Features**: Elements that provide detail and diversity combined with function and aesthetics.
- **Archeological Sites**: Sites containing surface and subsurface remnants related to historic or

prehistoric land use.

While most sites contain several of the 13 characteristics, not all are necessarily present in one landscape. In total, 11 of the 13 landscape characteristics are relevant for the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape: Natural Systems and Features, Topography, Land Use, Spatial Organization, Cluster Arrangement, Views and Vistas, Buildings and Structures, Constructed Water Features, Circulation, Vegetation, and Small-Scale Features. There are no known archeological sites within the cultural landscape boundaries.

Natural Systems and Features

Camp Round Meadow's rugged natural features contribute to each landscape characteristic. RDA designers constructed its headquarters using existing open space (farm fields) and proactively reforesting and restoring natural systems and features as part of its conservation efforts. The soils contributed to the landscape's pre-RDA use as a farm, while also accepting plantings to establish second-growth forests. The rock underlying soils of Camp Round Meadow also later afforded numerous boulders used in the landscaping around the dormitory areas in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The existing conditions at Camp Round Meadow reflect this historic reverence for and conservation of natural systems and features. As a result, Camp Round Meadow retains integrity with respect to this landscape characteristic.

Topography

The topography of Camp Round Meadow has not changed significantly since its original construction. It is consistent with its successive campaigns of development during the period of significance. The extant conditions are generally consistent with the historic topographical conditions at the end of this camp's period of significance. Therefore, Camp Round Meadow retains the integrity of its topography.

Land Use

Camp Round Meadow's administrative and recreational uses have not changed significantly since the end of the period of significance. The study area retains the general use and feeling associated with its use as a headquarters area and a group camp. However, the Foxville Plaza area has lost its residential land use, established in 1961; the plaza remains extant, but there are no extant trailers. It is vacant and does not maintain any regular land uses. This modified land use affects the landscape's integrity, as the plaza area of the campus historically contained a series of camps under the CCC, OSS, and the Navy. However, since most landscape traces remain in the Foxville Plaza area, such a use could be restored based on the extant features, should future treatment recommend this use. As a result, the site retains the overall integrity of land use.

Spatial Organization

Camp Round Meadow's spatial organization is consistent with its composition as it evolved during the period of significance. The addition of new buildings and structures after the period of significance does not detract from the significance of the study area's spatial organization. The site, therefore, retains the integrity of its spatial organization.

Cluster Arrangement

The cluster arrangement of Camp Round Meadow is consistent with the end of the historic period. Minor changes, including the addition of two small new clusters, do not detract from the legibility of the historic cluster arrangement overall. These clusters are removed from rental areas and existing cluster arrangements. Both new clusters are divided from other clusters by vegetation or woods and function as separate areas. This allows the landscape to retain the legibility of its historic cluster arrangement. Therefore, the cabin camp retains integrity with respect to this landscape characteristic.

Views and Vistas

The design and management of Camp Round Meadow continues to take advantage of views to and from natural and cultural features within the landscape. In limited ways, the addition of features such as the white pine screens and understory plantings have changed the viewsheds and broken the visual continuity between buildings and structures built in the same era (e.g. CCC-era buildings now separated by a planted screen). However, these

alterations to the views and vistas help separate the different land uses within the cultural landscape, including the administrative and rental areas (both of which were established during the period of significance). In this way, Camp Round Meadow retains its design intent and integrity, adhering to the overall landscape considerations established during the period of significance with respect to this landscape characteristic. The cultural landscape, therefore, retains its integrity of views and vistas.

Buildings and Structures

Camp Round Meadow's buildings and structures result from overlapping development campaigns that correspond to the successive series of human conservation programs within its bounds. Except for the temporary CCC/OSS buildings and some Job Corps buildings, Camp Round Meadow retains nearly all buildings and structures dating to the period of significance. Most buildings and structures at the camp have undergone rehabilitation after the period of significance, largely restoring their historic conditions. Camp Round Meadow has also seen the addition of a limited number of buildings and structures after the period of significance. Still, these do not detract from the overall legibility of the overlapping development campaigns. As a result, Camp Round Meadow retains integrity with respect to buildings and structures.

Constructed Water Features

The historic sewage lagoon added during the period of significance is no longer extant. A remnant of it persists, but its conversion to a duck pond detracts from its integrity as a constructed water feature. The remnant is a non-contributing feature and the cultural landscape does not retain integrity of constructed water features.

Circulation

Camp Round Meadow retains nearly all historic circulation features within its bounds. The larger circulation plan developed by CCC, Job Corps, and changed for the dormitory construction is clearly legible. Indeed, many circulation features are among the only remnants that indicate where other buildings or structures once were. These features are essential to understanding Camp Round Meadow as a layered, interwoven cultural landscape featuring overlapping human conservation programs. While some historic circulation features are in fair to poor condition, careful treatment can easily reverse this effect. As a result, Camp Round Meadow retains a high degree of integrity with respect to circulation.

Vegetation

The vegetation in the cultural landscape results from decades of overlapping development campaigns. These campaigns frequently used similar planting palettes and employed aesthetic strategies that achieved similar effects. Camp Round Meadow retains the designed intent of these strategies, including screening of functions, vegetation that filters and directs views, and ornamental plantings that achieve desired aesthetics. While few original specimen plantings remain, the design intent and integrity of the vegetation is both clear and a contributing element of the cultural landscape.

Small-Scale Features

The small-scale features within Camp Round Meadow include a complex combination of historic and non-historic features. The study area contains features dating to its historic period, including a flagpole and decorative boulders.

Many of the small-scale features, including lighting and signage, have been regularly replaced throughout the camp's history, largely in-kind or in the same locations. Additional small-scale features are not historic but are in keeping with the rustic and administrative atmosphere of the landscape. As a result, the study area retains integrity with respect to small-scale features.

Each section of the comparative analysis concludes with an inventory of resources. This information is summarized in the tables at the end of each landscape characteristic. The table conveys the names for inventoried landscape features through time, identifies which features contribute to the significance of the landscape, and lists dates of origin for each feature, if known.

Natural Systems and Features

Historic Condition

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of a landscape. Catoctin Mountain Park is part of the larger physical landscape of Maryland's Blue Ridge. Catoctin Mountain and its neighboring South Mountain (west of the park) form a ridge comprising the Appalachian Mountains' eastern edge. The landscape was formed 450 million to 250 million years ago due to volcanic activity. Camp Round Meadow is part of the large mountainous landscape of Catoctin Mountain, located within its central plateau.[4]

Within Camp Round Meadow, the most dominant rock types are volcanic. Rocks classified under the so-called Catoctin Formation include metamorphosed basalt (Catoctin greenstone) and metarhyolite. Another mineral, Weverton quartzite, is also found throughout Camp Round Meadow. It belongs to the Lower Cambrian quartzite formation. The greenstone and quartzite form many of the hard, rocky outcroppings along ridges at higher elevations throughout the park. Another type of rock, conglomerate, belongs to the Loudon Formation and forms many of the adjacent river valleys, including Owens Creek. It is a less durable rock, allowing it to erode into a valley. Many of the boulders throughout the landscape were dislodged from higher elevations during freeze-thaw cycles and deposited as colluvium within the cultural landscape.[5]

The primary soil type underlying most of Camp Round Meadow is Highfield (HgB, HhB, and HhC), with varying slopes from 3 to 15%. Highfield consists of 10″ of silty loam and 40″ of channery loam over bedrock. It is well-drained with a medium runoff class, receiving between 35″ and 52″ of precipitation a year. The soil's minimal slope and loamy qualities are two of the main reasons that the area was once good for agricultural use, including minimal erosion and good drainage. This soil type underlies all the built and maintained portions of the cultural landscape, while other soil types dominate the wooded areas and woods beyond the camp core.

The other primary soil type is the Ravenrock-Highfield-Rock outcrop complex (ReC and ReD), which has varying slopes from 8 to 15%. (According to the USGS, "a complex consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps.") The Ravenrock-Highfield- Rock outcrop complex is composed of the three soil types that make up its name: 50% Ravenrock, 40% Highfield, and 10% Rock Outcrop. It is generally well-drained, has a medium to high runoff class, and receives a mean annual precipitation of between 8″ and 52″. The parent material of the Ravenfield type is gravelly colluvium derived from greenstone; it consists of 0-65″ of rocky loam over bedrock. Highfield has a similar composition, with 0-60″ of stony silt and channery loam before bedrock. The stone outcroppings are generally greenstone bedrock. The highly stony nature of this soil means that historically, farmers would have had to remove many stones to plow the field, resulting in many of the stone walls that characterize the edges of the cultural landscape today.[6]

The other minor soil type within the cultural landscape is the Ravenrock-Rohrersville Complex. The Ravenrock Rohrersville (RfC) complex underlies the Owens Creek Watershed and floodplain (*see Drawing 3 on page 135*). It consists of 55% Ravenrock, 35% Rohrersville, and 15% other minor

4. Louis Berger Group, *The People of the Mountain: Archaeological Overview, Assessment, Identification, and Evaluation Study of Catoctin Mountain Park Maryland*, Volume I (Washington, D.C.: The Louis Berger Group, 2011): 1-5.
5. Louis Berger Group, *The People of the Mountain, Volume I,* 1-5.
6. USDA Web Soil Survey, Frederick County Maryland (MD021), Aug 27, 2021, accessed April 2, 2024.

components. Generally, Ravenrock consists of 0-65″ of rock-filled loams atop bedrock; it is well-drained with medium runoff and a water table of 42″ to 72″. Rohrersville, unlike Ravenrock, is somewhat poorly drained, with very high runoff and a shallow water table of 12″ to 18″. The forest areas west of the camp core, including the former sewage lagoon and Brown's Farm Trail, are classified as this soil type.[7]

Camp Round Meadow is also located in two watersheds: the Owens Creek watershed to the north and the Little Hunting Creek watershed to the south. The dividing line runs approximately east-west from Dormitory 3 (Building 218) to the Blacksmith Shop (Building 4) (*see Figure 73*). Both water bodies are outside the boundaries of the cultural landscape, draining first to the Monocacy River and then to the Potomac River.

Throughout the period of significance, human conservation programs stewarded the natural systems and features of the landscape. First, Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) programs, including the WPA and CCC, stabilized the former Lewis farm soils by planting vegetation and addressing runoff and drainage issues. Over time, the NPS, Job Corps, various outdoor education programs, and the YCC all worked to preserve the natural landscape and rehabilitate it to an imagined condition prior to European colonization.

Existing Condition

Today, Camp Round Meadow's natural systems and features consist of its location within the Blue Ridge Mountains, underlying primary geology, soils, and watersheds.

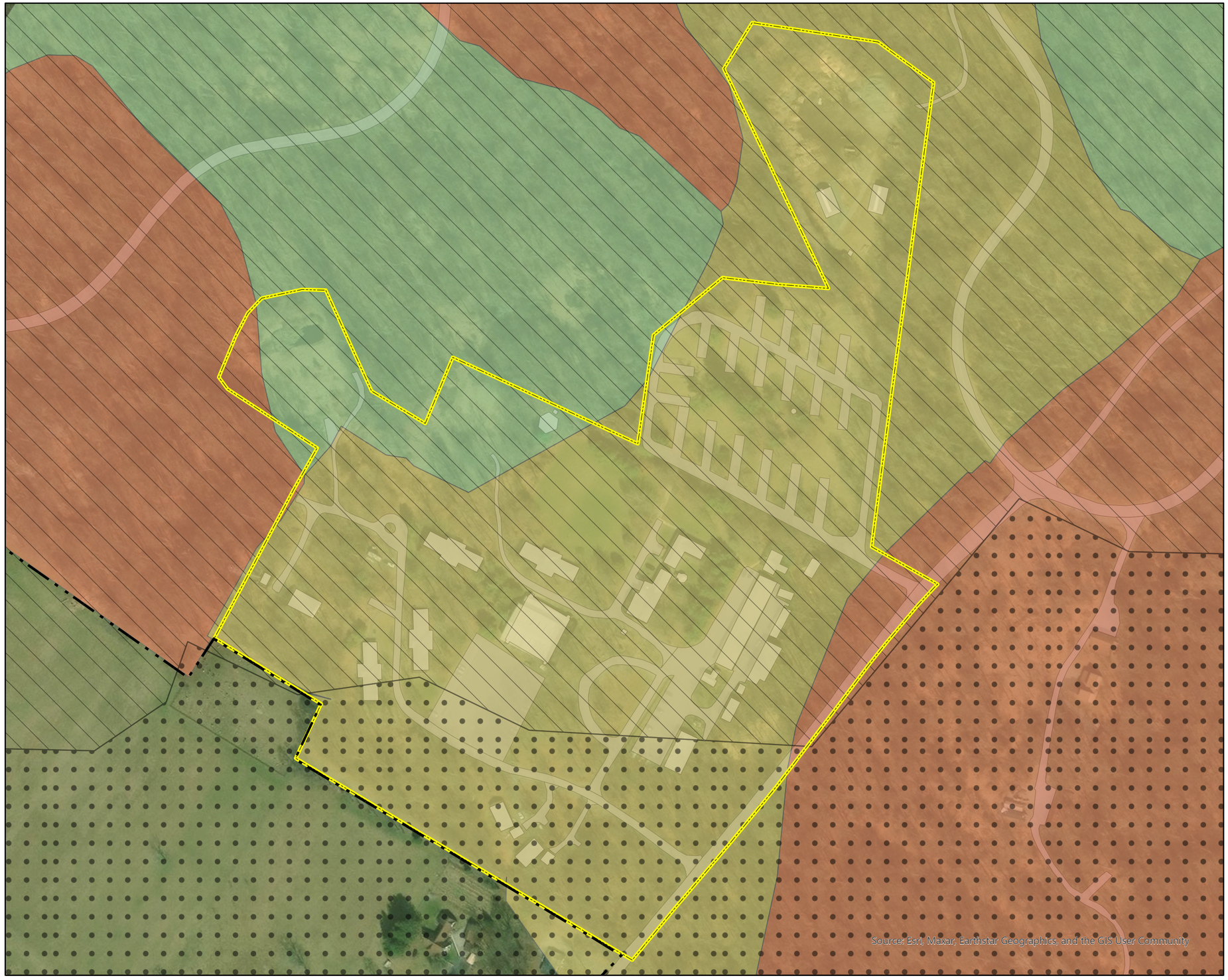
Evaluation

The rugged natural features of Camp Round Meadow contribute to the cultural landscape's character. RDA designers took care to rehabilitate natural resources, and subsequent conservation campaigns continued this work. The condition of Camp Round Meadow reflects this historical reverence for natural systems and features. As a result, the landscape retains integrity with respect to this characteristic.

7. USDA Web Soil Survey, Frederick County Maryland (MD021), Aug 27, 2021, accessed April 2, 2024.

NATURAL SYSTEMS + FEATURES - CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Feature Description	Period of Significance	Date Established	Contributing Status
Underlying primary geology, including the Catoctin Formation and Lower Cambrian Quartzite Formation	1936-1981	N/A	Contributing
Highfield gravelly silt loam as primary soil type	1936-1981	N/A	Contributing
Location within the Maryland Blue Ridge province, marking the eastern edge of the Appalachian Mountains	1936-1981	N/A	Contributing
Location within the Owens Creek and Hunting Creek watersheds, generally draining southeast to Hunting Creek and the Monacacy River	1936-1981	N/A	Contributing



Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Natural Systems + Features - Existing

Urban Heritage Project
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In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson and Zhijie Wang, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary

Watersheds
- Hunting Creek Watershed
- Owens Creek Watershed

Soil Type
- Highfield gravelly silt loam (Hgb, HhB, HhC)
- Ravenrock-Rohersville complex (RfC)
- Ravenrock-HighField-rock outcrop complex (ReC, ReD)

Features
- Buildings/Structures
- Circulation

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. All natural systems and features are contributing resources
3. Map Version, October 2025

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Drawing 7

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Topography

Historic Condition

In 1935, RDA designers began constructing the Central Garage Unit, later known as Camp Round Meadow. The camp was built in an agricultural valley between Catoctin and South Mountains. As a former farm, the topography was largely flat, having been plowed and graded by generations of farmers. The topography of the new unit generally sloped southeast-northwest. RDA improvements featured minimal changes in elevation; the highest RDA structure (Building 1) was located at 1,580′ in elevation, in the northeast corner of the pasture and closest to Manahan Road, while the lowest structures (unnumbered CCC vehicle storage sheds) were located at 1,320′, near present-day Dormitory 2. New buildings regularly used footings to adjust the buildings to the new topography rather than manipulating the grade itself (*see Figure 73*).

Circa 1961, the former CCC camp's topography was manipulated to accommodate the trailer court (called Foxville Plaza). This included grading the new loop road and parking spurs. However, since the area had previously accommodated the CCC camp buildings, the topography was already well-suited to development and required minimal modifications.

It was likely around this time that the topography of the ballfield area was graded flat and established as a maintenance storage area. Prior to this time, the area was first a field on the Lewis Farm, then later the CCC tent encampment site, after which it was abandoned and left to return to the forest. According to aerial photography, the roughly triangular clearing that defines the ballfield area was in place by the late 1950s.

The camp topography underwent major modifications during the Job Corps' tenure. To accommodate the new campus, workers leveled a portion of the cultural landscape that constitutes today's dormitory playing field. Workers retained a steep slope along the line of the remodeled Dogwood Dormitory (Building 135), immediately northwest of the mess hall's loading dock road. From there, workers leveled the area between the Dogwood Dormitory (Building 135) and Building 83, including the loading dock area. The leveling of the main JCCC campus area was completed in November 1965.[8]

With the closure of the JCCC and the planned construction of new dormitories, NPS staff removed and leveled the former Job Corps campus. This meant the grade was largely left as it had been during the Job Corps tenure, just without the buildings.

Minimal grading occurred during the dormitories' construction; instead, the designers constructed the new buildings along already-built vehicular circulation and placed them on piers to adjust to the existing topography. Workers undertook minor grading to establish slopes away from each building and accommodate new pedestrian circulation. However, most existing slopes were incorporated into the site plan, and wooden ramps and walkways were constructed to access the raised dormitories.

Existing Condition

The current topography of Camp Round Meadow is consistent with the conditions at the end of the camp's period of significance (*see Figures 74 and 75)*. Camp Round Meadow retains its generally flat topography, sloping from southeast to northwest, in keeping with its historic condition established during the camp's period of significance and maintained after the end of that historic period. The Foxville Plaza area retains its topography as established in 1961 by the Navy. In much the same way, the flat campus established for the JCCC remains extant as the dormitory playing field area.

8. *Monthly Narrative Report for November 1965*, Catoctin Job Corps Conservation Center, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.



Evaluation

The topography of Camp Round Meadow is consistent with its successive campaigns of change during the period of significance. The extant conditions are generally consistent with the historic topographical conditions at the end of this camp's period of significance. Therefore, Camp Round Meadow retains the integrity of its topography.

Figure 73: The former CCC camp, shown here in the 1940s, later the site of Foxville Plaza, gently sloped downward from southeast to northwest towards the Lewis farm (background of photo). Buildings used pier foundations requiring minimal changes to the grading. (Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD).



Figure 74: The Foxville Plaza area generally slopes from east-west. This topography is consistent with its use as the former CCC camp and former Naval Support facility trailer court at Foxville Plaza. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 75: The dormitories were built to require minimal topographic changes and were oriented to fit existing circulation features (right). Topographic changes were limited to establishing a slope at the edge of the buildings. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

TOPOGRAPHY - CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Feature Description	*Period of Significance*	*Date Established*	*Contributing Status*
Generally flat topography throughout Camp Round Meadow, sloping from east to west	1936-1981	pre-1936	Contributing
Generally flat topography in Foxville Plaza, sloping from east to west	1936-1981	pre-1936	Contributing
Flat topography throughout the ballfield area	1936-1981	pre-1936	Contributing
Constructed flat topography of the present-day playfield, surrounded by a steep slope on the south and east sides	1936-1981	c. 1964	Contributing

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Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Topography - Existing

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson and Zhijie Wang, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Ballfield topography
- Foxville Plaza topography
- Playingfield topogrpahy
- Buildings/structures
- Circulation
- Topography (Contour interval = 1 foot; labels = 5 feet)

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Map Version, October 2025

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Feet

Drawing 8

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Land Use

Historic Condition

A summary of previous archeological investigations, prepared by the Louis Berger Group in 2011, indicates that much of Catoctin Mountain Park, including Camp Round Meadow, was in use by Indigenous groups for thousands of years before European colonization. Indigenous groups quarried rhyolite, traded, and traveled throughout Catoctin Mountain Park. When European colonization reached the area in the 18th century, the Round Meadow tract took on agricultural land uses. When the National Park Service (NPS) acquired the land for the Central Garage Unit in 1935, agricultural uses were phased out as the RDA displaced the Lewis family, including Roy E. Lewis and Lillian M. Lewis.[9] At this time, much of the landscape consisted of fields and orchards.

Between 1936 and 1942, NPS and WPA architects and laborers built the Central Garage Unit. The arrival of the CCC in 1939 offered an additional work force that aided in Camp Round Meadow's development. As designed, the Central Garage Unit was meant to be used as a storage, maintenance, and headquarters area. In 1939, the CCC established its camp opposite the Central Garage Unit, adding new administrative and residential land uses to that area of the site. These additional land uses would remain in place until 1942, when the CCC dissolved its camp.

As the primary base camp for RDA development, the Central Garage Unit included specific buildings and structures to accommodate functions essential to park development. Building 1 accommodated drafting rooms, offices, and a clerk's office to keep track of RDA plans and projects. Warehouses, vehicle sheds, and an oil house also served this land use.

With the arrival of World War II, the former CCC camp once again took on administrative and residential land uses, this time by the OSS, which used the camp as its area headquarters. (The Central Garage Unit was not part of the OSS camp and remained in park control.) Meanwhile, the park was closed to most recreational use and all use by the general public. To accommodate these new uses and extend them for reliable year-round service (in contrast with the seasonal nature of the CCC's original use), the Army Corps of Engineers winterized most of the camp's existing buildings and structures for the OSS.

With the conclusion of the war, the CCC/OSS camp was abandoned and eventually demolished in the mid-1950s. The Central Garage Unit maintained its administrative use.

Beginning in 1961, the former CCC camp area revived its residential land use with the addition of the Naval Support Facility trailer court at Foxville Plaza; the new trailer court housed military families. This land use would remain in place until the early 2000s, with some trailers in place as late as 2010.[10]

Beginning in 1964 and continuing into 1965, the Job Corps established its campus in the Central Garage Unit at Camp Round Meadow. The new campus added a variety of uses, including educational, administrative, recreational, and residential land uses. The Job Corps built new dormitories, a gym, classrooms, and an office to serve the new facility. The group also built an additional residential trailer court for its staff in the present-day dormitory area. After its closure in 1969, the JCCC campus was used as dormitories and event space for various initiatives, including Summer in the Parks, Washington County, and Frederick County Outdoor School. The former campus buildings were eventually torn down and replaced with an open

9. "Roy E. Lewis and Lillian M. Lewis to United States of America," November 6, 1936 in Frederick County Circuit Court, Land Records, EGH 404, page 421, MSA_CE61_249.

10. Google Earth Aerial Imagery from the 1990s through 2010s shows this transition.



Figure 76: After the closure of the JCCC, Round Meadow was used by a number of groups, including the Frederick County Public Schools Outdoor School. (FCPS067, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 77: After the demolition of its buildings, the former central area of the Job Corps campus was converted into a playing field for use by rental groups, such as the Frederick County Public Schools Outdoor School. (FCPS075, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

space, later used by rental groups as a playing field—expanding recreational use.

Beginning in 1970, park staff established the Folk Culture Center in several of the Central Garage Unit's core buildings. The Folk Culture Center undertook educational and interpretative activities related to traditional folkways, such as blacksmithing, maple sugaring, gardening, and sewing. The center also constructed a gazebo to serve as a stage for outdoor demonstrations and performances. The land uses associated with the Folk Culture Center continued until 1981, when the center closed; after this time, the buildings reverted to their administrative land use.

Park staff began planning a new residential recreational outdoor education campus in 1977 (*see Figures 76 and 77*). In 1978, one of the JCCC buildings burned down. That same year, NPS began constructing the new dormitories, replacing the JCCC trailer court. The remaining JCCC dormitories and educational buildings were demolished. By 1981, the park had constructed four dormitories and expanded its residential and recreational uses year-round, available to rental groups. Concurrent with these efforts, park staff also constructed park housing for staff near the entrance road (Buildings 214 and 215), adding an additional residential land use to Camp Round Meadow. Additional staff housing was also added in at least two former JCCC trailers that were maintained near the sewage lagoon area.

In 1981, the park started a horse program, which resulted in new infrastructure, including stables and trails, in various locations throughout the park. This added an additional recreational use to the cultural landscape at Camp Round Meadow in both the open field north of the gymnasium and later in the "ballfield" area. This land use ended by the mid-1990s.

Existing Condition

Camp Round Meadow remains in use as a recreational, residential camp, staff housing areas, and an administrative/maintenance area. Camp Round Meadow does not retain its historic use as a Civilian Conservation Corps headquarters or military installation (OSS); those uses started and ended during the camp's period of significance. The same is true of the use and improvement of the cultural landscape by the Job Corps and the Folk Culture Center: these programs began and ended during the period of significance. As such, Camp Round Meadow does not retain these historic uses and associations.

Foxville Plaza's historic land use ended after the period of significance. This character area does not maintain any current land uses.

However, the landscape does retain its historic use as a central administrative area—a use that remained consistent throughout the period of significance and up to the present. Lastly, Camp Round Meadow retains its historic recreational use as a series of group rental facilities via its dormitories, mess hall, and gym.

Evaluation

Camp Round Meadow's combination of administrative and recreational uses have not changed significantly since the end of the camp's period of significance. It retains the general use and feeling associated with its use as a headquarters area and a group camp.

However, the Foxville Plaza area has lost its residential land use, which was established in 1961; the plaza remains extant, but there are no extant trailers; it is vacant and does not maintain any regular land uses. This modified land use affects the landscape's integrity, as the plaza area of the campus historically contained a series of camps under the CCC, OSS, and the Navy. However, since most landscape traces remain in the Foxville Plaza area, such a use could be restored based on the extant features. As a result, the site retains the overall integrity of land use.

LAND USE - CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Feature Description	*Period of Significance*	*Date Established*	*Contributing Status*
Administrative use as a headquarters, maintenance, and storage area	1936-1981	1936	Contributing
Recreational use as a summer camp composed of rental facilities	1936-1981	c. 1969	Contributing
Residential use as staff housing	N/A	c. 1969	Non-contributing (Compatible)

Spatial Organization

Historic Condition

A site's spatial organization refers to the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. Camp Round Meadow was formally designed as a maintenance and administrative area in 1935. Prior to this time, it consisted of a series of farm fields organized around a central lane and bounded by stone walls.

These same organizing features determined the layout of the cultural landscape as it was adapted as a Recreation Demonstration Area. RDA designers created a linear arrangement of buildings and circulation features in relation to the lane and stone wall (both parallel and perpendicular to those features). When the CCC camp was established in 1939, it was similarly organized: its buildings and structures were aligned with the central road, stone walls, and Manahan Road (*see Figure 78*).

When the Naval Support Facility established its Foxville Plaza trailer court on the site of the former CCC camp beginning in 1961, it opted to use the same organizing geometry that originated as the Lewis farm fields. To do so, the facility crafted an organizing loop road, incorporating the existing road and stone wall in an overall rectilinear loop that relied on some of the past geometries of the Lewis farm and the CCC camp (largely demolished by 1952). Off of this loop, Navy designers laid out trailer spurs that were organized to face the central open space and play area (*see Figure 79*).

The initial JCCC campus continued to rely on the rectilinear spatial organization established by the WPA and CCC, based on the Lewis farm. The JCCC's main dormitories and education building were aligned with the existing Dogwood Dormitory/Building 135 (converted to this use) and the newly converted mess hall and office (Buildings 3 and 83). Within its central campus, the JCCC organized the buildings on the periphery of a central open space, the present-day dormitory playing field, which was not then used as a playfield. JCCC staff also cleared a large open space to serve as a playing field; this space was later converted to a parking lot to serve the adjacent gymnasium.

At this time, park and Job Corps administrators sought to separate the JCCC and the Central Garage Unit from the adjacent Foxville Plaza. To do so, they built a fence, planted vegetative screens, and established a new central entrance to access the Central Garage Unit. The new entrance connected with existing circulation features but permanently subdivided the two areas, which were administered by different agencies at that time.

Although the JCCC initially adhered to the established spatial organization of the Central Garage Unit, the Corps departed from this arrangement when it created its trailer court (distinct from the Naval Support Facility trailer court at Foxville Plaza). The new trailer court was organized around a new axis, north-south, along a diagonal roadway. Each trailer was then placed at an angle along this axis. Unlike other areas of the cultural landscape, the new spatial organization was not based on existing features; instead, this spatial organization was likely a product of temporary convenience. This design was made more haphazard by the later addition of extra road spurs to the west, which were added over time to service additional housing units and utilities.

Around the same time the JCCC established the trailer court (1965), park staff established the ballfield area, extending a roadway from the new Foxville Plaza to a clearing to the north, likely the remnants of a reforesting field. It is not clear why this open space was initially cleared, but its name—the "ballfield"—may refer to recreational use by the CCC, OSS, or the Navy (*see Figure 80*).

Beginning in 1978, park staff demolished the JCCC dormitories and trailers and replaced them with new rental dormitories and open space. However,

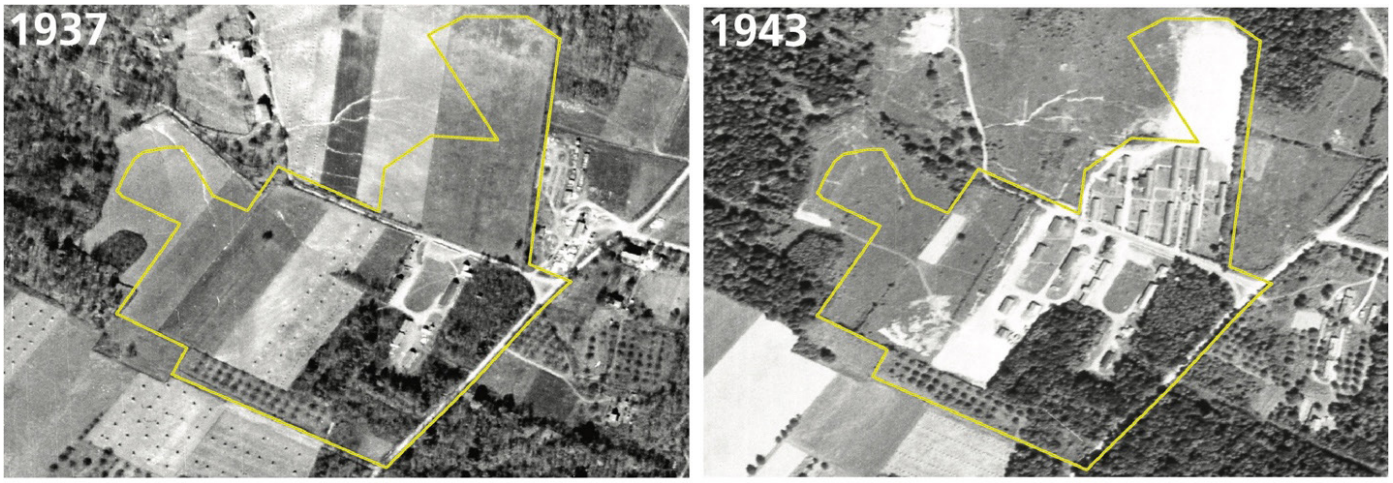


Figure 78: When Round Meadow was established, it relied on the existing spatial organization of the Lewis farm (left). The Central Garage Unit was located along the farm lane in an existing field. The CCC expanded the landscape across the laneway when it constructed its campus in 1939 and 1940. ("[1937 Aerial Photograph]," AHA-26-44, October 30, 1937 and "[1943 Aerial Photograph]," DCO-10-123, September 1943, in Geospatial Data Files, CATO, NPS)

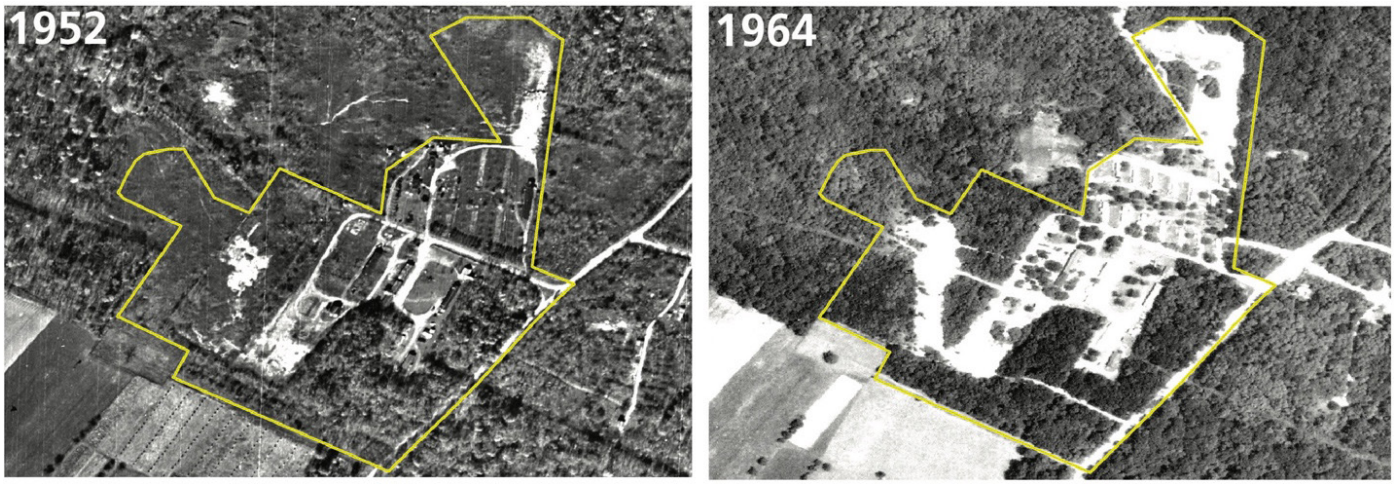


Figure 79: By 1952, the CCC camp had largely been demolished. Beginning in 1961, the Navy replaced it with a trailer court. ("[1952 Aerial Photograph]," AHA-8k-164, October 24, 1952 and "[1964 Aerial Photograph]," AHA-3EE-81, June 30, 1964 in Geospatial Data Files, CATO, NPS)





Figure 80: This 1970 aerial photograph shows the former Job Corps Campus, including its trailer court and central campus. By the end of the period of significance, the JCCC campus was demolished, and the former trailer court road was repurposed as the organizing feature for the new dormitories. ("[1970 Aerial Photograph]," 39-0195, NASA/MSC 144, September 1970 and "[1984 Aerial Photograph]," L830280841535, USGS, February 26, 1984 in Geospatial Data Files, CATO, NPS)

unlike their predecessors (which had relied on the historic spatial organization of the Lewis farm), the new dormitories relied on the arbitrary layout of the trailer court roadway and the edge of the JCCC central campus.

Existing Condition

The spatial organization of Camp Round Meadow—including the former Central Garage Unit area, the former Naval Support Facility trailer court, and the ballfield area—is consistent with the conditions in place by the end of its period of significance. Camp Round Meadow retains its rectilinear arrangement as designed and built by the WPA, CCC, JCCC, and the Navy (*see Figure 81*). It also retains traces of its organization under the Job Corps, with its dormitories organized along the former Job Corps trailer court road. The present-day spatial organization of Camp Round Meadow is a product of successive and overlapping campaigns of design that addressed park needs and changed the landscape accordingly (*see Figure 82*).

Evaluation

The spatial organization of Camp Round Meadow is consistent with its composition during the period of significance. The addition of new buildings and structures after the period of significance does not detract from the significance of the study area's spatial organization. The site, therefore, retains the integrity of its spatial organization.



Figure 81: The rectilinear organization of the maintenance area at Round Meadow is a product of successive developments by the WPA, CCC, Job Corps, and later campaigns, all of which relied on pre-existing spatial organizations that originated with the Lewis farm. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 82: The naturalistic arrangement of the extant Round Meadow dormitories is a product of the predecessor JCCC trailer court, which departed from the earlier rectilinear geometries of the cultural landscape. When the dormitories were built, they used the JCCC trailer court and other JCCC features as organizing elements. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION - CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Feature Description	Period of Significance	Date Established	Contributing Status
Linear arrangement of administrative and maintenance areas, via circulation features and buildings and structures	1936-1981	c. 1936	Contributing
Linear organization of camp core rental buildings, including rectilinear organization of dining hall, gym, and open turf spaces	1936-1981	c. 1936; modified by JCCC c. 1966	Contributing
Naturalistic organization of dormitories and other outlying buildings and structures	1936-1981	1979-1981	Contributing
Open character of the playfield, framed by Dorm 4 (Building 232), the dining hall (Building 3), the bunkhouse (Building 83), and the campfire circle	1936-1981	1979-1981	Contributing
Linear separation of Foxville Plaza and Camp Round Meadow area by circulation, fencing, walls, and surrounding forest	1936-1981	c. 1955; updates c. 1960; screen planting 1989	Contributing
Circumferential organization of Foxville Plaza, consisting of a loop road punctuated by camp spurs	1936-1981	c. 1955; updates c. 1960	Contributing
Ballfield area clearing, separated from surrounding forest	1936-1981	pre-1936	Contributing
Open character of the gym parking lot as central organizing area	1936-1981	c. 1966 (playing field); c. 1970 (parking lot)	Contributing

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Cluster Arrangement

Historic Condition

Cluster arrangement is the location and patterns of buildings, structures, and associated spaces in the landscape. The cluster arrangements of Camp Round Meadow were first established in 1935 when RDA planners laid out the Central Garage Unit. The design was based on utility, with all buildings facing a central open space and vehicular circulation. The cluster arrangement was also a matter of practicality, given that the stone wall and farm laneway were already extant and would require significant modification to create an alternative arrangement. These elements determined the direction of the new rectilinear cluster, which would be similarly aligned to the existing landscape features. As planned, the administrative and maintenance cluster featured an administration building (Building 1), a tool house, a blacksmith shop (Building 4), a garage (Building 3), a storage facility (Building 83), and an oil house (Building 5). As the facility grew, it added buildings to the cluster.

When the CCC camp was constructed in 1939 and 1940 across the road from the Central Garage Unit, camp designers clustered camp buildings in neat rows, framing a central open space. The enlisted men's quarters formed one quadrant adjacent to the education building. The camp mess hall, kitchen, recreation hall, and canteen divided the enlisted men's area from the officers' and administrators' buildings. The CCC also expanded the Central Garage Unit's cluster by adding maintenance and storage buildings across the main entrance road and west of the existing structures. Corpsmen also planted trees and shrubs along Manahan Road to further separate the Central Garage Unit and CCC camp cluster from the rest of the park and the public.

The World War II period saw no changes to the cluster arrangement at Camp Round Meadow. Later changes to the CCC-era cluster arrangement came in the 1950s, when most buildings were torn down. In 1961, the Naval Support Facility added its trailer court to the old CCC camp site and named it Foxville Plaza. The new trailers were clustered at sharp angles to the loop road, while the whole cluster was oriented parallel to the laneway. Around this time, park staff planted trees and shrubs between the trailer court and the Central Garage Unit to further define and separate the clusters (*see Figure 83*).

The years 1964 and 1965 saw the most substantial changes to the study area's cluster arrangement. The new JCCC replaced several CCC buildings that had been previously added to the west side of the Central Garage Unit. The new core alignment of the JCCC dormitories, education building, and gym was clustered around a central open space hemmed in by pedestrian walkways. The new campus also incorporated the existing Buildings 3 and 83 to the campus core, carving them off from the administrative cluster. The JCCC also added a new cluster west of the existing clusters to accommodate an additional trailer court for Job Corps staff.

As early as 1979 new dormitories began replacing the Job Corps' trailer cluster, establishing a new cluster of rental dormitories in the same area. The new rental cluster retained the JCCC mess hall and gym as core rental facilities. At the same time, park staff demolished the JCCC campus, leaving it as an open playing field rather than replacing its core cluster arrangement.

At some point, the former JCCC office (Building 83) reverted back to staff use as part of the administrative cluster.

Beginning in 1979, park staff added two housing units, establishing an additional residential cluster on the south side of the main entrance road. This area was formerly wooded.



Figure 83: The establishment of the Naval Support Facility trailer court at Foxville Plaza and the JCCC campus brought with it additional cluster arrangements: the residential trailer cluster (dashed green), the JCCC campus cluster (red), and the JCCC residential trailer cluster (dashed orange). (Excerpt from "Existing Utilities Job Corps Camp," 1966, CATO 841_80428_0001, ETIC, NPS)

Existing Condition

The existing cluster arrangement of Camp Round Meadow is nearly identical to the end of the period of significance (1935-1981). This reflects the overlapping development campaigns in the study area. Small changes, including adding a screen of white pines between the rental cluster and the administrative cluster (in the 1990s), further enhanced the cluster arrangement according to land use. Similar vegetative screens also separated the rental and administrative clusters from the former trailer cluster at Foxville Plaza, some established during and after the period of significance.

Changes to the Camp Round Meadow cluster arrangement also included the addition of two

new clusters. The auxiliary cluster contains the cell tower and a park housing trailer; this cluster is a remnant of the JCCC trailer park, but the buildings composing it today are not the same as those in the historic era. The other additional cluster features two houses (added beginning in 1979) and their carports. While this housing cluster was added during the period of significance, it is not associated with environmental education programming at Camp Round Meadow and is non-contributing to the cluster arrangement.

Evaluation

The cluster arrangement of Camp Round Meadow is consistent with the end of the historic period (***see Figure 84***). Minor changes, including the addition of two small new clusters (***see Figures 85 and 86***), do not detract from the legibility of the historic cluster arrangement overall. These clusters are removed from rental areas and existing cluster arrangements. Both new clusters are divided from other clusters by vegetation or woods and function as separate areas. This allows the landscape to retain the legibility of its historic cluster arrangement. Overall, the cabin camp retains integrity with respect to this landscape characteristic.

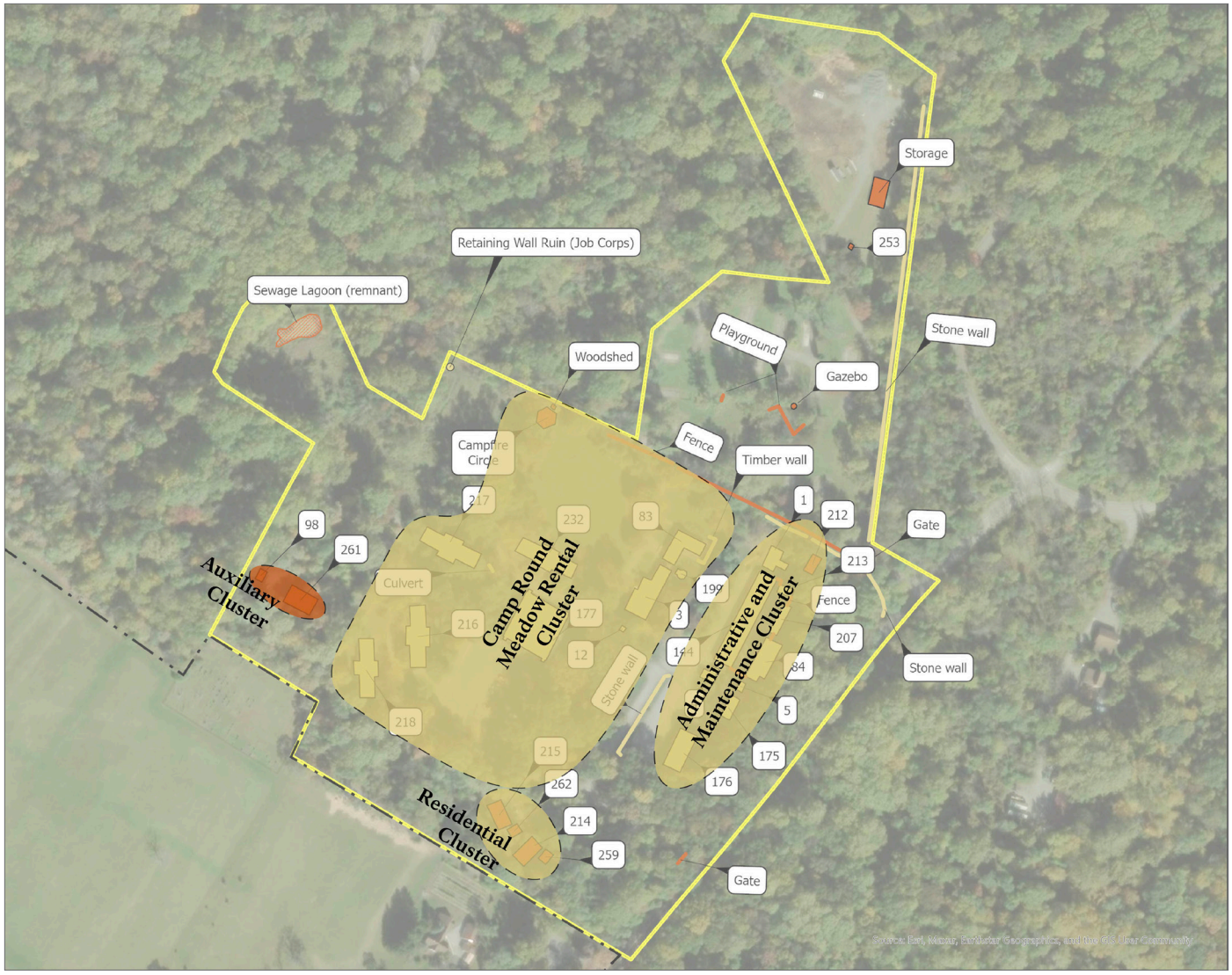


Figure 84: Diagram shows existing cluster arrangements at Round Meadow: administrative and maintenance cluster, rental cluster, auxiliary cluster, and residential cluster. Contributing clusters are shown in gold, while the non-contributing cluster is shown in orange. (Urban Heritage Project 2025)



Figure 85: View to the southwest of part of the administrative and maintenance cluster, including Buildings 5, 175, and 176. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 86: View to the southwest showing the cluster arrangement of the dormitories, including Dormitories 1, 2, and 3. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

CLUSTER ARRANGEMENT - CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Feature Description	*Period of Significance*	*Date Established*	*Contributing Status*
Administrative and maintenance cluster (Buildings 1, 4, 5, 84, 144, 175, 176, 207, 212, 213)	1936-1981	1936 - c. 1970s	Contributing
Camp Round Meadow rental cluster (Buildings 3, 83, 177, 199, 216, 217, 218, 232)	1936-1981	1966 - c. 1981	Contributing
Auxiliary cluster (Building 155 and utilities)	N/A	c. 2004	Non-contributing
Residential cluster (Buildings 214, 215, 259, 262)	N/A	1979 - c. 1990	Non-contributing

Views and Vistas

Historic Condition

Camp Round Meadow's views and vistas are subject to the conditions of its topography, surrounding vegetation, and the buildings and structures in its vicinity. During periods of agricultural use in the 19th and 20th centuries, the study area was significantly less forested and would have featured expansive views of South Mountain to the west, of Catoctin Mountain to the east, and in both directions to the other minor ridges that make up Maryland's Blue Ridge. Early photographs of the Central Garage Unit and CCC camp corroborate this, showing existing sweeping views across the former Lewis farm (*see Figure 87*).

When the RDA established its headquarters at the Lewis farm in 1936, camp planners opted for efficiency rather than the careful consideration of an aesthetically pleasing natural scene—as they would later do at Camps Misty Mount and Greentop. Efforts to craft views and vistas within the Central Garage Unit and the CCC camp were largely limited to screening it from view from nearby roads. In the short term, this meant planting screens of vegetation in strategic locations; in the long term, park planners worked to reforest former agricultural spaces and return the cultural landscape to an imagined forested character. These treatments aligned with the guidance of designers such as Albert Good, Frank Waugh, and E.P. Meinecke. Although Good, Waugh, and Meinecke typically discussed public-facing park settings, their treatises—and the design principles within them—were the established practices of New Deal-era landscape designers in the National Park Service and elsewhere. Accordingly, park planners almost certainly designed the Camp Round Meadow area with their principles in mind, including considerations for appropriate views and vistas.[11]

CCC workers undertook planting projects to achieve screened views and vistas at Camp Round Meadow along Manahan Road. In 1940, CCC workers planted a screen to block the CCC sawmill, shingle mill, lumber sheds, stone crusher, and other camp buildings from public view. In 1941, workers further screened the perimeter of the landscape along Manahan Road to screen buildings of the Central Garage Unit.[12]

Park planners were no doubt cognizant of the desired views and vistas promoted by Good, Waugh, and Meinecke, including:

- Clear sightlines between individual buildings and structures;
- Framed views along roads and paths, based on the careful preservation of existing vegetation and the introduction of new plantings;
- Reciprocal views between buildings in the Central Garage Unit and CCC camp;
- Views to and from the Central Garage Unit and CCC camp along axial roads and paths; and
- Screened views at the edges of the Central Garage Unit, limiting views into and out of the area.

For Meinecke in particular, careful vegetation management was central to his concept of the camp scene and its views. He noted the importance of maintaining a natural screen at camp edges and between distinct character areas while also clearing understory vegetation within the developed areas. Above all, he argued, caution should be taken before any tree should be removed from a campsite. Preserving natural features such as boulders, trees, or logs created landscape rooms that fashioned a varied experience—and varied views—throughout the camp.

However, the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape at this time was largely open and devoid

11. E. P. Meinecke, *Camp Planning and Camp Construction* (California Region, U.S. Forest Service, 1934), 20.

12. "[Field Planting]," CCC Job 274.



Figure 87: This photo of the Central Garage Unit and CCC camp, taken c. 1939, was likely taken from Foxville-Deerfield Road, west of the cultural landscape. It shows the generally open character of the viewsheds near the beginning of the period of significance. (Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

of such character-defining features. Instead, RDA designers used an additive approach to the existing landscape features and their associated viewsheds. They added trees to frame views along existing roads, oriented buildings along existing features (such as stone walls) that directed views in a linear fashion, and used open spaces to craft a campus-like series of viewsheds. Over time, CCC workers planted vegetation throughout the cultural landscape that reforested former fields, established visual edges to the campus, and introduced trees along circulation features and open spaces—all with the intended effect of creating a high canopy that framed understory views throughout the cultural landscape.

Camp Round Meadow saw no documented changes to its views and vistas during World War II and, indeed, saw few changes until the early 1960s (*see Figure 88*).

In 1961, the addition of the Naval Support Facility trailer court, in the former CCC camp area, marked a significant change to the internal viewsheds during the cultural landscape's period of significance. Prior to this time, the former CCC camp featured views and vistas along its circulation features, including the main camp road and along its internal sidewalks. The new trailer court preserved the established views and vistas framed by young trees along the central camp road. The new circumferential road established additional views along its route, including of each trailer spur.

The cultural landscape's views and vistas shifted with the arrival of the JCCC and the construction of new facilities between 1964 and 1965. The new JCCC campus west of the Central Garage Unit became the focal point of the cultural landscape—in particular, the Gymnasium (Building 177), which was significantly taller than any existing structure in the landscape. The JCCC also introduced unobstructed views along its central lawn, the present-day



Figure 88: Prior to the 1960s, Round Meadow featured largely open views and vistas; park planners did little to manipulate the existing views and vistas of this non-public facing, largely utilitarian landscape. (July 1962, CPP-021-7, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 89: During the construction of the JCCC bus loop and dispensary area, Job Corpsmen preserved existing mature trees, thinned the understory canopy, resulting in clear views throughout the campus. (Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

playfield west of the dining hall. Job Corps workers continued to plant mature trees along camp edges, screening the camp from the road, establishing a high tree canopy, and directing views along circulation features (*see Figure 89*).

The last major change to Camp Round Meadow's views and vistas occurred with the construction of the camp dormitories between 1978 and 1981. The new campus, while distinctively modern, used a landscape design playbook similar to that of New Deal-era designers. In the context of the new dormitories, park staff established naturalistic walkways, preserved mature canopy trees, and limited midstory and understory growth. Designers also preserved and planted trees and shrubs along buildings to enhance views to and from the dormitories. In the same way, the designers planted trees and shrubs along circulation routes to screen views to and from buildings and structures.

Existing Condition

Across the different eras of building campaigns at Camp Round Meadow, landscape architects have used similar landscape design guidelines to establish the present-day viewsheds.

Views into the Camp Round Meadow area remain screened, as the forested edge remains intact. Views toward buildings and structures are limited by design, carefully screened from the surrounding road systems and the public. Trees along roads and paths frame views to other structures, along circulation routes, and between buildings and structures. The strategic planting and retention of vegetation is also a designed element at Camp Round Meadow that allows for views to and from various structures in each camp. Such views are framed by a high canopy and generally are not limited by midstory or understory plantings. Open spaces, such as the playing field west of the dining hall and northeast of Dorm 4 (*see Figure 90*), as well as the gym parking lot, continue to feature unobstructed views.

In the decades since the period of significance, park staff have planted a series of white pine screens, as well as other understory plantings to limit views between use clusters. These screens are located on the north side of the open playing field area, as well as between Buildings 3 and 83 and the maintenance area to the east.

Today's design and management of Camp Round Meadow continues to take advantage of these viewshed principles. This includes carefully framed views along circulation features, as well as screened views into and out of the landscape.

Evaluation

The historic views and vistas are generally intact at Camp Round Meadow, including the views along circulation features (*see Figure 91*) and the views between significant buildings and structures.

In some ways, the addition of features such as the white pine screens and understory plantings have changed the viewsheds and broken the visual continuity between buildings and structures that were built in the same era (e.g. CCC-era buildings now separated by a planted screen). However, these alterations to the views and vistas help to separate the different land uses within the cultural landscape, including the administrative area and the rental area (both of which were established during the period of significance). In this way, Camp Round Meadow retains its design intent and integrity, adhering to the overall landscape considerations established during the period of significance with respect to this landscape characteristic. The cultural landscape therefore retains its integrity of views and vistas.



Figure 90: Mature trees frame views along circulation features throughout the cultural landscape; these London plane trees were likely planted by the CCC along the main camp entrance road in the Foxville Plaza area, and were retained through successive developments to frame views along the road. These are contributing features. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 91: Round Meadow features a large open field on the site of the former Job Corps Conservation Center. Its sweeping open views are a contributing feature of the cultural landscape. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

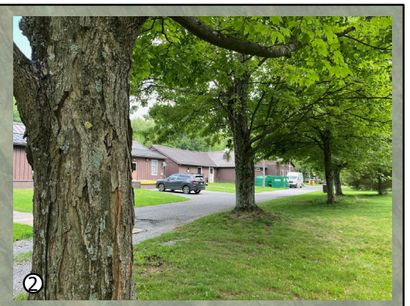
VIEWS AND VISTAS - CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Feature Description	*Period of Significance*	*Date Established*	*Contributing Status*
Clear views between buildings and structures in individual clusters, framed by mature canopy trees	1936-1981	N/A	Contributing
Views along road axes, framed by mature canopy trees	1936-1981	N/A	Contributing
Reciprocal views between individual dorms and the camp core	1936-1981	N/A	Contributing
Views along pedestrian walks throughout the cultural landscape, framed by mature canopy trees	1936-1981	N/A	Contributing
Screened views at the edges of the camp, limiting views into and out of the camp	1936-1981	N/A	Contributing
Clear views across the playing field to the dining hall, campfire circle, and dormitories	1936-1981	N/A	Contributing
Clear views throughout Foxville Plaza, punctuated by mature canopy trees	1936-1981	N/A	Contributing

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#	Resource Name
1	Clear views between individual buildings and structures
2	Views along road axes
3	Reciprocal views between individual buildings
4	Views along pedestrian paths, framed by character-defining trees
5	Screened views at the edges of the camp
6	Clear views across playing field
7	Clear views throughout Foxville Plaza















Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Views + Vistas - Existing

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson and Zhijie Wang, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Typical Views + Vistas, Contributing

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Map Version, October 2025
3. Only typical views + vistas are mapped; see CLR Part I for descriptions of each typical condition

N 0 70 140 280 420 Feet

Drawing 9

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Buildings and Structures

Historic Conditions Overview

The buildings and structures of Camp Round Meadow are the result of overlapping development campaigns that correspond to the successive series of human conservation programs within its bounds. Before Camp Round Meadow was established in the 1930s, there were a limited number of buildings and structures associated with agricultural use.[13] This included the Lewis farm, located northwest of the present-day cultural landscape boundaries. All pre-Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA) buildings and structures were later demolished during the period of significance, with the exception of a series of stone retaining walls.

Beginning in 1935, National Park Service officials began planning Catoctin RDA. Initial construction of buildings and structures at Camp Round Meadow (which served as the RDA headquarters and then Central Garage Unit) spanned the years 1936-1940, and was spearheaded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). When the CCC arrived in 1939, those laborers completed minor campground improvements (e.g. electrical work).

Design and planning for the Central Garage Unit began in 1935 under National Park Service project manager Garland B. Williams. His staff consisted of engineer A.W. Johns, Jr., landscape architect J.C. Milson, and project architect A.R. Vanston.[14] Together, the team designed the Central Garage Unit according to basic plans delineated in the National Park Service's 1935 handbook for rustic architecture, titled *Park Structures and Facilities.* Buildings and structures in the Central Garage Unit were added according to utility and need over each subsequent period of development.[15]

Each initial building and structure was erected using local materials, including horizontal logs, slab-edge or "waney" milled boards, and locally-sourced stone. Logs and framing generally consisted of chestnut or oak. Flooring and roofing used red oak. Hardware and other metal elements often came from recycled iron sourced from extant structures or ruins within the RDA.[16]

The arrival of the CCC in 1939 brought with it a significant construction campaign of temporary buildings and structures located in the present-day Foxville Plaza area. These buildings and structures were generally one story, consisting of frame structures clad with tar paper walls and asphalt shingles and set on block piers. When the CCC left Camp Round Meadow in 1942, the majority of these structures were repurposed and winterized for use by the OSS. By the mid-to-late 1950s, all of the CCC/OSS structures were abandoned, demolished, and removed. They were replaced with the Foxville Plaza trailer court.[17]

The next two decades (1960s and 1970s) saw two large-scale building campaigns. As part of tthe Job Corps Conservation Center, as well as general maintenance and rehabilitation projects. These two decades mark the final years of the cultural landscape's period of significance.

As part of the Job Corps Conservation Center, Camp Round Meadow saw the addition of many buildings and structures, as well as rehabilitation of several existing facilities. Generally, new buildings and structures added this era feature more standardized materials, such as dimensional lumber, asphalt shingles, and board and batten siding. Despite the modern appearance of these buildings and structures, there was significant continuity of design principles between the Rustic-era and the

13. Louis Berger Group, *The People of the Mountain*, 34-58.
14. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 57-58, 87-88.
15. Good, *Park and Recreation Structures, Part III,* 109-121.
16. Earley and Weldon, *Camp Misty Mount: Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 87.
17. Sirna, *Human Conservation,* 49-50.



Figure 92: Building 1 was constructed in 1936. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)

Modern-era, including materiality, massing, and scale.[18]

The last significant development occurred during 1978 to 1981, with the construction of overnight dormitory facilities. Unlike the Job Corps and Mission 66-era structures, these new dorms took on a more naturalistic appearance than their Modern predecessors, including shake roofs, raised footings, and broad overhanging eaves. This period of development was overseen by NPS architect Benjamin H. Biderman and NPS landscape architect Paul Lederer.

In the narrative that follows, each historic building and structure is discussed with its own "historic" and "existing" sections. An overall integrity assessment follows this section that assess the collation of buildings and structures as a whole.

18. Sirna, *Human Conservation,* 49-60; 115-120.

Note: The following building and structure descriptions are quoted from the forthcoming Camp Round Meadow Historic District: Historic Preservation Guidelines (DRAFT), *under preparation (as of May 2024) by the University of Texas at Austin. Each building description is quoted directly from this report.*

BUILDING 1

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 1 was constructed in 1936. The single-story structure was built during the CCC era in NPS Rustic style with a wood-shingled, cross-gabled roof and shed extension over the entrance. The building was built on a limestone stone foundation, with black stained log siding with white chinking on the back of the building and horizontal wood planked siding along the front and side, in a T-shaped floor plan. The windows are double-hung aluminum windows. There are two boarded-up windows on the north facade; 5 windows are visible on the east, seven on the south, and six on the west, with one additional small double-hung window. The main entrance to the building faces the south; it features a recessed porched entrance with a limestone landing; the door is a single wood door with nine lites covered by a screen door. There is a side entrance with a small portico. The single wood door has nine lites covered by a screen door and has two small limestone steps. The interior of the building has since been remodeled to fit the needs of park staff and is currently used as an office (***see Figure 92***)."[19]

BUILDING 3

Historic and Existing Conditions

"The original Building 3 was constructed in 1936 as a one-story garage and repair shop. It was then converted into the JCCC dining hall in 1964 and has been updated since. The structure was built in the NPS Rustic style and sits on an east-to-west slope.

19. Benjamin Ibarra-Sevilla, Talia Perez, Samantha Gilk, and Jenya Green, *Camp Round Meadow Historic District: Historic Preservation Guidelines [DRAFT]* May 2024, 54.



Figure 93: Building 3 was constructed in 1936, with an addition in 1964. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)

The building has an intersecting gable roof made of batten seam metal, which is not original to the building and is set in an F-shaped floor plan. The exterior walls are covered with shiplap wood siding along the bottom half of the walls and board and batten along the upper portion of the east facade and portions where openings are present along the west and south; the north facade consists of board and batten. The primary entrance is on the east facade, centered along a protruding vestibule with double aluminum storefront doors. Three window openings are on either side of the door along the elevation; each is a long fixed window with an awning below. Four smaller windows of the same type are on the south and southernmost portions of the west elevation. The east facade is connected to the west via the wrap-around ramp to the stair porch of wood planking, and a hollow metal door with a single lite provides egress. There are two hollow metal doors with single lites on the west facade, one in the middle and the other on the northernmost corner; both are elevated with stairs leading from the door to the concrete, one wood plank and the other concrete, respectively. The door in the middle of the facade has three rectangular windows to the left, and the door on the north corner has two long fixed windows with an awning below (*see Figure 93*)."[20]

BUILDING 4

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 4 was constructed in 1936 (*see Figure 94*). The single-story structure was built during the CCC era in the NPS Rustic style. It has a wood-shingled, cross-gabled roof with a shed roof extension on the south side set in a T-shaped floor plan. The building was built on a masonry foundation with a limestone footing. A stone forge chimney protrudes from the northern wing of the building. The main facade faces west, stained black with stained log construction and white chinking between the members. The top section of the facade above the door to the roofline is of vertical wood-planked siding. The entry on this facade features a wooden double barn door, stained to match the exterior, and original iron hardware. The northern wing of the west facade features a limestone wall with three connected casement windows, each with two over two lites. The southern wing of the west facade features a limestone footing topped by two dark-stained log siding with white chinking, followed by vertical wood-planked siding supporting the shed roof over this wing. The western wing of the south facade has three connected casement windows, each with two over three lites. The southern wing has three small, connected casement windows with two over two lites. The southern wing of the east facade has a single casement window with two over two lites surrounded by vertical wood plank siding. There are three connected casement windows, each with two over three lites centered on the

20. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024*), 62-63.



Figure 94: Building 4 was constructed in 1936 as a blacksmith shop. This photo shows it c. 1980. (From University of Texas at Austin 2024)

central portion of the structure, surrounded by the log (*see Figure 95*)."[21]

BUILDING 5

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building Five was constructed in 1936. The single-story structure was built during the CCC era in NPS Rustic style with a wood-shingled, gabled roof that overhangs over the single wooden entrance door to the west. The building has been reconstructed on a concrete foundation with footings. The structure's exterior walls are black-stained wood logs constructed with white chinking. On the north and south walls is the log siding with white chinking; on the upper portion of the wall, the vertical wood siding fills in the bottom half of the roof line, followed by two polycarbonate panels at its apex. There is a white sign with the words "Gasoline, NO SMOKING, Shut off Motor" on the upper portion of the door and a fire extinguisher to the right of the door. The interior of the building is currently being used as gas and small equipment storage (*see Figure 96*)."[22]



Figure 95: Building 4 was constructed in 1936 as a blacksmith shop and retains this use today. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)



Figure 96: Building 5 was constructed in 1936 as oil house. It was later moved to its present location under the Job Corps. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)

21. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 54-55.
22. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 54-55.



Figure 97: Building 12 was constructed in 1936 as a latrine. The Job Corps later converted it into an infirmary .and it was used by the YCC and public school groups as an office. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)



Figure 98: Building 83 was constructed in 1938 as a garage. It was later expanded and enclosed by the Job Corps. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)

BUILDING 12

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 12 was constructed in 1936, initially as the camp latrine, and was then converted into the JCCC Infirmary in or around 1964. The single-story structure has a concrete foundation set in a rectangular floor plan. The building has a gabled roof with asphalt shingles and an overhanging eave on the north and south sides. The exterior walls of the building are tongue-ingroove vertical wood plank siding to the roof line, and the east and west facades have horizontal wood plank siding from the roofline to the apex with a small fixed gazed window centered at the top. The north facade consists of the main entrance wood door with six horizontal panels, the top 3 being lites, a screen door, and three wide double-hung windows, two to the right of the door and one to the left. The south facade has two centered double-hung windows, one of which has been covered to retrofit an in-window air-conditioning unit. The interior space of the building is still laid out as an infirmary but is not currently in use (*see Figure 97*)."[23]

Building 12 functioned initially as the Job Corps infirmary and later the YCC's second office, after leaving Building 176 (conversation with Ronald Albaugh on January 6, 2025). Beginning in the 1970s, Building 12 was used as an office by Greg Mathews, Director of the DC Public Schools year-round environmental education program at Round Meadow. After this use subsided at an unknown date, it continued to be used as an office and infirmary by various rental groups until it fell into disrepair in the early 2000s.[24]

BUILDING 83

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 83 was constructed in 1938, initially as the WPA garage, was then converted into environmental classrooms, and has been updated

23. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 62-63.
24. Emails with Roger Steintl, Former Chief Ranger, Catoctin Mountain Park on December 18 and 19, 2024.

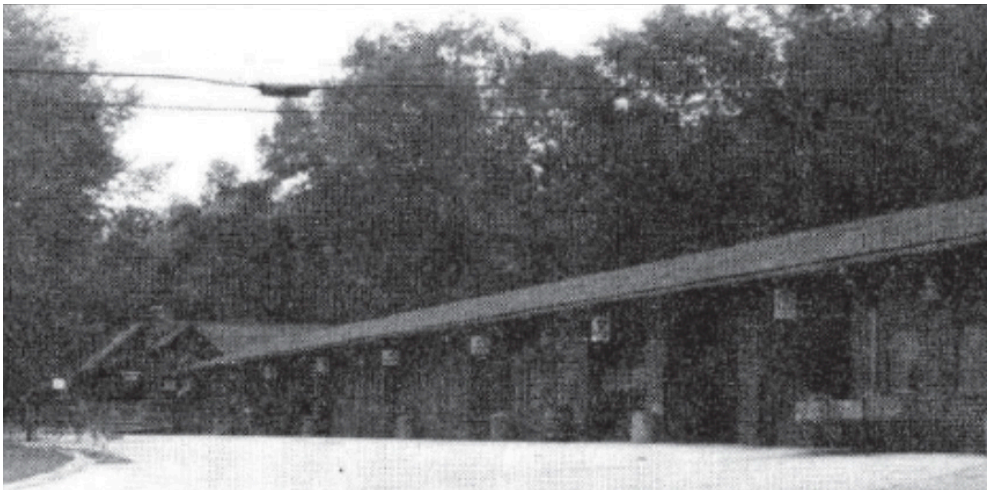


Figure 99: Building 144, c. 1980. (From University of Texas at Austin 2024)

as an office space, including a weight room for park staff. The single-story structure was initially built in the NPS Rustic style and has a concrete foundation on an L-shaped floor plan. The building has an intersecting gable and saltbox batten seam metal roof. The primary entrance is located on the south facade between the east and south wings, the secondary entrance is on the easternmost corner of the north facade, and the third entrance is located on the east facade; the doors are single hollow metal doors with a single lite that takes up the upper half of the door. The primary type of windows are fixed over awning windows; there are three along the east wing of the south facade and two along the north side of the east wing. The secondary type of the windows are single hung; there is one on the westernmost corner of the north facade, two on the west facade of the south wing, and one on the eastern facade. A concrete loading dock along the east facade has concrete stairs on the southernmost side with a metal railing (***see Figure 98***)."[25]



Figure 100: Building 144, photographed in 2024. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)

BUILDING 144

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 144 was constructed in 1964 (***see Figure 99***). The single-story structure was built during the JCCC era as a mixed-use area and is still used primarily as a work area, storage, and break area. The structure has a gabled roof with asphalt

25. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 63.



Figure 101: Building 175 was constructed in 1966. It is used as a laundry facility and storage. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)



Figure 102: Building 176 was constructed in 1967 as a warehouse. It is still used for this purpose today. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)

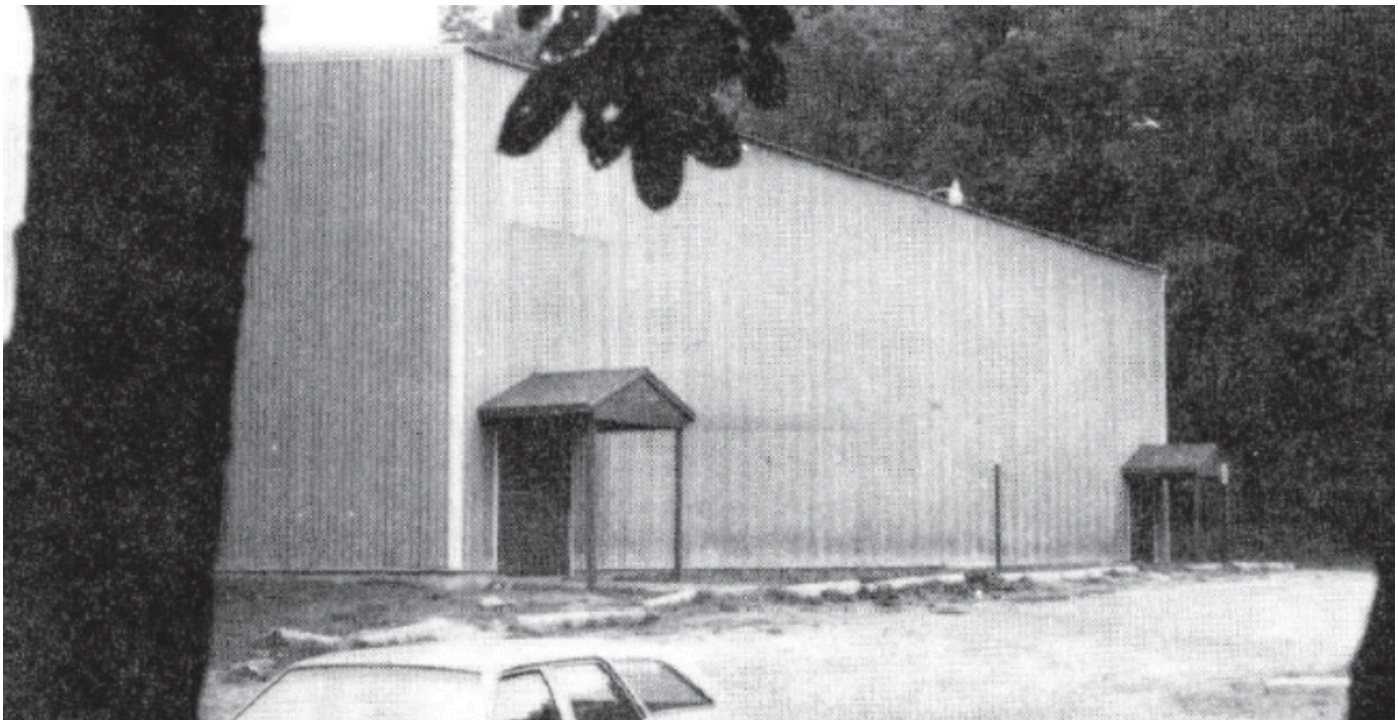
shingles. The foundation is made of concrete and is set on a rectangular floor plan. The exterior of the building consists of CMU block, brick, and sheet metal. There are 12 single-hung windows with two over two lites on the west facade, seven garage doors, and two hollow metal doors. A single hollow metal door is in the westernmost corner of the south facade. There is a small 4-step concrete staircase along the south facade, with an attached metal railing, leading to the wire fence enclosed maintenance area behind the building. The east facade comprises sheet metal with no openings other than discreet wood doors (***see Figure 100***)."[26]

BUILDING 175

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 175 was constructed in 1966. The single-story structure was built during the JCCC era as a mixed-use area and is still used primarily as a laundry building and storage. The structure has no style, a gabled roof with asphalt shingles, and a concrete block foundation set in a rectangular floor plan. The exterior of the building consists of vertical wood plank that has been painted brown. The primary entrance is located on the west facade, and an elevated hollow metal door with a chrome kick plate is accessed by three concrete stairs at road level with metal railings. There is an aluminum single-hung window with three over two lites to the left of the door. There is a secondary entrance on the north facade with an asphalt path leading to the single hollow metal door with a lite on the upper half of the door. There is an aluminum single hung window with three over two lites on the western corner of the north facade. The south facade entrance can be reached by a wood ramp system from the road up to the single hollow metal door with a single lite on the upper half of the door on the easternmost corner of the facade. There is a single fixed window to the left of the door. The east facade has two small, fixed windows below the roof line; the one in the northern corner has been retrofitted for a window air-conditioning unit. A small wooden sign is to the left of the primary

26. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 69.



entrance, labeling the building as 'Laundry' (*see Figure 101*)."[27]

Figure 103: Building 177 (gymnasium), c. 1980. (From University of Texas at Austin 2024)

BUILDING 176

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 176 was constructed in 1967. The single-story structure was built during the JCCC era as a warehouse building. The structure has no style, a low-pitched gabled, batten seam metal roof, and a concrete block foundation on a rectangular floor plan. The exterior of the building consists of long vertical metal panels. The entrances to the structure are comprised of 2 hollow metal doors on the east facade and are reached via a wood plank deck that runs along the northern half of the facade. The deck has an accessible ramp on the north end and a 5-step stair on the southernmost corner leading up from the east. There are two overhead coiling doors, one located closest to the deck and the other on the southern corner of the building, each with a loading dock concrete overhang. The north, west, and south facades are utilitarian and have no openings (*see Figure 102*)."[28]



Figure 104: Building 177 was constructed in 1966. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)

27. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 69-70.
28. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 69-70.



Figure 105: Building 189 was constructed in 1965. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)



Figure 106: Building 199 was constructed c. 1970. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)

Building 176 functioned as the YCC's first main office, though they later operated out of the infirmary (Building 12).[29]

BUILDING 177

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 177 was constructed in 1966 (*see Figure 103*). The structure was built during the JCCC era as a gymnasium. The structure has no style, a low-pitched gabled batten seam roof, and a concrete foundation set in a rectangular floor plan. The main building's exterior consists of vertical metal panels. There are four entrances to the building, two on the south and two on the north; each entrance has an exterior, protruding vestibule with gable roofs that have asphalt shingles, built from vertical tongue and grove board on a concrete foundation with a concrete brick footing. Each vestibule has two fixed windows set in a wood frame, one on each side, east and west. On the north facade is a rectangular one-story addition to the building with a slightly sloped shed roof. On the main building, there is a small sliding window in the middle of the facade above the addition and a vent in the upper-east corner. The northeast, southeast, and southwest vestibules have double hollow metal doors, and the northwest vestibule has a wide single hollow metal door for accessibility. This is the largest structure on the campus (*see Figure 104*)."[30]

BUILDING 189

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 189 was constructed in 1965. The single-story structure was built during the JCCC era as the maintenance workshop. The structure has a gabled roof with asphalt shingles set in a rectangular floor plan and an addition to the south. The exterior of the building consists of brick and vertical wood plank siding. There were originally six garage bays, 3 of which have been infilled to accommodate a window or door. There are two doors on the east facade, both hollow metal doors with a single lite fixed window on the upper half. One is set in what was previously the second garage bay from the northern corner, and the other is on the addition on the south. The windows are single-hung aluminum; there are four on the east facade, one on the north, two on the south, and 2 out of 8 remaining on the west; the others have been infilled. The

29. Conversation with Ronald Albaugh, January 6, 2025.

30. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 70-71.



Figure 107: Building 207 was constructed in 1975. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)



Figure 108: Building 213 was constructed in 1975. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)

windows on the addition and the west facade have a stone apron. The interior space of the building is currently in use and is still laid out as a maintenance workshop and garage (*see Figure 105*)."[31]

BUILDING 199

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 199 is a rustic revival-style open pavilion constructed in 1970 during the Park Service Modern era. Designed with an octagonal gazebo layout, it features a wooden structure that evokes a sense of traditional craftsmanship. The pavilion is in an open area, serving as an inviting gathering space. Its roof is inclined and equipped with a small gable on the east side, covered with asphalt shingles and supported by wood piers. This gazebo is raised on an elevated platform, enhancing its visibility and prominence. Around its perimeter, a wooden handrail with crossing pieces provides safety and supports perimetral benches. These benches are strategically placed facing inward, encouraging visitor interaction and engagement (*see Figure 106*)."[32]

BUILDING 207

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 207 was constructed in 1975 during the Park Service Modern era as a parking shed and maintenance area. The structure has no style but is set up like a loafing shed. It has a saltbox roof with a batten seam roof set in a rectangular plan. The exterior walls on the north, west, and south facades are vertical wood plank siding on concrete block footings. The building is open to the exterior on the east side, where eight wood posts with concrete footings are visible (*see Figure 107*)."[33]

BUILDING 213

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 213 was constructed in 1975. The structure was built during the Park Service Modern era as a storage area currently used as a lumber shed. The structure has no style but is set up like a loafing shed. It has a saltbox roof with a batten seam roof set in a rectangular plan. The exterior walls on the north, west, and south facades are vertical

31. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 70.
32. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 78-79.
33. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 78-79.



Figure 109: Building 216 was constructed in 1979. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)



Figure 110: Building 217 was constructed in 1979. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)



Figure 111: Building 218 was constructed in 1979. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)

wood plank siding on concrete block footings. The building is open to the exterior on the east side, where four wood posts with concrete footings are visible (***see Figure 108***)."[34]

BUILDING 216

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 216 was constructed in 1979. The single-story structure was built during the Park Service Modern era as a Dorm and is currently used as group camping quarters. It has an intersecting Dutch-hipped roof made of batten seam metal and a concrete foundation in a cross-shaped plan. The exterior walls consist of vertical tongue-in-groove wood plank siding and batten seam metal below the windows. The east and west facades have two entrances with double hollow metal doors with a single fixed lite on the upper half of the doors; the north and south have one entrance with the same door type. There are five double-connected hung windows on the east and west facades, all covered with a single-panel screen (***see Figure 109***)."[35]

34. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 78-79.
35. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 79.



Figure 112: Building 232 was constructed in 1981. (University of Texas at Austin 2024)

BUILDING 217

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 217 was constructed in 1979. The single-story structure was built during the Park Service Modern era as a Dorm and is currently used as group camping quarters. It has an intersecting dutch-hipped roof made of batten seam metal and a permanent wood foundation set on concrete piers in a cross-shaped plan. The exterior walls consist of vertical tongue ingroove wood plank siding and batten seam metal below the windows. The north facade has two wooden ramps leading to two double hollow metal doors with a single fixed lite on the upper half of the doors; the south facade has wood stairs leading to two entrances with double hollow metal doors with a single fixed lite on the upper half of the doors. The east and west facades have a wooden deck with a ramp to the south and stairs to the north leading to a double hollow metal door with single lites and then two panels on either side, also with single lites. There are five double-connected hung windows on the east and west facades, all covered with a single-panel screen (*see Figure 110*)."[36]

BUILDING 218

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 218 was constructed in 1979. The single-story structure was built during the Park Service Modern era as a Dorm and is currently used as group camping quarters. It has an intersecting Dutch-hipped roof made of batten seam metal and a concrete foundation in a cross-shaped plan. The exterior walls consist of vertical tongue-in-groove wood plank siding and batten seam metal below the windows. The east and west facades have two entrances with double hollow metal doors with a single fixed lite on the upper half of the doors; the north and south have one entrance with the same door type. Five double-connected single-hung windows are on the east and west facades, all covered with a single-panel screen (*see Figure 111*)."[37]

BUILDING 232

Historic and Existing Conditions

"Building 232 was constructed in 1981. The single-story structure was built during the Park Service Modern era as a Dorm and is currently used as group camping quarters. It has an intersecting Dutch-hipped roof made of batten seam metal and a concrete foundation in a cross-shaped plan. The exterior walls consist of vertical tongue-in-groove

36. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 79.

37. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024),* 79.

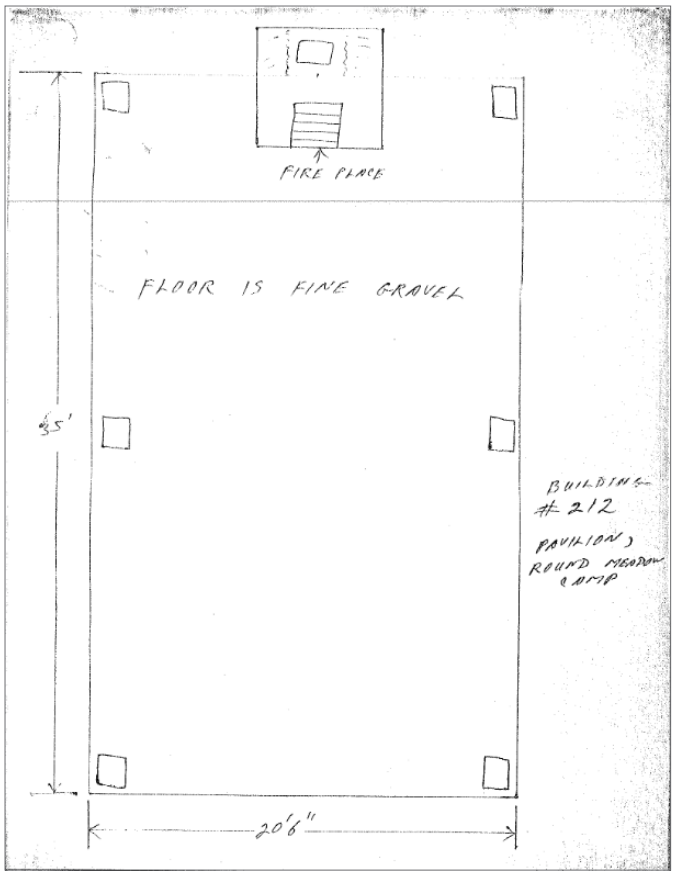


Figure 113: Building 212 was constructed by the YCC in 1977 as a gathering pavilion with a fireplace. It was later enclosed and converted to storage. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 114: This undated photo shows Building 212 prior to its enclosure as storage. Note the pyramidal footings that also later appear in the existing condition photo. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)

wood plank siding and batten seam metal below the windows. The north and south facades have two entrances with double hollow metal doors with a single fixed lite on the upper half of the doors, and the east and west facades have one entrance with the same door type. Five double-connected single-hung windows are on the east and west facades, all covered with a single-panel screen (*see Figure 112*)."[38]

38. Ibarra-Sevilla et al., *Camp Round Meadow Historic District (DRAFT May 2024)*, 79.

NOTE: The following buildings and structures were not included in the forthcoming Round Meadow HSR and Design Guidelines. They are included here by the CLR authors.

BUILDING 98

Historic Condition

According to the 2014 National Register Nomination for Catoctin Mountain Park, Building 98 was constructed in 2004 as a cell tower site with support buildings for Verizon and AT&T phone companies.[39]

Existing Condition

Building 98 consists of a fenced area and a one-story building. It also features a cell tower disguised to resemble an evergreen tree. It is a non-contributing structure.

BUILDING 212

Historic Condition

Building 212 was constructed by the YCC in 1977 for a cost of $6500. It was built as an open-air pavilion with a stone fireplace, presumably to serve as a gathering space for YCC events. It measured 35' x 20'-6." As built, it consisted of a one-story, one-room wood-frame structure, set on wooden posts and concrete pyramidal piers (*see Figure 113*). It featured no walls, a gravel floor, a wood-shingle roof, and an open-beam ceiling. The stone fireplace was centered at one end of the structure (*see Figure 114*). It did not contain utilities.[40]

Existing Condition

Sometime after the period of significance, the structure was enclosed and converted to use as a garage and storage. Building inventories from



Figure 115: Building 212 was originally built in 1977 by the YCC. It was later enclosed after the period of significance. It is a contributing resource. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

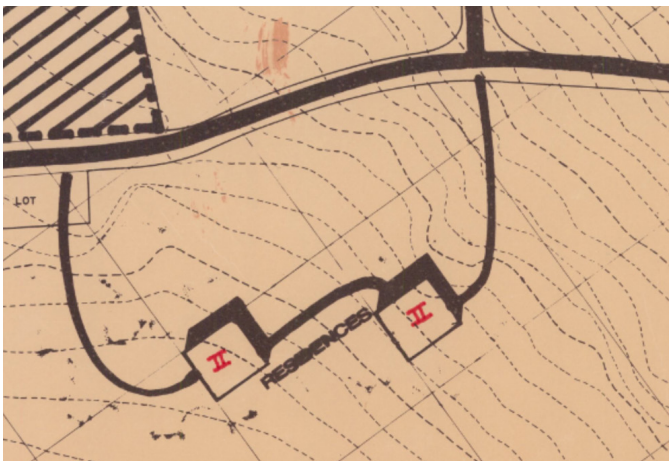


Figure 116: This excerpt from the 1978 master plan for Camp Round Meadow calls for the construction of two employee residences. (Excerpted from Paul Lederer, CATO_841_182797_0001, ETIC, NPS)

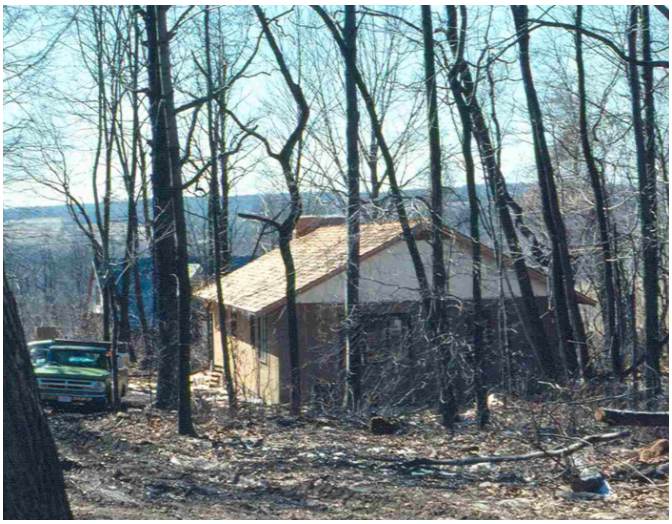


Figure 117: This c. 1979 photo shows Building 214 under construction. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)

39. Horner et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park (MIHP #F-6-147): National Register Nomination [Unrestricted Version],* 7-56.
40. "Building 212, Pavilion," 1977 Real Property Record in Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thrumont, MD; "Pavilion w/ fireplace," Individual Building Data, Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD.

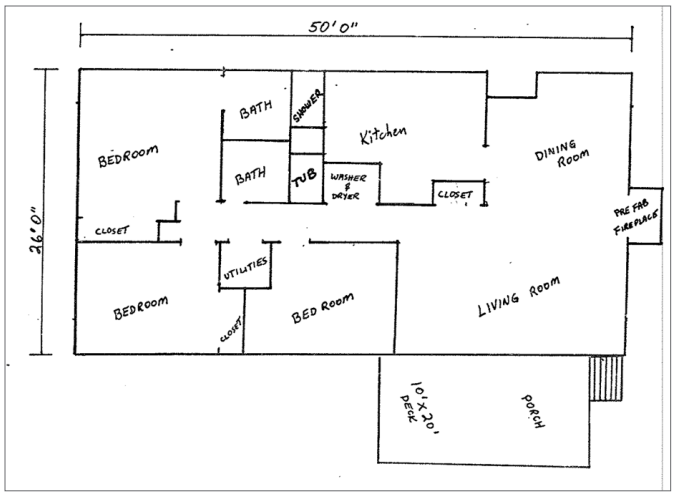


Figure 118: This 1990s sketch of Building 215 shows the interior floorplan of park residences. (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 119: Building 215 (foreground, at right) and Building 214 (background, at left) were constructed in 1979 as part of the Camp Round Meadow master plan. Both are contributing features. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

1990-1993 still list it as a pavilion, suggesting that the alteration took place sometime after 1993.[41] The stone chimney was also removed.

Today, the structure retains its historic form, massing, and materials. The bays between wooden posts have been infilled with CMU block foundations and framed with wooden supports. The building is clad with brown-stained board and batten siding. It retains its cedar shake roof, its wood-frame structure, and its pyramidal concrete footings (*see Figure 115*).

As a result of its alterations, Building 212 is considered a non-contributing feature.

BUILDINGS 214 AND 215

Historic Condition

Calls for additional permanent employee housing at Camp Round Meadow began as early as the mid-to-late 1970s. A 1978 master plan for the Catoctin Mountain Park Environmental Education Center at Camp Round Meadow—the same plan that called for dormitory construction—called for two park residences to be constructed off the main entrance road (*see Figure 116*). This plan was drawn by NPS landscape architect Paul Lederer.[42]

Local contractor W. F. Delauter & Son, Inc. constructed Buildings 214 and 215 simultaneously between 1978 and 1979 (*see Figure 117*). The two identical buildings, known as Quarters 7 (Building 214) and Quarters 8 (Building 215), comprised housing units for park employees. As built, each building consisted of a one-story frame residence set on a concrete-block foundation. Each featured a side-gable, cedar-shake roof. Their exterior walls were clad in T1-11 siding, a type of wooden panel that resembles board and batten siding. In plan, each building featured eight rooms: three bedrooms, two baths, kitchen/laundry, dining room, and living room (*see Figure 118*). Buildings 214 and 215 also had central utility closets and prefabricated

41. Summary Maintenance Feature Inventories, 1991-1993, in Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD.
42. Paul Lederer, "Catoctin Mountain Park Environmental Education Center at Camp Round Meadow," 1978, CATO_841_182797_0001, ETIC, NPS.

fireplaces. Building 214 features an exterior wooden deck or porch.[43]

Existing Condition

Sometime after the period of significance, Building 215 was converted from residential use to use as administrative offices for park police. The scope of alterations for this adaptive reuse is not known.

Although constructed during the period of significance, these buildings do not have historical associations with environmental education programs at Catoctin Mountain Park (*see Figure 119*). Buildings 214 and 215 are considered non-contributing buildings.

BUILDING 253

Historic Condition

According to the 2024 National Register update,

> The Ranger Guard Post is a prefabricated, neo-colonial style, wood-framed, T1-11-clad, side-gabled, 10-foot by 8-foot, dark-brown-stained building by Stoltzfus Storage Sheds. It has an asphalt-shingled roof with a 2-foot overhang over the facade. On each elevation, the building features a three-pane window adorned with a pair of three-slat white-painted shutters. In 1991, the park's friend's group, C.A.M.P.E.R., purchased and donated the building to the park, who installed the building along Park Central Road, across the street from the Camp Greentop Entrance Road. At an unknown date between 1991 and 2009, the NPS relocated the building to "the ballfield," which is a field where park staff store building supplies.[44]



Figure 120: Building 253 is a non-contributing building, added to the ballfield after the period of significance. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 121: Building 261 is used as park housing. It was constructed after the period of significance in 2004 and is a non-contributing feature. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

43. Horner et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park (MIHP #F-6-147): National Register Nomination [Unrestricted Version],* 7-56; "Carpet measurements," December 14, 1993 and 1983 Real Property Record, in RM-215 Visitor Services Office, Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD.
44. "Individual Building Data, Ranger Guard Post, Bldg. No. 253," (1991), Individual Building Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Resource Management Division Files, Sabillasville, MD; Williamson et al., *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation),* 7-24.



Figure 122: Building 262, a carport, was added c. 1990. It is non-contributing but compatible. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 123: View to the northeast from Building 83 of the area that would become Foxville Plaza, taken between 1936-1939. Note the stone wall and the former farm lane. (Excerpted from Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

Existing Condition

The National Register update also states that since Building 253 was "constructed after 1981 and outside of the period of significance for park development and operations, this building is non-contributing to the district" (*see Figure 120*).

BUILDING 261

Historic Condition

Building 261 was constructed c. 2004 as U.S. Park Police housing. It may have replaced earlier temporary trailer housing in the same location that may have dated to the Job Corps.[45] As built, it consisted of a one-story prefabricated home designed by Excel Homes of Liverpool, Pennsylvania. In plan, the building featured four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a utility room, a living room, and a combined kitchen and dining area. It measured 31'-6" wide, 56' long, and is approximately 16' tall. It featured a 5:12 asphalt shingle roof. The building was clad in gray vinyl siding and featured a variety of white-trimmed vinyl windows at regular intervals. The main door was located off-center and accessed at the gable end via wooden stairs and a ramp (*see Figure 121*).[46]

Existing Condition

The building has not changed since it was installed in 2004, after the period of significance. It is non-contributing.

BUILDINGS 259 AND 262 (CARPORTS)

Historic Condition

Buildings 259 and 262 were constructed c. 1990. Each was built as an identical carport made of glue-laminated timber frame, capped with an asphalt shingle roof.[47]

Existing Condition

These structures remain in place. They were added after the period of significance and are non-contributing features. However, their rustic, yet modern, design makes them compatible features (*see Figure 122*).

45. See aerial imagery in the "Spatial Organization" section of this report.

46. "SN-14433/QN-2021747/MD," Excel Homes, Liverpool, PA in ETIC, CATO_841_178416, NPS.

47. Horner et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park (MIHP #F-6-147): National Register Nomination [Unrestricted Version],* 7-57.



Figure 124: View to the southeast of the pre-RDA stone wall adjacent to Building 1 (left) and Building 212 (rear of photo). (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 125: View to the east of a pre-RDA stone wall along the Foxvilla Plaza loop road and the ballfield access road. It is a contributing feature. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

DRY-STACKED STONE WALLS ALONG MANAHAN ROAD, THE FOXVILLE PLAZA ROAD, AND BUILDING 1

Historic Condition

The present-day stone walls near Building 1 and along the Foxville Plaza loop road predate the creation of the park. They were likely constructed by Roy E. Lewis's family or that of a predecessor as part of a pre-RDA farm. Each of these walls ran along a circulation feature, marking the edge of a farm field. WPA workers incorporated the walls into the design for the new Central Garage Unit and headquarters area (*see Figure 123*).

Circa 1939, CCC workers restacked the stone wall along the entrance road (adjacent to Building 1) and formalized an opening for vehicular circulation, creating larger stacks of stones at each end of the opening. Other stone walls, including the stone wall on the east side of Foxville Plaza and the ballfield (parallel with Manhan Road), were retained but not reconstructed.

The stone wall north of Building 1 was further modified in the late 1990s or early 2000s, when Building 212 was converted into a garage. Staff added a driveway from Foxville Plaza to the

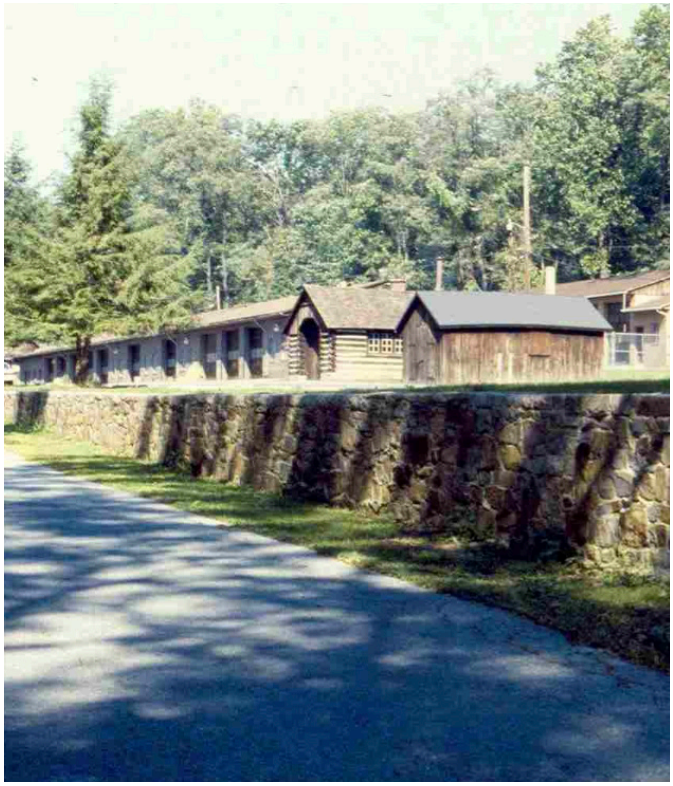


Figure 126: This stone wall, shown in a 1984 photo, was built by the Job Corps in 1967. (Interpretation Files, Round Meadow, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)

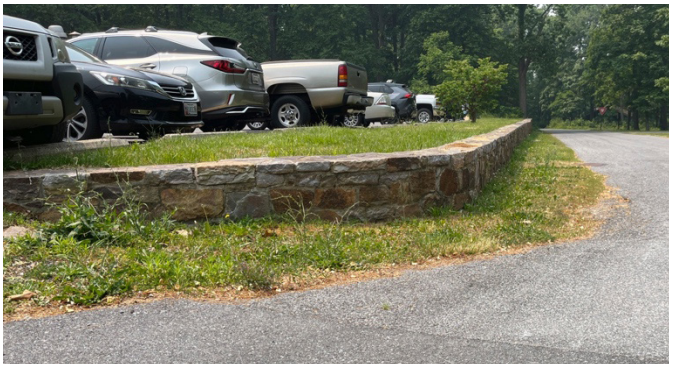


Figure 127: This Job Corps-era stone wall at Round Meadow is a contributing feature. View to the southwest. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 128: View to the southwest of the playing field area. Dormitory 4 is pictured in the background. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

building, removing a portion of the wall in the process.

Existing Condition

The stone walls north of Building 1 and on the east side of the Foxville Plaza and the ballfield access road remain extant (*see Figures 124 and 125*). Since the period of significance, many of the stones have fallen and portions of the wall host substantial amounts of vegetation. (Careful corrective actions will reverse these adverse impacts.) These features are among the oldest features within the cultural landscape and are a contributing element.

STONE RETAINING WALL NEAR VISITOR PARKING AND WAREHOUSE (BUILDING 176)

Historic Condition

This stone retaining wall was constructed between July and October 1967 by Job Corpsmen under the supervision of JCCC staff.[48] According to a monthly narrative report for the JCCC, the wall was constructed using the same kind of stone as other buildings in the Central Garage Unit. The report states that "through the State of Maryland Park System, we have acquired building stone of the same kind and quantity used in Park buildings and are now in the process of building retaining walls.... Stone for the retaining walls was given to us with no cost to the government."[49] Construction projects like this one were developed in coordination with park staff, giving Corpsmen practical experience and helping the park to defray construction costs.[50] *Figure 126* shows the wall in 1984, as built.

Existing Condition

The retaining wall remains in place and in good condition. It is located west of the main parking

48. Dale B. Sipes, *Completion Report: Building of Retaining Wall*, (Thurmont, MD: National Park Service, 1969), Individual Building Files, Catoctin Mountain Park Resource Management Division Files, Sabillasville, MD; Williamson et al., *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation),* 7-25.
49. *Monthly Narrative Report for October 1965*, Catoctin Job Corps Center, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.
50. Sirna, *Human Conservation,* 115.

lot and Building 176 and east of the bus loop. It is oriented northeast-southwest along the entrance road, curving at its corners where it meets other circulation features. It ranges in height from approximately 14" at the northwest terminus to 54" at the southwestern terminus. It is 18" in width and is approximately 260' long. It consists of uncoursed rubble masonry with a coursed ashlar cap. It is a contributing feature (*see Figure 127*).

PLAYING FIELD

Historic Condition

The present-day playing field was first cleared as a field on the Lewis farm. This field was later occupied by a series of CCC-era service buildings, most of which were demolished by the late 1950s. When the Job Corps arrived in 1964, this field would become the core of their campus, maintained as open space and flanked on all sides by dorms and classrooms. It was crisscrossed by pedestrian pathways linking the buildings and may have been used as an assembly field. When the Job Corps disbanded, the area was eventually cleared and left vacant.

In 1971, the YCC constructed a campfire circle in a small clearing adjacent to the field. In 1981, Dormitory 4 was constructed, occupying a portion of this field. The area likely took on a playing field use at this time.

Existing Condition

The playing field measures approximately 220' by 215'. It consists of open turf flanked on the northeast and southeast by trees, on the southwest by Dormitory 4, and on the northeast by the forest and the campfire circle. As the playing field was established as a clearing and assembly area during the period of significance, it is a contributing feature of the cultural landscape (*see Figure 128*).

TIMBER RETAINING WALL SOUTHEAST OF BUNKHOUSE (BUILDING 83)

Historic Condition

In 1965, the JCCC constructed a timber retaining wall around Building 83 to combat erosion that was accumulating against the building addition. According to a Center monthly narrative report, this project was started in June of 1965 and completed shortly afterward.[51] A July 1969 photograph of Summer in the Parks participants outside of Building 83 also shows the retaining wall in the background. As built, it consisted of three courses of treated lumber, separated by small pieces of wood (*see Figures 129 and 130*).

Existing Condition

Given its wooden construction, the retaining wall may have been replaced in the 55 years since its

51. *Monthly Narrative Report for June 1965*, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.



Figure 129: This c. 1969 photo shows Summer in the Parks participants outside Building 83. Note the timber wall in the background center. (Excerpt from N. Hinson, CPP-034-13, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

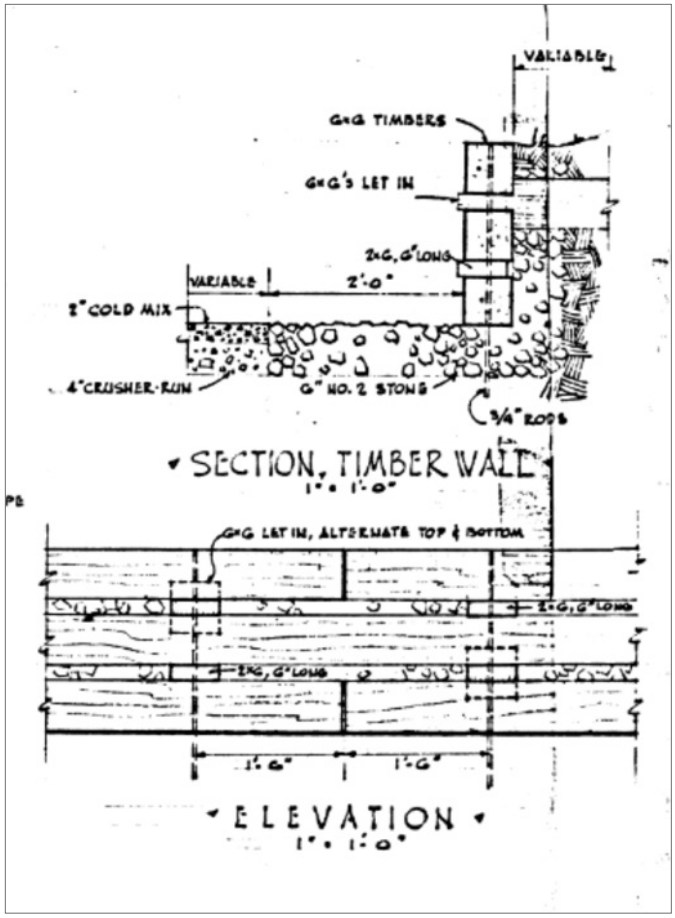


Figure 131: A 1965 detail of the timber wall built by the Job Corps on the southeast side of Building 83. (NPS ETIC CATO_841_80282_A)



Figure 130: View to the southwest of a wooden retaining behind Building 83. It was originally built by the Job Corps and is a contributing feature. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

construction. However, if it was replaced by the NPS, it was evidently replaced in-kind, as historic photos closely resemble its existing condition. As it exists, the wall generally measures 5½" in width and 16" in height (although the bottom course of the wall has sunken over time). It consists of treated dimensional lumber stacked into courses and staked in place with rebar. Each wooden course is separated by small pieces of wood that create a visible gap. The wall closely resembles its historical condition as built by the Job Corps; it is a contributing feature (*see Figure 131*).

CULVERT EAST OF DORMITORY 2 (BUILDING 217)

Historic Condition

Historically, there were no documented culverts in the cultural landscape. Instead, during the period of significance, the present-day culvert east of Dormitory 2 (Building 217) consisted of a drainage ditch and a wooden bridge. The bridge sloped up and down and featured curved wooden handrails on both sides (*see Figure 132*). It was removed at an unknown date; the ditch was outfitted with a culvert;



Figure 132: This 1981 photo of the pedestrian path east of Dormitory 2 shows the original wooden footbridge that traversed a drainage ditch. (Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)

and a flat asphalt pedestrian path was paved over the culvert.

Existing Condition

The extant culvert was installed sometime after the period of significance. It consists of a standard corrugated metal pipe measuring approximately 6' long. It is paved over with an asphalt pedestrian path (***see Figure 133***). It is a non-contributing feature.

CAMPFIRE CIRCLE AND WOODSHED

Historic Condition

A campfire circle was first installed at Camp Round Meadow by the YCC in 1971. The original campfire circle was used in the dedication and opening of the Youth Conservation Corps' camp.[52] YCC workers placed the campfire circle in an area adjacent to the main campus but still somewhat removed and



Figure 133: At an unknown date, the pedestrian footbridge was replaced with a culvert and paved over with an asphalt path. (Urban Heritage Project 2024)

52. "Dedication and Open House: Round Meadow Youth Conservation Corps Camp, Catoctin Mountain Park" program (August 5, 1971), Catoctin Mountain Park Resource Management Division Files, in Williamson et al., *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation)*, 7-25.



Figure 134: This 1991 photo shows the original YCC campfire circle at Round Meadow. (Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

secluded in a clearing. The campfire circle was simple in design, consisting of benches arranged into rows to form a semicircle around a central campfire. Each bench consisted of cinderblock (CMUs) piers and a wooden plank seat (*see Figure 134*).

Existing Condition

In 2020, the original YCC campfire circle was replaced in its entirety as part of an Eagle Scout service project undertaken by Life Scout Brent Peate. The new campfire circle features an upgraded design that caters to the dormitory area's rental nature. Benches are arranged in rows in a circular (as opposed to semicircular) layout. As was true with the earlier campfire circle, each bench consists of wooden planks mounted on piers. However, instead of two cinderblocks, each bench features three 8" tube-formed concrete piers placed approximately 4' apart. The benches feature 2"x12" pressure-treated wooden planks.[53]

Because the extant campfire circle represents a complete replacement and redesign, this feature is non-contributing but compatible with the historic setting (*see Figure 135*).

53. Lindsay Donaldson, email to Brent Peate, March 19, 2020 in "Make Improvements to Campcampfire circle," PEPC 96698, September 21, 2020, Catoctin Mountain Park Resource Management Files, Thurmont, MD.



Figure 135: The extant campfire circle was built as an Eagle Scout project in the 2020s. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

FOXVILLE PLAZA CENTRAL AREA FEATURES (GAZEBO AND PLAY EQUIPMENT)

Historic Condition

Park records include minimal information about the structures in the middle of the Foxville Plaza trailer court loop road. In a 1961 development plan for Foxville Plaza, this area is labeled as a "children's play area" and a space for "community activities" (*see Figure 136*).[54] However, the plan does not detail specific features, such as play equipment. A later, yet undated, plan shows a swing set and other unspecified play equipment in this area (*see Figure 137*).

Existing Condition

Fieldwork conducted in 2023 documented a variety of structures in the central play area of Foxville Plaza (*see Figure 138*). This included two playgrounds, one for younger children and one for older children, as well as a wooden gazebo (*see Figure 139*). The two playgrounds and gazebo also include a series of small-scale features—including benches, waste receptacles, curbing, and bollards—that are evaluated here together as a combined structure (*see Figure 140*). This central play area also contains a swing set and tetherball pole (*see Figure 141*).

54. H.D. Nottingham & Associates, Inc., "Trailer Court Site Plan and Details, Foxville, Maryland," May 31, 196, CATO_841_80264_A, ETIC, NPS.

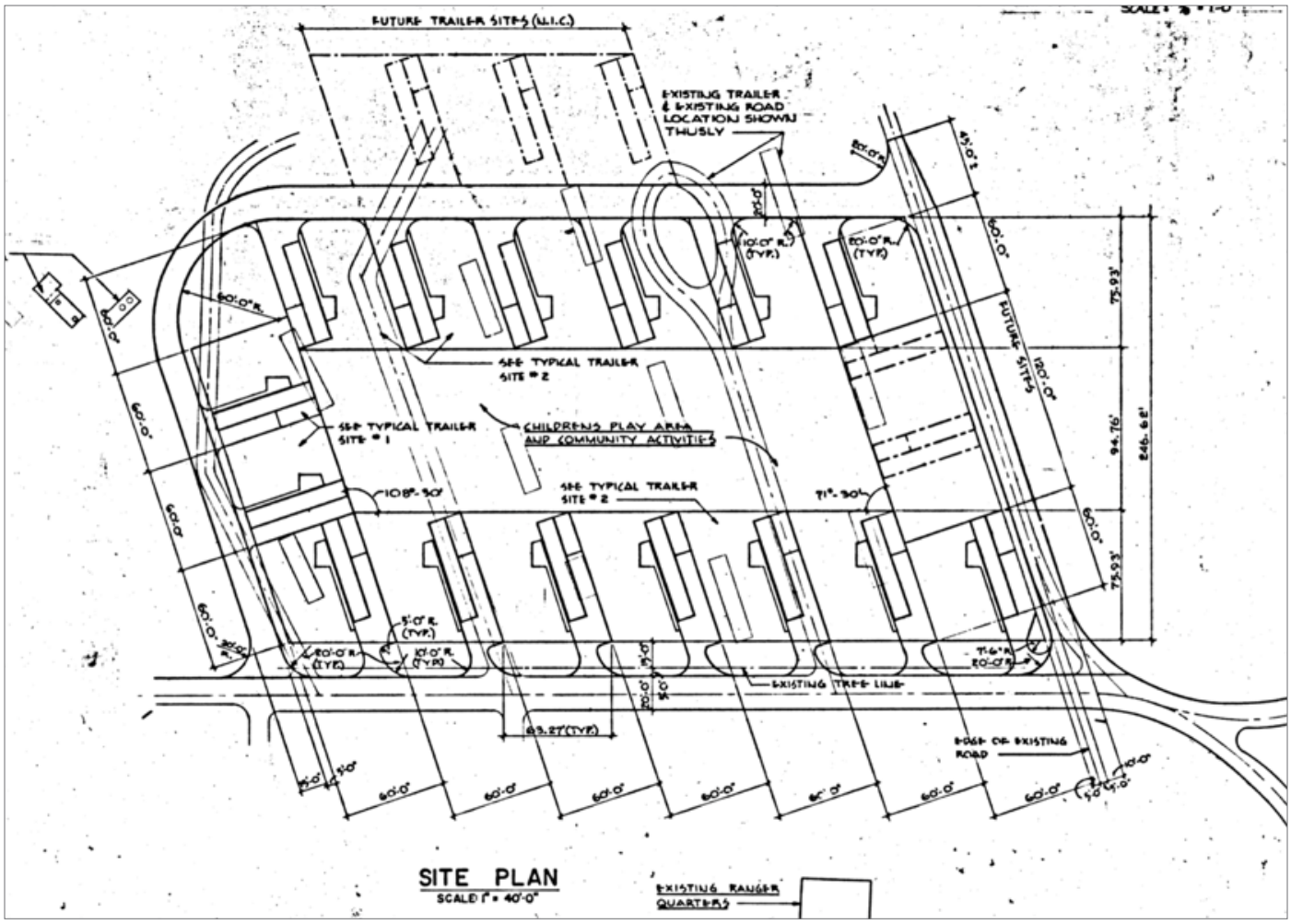


Figure 136: This 1961 site plan for Foxville Plaza, the Naval Support Facility trailer court, includes a central play area. (NPS ETIC CATO_841_80264_A)

The playgrounds and associated features visually date to the same development era after the period of significance, which appears similar to other playground developments in the DC area from the late 1970s to the 2000s. Aerial photographs examined by the park archeologist confirm this theory, indicating that these features were not installed until after 1988.

The gazebo does not appear to be purpose-built for this site (it is consistent with widely available models). It is in poor condition. All play equipment and associated features are deteriorated, covered in invasive species, and generally unusable. This CLR was unable to determine if these features date to the period of significance; however, their condition has rendered them unusable and any integrity they may have had—if they were at one time contributing features—is almost certainly lost. Therefore, they are considered non-contributing features.

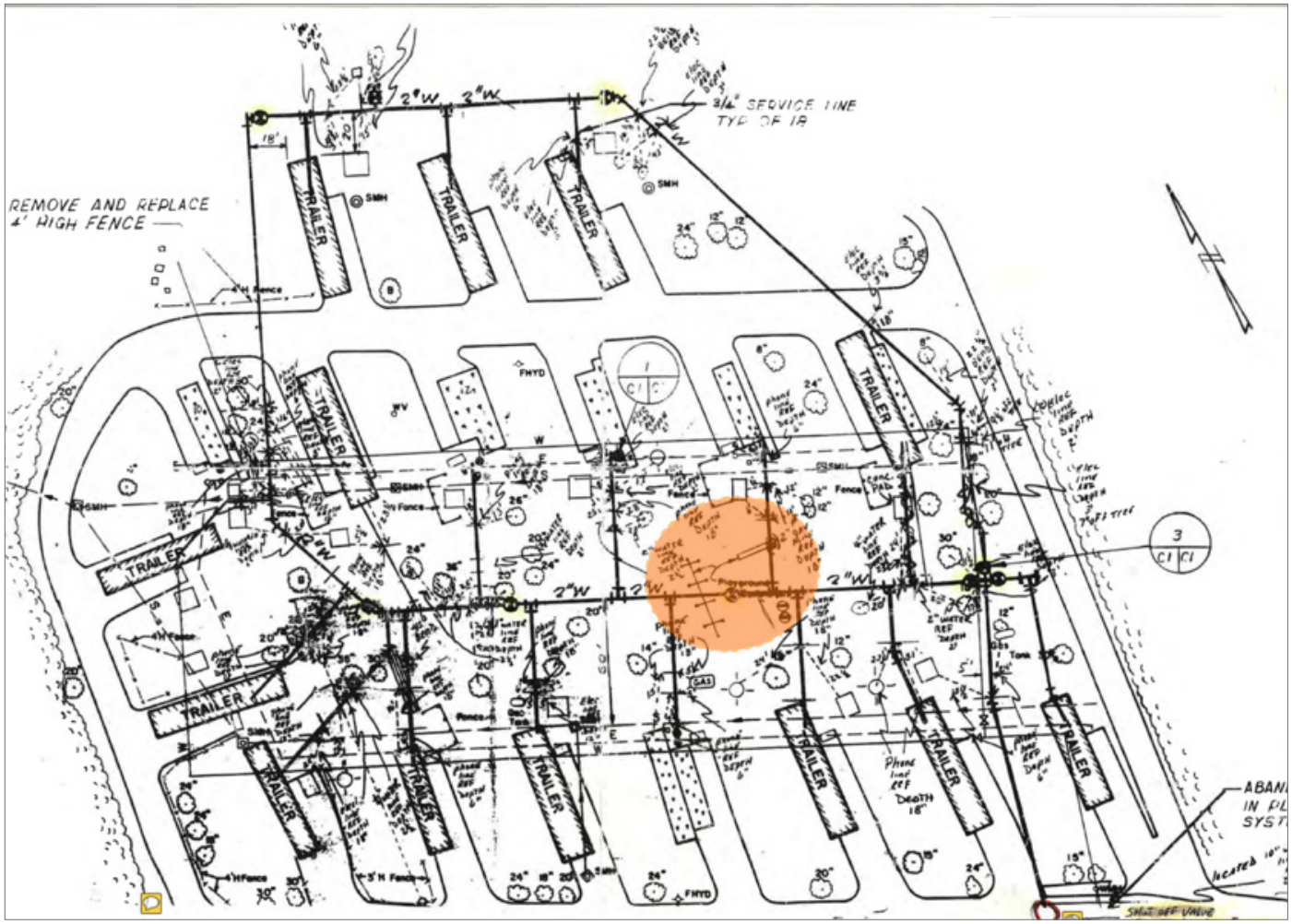


Figure 137: This undated plan shows a swing set and other unspecified play equipment in the center of the trailer court at Foxville Plaza (highlighted in orange). (Resource Management Files, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)

Evaluation

With the exception of the temporary CCC/OSS buildings and some Job Corps buildings, Camp Round Meadow retains nearly all buildings and structures dating to the period of significance. As a collection, Camp Round Meadow retains buildings and structures dating to its initial construction under as the Central Garage Unit and RDA Headquarters, buildings and structures modified during World War II and during the Job Corps eras, building and structures erected for and by the Job Corps, and those built as part of education programs at Camp Round Meadow, including dormitories. Most buildings and structures at the camp have undergone rehabilitations after the period of significance, largely restoring their historic conditions.

Since 1981, Camp Round Meadow has also seen the addition of a limited number of buildings and structures. This includes a limited number of larger



Figure 138: View to the north of the play equipment and gazebo at Foxville Plaza. These are non-contributing features. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

structures, including one residence and a cell tower; however, these buildings and structures are located out of view from the main camp area and do not detract from the overall integrity of Camp Round Meadow's cultural landscape. Smaller buildings and structures added after the period of significance—including a culvert, additional fencing, a shed, the campfire circle, and play structures—are non-contributing but do not detract from the overall legibility of the overlapping campaigns of development.

As a collection, Camp Round Meadow features over 36 buildings and structures, the vast majority of which date to the period of significance and retain their character-defining features. As a result, Camp Round Meadow retains integrity with respect to buildings and structures.



Figure 139: View to the north of the Foxville Plaza gazebo and its associated bollards. These are non-contributing features. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 140: Detail image of the Foxville Plaza play area, which is in poor condition. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



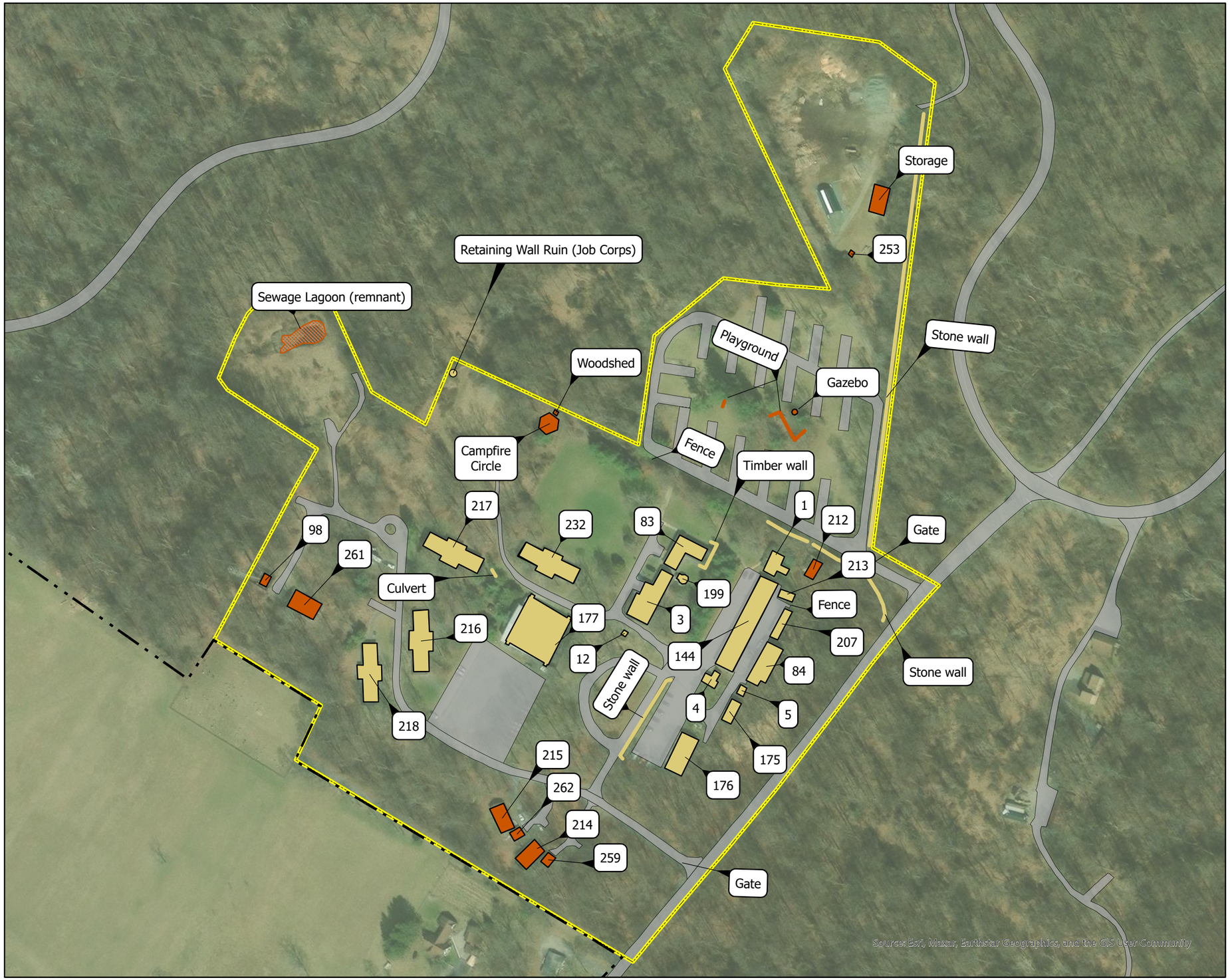
Figure 141: View to the north of the swing set and tetherball pole within the Foxville Plaza play area. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES - CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Feature Description	Period of Significance	Date Established	Contributing Status
Building 1 (Resource Management)	1936-1981	c. 1936	Contributing
Building 3 (Dining Hall and Kitchen)	1936-1981	c. 1936; 1964	Contributing
Building 4 (Blacksmith)	1936-1981	c. 1936	Contributing
Building 5 (Gas House)	1936-1981	c. 1936	Contributing
Building 12 (Infirmary)	1936-1981	c. 1936; 1964	Contributing
Building 83 (Bunkhouse/Offices)	1936-1981	c. 1938; 1964	Contributing
Building 144 (Central Garage)	1936-1981	c. 1964	Contributing
Building 175 (Laundry/Storage)	1936-1981	c. 1966	Contributing
Building 176 (Warehouse)	1936-1981	c. 1967	Contributing
Building 177 (Gymnasium)	1936-1981	c. 1966	Contributing
Building 189 (Maintenance Shops)	1936-1981	c. 1965	Contributing
Building 199 (Gazebo)	1936-1981	c. 1970	Contributing
Building 207 (Vehicle Shed)	1936-1981	c. 1975	Contributing
Building 213 (Lumber Shed)	1936-1981	c. 1975	Contributing
Building 216 (Dormitory 1)	1936-1981	c. 1979	Contributing
Building 217 (Dormitory 2)	1936-1981	c. 1979	Contributing
Building 218 (Dormitory 3)	1936-1981	c. 1979	Contributing
Building 232 (Dormitory 4)	1936-1981	c. 1981	Contributing
Building 98 (Utilities/Cell Tower)	N/A	c. 2004	Non-contributing
Building 212 (Storage)	1936-1981	c. 1977; enclosed c. 2001	Non-contributing
Building 214 (Quarters)	1936-1981	c. 1978-1979	Non-contributing
Building 215 (VSO Office/Ranger Station)	1936-1981	c. 1978-1979	Non-contributing
Building 253 (Shed in Ballfield)	N/A	c. 1991	Non-contributing

Feature Description	*Period of Significance*	*Date Established*	*Contributing Status*
Building 259 (Carport)	N/A	c. 1990	Non-contributing
Building 261 (Quarters/Trailer)	N/A	c. 1979	Non-contributing
Building 262 (Carport)	N/A	c. 1990	Non-contributing
Dry-stacked stone walls along Manahan Road, the Foxville Plaza road, and Building 1	1936-1981	Pre 1936; modified c. 1938 and 1980	Contributing
Stone retaining wall near visitor parking and warehouse (Building 176)	1936-1981	1967	Contributing
Playing Field (Former JCCC campus core)	1936-1981	1964	Contributing
Timber retaining wall southeast of Bunkhouse (Building 83)	1936-1981	1965	Contributing
Culvert east of Dormitory 2 (Building 217)	N/A	c. post 1981	Non-contributing
Campfire Circle and Woodshed	N/A	c. 1971; 2020	Non-contributing
Foxville Plaza central area features (Gazebo and play equipment)	N/A	c. 1961-Present	Non-contributing

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Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow

Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Buildings + Structures / Constructed Water Features - Existing

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson and Zhijie Wang, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Buildings and Structures, Contributing
- Buildings and Structures, Non-contributing
- Buildings and Structures, Contributing
- Buildings and Structures, Non-Contributing
- Buildings and Structures, Contributing
- Constructed Water Features, Non-Contributing
- Circulation
- 84 Annotations (Numbers refer to CATO Building ID #s)

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Map Version, October 2025

N 0 70 140 280 420 Feet

Drawing 10

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Constructed Water Features

Historic Condition

The first sewage lagoon, which served the Job Corps Conservation Center, was constructed in 1964 (*see Figure 142*). Aerial imagery of the JCCC indicates that it was located near the present-day remediated sewage lagoon. Construction photos from the mid-1960s show a lagoon that was several feet deep, lined with gravel, and generally geometric in shape. Park correspondence from later decades indicates that this lagoon was hurriedly constructed and poorly designed.[55]

By the 1970s, the JCCC sewage lagoon was at capacity and failing. The introduction of a public-facing use within the cultural landscape resulted in significantly more demand, exceeding the original lagoon's capacity. A 1976 *Statement of Management* for the park noted that all sewage systems were outdated and overworked. The State of Maryland's Water Quality Division noted the presence of fecal coliforms in the water supply at Camp Round Meadow, almost certainly from the sewage lagoon. Beginning in 1976, park staff began a rehabilitation effort to repair the lagoon and remediate the park water supply, reshaping and expanding the footprint of the original lagoon. In 1978, professional services staff at the National Capital Regional Office (NCRO) inspected the lagoon and recommended a new aeration system. This system was installed in December 1979.[56]

The sewage lagoon caused further issues in 1980, when its contents leeched into the ground despite its plastic lining, causing park staff to be significantly concerned about groundwater contamination.[57] In 1983, park staff and contractors installed a new plastic liner and reshaped and reinforced the lagoon's earthen edges (*see Figure 143*).[58]

By the mid-1990s, the park wanted to abandon the Round Meadow sewage lagoon and connect to the nearby Foxville Garden sewage treatment plant. In 1995, park and regional staff conducted a feasibility study to abandon the sewage lagoon and convert it to a wetland. By 1997, the park was fully connected to the Foxville Garden sewage treatment plant (located west of Camp Round Meadow and outside the park boundaries), and the feasibility study favorably approved the conversion of the lagoon to wetland. However, full conversion of the lagoon lagged. Instead, park officials left the lagoon's aeration system running, and the water feature was converted to a duck pond for the park's Canada geese and wood ducks.[59]

Existing Condition and Evaluation

In 2003, work began to remove the sewage lagoon entirely; it was completed in 2005. The two-acre site was almost entirely filled in, with the exception of a small area retained as an amphibian habitat (*see Figure 144*). The infilled area was mulched, seeded, and planted with 40 trees.[60]

The historic sewage lagoon is no longer extant. The lagoon remnant is extant, but its conversion to a duck pond detracts from its integrity as a constructed water feature. The remnant is a non-contributing feature.

The cultural landscape does not retain integrity of constructed water features.

55. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 120.
56. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 120.
57. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 114.
58. For more on the repair of the sewage lagoon, refer to the various photographs that show this process in detail in the Round Meadow, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.
59. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 140.
60. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 206-207.



Figure 142: In 1964, the Job Corps constructed a sewage drainage field to service the new JCCC. (Burchard, CPP—021A-109, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 143: After a series of leaks in the lining of the sewage lagoon, NPS staff re-lined it in 1983. (Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 144: Comparison of the sewage lagoon footprint in 1988 (top) and 2023 (bottom). The lagoon is visible in the upper left corner of each photo. (1988: USGS via Google Earth; 2023: Google Earth).

CONSTRUCTED WATER FEATURES - CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Feature Description	*Period of Significance*	*Date Established*	*Contributing Status*
Sewage lagoon (remnant)	N/A	c. 1965; 2005 (remediated)	Non-contributing

Circulation

Historic Condition

Circulation is defined by the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. The earliest circulation features within the cultural landscape predate its construction as a Recreation Demonstration Area. The former Lewis farm featured a laneway, which in 1935 and 1936 was improved as the entrance to the RDA.[61] A.R. Vanston's site plan was very practical; the RDA headquarters were easily accessed by Manahan Road and the existing laneway. This meant little additional circulation would be needed to service the Central Garage Unit beyond short spur roads. Accordingly, new circulation was limited to a parking lot located northwest of the administration building (Building 1) and southeast of the oil house (Building 5). This parking lot was accessed by two gaps created in the Lewis farm's perimeter stone wall. By August 1936, the main camp road, spurs, and parking lot were graded and paved with 6″ of crushed local rock and sealed with chips, screening, and clay.[62]

Vanston's plan did not call for any pedestrian circulation, an acknowledgment that this area initially emphasized vehicle circulation, to support its administrative use (***see Figure 145***). This differed greatly from the other areas of the park, where the designers sought to limit vehicular access within the group camps.[63]

The CCC installed additional circulation features when it arrived and set up camp in 1939. Like the Central Garage Unit, the CCC camp used the former farm laneway as its primary entrance, establishing spur roads to its mess hall loading dock, maintenance shops, garages, and other utilitarian structures opposite the Central Garage Unit. Although the CCC introduced these features for vehicle access, the camp kept vehicle circulation to a minimum overall, perhaps in keeping with camp guidance developed by Albert Good. This marked a contrast with the circulation strategy in the Central Garage Unit, where vehicular circulation was the priority.

For pedestrians, CCC workers constructed a series of rectilinear earthen paths in the camp; these features were framed with wood supports and likely improved with crushed stone or gravel left over from road construction (***see Figure 146***). These paths linked the CCC barracks with other buildings, including the mess hall, classrooms, and the camp store, and allowed for navigable pedestrian circulation in the often-muddy former farm field.[64]

The arrival of the CCC in 1939 also meant that there was more labor available to improve the somewhat haphazard and vehicle-centered development of the Central Garage Unit. RDA planners also took this opportunity to streamline vehicular circulation and turnarounds and form additional parking spaces. A 1940 CCC work order noted that "parking space for employees will be provided outside the fenced area. Driveways will be relocated and/or widened for better access to circulation."[65] To accomplish this task, Corpsmen closed one of the two gaps in the stone wall, paved unit roads, and significantly reshaped the WPA-era parking lot, establishing its edges with wooden guardrails. They also installed a flagstone path from Building 1 to the

61. A.R. Vanston, "Layout Temporary Maintenance Group," CATO_841_80003, ETIC, NPS; Sirna, *Human Conservation*, 49-50.
62. G.S. Williams, "Narrative Report to Accompany Layout Plan, Area Service Group, Drawing No. CAT. 2018," August 1941, Interpretive Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.
63. Molly Lester, Jacob Torkelson, Max Piana, Elizabeth Sexton, Joanne Yuan Zheng, and Randall Mason, *Camp Misty Mount and Camp Greentop Cultural Landscape Report* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2022), 142-243.
64. "[Aerial Photo]," undated (c. 1939-1940), NMAH.AC.0930, Box 242, Folder 112-113, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.
65. G.S. Williams, "Narrative Report to Accompany Layout Plan, Area Service Group, Drawing No. CAT. 2018," August 1941, Interpretive Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.

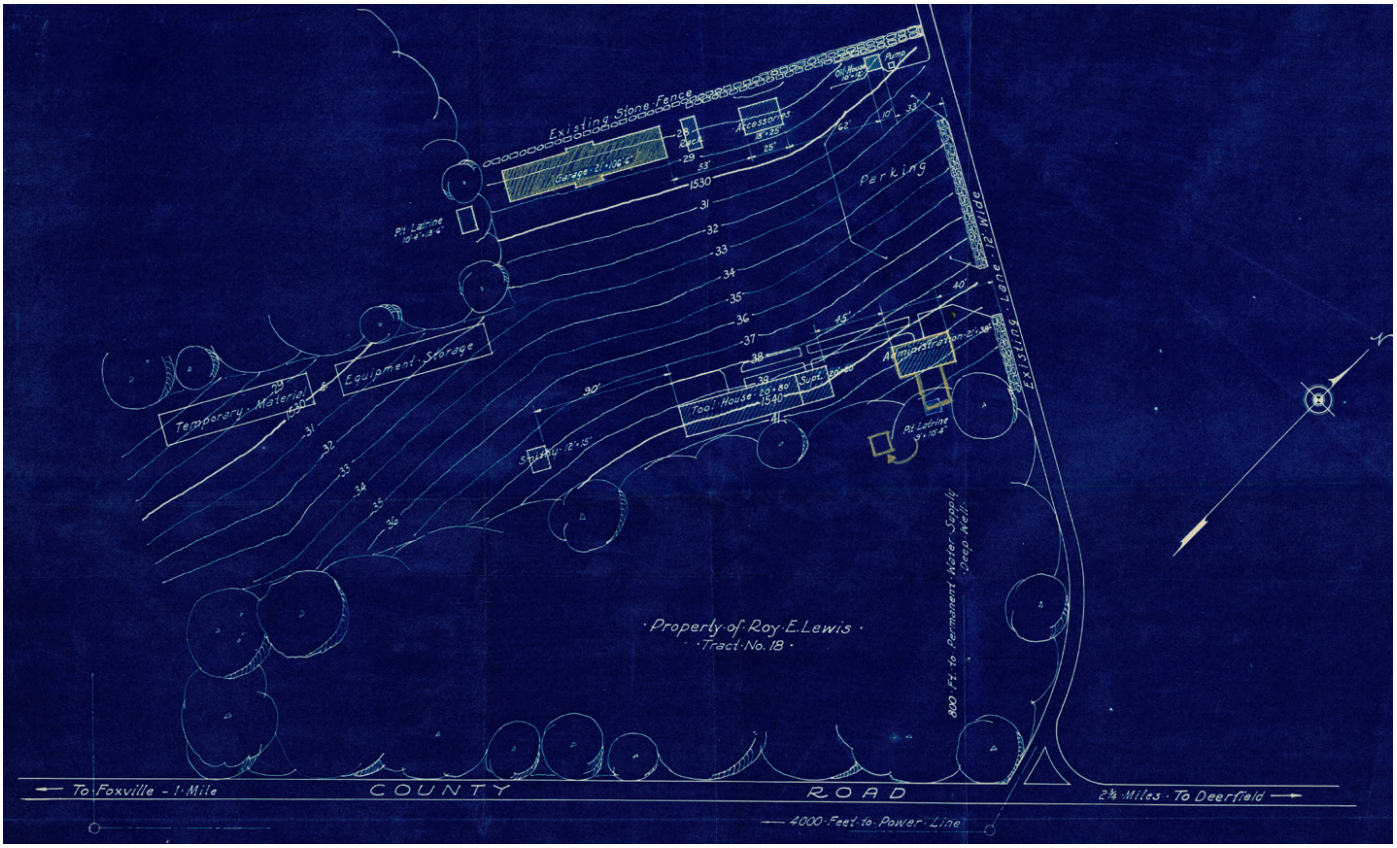


Figure 145: Initial circulation at Round Meadow repurposed existing farm roads. (A.R. Vanston, "Layout Temporary Maintenance Group," 1936, CATO_841_80003, ETIC, NPS)

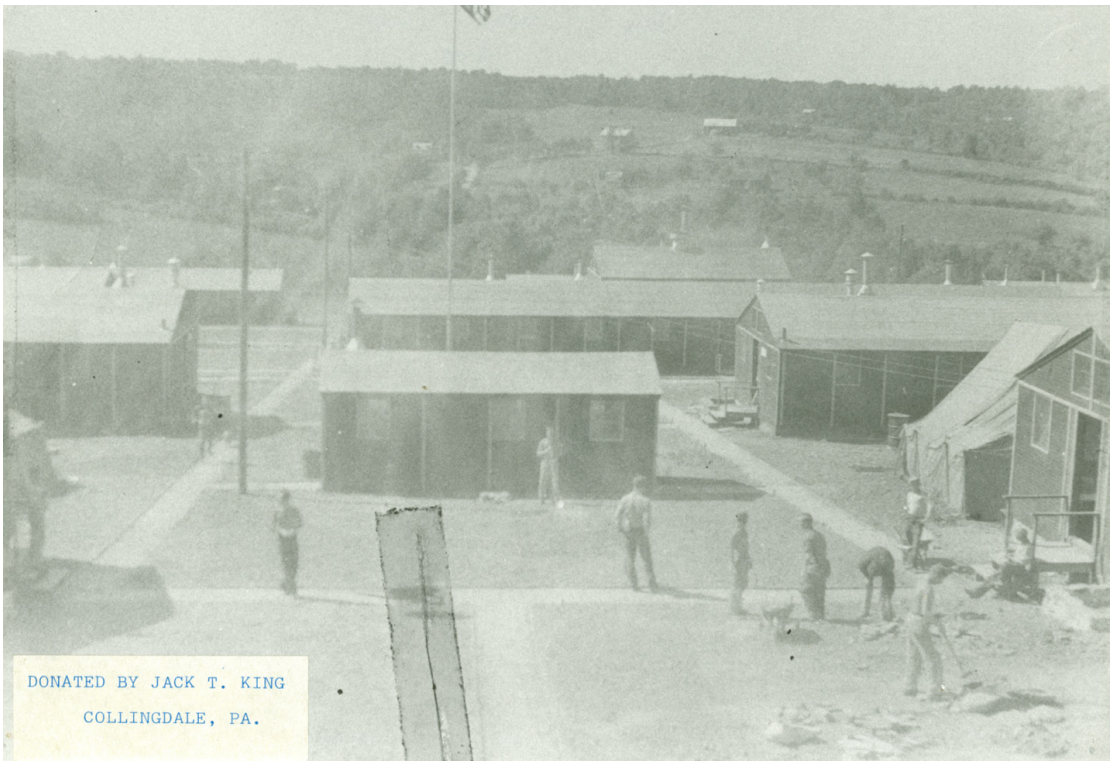


Figure 146: With the arrival of the CCC in 1939, additional pedestrian paths were introduced to access the campus buildings. These paths were not paved; rather, they consisted of graded earth framed with wooden edges and topped with crushed stone. (Jack T. King, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

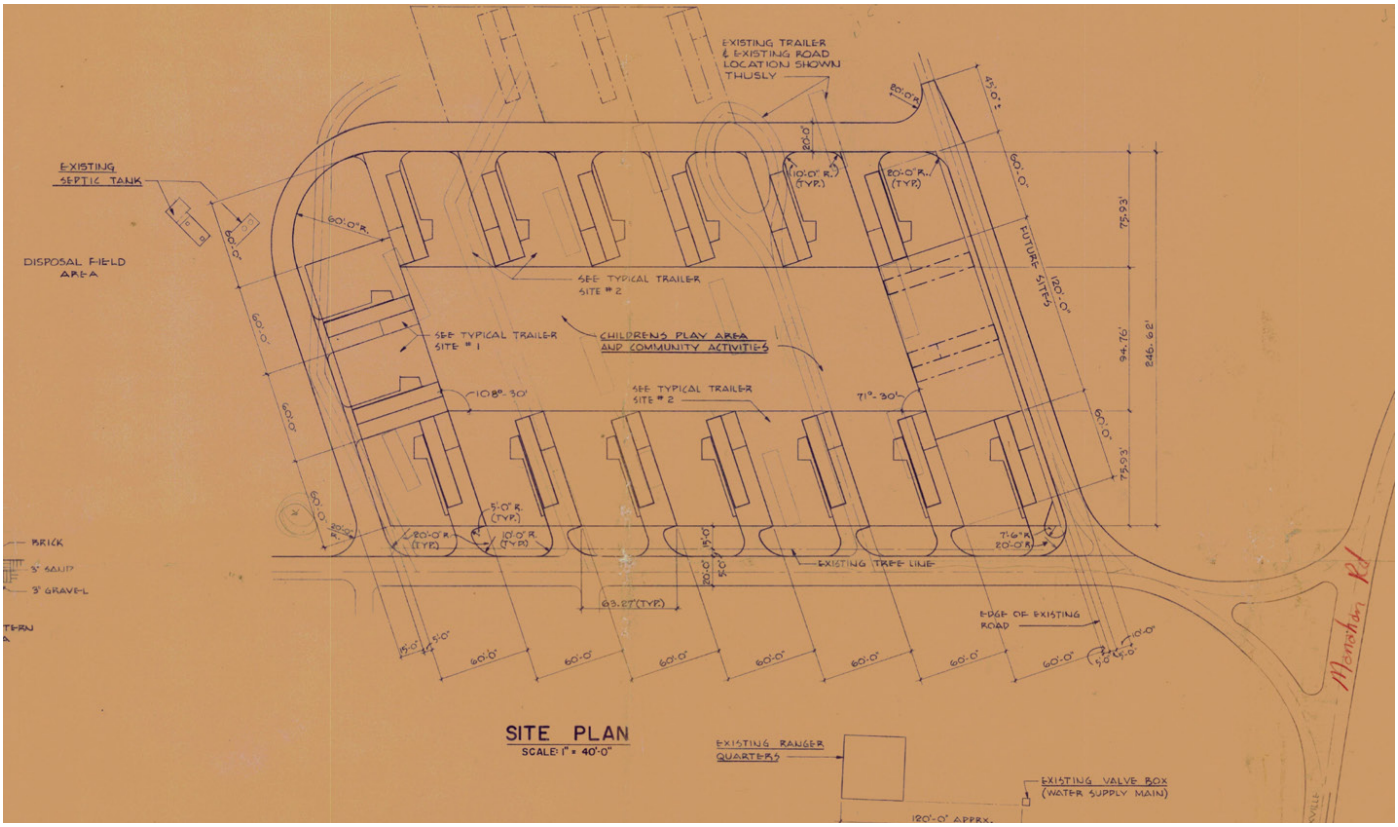


Figure 147: Beginning in 1955, the former CCC camp was converted to a Navy housing area. In 1961, Navy staff formalized the plan, removing existing CCC circulation (shown lightly in the background) and establishing parking spurs and a loop road. (Excerpt from H.D. Nottingham & Associates, Inc., "Trailer Court Site Plan and Details, Foxville, Maryland," May 31, 196, Sheet 1, CATO_841_80264_A, ETIC, NPS)

parking lot, with additional smaller paths to the rear latrine.[66]

The CCC departed the cultural landscape at the start of World War II, and its former camp was abandoned as of 1942; by the early 1950s, most of the original CCC camp buildings had been removed. In 1955, Navy staff converted the former camp into a trailer court for military housing, reusing much of the existing CCC camp circulation to service the new trailers. However, these roads proved inadequate to accommodate additional trailer units.

In 1961, Navy designers created the first formal trailer court area design, removing existing CCC-era spur roads (***see Figure 147***). The 1961 plan featured a circumferential loop road punctuated by 15 trailer units, each with an angular parking spur; the plan also anticipated 5 additional units, to be built once funding was secured. Each trailer unit featured a 2″ bituminous concrete parking spur with a parallel 6″ concrete slab to accommodate a trailer (***see Figure***

66. "[Aerial Photo]," undated (c. 1939-1940), NMAH.AC.0930, Box 242, Folder 112-113, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

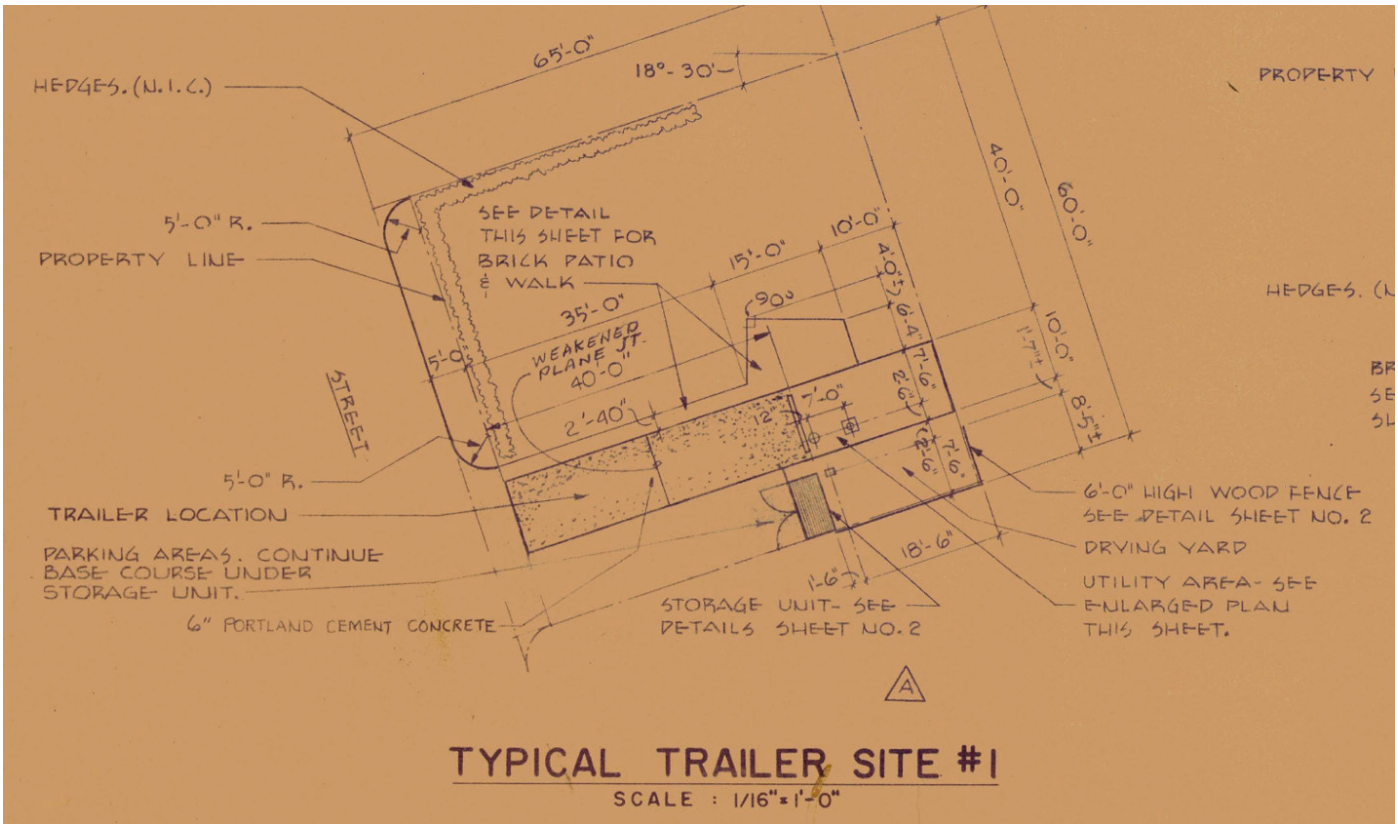


Figure 148: As illustrated in this 1961 plan, each trailer unit featured a concrete slab for a trailer, a bituminous concrete parking spur, and a brick walkway and patio. (Excerpt from H.D. Nottingham & Associates, Inc., "Trailer Court Site Plan and Details, Foxville, Maryland," May 31, 196, Sheet 1, CATO_841_80264_A, ETIC, NPS)

148). Each trailer slab was flanked by a 2′-4″ brick paver walkway and patio (***see Figure 149***). Navy personnel also may have formalized the road to the present-day ballfield (storage area), which first appears in an aerial photograph in 1964.[67]

Beyond the Naval Support Facility trailer court, there were no known changes to Camp Round Meadow's circulation features between the departure of the CCC and the arrival of the Job Corps. Instead, existing circulation was maintained and likely resurfaced with crushed stone on a regular basis (***see Figure 150***).

In 1964 and 1965, the creation of the Job Corps Conservation Center brought additional circulation changes to the cultural landscape. In October 1965, Job Corpsmen removed the Building 1 parking lot, replaced it with grass, and closed the original entrance to the Central Garage Unit. Corpsmen installed a new entrance in the southwestern portion of the cultural landscape—today's main

67. H.D. Nottingham & Associates, Inc., "Trailer Court Site Plan and Details, Foxville, Maryland," May 31, 196, CATO_841_80264_A, ETIC, NPS; "[1964 Aerial Photograph]," AHA-3EE-81, June 30, 1964 in Geospatial Data Files, CATO, NPS.

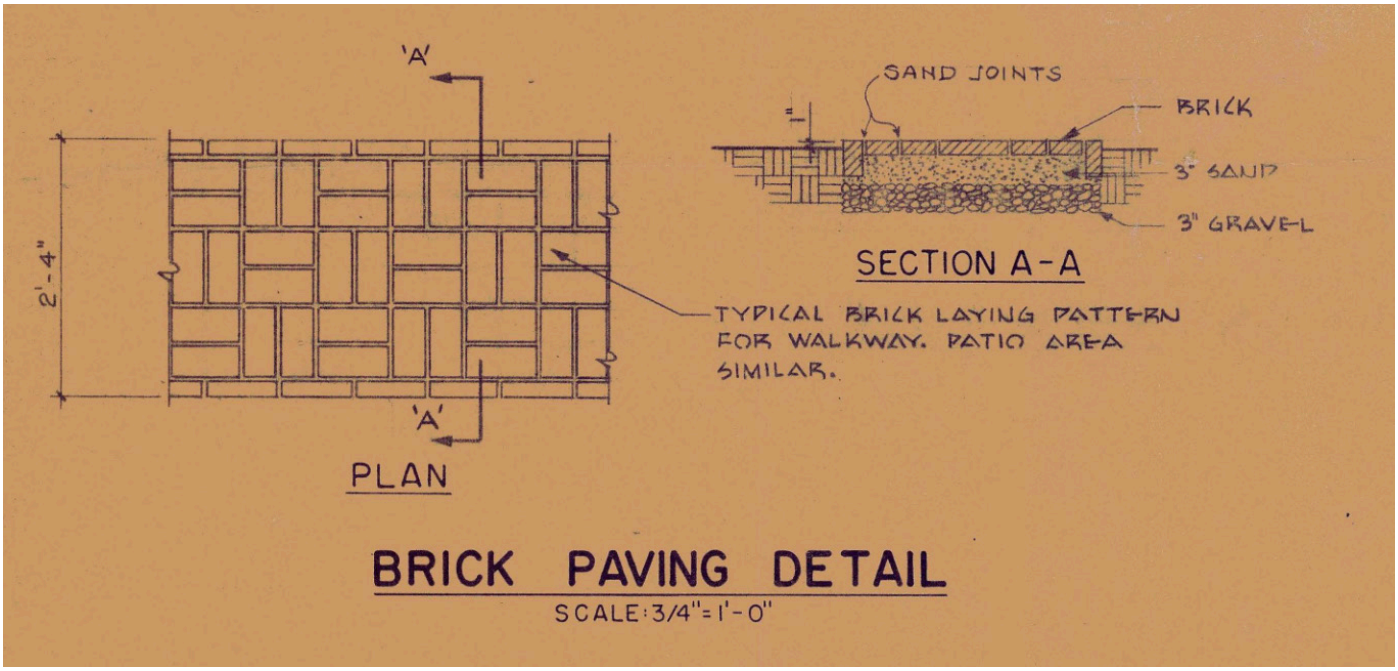


Figure 149: As illustrated in this 1961 plan, each trailer unit featured a brick entrance walk and patio. (Excerpt from H.D. Nottingham & Associates, Inc., "Trailer Court Site Plan and Details, Foxville, Maryland," May 31, 196, Sheet 1, CATO_841_80264_A, ETIC, NPS)

entrance road. At this time, Corpsmen also installed new paving and parking lots on either side of the central garage (Building 144) and in front of their new warehouse (Building 176). The newly paved area occupied approximately the same footprint as the present-day paving in the Camp Round Meadow administrative and maintenance areas.[68]

New JCCC buildings required additional vehicular circulation. Corpsmen constructed a spur road to a new trailer court area for JCCC counselors and staff. This road terminated in a loop roundabout. (It was later extended to accommodate more trailers near the present-day trailer and cell tower.) Corpsmen also constructed a hemispherical drive that connected to the main camp entrance road and served as a bus drop-off. This loop road also provided access to the JCCC infirmary and dispensary. Lastly, Job Corps workers established a gravel parking lot outside the new Gymnasium (Building 177), formerly a playing field, and formalized a road connecting the dining hall to the

68. *Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report,* October 1965, Catoctin Mountain Park, National Park Service in CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.



Figure 150: This 1963 photo shows the condition of the Central Garage Unit roads before the creation of the JCCC. The road circulation has remained largely unchanged since its construction. (Interpretation Files, Round Meadow, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

basketball court area, which doubled as a parking lot (***see Figure 151***).[69]

The main JCCC campus, however, was pedestrian-only. Workers constructed a series of narrow concrete walkways linking all campus buildings and additional walkways linking the JCCC with the maintenance area (***see Figure 152***). Workers also constructed two exposed-aggregate concrete staircases along the sloped pathway between the central campus and the maintenance area. There is no documentation of the railings that may have been added concurrent with the construction of the paths and staircases.

When the park began building dormitories to Camp Round Meadow in 1979 it reused the existing JCCC trailer court road and oriented the buildings accordingly. It demolished some trailer court spurs, while others remained for decades. NPS staff also designed a limited system of pedestrian paths that connected each dorm, in keeping with NPS architect Benjamin H. Biderman and NPS landscape architect Paul Lederer's—designers of the dormitory project—desire to leave a minimal impact on the landscape during dormitory construction.

69. "[Aerial Photo]," undated (c. 1939-1940), NMAH.AC.0930, Box 242, Folder 112-113, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.; Paul Lederer, "Environmental Education Center, Camp Round Meadow," February 28, 1978, CATO_841_182797 ETIC, NPS.

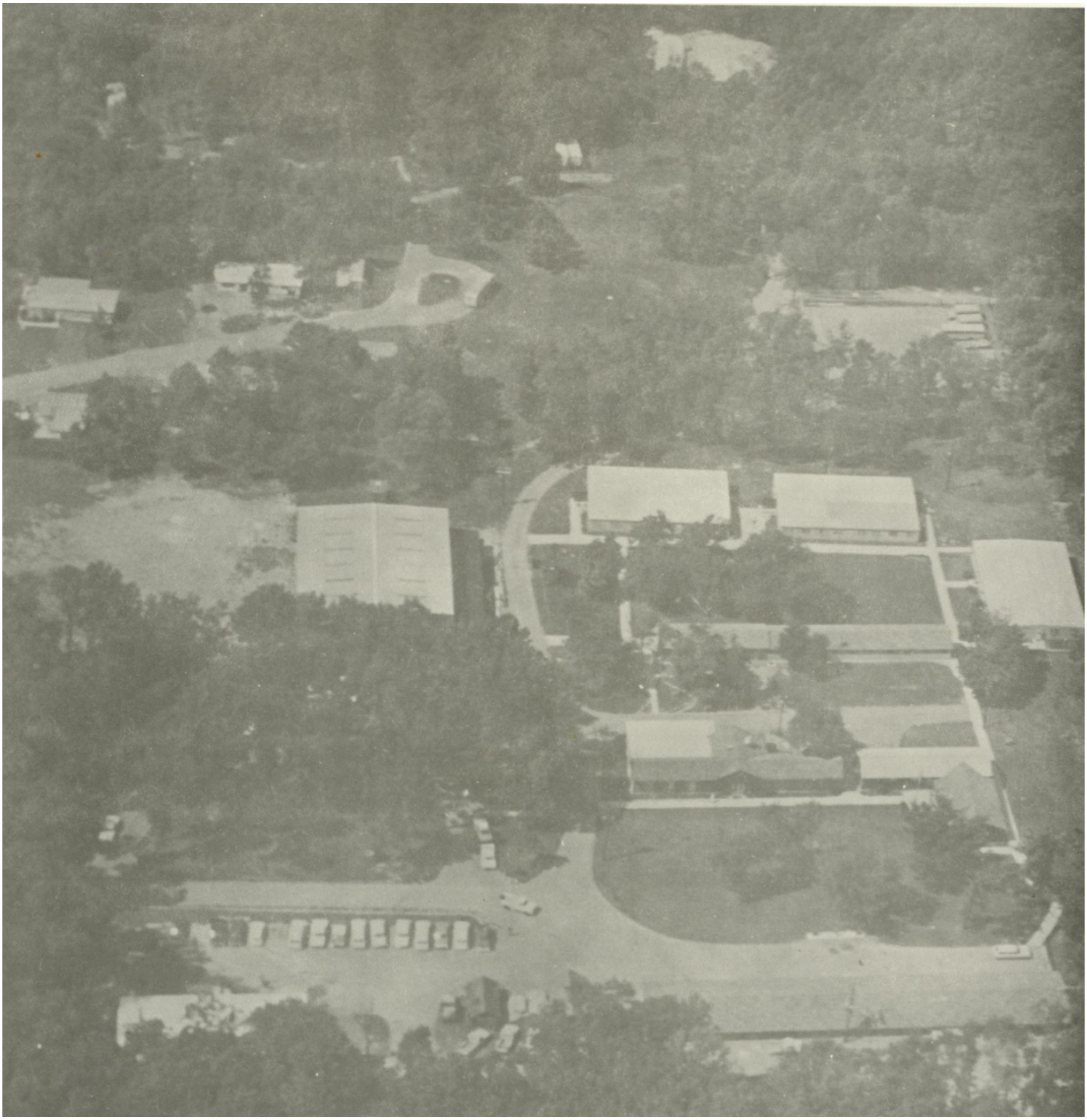


Figure 151: This aerial, taken c. 1969, shows the completed vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems that serviced the JCCC and Central Garage Unit. (Interpretation Files, Round Meadow, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

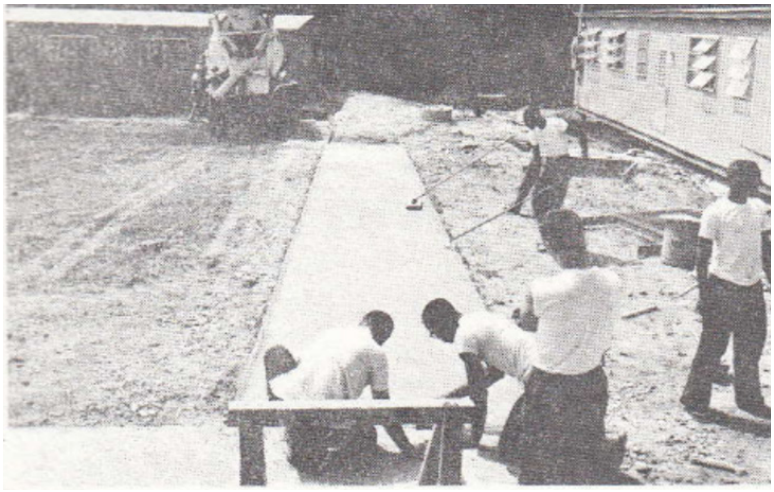


Figure 152: Job Corpsmen complete concrete walkways through the center of the JCCC campus, c. 1967. (Excerpt from "1956-66 Catoctin Job Corps Conservation Center," Job Corps Proposals and Published Info, CATO Resource Management Files, Thurmont, MD)

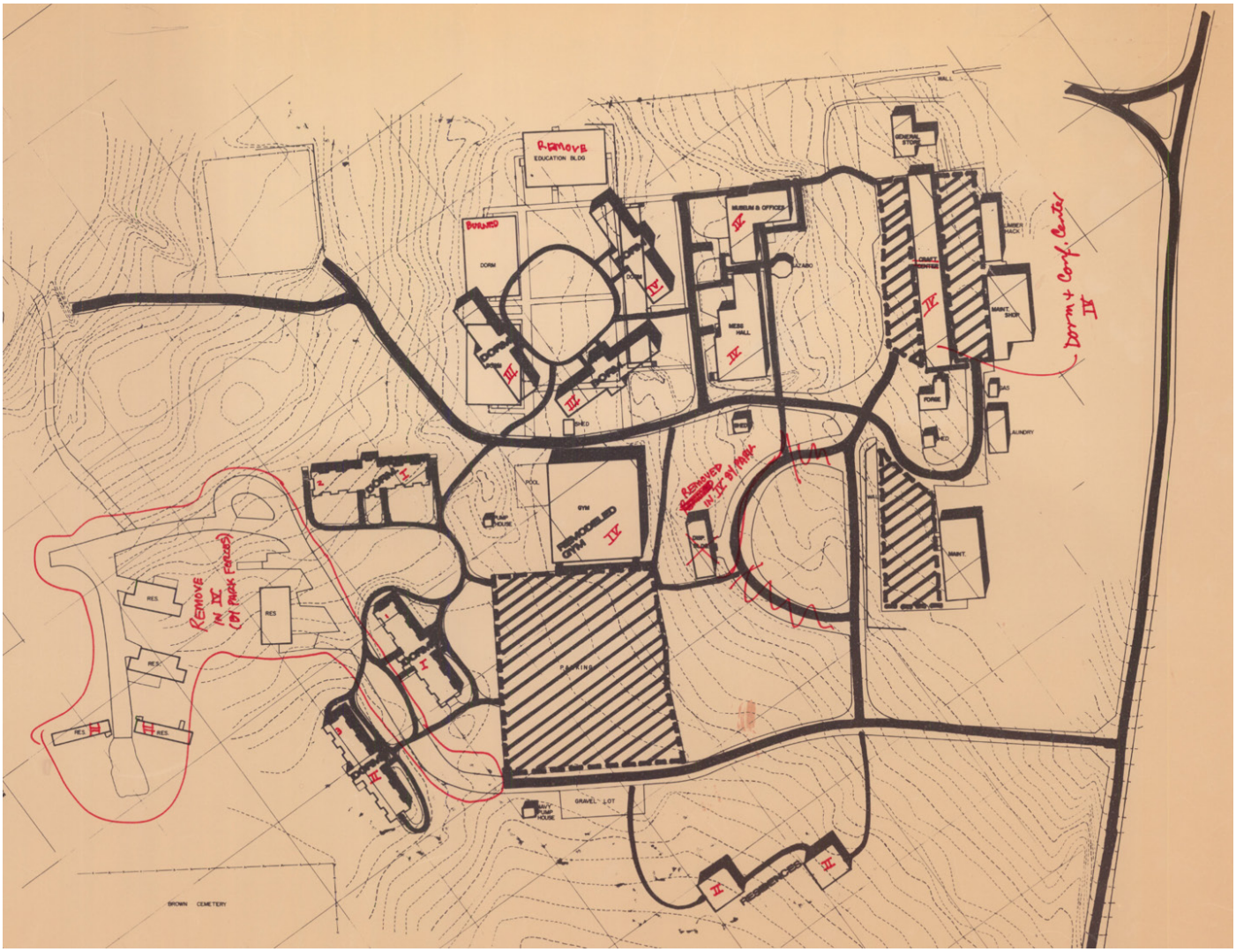


Figure 153: This 1978 plan shows how park staff reshaped the existing circulation network at Round Meadow. Note the existing circulation network on the base map, the planned retentions in black, and the planned demolitions in red. (Paul Lederer 1978, CATO_841_182797_0001, ETIC, NPS)



Figure 154: The CCC installed this flagstone path in 1940. It contributes to the cultural landscape. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

Biderman's pathways began at each dormitory entrance and connected to adjacent roadways or to a central curvilinear pathway. This circulation network was completed in 1981.[70]

In 1978, a JCCC dormitory burned down. As the new dormitory campus was constructed, the old JCCC campus was demolished, and its circulation network was largely removed; only the paths adjacent to Buildings 3, 83, 12, and 177 remained in place. Park staff planned for six dormitories in total, although only four were constructed (*see Figure 153*).

Existing Condition

The circulation network at Camp Round Meadow has undergone minimal changes since the end of the period of significance. Most vehicular circulation and pedestrian paths have likely been repaved in kind, retaining their original design and locations.

The CCC-era flagstone path outside Building 1 consists of flagstones of different sizes but is generally 4′ wide (*see Figure 154*).

The road network and system of parking lots throughout Camp Round Meadow, created in a series of iterations from the WPA to the JCCC eras, remain in place. These roads are generally paved with asphalt, with some also containing asphalt curbing.

JCCC-era paths remain adjacent to Buildings 3, 83, 12, and 177. These paths are in the same locations and retain their historical design. They are generally 70″ wide and are paved with various materials, including asphalt, concrete, and exposed aggregate concrete; only the exposed-aggregate concrete (with a bluestone-type aggregate) is consistent with historic conditions. The three exposed aggregate concrete staircases adjacent to Buildings 83 and 144 remain in place. They are generally 72″ wide and feature treads with a 7″ rise and 12″ run. Each staircase is flanked with simple black-painted pipe railings.

70. Benjamin H. Biderman and Paul Lederer, "Demolition, Location and Utility Plan," Sheet 2 and "Walkways, Grading, and Planting Plan," Sheet 2, CATO_841_41008_0001, ETIC, NPS.



Figure 155: Examples of typical Job Corps-era sidewalks and staircases. These pathways are generally narrow and historically featured exposed-aggregate concrete. Over time, some of these pathways have been repaved with non-historic materials, including asphalt. The design and routing of these paths contribute to the cultural landscape; however, only the concrete materiality is consistent with historic conditions at the end of the period of significance. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 156: Typical pathway conditions at the dormitories. These paths were installed between 1979 and 1981 and are contributing features. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 157: This typical parking spur at Foxville Plaza highlights the three-part paving strategy of the 1961 plan: (left to right) asphalt parking spur, concrete trailer foundation slab, and walkway (historically brick). (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 158: This road historically served as the Lewis farm laneway, CCC camp entrance road, Central Maintenance Group entrance road, and the main route into the Naval Support Facility trailer court. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

Several typical parking spurs remain at Foxville Plaza. These generally consist of a three-part paving strategy, as specified in the 1961 plan: asphalt parking spur, concrete trailer foundation slab, and walkway (historically brick). However, many of the parking spurs have been continually repaved or enlarged with a variety of materials. No known brick walkways are extant.

Dormitory paths are approx. 4′-6″ to 6′ wide and paved with asphalt. Each features a concrete apron connecting with a dorm entrance or a wooden ramp. These paths are in the same locations and feature the same material as they did historically.

There have been limited alterations to the circulation features at Camp Round Meadow since the period of significance. An additional pedestrian path was constructed at c. 2010, connecting Building 1 with the adjacent parking lot. The road to the ballfield area was also paved with permeable pavers at an unknown date after the period of significance. Park staff also: installed a two-track gravel spur road linking the dining hall loading dock area with Foxville Plaza; expanded the Brown's Farm Trail to connect with the new dormitories; added two driveways at Buildings 214 and 125; and constructed a host site RV spur.

Evaluation

Overall, Camp Round Meadow retains integrity of its circulation features. The larger circulation plan developed by CCC, Job Corps, and changed for the dormitory construction is clearly legible. Indeed, many circulation features are among the only remnants that indicate where other buildings or structures once were. These features are essential to understanding Camp Round Meadow as a layered and interwoven cultural landscape that featured overlapping human conservation programs. While some historic circulation features are in fair to poor condition, careful treatment can easily reverse this effect.

The CCC-era flagstone path outside Building 1 remains in place; it is a contributing element of the cultural landscape.



Figure 159: This photo provides a good summary of circulation conditions at Round Meadow. The Job Corps-era path at left meets a modern gravel road that was added after the period of significance. Although a road existed in the same general location as the existing gravel road during the CCC era, it was removed by the Job Corps and not replaced until recent decades. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

Unless otherwise noted, all pedestrian circulation contributes to the cultural landscape. However, the asphalt and concrete materials are inconsistent with the historic condition; only the exposed-aggregate concrete is a contributing material.

The three staircases adjacent to Buildings 83 and 144 and the associated concrete aprons are contributing features dating to the Job Corps era (***see Figure 155***).

The dormitory area pedestrian pathways are contributing circulation features (***see Figure 156***).

The road to the ballfield area was established during the period of significance, and is a contributing feature; however, the road's permeable pavers are not historic.

The general arrangement of Foxville Plaza's trailer parking spurs and loop road are contributing elements of the cultural landscape (***see Figures 157 and 158***). However, the paving of each parking spur and its corresponding walk are non-contributing.

The alterations made since the period of significance are non-contributing, including the two-track gravel spur road connecting Foxville Plaza with Building 83 (***see Figure 159***); the extension of the Brown's Fair Trail; the driveways at Buildings 214 and 215; and the host site RV spur.

CIRCULATION - CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Feature Description	Period of Significance	Date Established	Contributing Status
Path from Building 1 to historic parking area (flagstone)	1936-1981	c. 1936	Contributing
Road system and parking lots (asphalt)	1936-1981	c. 1936-1965	Contributing
Sidewalks and stairways (asphalt, concrete, and aggregate concrete) around Buildings 3, 83, 177, and 12	1936-1981	c. 1965	Contributing
Sidewalks (asphalt) connecting the dormitories with the road system	1936-1981	c. 1979-1981	Contributing
Gym parking lot (gravel)	1936-1981	c. 1966; converted to a gravel parking lot c. 1970	Contributing
Foxville Plaza circulation (asphalt), including parking spurs and loop road	N/A	c. 1961	Contributing
Ballfield road (gravel)	1936-1981	c. 1960s	Contributing (pavers NC)
Brown's Farm Trail (earthen)	N/A	Unknown	Non-contributing
Service road (gravel) connecting the loading dock for Buildings 3 and 83 with Foxville Plaza	N/A	Unknown	Non-contributing
Driveways for Buildings 214 and 215 (asphalt)	N/A	c. 1979 and c. 2000s	Non-contributing
Camp host site parking spur (asphalt)	N/A	Unknown	Non-contributing



Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Circulation - Existing

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023
3. CATO GIS shapefiles, NPS, undated.

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson and Zhijie Wang, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Pedestrian/Vehicular Circulation, Non-Contributing
- Pedestrian/Vehicular Circulation, Contributing
- Vehicular Circulation/Parking, Contributing
- Vehicular Circulation/Parking, Non-Contributing
- Buildings and Structures

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Map Version, October 2025

N 0 70 140 280 420 Feet

Drawing 11

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Vegetation

Historic Condition

Prior to the establishment of the CCC camp in 1939, there was minimal planning for the landscape design within the Central Garage Unit, as RDA planners focused instead on constructing operational facilities. Accordingly, vegetation was limited to forested areas, a series of orchards at the Lewis farm, and an allée of fruit trees along the Lewis laneway (***see Figure 160***). Most of these fruit trees were later removed by the CCC, and many orchards were reforested or abandoned and left to develop into second-growth deciduous forests.[71]

Significant changes to the cultural landscape's vegetation began in 1939 with the arrival of the CCC. Corpsmen immediately began beautifying their campus by adding trees and shrubs to the former farm field. While a listing of plant species at the CCC camp proper or the Central Garage Unit has not been located, guidance from historic photos and records of other CCC jobs within the Catoctin RDA provide some context. Photos of the CCC camp show several young trees planted along walkways, roadways, and in open spaces between buildings. Most notably, the CCC planted an allée of trees along the former Lewis farm laneway, which served as the main entrance road to the camp and the Central Garage Unit. These trees may be the present-day London planetrees (*Platanus x acerifolia*) at Foxville Plaza. Other CCC photos show a series of planting beds featuring irises, peonies, and a row of unidentified trees, which may be London planetrees (*Platanus x acerifolia*) or American sycamores (*Platanus occidentalis*) (***see Figure 161***). These vegetation features were adjacent to Building 135 (later the Dogwood Dorm) (built in 1939; demolished in 1998). This building was located immediately west of Building 83.

Contemporary period photos also show a series of young trees planted outside the administration building (Building 1) (***see Figures 162 and 163***). The species of these trees is unknown; however, fieldwork in 2023 preliminarily linked the location of one tree (see the annotation in ***Figure 160***) to a large old sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) outside Building 1, suggesting that it dates to the CCC era.[72]

Beyond its beautification efforts, the CCC corpsmen were primarily involved in reforestation and conservation efforts. A 1940 work order indicates that CCC workers were tasked with planting trees and shrubs to block the entrances to old roads, including several openings along Manahan Road. CCC workers also planted trees and shrubs to screen undesirable views, including views from Manahan Road of the CCC sawmill, shingle mill, lumber sheds, stone crusher, and other camp buildings. For both endeavors, species to be planted were "wild native plantings of varying sizes gathered at suitable places" (in keeping with the writings of Frank Waugh, whose book *Landscape Conservation* was part of the CCC curriculum).[73] The work order, like *Landscape Conservation*, also stipulated that the selected species "must conform to existing growth in the vicinity of the spot to be planted." The work order specified that all work was to "present a naturalistic appearance when completed," in keeping with the principles of rustic park landscape design.[74] Although the work order vouched in this way for the character and composition of the plantings, it did not offer further detail about specific species.

By 1941, park staff called for further planting to enhance the perimeter screen along Manahan

71. "[1937 Aerial Photograph]," AHA-26-44, October 30, 1937 in Geospatial Data Files, CATO, NPS.

72. Project Construction Form, "[Landscaping Area Headquarters]," CCC Job N-32 in CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.

73. Job Application, "[Planting Trees and Shrubs, Untraveled Log Roads Leading to Main Roads]," February 1940, Form 7 No. 706, CCC Job 38 in CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD; Job Application, "[Field Planting]," September 30, 1940, Form 7 No. 701, CCC Job 274 in CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.

74. "[Planting Trees and Shrubs, Untraveled Log Roads Leading to Main Roads]," CCC Job 38; "[Field Planting]," CCC Job 274.

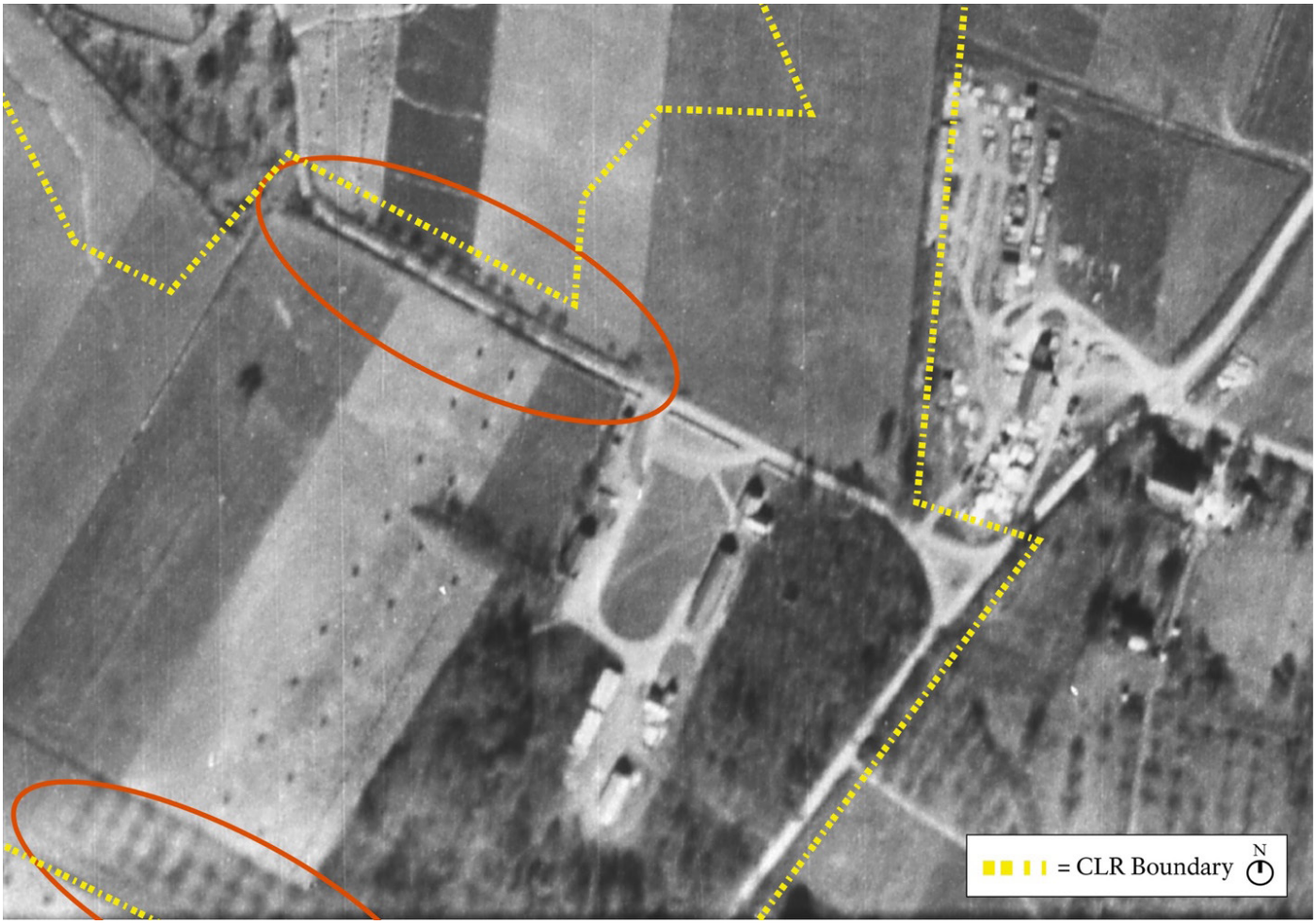


Figure 160: This 1937 aerial shows the as-built conditions of the Central Garage Unit before the arrival of the CCC in 1939. Few plantings were added in the early years of the RDA; instead, planners retained existing forested areas (center), an orchard (bottom, circled in orange), and an allée along the Lewis farm laneway (top, circled in orange). ("[1937 Aerial Photograph]," AHA-26-44, October 30, 1937 in Geospatial Data Files, CATO, NPS.)

Road. In addition to the native trees planted by CCC workers a year earlier, a new work order called for honey locust trees (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) to be planted in order to screen the sawmill and lumber sheds from view.[75]

CCC workers also reforested former farm fields. One CCC job called for the planting of 5,000 Table Mountain pines (*Pinus pungens*) and 10,000 Virginia pines (*Pinus virginiana*). To appear naturalistic, CCC workers were instructed to plant trees in a 5′ x 5′ grid, leaving gaps in the grid for the seeds of other native tree species to take root.[76]

Little work was completed within the Central Garage Unit between 1942, when the CCC departed, and the early 1950s. By 1952, park staff began removing CCC camp buildings; however,

75. "[Field Planting]," CCC Job 274.
76. Job Application and Job Completion Record, "[Planting Trees and Shrubs, Owens Creek Watershed, Northeast Section of Area]," June 1940, Form 7 No. 706, CCC Job 42 in CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.



Figure 161: CCC workers planted decorative beds with irises and peonies and ringed with a row of trees (possibly American sycamore or London planetree) adjacent to Building 135 (later the Dogwood Dorm) (built in 1939; demolished in 1998). (Buildings and Maintenance Historical, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

aerial photographs indicate that park staff did not remove many trees planted within the former CCC camp. Instead, as the Naval Support Facility trailer court was established beginning in 1955, residents gradually added trees, shrubs, and planting beds at their trailer sites to beautify their homes and augment the existing vegetation. No other documented planting occurred at Camp Round Meadow before the tenure of the JCCC, beginning in 1965.

Fieldwork conducted in 2023 identified a series of mature pines and sycamores that may date to the CCC era; if so, they were maintained throughout the Naval Support Facility's tenure. Fieldwork also indicated the presence of additional decorative species that form a forest over the former play area in the center of the trailer court area; these vegetation features include arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), Big tooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), as well as other mature native canopy trees. Fieldwork in 2023 also identified several planting beds in Foxville Plaza containing decorative species such as lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) and irises (*Iris* sp.) that could date to the Naval Support Facility's tenure during the period of significance.

Efforts to beautify the JCCC campus began almost immediately after construction began in 1965. The JCCC's annual reports noted that many Corpsmen



Figure 162: CCC workers planted young trees outside the main building at the Central Garage Unit. The tree at left (see annotation in white) may be the same sugar maple that exists outside Building 1 today. (Excerpt from Buildings and Maintenance Historical, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

had taken it upon themselves to improve their campus, even as the Corps awaited a formal planting plan from NPS leadership. A report from June 1965 recalled that the "weather has been favorable for the development of the landscaping features around the Center. The grass continues to grow, and the Geraniums are enhancing the beauty of the front..."[77] The same report noted that while the master plan for the Center was in development, the Job Corps and park staff were concentrating on adding turf and remediating construction damage. Park leadership had planned to share the completed planting scheme in the fall of 1965, but for unknown reasons, this was delayed until April of 1966.[78]

Despite delays, Corpsmen continued to undertake small improvements and oversaw the preparation of the grounds for future planting.[79] In October 1965, a JCCC report indicated that "chrysanthemums were planted in front of the mess hall and office, giving the Center a floral display of yellows, reds, rusts, and pinks. Most of our Center has been graded off



Figure 163: This sugar maple (Acer saccharum) outside Building 1 was likely planted by the CCC. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

77. *[Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report],* June 1965 in CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.
78. *[Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report for Catoctin Mountain Park, June 1965]*, July 10, 1965 in CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.
79. Memorandum to Superintendent (Catoctin) from Center Director, *Monthly Narrative Report for November 1965*, December 7, 1965, Catoctin Jobs Corps Conservation Center, Lantz, MD in CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.



Figure 164: Throughout 1965, Job Corpsmen planted annual floral displays along walks. Their beatification efforts predated any formal plantings by the NPS and showcased the beautification efforts of the JCCC. (Round Meadow, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

and seeded."[80] The November 1965 report listed gardening in its section about JCCC recreation activities, noting that "a course of instruction for gardeners has been started, and these Corpsmen are now planting tulips and daffodils in the Center. A good show of color is expected in the Spring."[81] Corpsmen's efforts are evident in ***Figure 164***, where tulips and daffodils accent the walkways of the Center office and mess hall.

Fieldwork also identified similar bulb plantings, including daffodils, at the entrance to Camp Round Meadow from Manahan Road, perhaps indicating that Job Corpsmen also added plantings to beautify the entrance to their camp.

80. Memorandum to Superintendent (Catoctin) from Center Director, *Monthly Narrative Report for October 1965*, November 8, 1965, Catoctin Jobs Corps Conservation Center, Lantz, MD in CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.
81. Memorandum to Superintendent (Catoctin) from Center Director, *Monthly Narrative Report for October 1965*, November 8, 1965, Catoctin Jobs Corps Conservation Center, Lantz, MD in CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.

Landscape architect E. B. Willard of the National Capital Office of the National Park Service prepared the extensive planting plan in April 1966 (***see Figure 165***).[82] In his plans, Willard called for the following species in his palette:

Trees

- Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)*
- Pine (*Pinus* sp.)*
- Flowering crabapple (*Malus* sp.)
- Eastern redbud (*Cersis canadensis*)*
- Sour gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- Sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*)*
- Native canopy trees*

Shrubs

- Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)
- Azalea (*Azalea* sp.)*
- Dwarf evergreen azalea (*Rhododendron eriocarpum*)
- Dogwood (*Cornus* sp.)*
- Creeping juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*)
- Hick's yew (*Taxus x media* 'Hicksii')
- Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)*
- Burford holly (*Ilex cornuta*)
- Wintergreen Barberry (*Berberis julianae*)
- Pyracantha (*Pyracantha* sp.)

Flowers

- Seasonal flowers (e.g. daffodils, tulips, irises, etc.)*

** consistent with earlier WPA and CCC-era planting practices or designs*

These species were arranged in the following ways:

- Vegetative Screens
  - A hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) screen between the Naval Support Facility trailer court and the JCCC;
  - A partial screen along Manahan Road, separating the Central Garage Unit from easy public view, comprised of randomly planted pines (*Pinus* sp.) and hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*)
- Foundation Plantings and Flower Beds
  - Evergreen foundation plantings (species not specified) along the trailers in the JCCC staff trailer court area (present-day dormitory area);
  - Foundation plantings of bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*), dwarf evergreen azalea (*Rhododendron eriocarpum*), and annual flowers at the JCCC dispensary (at the crest of the present-day bus circle);
  - Flowering crabapple (*Malus* sp.), azaleas (*Azalea* sp.), and seasonal flowers (unspecified species) in the planting bed between the warehouse parking lot and the retaining wall;
  - Azaleas (*Azalea* sp.) along the upper edge of the JCCC office (Building 83) retaining wall;
  - Creeping juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*) planting beds flanking the staircase from the JCCC office (Building 83) to the maintenance building (Building 144);
  - Hick's yew (*Taxus x media* 'Hicksii') hedges on the outside edge of the flagpole plaza outside the JCCC office (Building 83);
  - JCCC dining hall/office planting beds between the sidewalk and buildings, consisting of interspersed Burford holly (Ilex cornuta), azalea (*Azalea* sp.), and seasonal flowers
  - Concentric hedges of Wintergreen Barberry (*Berberis julianae*) and seasonal flower beds along the JCCC campus walks and assembly field;
- Flowering Shrubbery
  - Dogwood (*Cornus* sp.) trees adjacent to the blacksmith shop
  - Scattered flowering trees in the lawn bounded by Building 1, the sidewalk, and

82. Memorandum to Superintendent (Catoctin) from Center Director, *Monthly Report [December 1965],* January 7, 1966, Catoctin Jobs Corps Conservation Center, Lantz, MD in CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.



Figure 165: The 1966 planting plant for the JCCC called for the use of evergreen species, various flowering trees and shrubs, and seasonal flower beds. (E. B. Willard, "Proposed Planting Scheme," Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

the JCCC buildings, including dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.), Eastern redbuds (*Cersis canadensis*), and sour gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*);

  - Dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.) and pyracantha (*Pyracantha* sp.) along the southeast façade of the Dogwood Dormitory/Building 135 (present-day playing field);
  - Dogwoods at the corners of the JCCC dormitories

- Trees flanking circulation
  - Sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*) along the primary vehicular circulation routes throughout the JCCC campus, especially along the road to the JCCC dining hall loading dock and the road through the JCCC trailer court (present-day dormitory area);
- Conservation
  - Reforestation of a clearing near the multi-use court with native plantings (of unnamed species);
  - Scattered planting of hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) along the edges of developed areas and the forest, paired with careful thinning of undesirable growth;
  - Plantings of native trees (of unnamed species) throughout the lawn between the maintenance area and the JCCC dining hall and office

Photographs of the JCCC campus in the 1960s and 1970s show that the Willard planting plan was indeed carried out. As early as July 1966, JCCC workers were photographed planting dogwoods in the lawn bounded by the walkway between Building 1 and Building 83 (***see Figure 166***). Similarly, a 1968 photograph shows planting beds of daffodils (*Narcissus* sp.), tulips (*Tulipa* sp.), and Burford holly bushes (*Ilex cornuta*) (***see Figure 167***), all of which were included in Willard's planting plan.

However, much of Willard's planting plan was unsuited for long-term maintenance. The shrubs he envisioned adjacent to buildings quickly overwhelmed their narrow planting beds, creating an untidy appearance throughout Camp Round



Figure 166: A Job Corps worker plants a dogwood tree in a grove northwest of Building 1 , as part of E.B. Willard's planting plan, which also called for Eastern redbuds (Cersis canadensis) and sour gum (Nyssa sylvatica) in this area. (The stone wall that divided Foxville Plaza and the JCCC campus is just out of frame at right.) (Don Wadase, June 1966, CPP-021A-103, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 167: This 1968 photo shows the intended effect of the Willard planting scheme, including beds of daffodils, tulips, and Burford holly (Ilex cornuta) outside the dining hall (Building 3). (Round Meadow, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 168: When this photo was taken in 1974, many of the original JCCC evergreen plantings at Buildings 3 and 83 had become greatly overgrown. These were removed sometime after this photo was taken. (Excerpt from Round Meadow Environmental Center, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

Meadow. Photos from the mid-1970s show many of these overgrown evergreen hedges, including Burford holly (*Ilex cornuta*) and Hick's yew (*Taxus x media* 'Hicksii') (***see Figure 168***). By the late 1970s and early 1980s, most of these hedges had been removed, as they are no longer evident in photographs.

After the JCCC closed, little seasonal planting took place at Camp Round Meadow. Instead, many ornamental species were not maintained, and many former planting beds reverted to turf. One notable exception was in the area northwest of Building 1, in the same area where JCCC workers planted dogwoods; when this area became the Folk Culture Center in 1970, organizers planted a small orchard and vegetable garden (***see Figure 169***). Known garden species depicted in historic photos included onions, lettuce, and carrots. The group also cultivated several apple and cherry trees along the stone wall between the trailer court and the garden.[83]

The last planting plan at Camp Round Meadow within the period of significance was designed in 1978 and executed as the dormitories were

83. Park staff indicated in 2024 that several apple and cherry trees still exist. The density of vegetation in this area prevented the CLI team from mapping specimen trees.

constructed between 1979 and 1981 (***see Figure 170***). The 1978 planting plan was overseen by NPS architect Benjamin H. Biderman but drawn by NPS landscape architect Paul Lederer. In a 1984 interview for *Architect* magazine, Biderman described his design philosophy as "not wanting to make a splash," noting that "the best solution is the one that goes unnoticed." Biderman wanted the site design to blend with its setting, echoing earlier planting schemes of native plants and the CCC's intention for new building to disturb their site as little as possible during construction.[84]

With this philosophy in mind, Biderman and Lederer called for a planting palette similar to earlier eras at Camp Round Meadow, although theirs was greatly expanded. Their palette included:

Trees

- Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)*
- Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)*
- Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)*
- Northern red oak (*Quercus borealis*)*
- Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)*

Shrubs

- Azalea (*Azalea nudiflorum* 'Pinxterbloom')*
- Rhododendron (*Rhododendron carolinianum* 'PJM')*
- Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentaum*)

*= continuity from early planting plans or native planting philosophies in the JCCC, CCC and WPA eras

Biderman called for dense planting beds along the foundations of each dormitory (***see Figure 171***). Beds consisted of a mixture of dwarf azalea (*Azalea nudiflorum* 'Pinxterbloom'), rhododendron (*Rhododendron carolinianum* 'PJM'), and Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentaum*). Generally, Biderman placed the taller Arrowwood viburnums at the outside and inside corners of the dormitories, where the species could mature without blocking views into and out of the buildings.

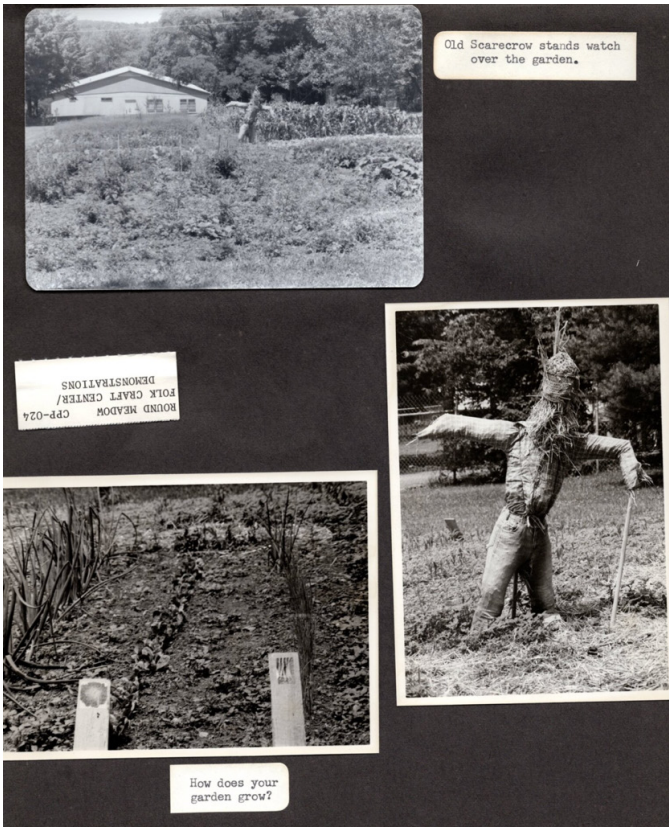


Figure 169: During the tenure of the Folk Culture Center, the Center planted a vegetable and herb garden near Building 1. The group also cultivated several apple trees along the stone wall between the trailer court and the garden. (CPP-024, Folk Culture Center, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

84. Benjamin H. Biderman quoted in Carleton Knight III, "The Park Service: Shifting Emphases Since World War II," *Architecture* 73, no. 12 (1984): 52-53.

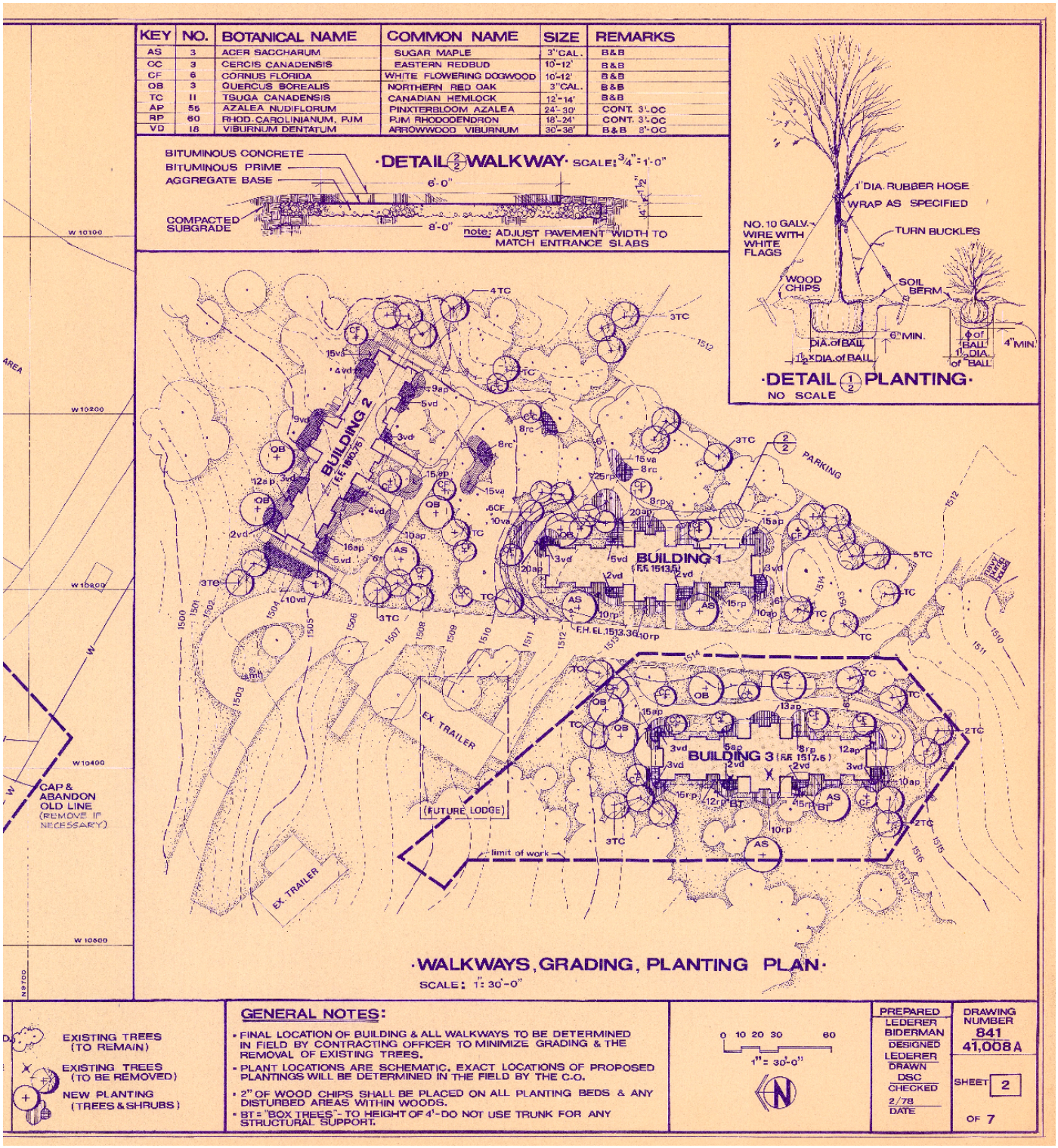


Figure 170: The 1978 planting plan for the dormitories called for a wide variety of native plantings and flowering specimens, many of which were used in earlier planting campaigns at Round Meadow. (Biderman and Lederer, "Walkways, Grading, Planting Plan," Sheet 2, 1978 in CATO_841_41008_0001, ETIC, NPS)



Figure 171: This May 1979 photo shows a recently completed Dormitory 1, including young plantings. Note the hemlock at the center, the small shrubs adjacent to the building's foundation, and the preserved mature trees. (Round Meadow, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 172: This 1979 photo of Dormitory 2 shows the new plantings in early spring. Note the hemlocks, preserved native trees, and young maple trees. (Round Meadow, Interpretation Files, Round Meadow, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 173: This 1979 photo of Dormitory 2 shows a series of small shrubs flanking the building entrances. These were likely viburnums. Also note the preserved native trees around the ramps. (Round Meadow, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

The height of the viburnums also helped to frame building fenestration. In contrast to these features, he called for shorter dwarf azaleas and rhododendrons underneath windows, flanking entrances, and along walkways and ramps (*see Figures 172 and 173*).[85]

In the landscape beyond the dormitories, the designers strove to limit the number of trees removed. In a note to the contractor on the building plans, Biderman wrote, "final locations of buildings & all walkways to be determined in the field by contracting officer to minimize grading & the removal of existing trees."[86] In much the same vein, Biderman noted that additional plantings would be placed based on the discretion of the contracting officer. Presumably, larger overstory plantings were located in relation to preserved native trees, such as oaks, maples, and tulip poplars. Additional trees were arranged in a naturalistic design throughout the open spaces formerly occupied by the JCCC trailer court. Native species were used to create a naturalistic grove setting featuring a high canopy and limited midstory. Canopy species included Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), Northern red oak (*Quercus borealis*), and tulip poplars (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Young hemlocks likely also served to screen undesirable views. Midstory species included white flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). Midstory plantings were generally located along circulation features, likely to highlight their seasonal blooms. The remainder of the open space was mulched and seeded with turf.[87]

Existing Condition

Few documented CCC-era plantings remain at Camp Round Meadow. However, the careful reforestation efforts of the CCC at the Lewis farm fields led directly to today's second-growth deciduous forests surrounding the cultural landscape. Some trees in these areas could date to the early years of the period of significance, including mature pines (*Pinus virginiana*) and hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*), species known to have been planted by the CCC. However, a detailed forest inventory was not undertaken as part of the CLR.

Beyond the forested areas, fieldwork in 2023 did note the trace of a former row of London planetrees (*Platanus × acerifolia*) along the edge of the Foxville Plaza. The apparent age of the trees, compared with trees in similar locations in aerial photography dating back to the 1940s, indicates that these trees likely date to the CCC period. Similarly, the sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) outside Building 1 may also date to the CCC era, based on historic photographs and aerials.

The central forested area within Foxville Plaza may contain CCC-era plantings, including mature pines (*Pinus virginiana*). Similar trees appear in CCC photos as young saplings and are later highlighted in aerials dating to the establishment of the Naval Support Facility trailer court. If these trees do not in fact date to the CCC era, then the design intent of this area dates to the 1950s at the latest, characterized by a central, shared play area and canopy trees. Many of the trees in Foxville Plaza may date to this same mid-century period.

The decorative trees and shrubs in Foxville Plaza were likely planted by the residents of the trailer court. This includes planting beds with irises and lilacs, Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), and Bigtooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*). The presence and positioning of these non-native species with former trailer yards indicate that they were likely planted during the period of significance under the Naval Support Facility's tenure.

The cultural landscape retains numerous JCCC plantings, as continues to exhibit much of the design intent of the 1966 planting plan. Vegetative screens remain extant along the boundary between the former Naval Support Facility trailer court and Camp Round Meadow, as well as along Manahan Road. These were initially constructed by the CCC and later augmented by the JCCC. While a

85. Benjamin H. Biderman and Paul Lederer, "Walkways, Grading, and Planting Plan," February 1978, Sheet 2, CATO_841_41008_0001, ETIC, NPS.
86. Biderman and Lederer, "Walkways, Grading, and Planting Plan."
87. Biderman and Lederer, "Walkways, Grading, and Planting Plan."



Figure 174: When this photo was taken in 1988, many of the original plantings around the dorm foundations had become overgrown. (Round Meadow, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

complete tree inventory of these areas was not undertaken for this CLR, fieldwork in 2023 did visually locate several mature hemlock and pine trees in these locations, suggesting that they date to the Job Corps era. These now heavily forested areas also convey the conservation goals in the JCCC planting plan, including the reforestation of campus edges and the planting of native trees throughout the lawn between the maintenance area and the JCCC office and mess hall.

No foundation plantings or flower bed plantings remain from the Job Corps; most of these plantings grew too large for their plantings beds and were removed as part of cyclical landscape maintenance into the 1990s. However, the dining hall and office planting bed remain, albeit with modern plantings installed. Most noticeably, the cultural landscape retains mature specimens of flowering shrubbery and street trees from the 1966 planting plan. This includes a series of declining dogwoods near Building 1, and sugar maples along much of the vehicular circulation and throughout the campus lawns. These species were later supplemented in the 1990s and 2000s by park staff interested in testing disease-resistant flowering dogwood species.[88]

Like plantings undertaken by the Job Corps, Biderman's planting scheme was not maintained by the NPS and quickly became overgrown. Photos from the mid-to-late 1980s show the overgrown and shaggy appearance of dormitory hedges (*see Figure 174*). Indeed, by the late 1980s and early 1990s, most of the azaleas, viburnums, and rhododendrons adjacent to the dormitories had been removed. Iris beds around the dormitories were in place by 1989 and likely date to dorm construction.[89] However, the continuity of planting species from era to era is evidenced through the continued thought given to the rustic nature of the cultural landscapes' design and species. Despite losing some plantings along dorm edges, the cultural landscape retains the mature canopy trees and ornamental shrubs called for under the plan, including numerous sugar maples, hemlocks, oaks, dogwoods, and redbuds.

Former biologist Becky Loncosky reported in conversation with the authors that for many years due to the high deer population, there was minimal low and mid-story vegetation at Round Meadow. Deer management began in earnest in 2010. At this time, staff began planting shrubs such as serviceberry, witch-hazel, redbud, and other midstory shrubs.[90]

Circa 2011, the Monocacy and Catoctin Watershed Alliance (along with volunteers and park staff) installed a rain garden outside the dining hall (Building 3). This rain garden is a non-contributing element of the cultural landscape. Species planted in the raingarden and observed during fieldwork include Eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), yarrow (*Achillea*

88. Conversation with Becky Loncosky, December 12, 2024.

89. Conversation with Becky Loncosky, December 12, 2024.
90. Conversation with Becky Loncosky, December 12, 2024.



Figure 175: This large sugar maple outside Building 1 likely dates to the CCC era and is a contributing element of the cultural landscape. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 176: These sugar maples planted along the road date to the 1966 planting plan. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 177: These London planetrees in Foxville Plaza are likely traces of the former CCC camp. They are contributing features. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

millefolium), and Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*).

Typical mature native canopy trees throughout the cultural landscape include black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), and butternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*).[91]

Evaluation

The vegetation in the cultural landscape is the result of decades of overlapping development campaigns. These various campaigns frequently used similar planting palettes and employed aesthetic strategies that achieved similar effects. Camp Round Meadow retains the designed intent of these strategies, including screening of functions, vegetation that filters and directs views, and ornamental plantings that achieve desired aesthetics. While few original specimen plantings remain, the design intent of the vegetation is both clear and a contributing element of the cultural landscapes. Specific vegetative elements are called out in the following paragraphs.

In the Central Garage Unit (the former Lewis farm area), the forested areas to the cultural landscape contribute to the cultural landscape. There is also one sugar maple outside Building 1 that was likely planted by the CCC and is a contributing feature (***see Figure 175***). The roads along the former Job Corps area campus and trailer court contain mature maple trees. These are contributing elements that date to the 1966 Willard plan (***see Figure 176***).

In the Foxville Plaza area, the mature London planetrees along the roads are contributing features, as they likely date to the CCC and Job Corps eras, respectively (***see Figure 177***). Elsewhere in Foxville Plaza, the trees in the central cluster, around the play area, are considered a contributing element of the cultural landscape, as they were likely planted in the middle decades of the period of significance. The ornamental trees planted in



Figure 178: Remnant gardens, including irises, are located throughout the Foxville Plaza area. These traces are contributing features. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 179: These hemlock trees in the dormitory area date to the 1978 planting plan and are contributing features. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

91. Conversation with Becky Loncosky, December 12, 2024.



Figure 180: These flowering dogwoods date to the period of significance and are contributing elements of the cultural landscape. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 181: These mature canopy trees were carefully preserved during construction of the dormitories. They are contributing features. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

individual trailer court spurs are also contributing features. Other known ornamental plantings in the former trailer court area include an iris planting bed and a lilac bush (***see Figure 178***).

In the dormitory area, the extant vegetation features convey the original design intent of the 1978 planting plan and demonstrate continuity to earlier planting campaigns in the cultural landscape (***see Figures 179 and 180***). These plantings contribute to the cultural landscape.

The mature native canopy trees throughout the cultural landscape—including black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and others listed in the Existing Condition section above—are not individually contributing. However, their careful retention under the JCCC and Biderman planting plans makes these forested groves throughout Camp Round Meadow contributing elements to the landscape's design (***see Figure 181***).

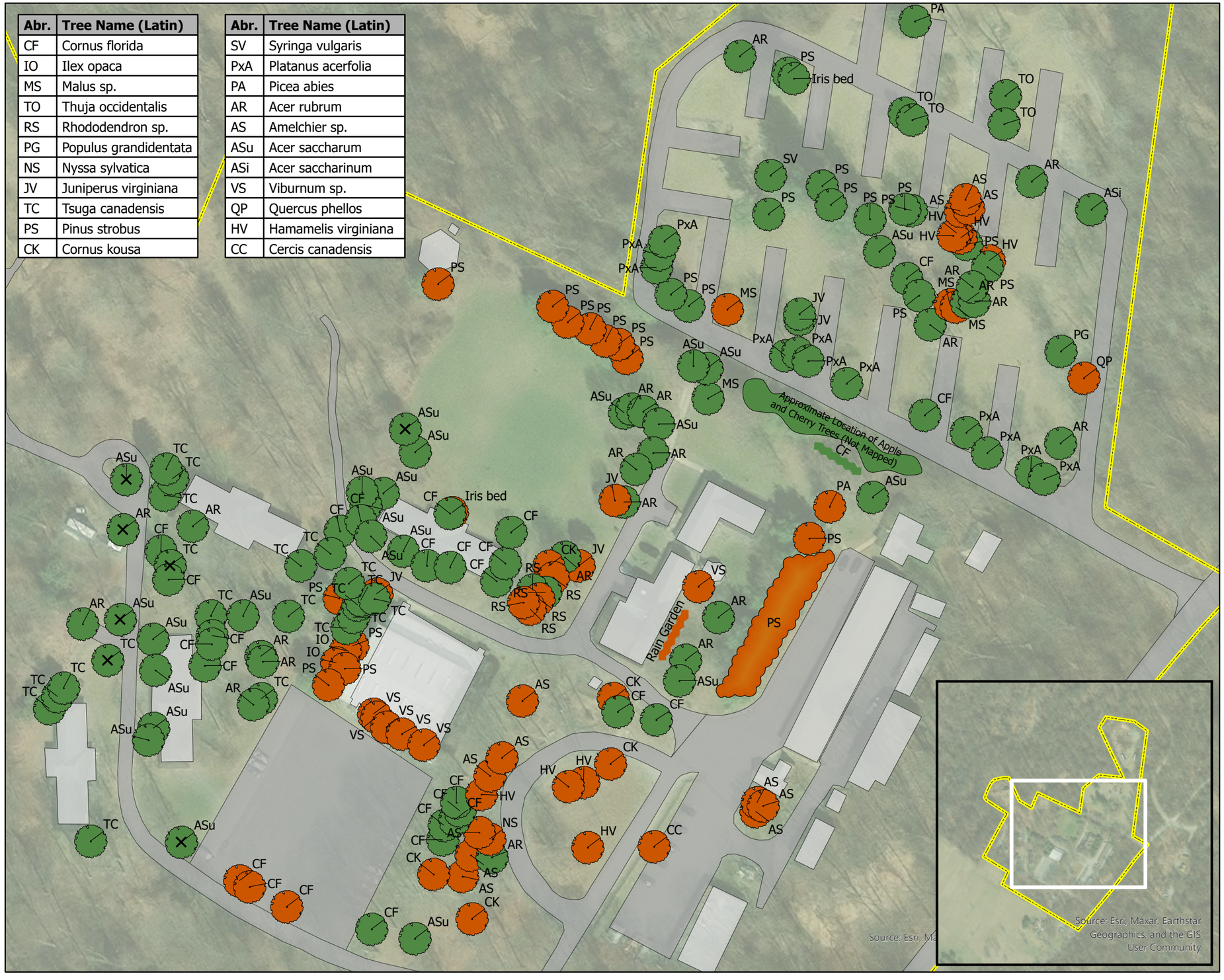
VEGETATION - CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Feature Description	*Period of Significance*	*Date Established*	*Contributing Status*
Flowering dogwoods (*Cornus florida*)	1936-1981	Species used by CCC/ WPA;on 1966 and 1978 planting plans	Contributing
Eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*)	1936-1981	Species listed on 1966 and 1978 planting plans	Contributing
Sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*)	1936-1981	Species used by CCC/ WPA;on 1966 and 1978 planting plans	Contributing
Remnant allée of London planetrees (*Platnus x acerfolia*) in Foxville Plaza	1936-1981	Likely date to the CCC era	Contributing
Mature native canopy trees throughout the cultural landscape	1936-1981	Various	Contributing
Mowed turf areas throughout Camp Round Meadow	1936-1981	Various	Contributing
Cluster of trees in Foxville Plaza, including white pine (*Pinus strobus*), Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), Big tooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), and other native species such as tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and oaks (*Quercus alba, rubra, palustris, phellos*)	1936-1981	Many of these trees are visually quite old and appear on aerials throughout the POS (especially white pines); some may date to the CCC, while others certainly date to the Naval Support Facility.	Contributing
Remnant garden plantings in Foxville plaza, including lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) and iris (*Iris* sp.)	1936-1981	Between 1955 and 2010; added by trailer court residents	Contributing
Apple trees (*Malus* sp.)	1936-1981	c. 1970-1982; established by Folk Culture Center	Contributing
Cherry trees (Prunus sp.)	1936-1981	c. 1970-1982; established by Folk Culture Center	Contributing
Azaleas (*Azalea* sp.)	1936-1981	Species used by CCC/WPA; on 1966 and 1978 planting plans; current plantings postdate POS	Non-contributing
Viburnums (*Viburnum* sp.)	N/A	Species used in 1978 planting plan; current plantings are in non-historic locations	Non-contributing
Black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)	N/A	Species used in 1978 planting plan; current plantings are in non-historic locations	Non-contributing

Feature Description	*Period of Significance*	*Date Established*	*Contributing Status*
Red maples (*Acer rubrum*)	N/A	Species not used historically	Non-contributing
Serviceberries (*Amelanchier* sp.)	N/A	Species not used historically	Non-contributing
Witch-hazel (Hamamelis virginiana)	N/A	Species not used historically	Non-contributing
Eastern white pines screens (*Pinus strobus*)	N/A	c. 1990s	Non-contributing
Kousa dogwoods (*Cornus kousa*)	N/A	Species not used historically	Non-contributing
Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)	N/A	Species not used historically	Non-contributing
American holly (*Ilex opaca*)	N/A	Species not used historically	Non-contributing
Rain garden, southeast of Building 3	N/A	c. 2011	Non-contributing
Iris (*Iris* sp.) planting bed north of Dorm 4 (Building 232)	N/A	Unknown	Non-contributing

Abr.	Tree Name (Latin)
CF	Cornus florida
IO	Ilex opaca
MS	Malus sp.
TO	Thuja occidentalis
RS	Rhododendron sp.
PG	Populus grandidentata
NS	Nyssa sylvatica
JV	Juniperus virginiana
TC	Tsuga canadensis
PS	Pinus strobus
CK	Cornus kousa

Abr.	Tree Name (Latin)
SV	Syringa vulgaris
PxA	Platanus acerfolia
PA	Picea abies
AR	Acer rubrum
AS	Amelchier sp.
ASu	Acer saccharum
ASi	Acer saccharinum
VS	Viburnum sp.
QP	Quercus phellos
HV	Hamamelis virginiana
CC	Cercis canadensis



Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Vegetation - Existing

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson and Zhijie Wang, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Vegetation, Non-contributing
- Vegetation, Contributing
- Vegetation, Non-contributing
- Vegetation, Contributing
- Vegetation, Non-contributing
- Buildings/Structures
- Circulation
- Trees Removed During 2025 Utility Work

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Map Version, October 2025

N 0 30 60 120 180 Feet

Drawing 12

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Small-Scale Features

Little is known about the small-scale feature in the cultural landscape prior to the creation of the RDA. These would have almost certainly been agricultural in nature. During the period of significance, small-scale features were generally functional or aesthetic in nature. These includes flagpoles, fencing, signage, lighting, and guardrails. Throughout the overlapping periods of development, many of these features were removed, regularly replaced, and often, replaced-in kind. Individual small-scale features are called out below.

GUARDRAILS

Historic Condition

Log guardrails were among the first small-scale features constructed in the cultural landscape during the period of significance. Pre-CCC photos of the Central Garage Unit, during the years when it was administered by the WPA and RDA, do not show the log guardrails, suggesting that the CCC constructed them after 1939, when it established its adjacent camp. These guardrails were simple in design, consisting of short log posts capped with a horizontal log (*see Figure 182*).

Log guardrails were used only on the edge of the central lawn area outside the RDA headquarters. Such barriers prevented damage to the recently planted trees and turf. However, as log guardrails rotted, they were not replaced. Park photographs from the early 1950s do not show any guardrails (*see Figure 183*), indicating that these landscape features were fully removed by this time.

Existing Condition

There are no extant guardrails in the cultural landscape.

FLAGPOLES

Historic Condition

The first flagpole in the cultural landscape was introduced with the arrival of the CCC camp in 1939. Prior to this time, the Central Garage Unit did not have any flagpoles, which were generally limited to the cabin camps elsewhere in the park. During its first summer in temporary tent accommodations, the CCC likely constructed a temporary flagpole until a permanent one could be installed. After constructing sturdier facilities between 1939 and 1940, CCC workers installed a metal flagpole in a central location between the enlisted men's quarters. The exact height of this flagpole is unknown; however, a photograph of it indicates that it towered over the CCC camp and was likely visible from great distances, given that the former agricultural landscape remained largely open at this time. The same photograph shows that the CCC camp flew the American flag with the CCC flag below, both on the same halyard (*see Figure 184*) attached to the metal pole. This flagpole was eventually removed, likely concurrent with the repurposing of the CCC camp area as Naval housing in the 1950s.[92]

Before the formal dedication of the Job Corps Conservation Center on February 27, 1965, JCCC workers installed a metal flagpole outside the office. This flagpole featured a silver-colored metal ball on its top and was serviced by two halyards mounted on opposite sides of the pole. Historic photos of the flagpole from the JCCC period show that the American flag was flown each day the center was open; sometimes, a smaller JCCC flag accompanied it, flown below. (*see Figure 185*).

92. Williamson et al., *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation),* 7-15



Figure 182: This photograph of the Central Garage Unit, taken c. 1940, shows a series of log guardrails along the edge of the central access road; they were likely constructed by the CCC. Such rails prevented vehicles from driving on the newly planted lawn or damaging newly planted trees. (Excerpt from AC0930-0000135, Civilian Conservation Corps, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution)



Figure 183: The log guardrails consisted of simple log and post-construction. Their use was limited to the edge of the parking area and circulation along the central lawn adjacent to the RDA headquarters. (Excerpt from Buildings and Maintenance Historical, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 184: Between 1939 and 1940, the CCC constructed this flagpole, which was located between the barracks of the enlisted men. (Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

Existing Condition

The Job Corps-era flagpole remains in its historic location outside Building 83. It measures approximately 15′ tall and tapers from a base 6″ wide. It consists of an aluminum pole topped with a silver-colored metal ball. It was historically equipped with two rope halyards and cleats mounted opposite one another; however, only one rope halyard remains. Other than the missing halyard (which can be replaced), the JCCC flagpole remains little changed from when it was installed during the period of significance. It is a contributing feature (*see Figure 186*).



Figure 185: This flagpole was installed prior to the Job Corps Conservation Center dedication on February 27, 1965. (CPP-022-10, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

LIGHTING

Historic Condition

RDA planners chose the Lewis farm site, the present-day site of Camp Round Meadow, in part because it already contained electric and telephone lines.[93] The Lewis house and its cluster of buildings were located northwest of present-day Foxville Plaza, along the former Lewis farm laneway, which was repurposed as the Central Garage Unit's main entrance road. This almost certainly meant that the first light fixtures within the cultural landscape were associated with the Lewis farm, which remained standing until early 1938, when all buildings were razed.[94] However, the design and location of the Lewis farm lighting fixtures are not known.

According to Judith Earley's 2002 Cultural Landscape Report for nearby Camp Misty Mount,

93. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory,* 55.
94. CMP Vertical Files: CH-044 and Aerial 1937, cited in Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory, Catoctin Mountain Park, National Park Service*, 61.

"no information about the historic outdoor lighting has been found [for the park]. It is only known that there were seven poles in connection with the electric lines, and, very likely, lamps were attached to these, just as lamps are attached to their present-day counterparts."[95] The same was almost certainly true of the Central Garage Unit's lighting system.

In 1939, the CCC extended new electric lines throughout the RDA area, including to its new camp adjacent to the Central Garage Unit.[96] It is not known which CCC buildings had electricity, or which had lighting. No detailed plans of the CCC camp were located, and aerial photography is not available at a sufficient resolution to identify the precise locations of lampposts in the CCC camp. However, a low-resolution CCC photo appears to show one such feature adjacent to the fuel house. This fixture consisted of a simple lamp covered

95. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory, Catoctin Mountain Park, National Park Service, Volume 2*, 288.
96. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Landscape Inventory, Catoctin Mountain Park, National Park Service*, 61.



Figure 186: This flagpole was added by the Job Corps in 1965 adjacent to Building 83. It is a contributing feature of the cultural landscape. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 187: This low-resolution photo of the fuel building in the CCC camp may show a CCC-era light fixture (circled in orange), attached to an electrical pole. (Excerpt from Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD; annotated by CLR authors)

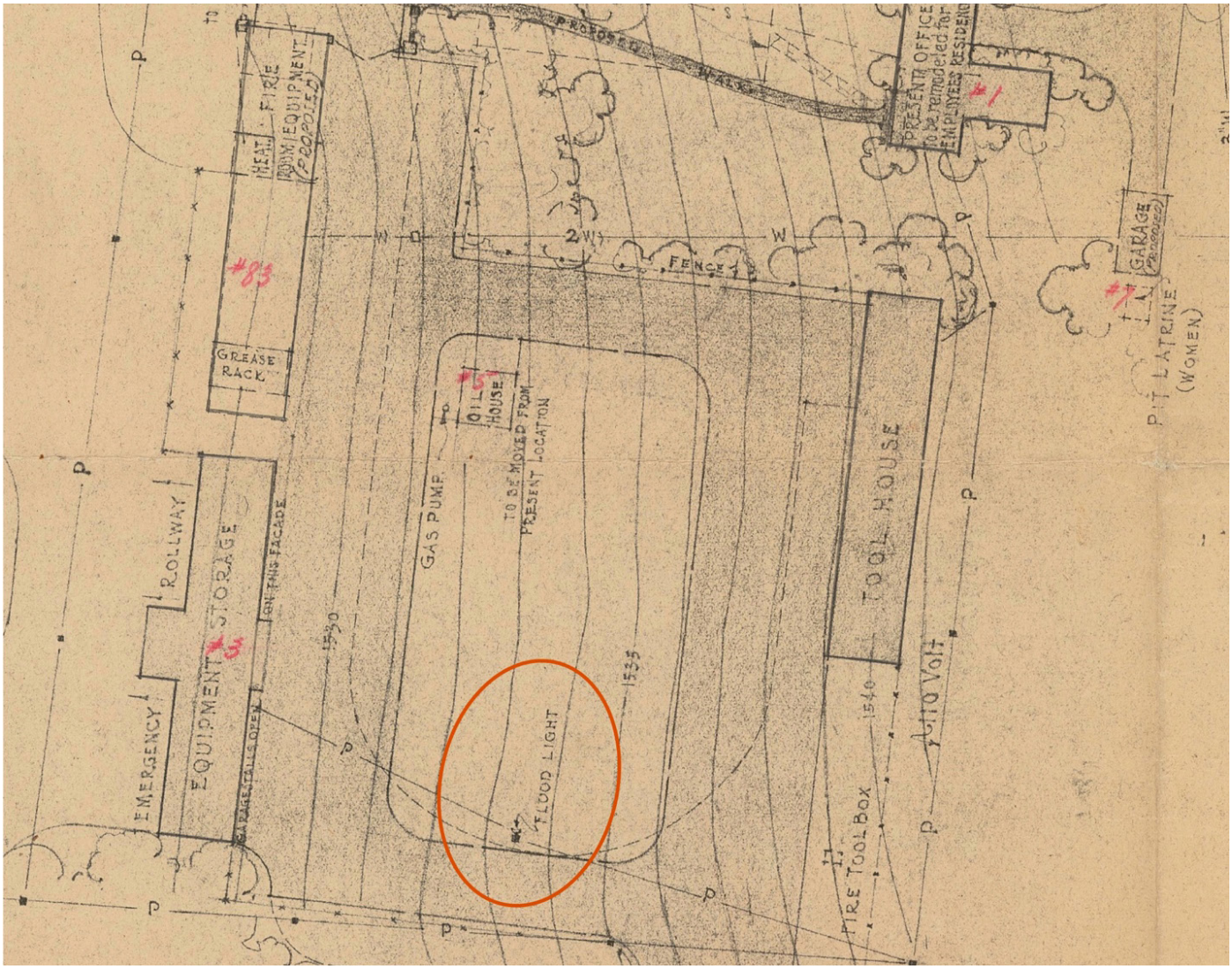


Figure 188: This 1942 plan shows the electric line, labeled "P" and the only stand-alone light unit (annotated in orange and labeled "flood light"). (Excerpt from Bailey, Aug 1941- Jun 1942, "Layout Plan of Area Service Group," Plan No. 1879946, CATO_841_2018, Catoctin Mountain Park, NPS, annotated by CLR authors)

by a metal or enamel-coated hood mounted on a wooden pole (***see Figure 187***).

A 1942 plan is the earliest representation of any stand-alone lighting fixtures in the cultural landscape. This plan shows a single "flood light" of unknown design. This light was located in the center of the service yard, as then defined by Building 3, Building 83, and the predecessor to present-day Building 144 (***see Figure 188***).

The design of the c. 1942 floodlight may have consisted of a simple lamp covered by a metal or enamel-coated hood mounted on a wooden pole, similar to those in the CCC camp (***see Figure 189***). Like the fixtures in the CCC camp, this type of fixture is shown on a 1953 photo of the former fire cache building, within the Central Garage Unit. Since the 1942 plan only shows one free standing lighting fixture, this may have meant that RDA

designers favored attaching exterior lighting to certain buildings or structures in the Central Garage Unit in lieu of creating free-standing lampposts. Other electrified buildings in the Central Garage Unit that were drawn on the 1942 plan included the RDA office (Building 1), the tool house (predecessor to Building 144), and the equipment storage building (Building 3). Since these buildings were electrified, they may have had similar attached lights to the one depicted on the fire cache.[97]

While interior lighting will not be discussed in detail here, it is important to note that most buildings and structures throughout the RDA were unlit and unelectrified prior to World War II. This changed when the OSS and other military groups arrived in 1942. During their tenure at Catoctin, the OSS modernized most park facilities, including expanding utility systems (such as electricity) to most of the buildings it used. This likely included all CCC camp buildings, although it may not have included the Central Garage Unit, since the RDA retained control of this area.[98]

As part of the Mission 66 improvements, the National Park Service updated the park's sewer and electrical systems.[99] During this period (although not associated with the program), the NPS authorized and the Navy built mobile home housing units in the location of the former CCC camp. By 1955, the Commander of the Naval Support Facility at Camp David was using a portion of the site as a mobile home park for Navy personnel.[100] This area, later called Foxville Plaza, may have contained lampposts. However, lighting is not indicated on any of the site plans, and it is unclear when the present-



Figure 189: This photo, taken on March 13, 1953, is among the only photos that indicate what historic lighting may have been used when the Central Garage Unit was constructed. The light, circled in orange, is attached to the building instead of free-standing. No building plans show exterior lighting, and few indicate any exterior lighting within the cultural landscape prior to Misson 66. (Excerpt from Abbie Rowe, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD; annotated by CLR authors)

97. Bailey, Aug 1941- Jun 1942, "Layout Plan of Area Service Group," Plan No. 1879946, CATO_841_2018, Catoctin Mountain Park, NPS.
98. Earley, *Catoctin Mountain Park: Cultural Lansdcape Inventory, Volume II,* 227; Chambers II, *OSS Training in the National Parks and Service Abroad in World War II,* 597; G. B. ("Mike") Williams, custodian, to Regional Director, 30 January 1944, NPS Records (RG 79), Entry 7 , Central Classified File, 1933-1949, General, 201 National Defense, C [Catoctin], Box 79, Folder 201, National Archives II. In Chambers II, *OSS Training in the National Parks and Service Abroad in World War II,* 11 and 597.
99. Kirkconnell et al., *Catoctin Mountain Park: An Administrative History*, 107.
100. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 61.



Figure 190: (a-b-c-d-e) Examples of various exterior lighting systems at Round Meadow during the 1960s and 1970s. (a) This 1965 photo shows an exterior light over the main entrance to Building 3 (dining hall) (Excerpt from CPP-005-6, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD); (b) This 1966 photo shows a series of exterior lights on Building 175 (warehouse) (Excerpt from Don Wadase, CPP-005-19, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD); (c) This undated photo of the Gymnasium (Building 177) shows a type of flood light used on the corners of the building. (Excerpt from CPP-005-23, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD); (d) Each bay of the central garage building had an exterior flood light like the one shown here in this undated photo. (Excerpt from CPP-021A-43, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD); (e) This 1964 photo shows some of the few light fixtures attached to light posts. (Excerpt from Duncan R. Burchard, CPP-021A, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

day lampposts in Foxville Plaza (Type C in this CLR's list of features) were added.

The creation of the JCCC brought the first major changes to the lighting within the cultural landscape. As new buildings were added, the JCCC and NPS staff installed new exterior flood lights on buildings; examples of this are shown in ***see Figure 190***. These ranged in design and materials. Lights affixed on lampposts were limited to the central Job Corps campus, northwest of the dining hall (Building 3) and the bunkhouse (Building 83). They were affixed to existing and new electrical poles. (***see Figure 190-e***). Exterior lighting was also added between 1979 and 1981, concurrent with the construction of the dormitories. Each of these buildings had a spotlight-style lighting unit at its entrance.[101]

Existing Condition

In 2010, park staff modified lighting parkwide to improve night-sky conditions as part of its *Climate Friendly Park Action Plan* (***see Figure 191***). At Camp Round Meadow, this included new units (Type A in the List of Features).[102] Concurrent with the installation of new Type A lights, park staff also modified lighting in parking lots and adjacent to or attached to camp buildings. To improve night-sky conditions, park personnel replaced extant floodlights attached to buildings or utility poles with down-facing lighting (Type B).

101. Lighting fixture dates are drawn from historic photos and building and utility plans.
102. This naming convention was established for use in this CLR. It does not reflect any historic names or past documentation classifications.



Figure 191: (a-b-c) Type A (2010), Type B (installed c. 1965; replaced 2010); Type C (undetermined). Type A and Type B lampposts within the cultural landscape are non-contributing. Type C lampposts are undetermined. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

Type A lights feature a 4″ metal pole painted black and set into a 10″ concrete footing (***see Figure 190-a***). Each is mounted with a plastic and metal pendant light. The globe consists of a metal cage around an LED lamp. Each unit has a circular metal cover and solar power/light level indicator.[103] These lights are located along paths, roads, and adjacent to structures. These are placed in non-historic locations throughout Camp Round Meadow and are non-contributing landscape features.

Type B lights consist of a downward-facing streetlight or floodlight-style unit affixed to a wooden utility pole or attached to buildings (***see Figure 190-b***). These are located outside the dining hall (Building 3) and bunkhouse (Building 83) and attached to the Gymnasium (Building 177). The poles for Type B lights are approximately 15′ tall and 10″ to 12″ across. While many Type B lights occupy lighting positions that were established during the period of significance, most extant units are not historic. As such, they are considered non-contributing features of the cultural landscape.

103. Elder-Norquist, *Catoctin Mountain Park Administrative History Update*, 229; National Park Service, *Foundation Document: Catoctin Mountain Park, Maryland* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013), 30–31, 40; 2013 CATO RSS, 26–28, *Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management Plan* (Thurmont, MD: NPS, 2005).



Figure 192: (a-b-c) Most exterior lighting attached to buildings has been replaced since the period of significance with Type A or Type B lighting. These are considered non-contributing. Only the dormitories retain their historic lighting, a contributing element of the cultural landscape. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 193: The entrance sign for Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area, likely located along Manahan Road, points to the Central Garage Unit and RDA headquarters within today's Round Meadow, c. 1940 (CPP-027, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD).

Within Foxville Plaza, there are approximately 10 Type C lights along the circumferential road (***see Figure 191***). Type C lights consist of metal poles with angled floodlights that feature halogen lamps. Each pole is approximately 10′ tall and 4″ wide. It is unknown when these were installed or whether they are historic; their contributing status is undetermined in this CLR.

Most of the lighting fixtures installed in the Job Corps, YCC, Folk Culture Center, and dormitory construction eras have been replaced with Type A or Type B units (***see Figure 191***). Only the dormitories retain their original exterior lighting; these features are considered contributing elements of the cultural landscape (***see Figure 192***).

For more on individual lighting features associated with specific buildings, refer to the concurrent Historic Structures Report, in progress as of spring 2024 by the University of Texas at Austin.

SIGNAGE

Historic Condition

Wood signs with routed letters have always been an integral part of the cultural landscape, introduced during the initial construction of the RDA under the WPA/CCC. Albert Good's treatise, *Park Structures and Facilities*, devotes a whole section to appropriate rustic signage; the wooden signs at Catoctin RDA likely followed the guidance outlined in this book or similar manuals. However, no plans



Figure 194: During the WPA and CCC eras at Round Meadow, regulatory and wayfinding signage was limited. Routed wood signs (circled in orange) were attached to some buildings, indicating the name, number, and/or use of the building. (Excerpt from Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD; annotated by CLR authors)

and only one historic photo of the RDA entrance sign have been located to indicate how the original signage looked during the early years of the period of significance. The RDA's primary entrance sign (*see Figure 193*) consisted of a wooden board with painted lettering hung from a log armature. This sign may have been located along Manahan Road, directing visitors to the Central Garage Unit via the historic Lewis farm laneway (now the entrance road to Foxville Plaza).

However, beyond the large entrance sign, WPA/CCC-era signage was likely limited within the Central Garage Unit, since this area was not open to the public. Indeed, few historic photos of the Central Garage Unit or the CCC camp show signage of any kind. One low-resolution photograph (*see Figure 194*) shows routed wooden signs attached to the outside of a CCC building; such signage likely provided a building name, number, and/or use.

During World War II, the use of the camps by military and government personnel likely resulted in additional signage, but specifics are not known.

When Foxville Plaza was subsequently added in the 1950s, it likely featured additional regulatory or wayfinding signage.[104] Photos of this area from the 1950s to the 1980s show metal regulatory signage



Figure 195: This undated photo shows a Job Corps-era sign used within the cultural landscape. Note the "Modified Gothic" lettering. The sign was hung from a wooden post with a wooden arm. (CPP-024, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

104. Williamson et al., *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation),* 7-15.



Figure 196: This undated photo shows an entrance sign within the cultural landscape. Note the "Modified Gothic" lettering, consistent with the signs made by Job Corpsmen. The sign was hung from a wooden post with a wooden arm. (Round Meadow, Interpretation File, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 197: Under the tenure of the Job Corps, signage remained limited. Signs were added to the exterior of buildings, such as the one circled in orange here, or attached to posts outside buildings and along circulation features. (Excerpt from CPP-034-5, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD; annotated by CLR authors)

such as speed limits, stop signs, and designations of the "residential area."[105]

The largest sign-making campaign at Catoctin occurred under the Job Corps in the late 1960s. The group established a sign shop (outside the study area boundaries) and created more than 300 signs that were installed throughout the park.[106] Signs created during this time featured a "Modified Gothic" type, white routed lettering, and a brown "shop stain" wood backdrop. Signs were generally 2″ thick, but the design and sizing depended on the inscription. This style of sign was used at the entrance to the JCCC camp, within the study area, along Manahan Road and present-day Camp Round Meadow entrance road (***see Figure 195***); it featured a hanging board that read:

CATOCTIN

[JCCC LOGO]

CIVILIAN

CONSERVATION

CENTER

After the JCCC terminated its program at Catoctin, the entrance sign was replaced by a new sign for "Round Meadow Camp" (***see Figure 196***). The new sign was likely installed c. 1968 or 1969, when the JCCC closed and was replaced with environmental education programming. The new sign featured the words "Round Meadow Camp" and the NPS logo and letterhead. It used the same font as the JCCC sign, suggesting that it may have been made by the Job Corps, even after the program transitioned from a residential program to a day program.

105. See "Trailer Area Access 11-1985.jpg" in CATO Interpretation Files, Photographs, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.
106. "Bureau Narrative Report," April 1966, in A2615, Box 1, Job Corps Administrative Records, RG79: Records of the National Park Service: Administrative Files, 1949-1971, National Archives, College Park, MD; "Center Narrative Report, April 1966," in A2615, Box 1, Job Corps Administrative Records, RG79: Records of the National Park Service: Administrative Files, 1949-1971, National Archives, College Park, MD; and "Center Narrative Report, May 1966," in A2615, Box 1, Job Corps Administrative Records, RG79: Records of the National Park Service: Administrative Files, 1949-1971, National Archives, College Park, MD.



Figure 198: Small wayfinding signage was added outside Job Corps buildings between 1965 and 1969. One is circled in orange. (Excerpt from CPP-021-7, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD; annotated by CLR authors)

Other signs created by the Job Corps (and likely later the YCC) were limited to small routed signs outside camp buildings, including the office, mess hall, and classroom buildings. Some of these signs were affixed directly over building entrances (***see Figure 197***), while others were attached to short posts and placed along circulation features or outside classrooms (***see Figure 198***).

Interpretive signage was first added to the cultural landscape beginning in 1970, concurrent with programming for the Folk Culture Center. Such signage referred to the folk craft that occurred in the building, interpreting the cultural landscape for increasingly public use (in contrast with the strictly administrative/back-of-house functions it maintained in earlier decades). Signage typically consisted of painted wooden boards suspended from metal hangers over building entrances. Inscriptions referred to the activities in each building, including "cottage crafts," "country doctor," "farm crafts," "blacksmith shop," "general store," and others[107] (***see Figure 199***). These signs were



Figure 199: The first interpretive signage at the park was introduced beginning in 1970, as part of the Folk Culture Center. These rustic signs advertised the activities that happened in individual buildings and building sections. (Folk Life Center, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

107. For more on the Folk Culture Center, see Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD.



Figure 200: This undated photo shows the entrance sign to Round Meadow in the 1980s, after the closure of the Folk Culture Center and the suspension of environmental education activities. This sign was later replaced with the current version. (Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

removed c. 1981 or 1982, after the Folk Culture Center closed.

As environmental education programs ended at Camp Round Meadow c. 1981, the camp entrance sign was likely replaced. The Job Corps/YCC-era sign that read "Round Meadow Camp" was replaced with a simple routed wooden sign that read "Round Meadow." The new sign (***see Figure 200***) was hung from the same armature but featured a different font from the Job Corps-era signs. This sign was later replaced after the period of significance with the present-day sign.

Other extant signs postdate the camp's period of significance and include metal regulatory signs (e.g. stop signs and speed limits).

Existing Condition

It is unclear whether any extant regulatory signage within Camp Round Meadow dates to the period of significance. By design, regulatory signs in particular are meant to be continually updated and replaced. Nonetheless, they are an essential part of the camp landscape and are therefore non-contributing but compatible with the historic scene.

During 2023 fieldwork, the project team measured and documented a limited number of representative sign styles. Their descriptions and measurements are described below.

Figure 201 shows a typical rustic routed wood sign. It features white-painted routed wood letters in all capital letters in a bold sans-serif font and reads "SLOW WATCH FOR CHILDREN." It consists of an approximately 20″ x 16″ wooden board attached to a three-foot-tall 4″ x 4″ post.

Figure 202 shows the round meadow entrance sign. It comprises an approximately 10′ tall, 4″ x 4" post with an attached metal pole and chain arm from which hangs a routed wooden sign board that measures approximately 4′ x 2′. This board features the NPS logo and white-painted routed wood letters that read "ROUND MEADOW." The font is the same as shown in Figure 208.

Figure 203 shows typical metal regulatory signage featuring a speed limit and parking area sign. These metal signs are mounted on 4″ x 4″ poles and are

generally located along vehicular circulation routes and parking areas.

Figure 204 shows typical metal wayfinding signage featuring building names and arrows indicating the vehicle route. Each metal sign is mounted on a wooden 4″ x 4″ post.

Figures 205 and 206 show typical trail markers and wayfinding signage, including a typical routed wood trail sign along the Brown's Farm Trail through Camp Round Meadow (*see Figure 206*). These vary in height and length based on the text content shown but generally contain routed white-painted wood letters indicating a distance to the destination, trail name, and arrow indicating the direction of travel. Each generally consists of think wooden boards or planks attached to 4″ x 4″ posts. Typical trailhead signposts are generally located where the Brown's Farm Trail intersects with other vehicular and pedestrian circulation. They consist of a square recycled plastic post with chamfered top edges. Each feature routed lettering painted white and generally contains the trail name and a direction of travel.

There are three modern interpretive waysides at Camp Round Meadow. Two are the standard NPS waysides, and one is panel designed for children. The standard waysides (*see Figures 207-a and 207-b*) feature content on the blacksmith shop and the rain garden outside the dining hall. The children's wayside (*see Figure 207-c*) is located at the entrance to the Brown's Farm Trail and features a description of the "TRACK Trail," an interpretive nature trail facilitated by a workbook created by the organization Kids in Parks. "TRACK" refers to an online program that allows kids to track their hikes in an online workbook and database. All of these features are non-contributing but compatible elements of the cultural landscape.

All signs are non-contributing but compatible features of the cultural landscape.



Figure 201: Example of a typical routed wood sign at Round Meadow. This sign is located at the entrance to the cultural landscape along Manahan Road. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

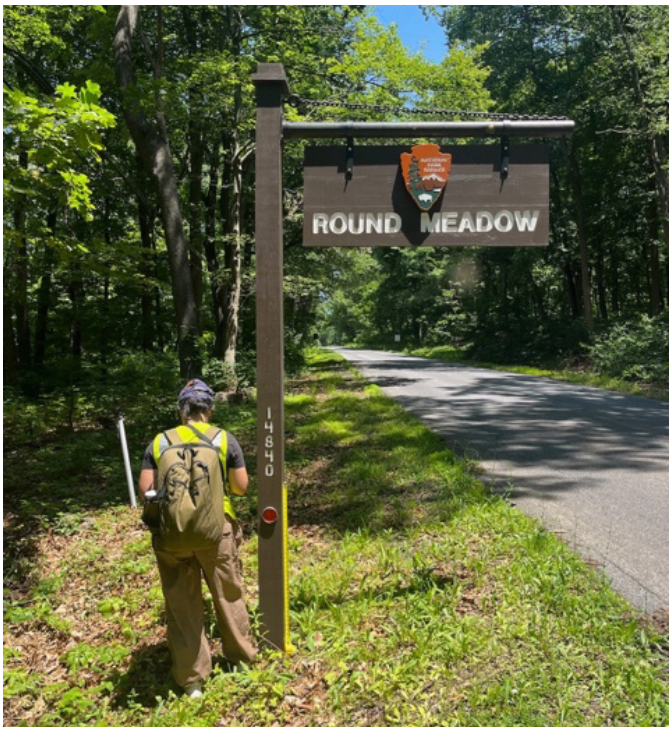


Figure 202: The present-day entrance sign to Round Meadow features a routed wooden sign with the NPS logo hung from a pipe arm mounted on a wooden post. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

BOULDERS

Historic Condition

In the years before the RDA was created, laborers on the Lewis farm removed most boulders from the



Figure 203: Example of typical wayfinding and regulatory signage. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 204: Example of typical wayfinding signage. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 205: Example of a typical trail sign. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 206: Example of a typical trailhead signpost. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 207: (a-b-c) Round Meadow hosts three interpretive waysides. Two are standard in their design, and one is designed for children to be smaller and more kid-friendly. They are non-contributing landscape features. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

agricultural fields, placing them at the edges of farm fields or using them to construct stone boundary walls.

While RDA designers retained many stone walls at the Lewis farm, they also removed many for use in RDA buildings or crushed them for use in road paving. It is unlikely that Lewis farm-era boulders were installed as decorative features within the study area.[108]

In her 2007 CLR for Camp Misty Mount, Judith Earley hypothesizes that WPA and CCC workers often placed large boulders within the camp landscape to create naturalistic scenes. This placement was deliberate and would have been in keeping with the principles of rustic design promoted by Meinecke and Good. Although this strategy was common in the public-facing portions of the park, including Misty Mount, this was likely less common (or not implemented at all) in the Central Garage Unit.

In all likelihood, the intentional placement of boulders in the cultural landscape did not take place until the construction of the four dormitories between 1979 and 1981 (***see Figures 208 and 209***). While placed boulders do not appear on construction documents, they are featured in photographs of the completed work. These boulders were likely excavated during dormitory construction and placed adjacent to the buildings to enhance their naturalistic qualities and planting



Figure 208: This 1984 photo of Dormitory 4 shows the landscape as built, including the careful placement of boulders in planting beds alongside the building (annotated with an orange circle). (Excerpt from CPP-005-10, Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD; annotated by CLR authors)

108. Judith Earley, *Camp Misty Mount, Catoctin Mountain Park, Cultural Landscape Report (DRAFT): Volume 1: Introduction, Contexts, History* (Washington, D.C.: National Capital Region, National Park Service, 2007), 211-212.



Figure 209: This 1979 photo of Dormitory 2 shows the placement of boulders in planting beds and along walkways (circled in orange), highlighting the naturalistic intentions of the landscape designers. (Excerpt from Interpretation Files, CATO Park Archives, Thurmont, MD; annotated by CLR authors)



Figure 210: The boulders adjacent to the Round Meadow dormitories are contributing elements to the cultural landscape. These boulders were placed in beds adjacent to the dormitories concurrent with the dormitories' original planting plan. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 211: Picnic tables at Round Meadow are non-contributing elements of the cultural landscape. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

plans. The display and preservation of locally sourced boulders in the landscape design would be in keeping with the naturalistic design of the dorms and their planting plans.

Existing Condition

The extant decorative boulders adjacent to the four dormitories were installed during the period of significance (***see Figure 210***). They vary in size and are contributing elements of the cultural landscape.

PICNIC TABLES

Historic Condition

There are no known historic photographs of picnic tables within the cultural landscape. Existing picnic tables have been added in recent decades to accommodate rental groups using the camp facilities.

Existing Condition

The extant picnic tables post-date the period of significance and are non-contributing elements of the cultural landscape (***see Figure 211***). Each table is composed of recycled plastic planks attached to a plastic frame.



Figure 212: This 1962 photo shows the historic stone wall but no chain-link fencing separating the Central Garage Unit and the Naval Support Facility trailer court. (CPP-004A, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

CHAIN-LINK FENCE AND GATES BETWEEN THE CAMP ROUND MEADOW AREA AND FOXVILLE PLAZA

Historic Condition

Chain-link fencing was first introduced in this area between 1962 and 1965, likely concurrent with the construction of the JCCC. Chain-link fencing first appears in historic photographs between 1964 and 1965. It was added to divide the two adjacent residential areas, the JCCC and the Naval Support Facility trailer court (*see Figures 212 and 213*).



Figure 213: This 1965 photo shows chain-link fencing dividing the Naval Support Facility trailer court (Foxville Plaza) from the JCCC. The fencing ran parallel to the existing stone wall. (Excerpt from Don Wadase, CPP-005-6, Catoctin Mountain Park Archives, Thurmont, MD)

Post-Historic and Existing Condition

The fencing that divides Foxville Plaza and Camp Round Meadow remains extant but is non-historic. In the late 1990s or early 2000s, Building 212 was converted into a storage shed with garage doors. It was likely at this time that a driveway and chain-link gate were added to the existing fence adjacent to Building 212. Circa 2010, the Navy closed Foxville Plaza. Sometime after this, park staff noted that a new chainlink fence was installed and never removed. This is the current fence.

It consists of a series of metal posts linked by a cable that is threaded through a cap. Chain link is affixed to the Foxville Plaza side of the poles. At an unknown date after the period of significance, a gap was cut into the fence to allow vehicles to pass freely between Camp Round Meadow and Foxville Plaza along a road north of Buildings 3 and 83.



Figure 214: The chain-link fence that divides Foxville Plaza and Round Meadow was added c. 2010. It is a non-contributing feature. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 215: This 1979 photo shows the recently enclosed maintenance area at Round Meadow. Workers (likely affiliated with the YCC) installed the chain-link fence enclosing the area between Buildings 144, 213, 207, and 84. (Interpretation Files, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD)



Figure 216: These photos show the non-contributing fencing that encloses the maintenance area. (Top left) View to the east of fence and gate between Buildings 84 and 207; (top right) view to the east of fence between Buildings 207 and 213; view to the north of wooden gate and fence between Buildings 213 and 144; and view to the north of the vehicular gate between Buildings 144 and 84. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

The fence is a non-contributing feature, separating land uses between different areas of the cultural landscape (*see Figure 214*).

CHAIN-LINK METAL AND WOODEN PICKET FENCES AND GATES ENCLOSING THE MAINTENANCE AREA

Historic Condition

Historic photos of the Central Garage Unit buildings indicate that the first fencing enclosing NPS spaces (and therefore separating them from public park space) was introduced after the departure of the Job Corps in 1969. The first known photo of fencing enclosing the maintenance area dates to 1979 (*see Figure 215*). Since the Job Corps used Buildings 144 and 84, it seems unlikely that this area would have been fenced off from the rest of the campus before that time. The arrival of the Folk Culture Center in 1970 likely prompted the separation of public areas from maintenance areas. Buildings 207 and 213, which comprise the northeastern side of the enclosed area, were built by the YCC in 1976 and 1977, respectively.[109] It seems likely that at this time, the full area bounded by Buildings 144, 213, 207, and 84 was enclosed with chain-link fencing. While no record of this project was identified during the research for this CLR, it seems likely that the YCC constructed this fencing, since that same organization was responsible for the construction of two of the related buildings.

Existing Condition

Chain-link fencing encloses the east and south sides of the maintenance area between Buildings 144, 213, 207, and 84 (*see Figure 216*). The chain-link fence between Buildings 84 and 207 has a pedestrian gate; the fence between Buildings 207 and 213 does not. The south end of the enclosed area includes a double-wide chain-link fence gate for vehicles. The north end contains a wooden picket fence and pedestrian gate that appear to have been constructed recently. All fencing is approximately 9' tall.

While the existing chain-link fencing is consistent with the fencing added during the period of significance—and is likely in the same or similar location—its finish is inconsistent with the historic fencing. This fencing between Buildings 144 and 84 is painted black and features unpainted metal hardware. Meanwhile, the older sections between Buildings 84, 207, and 213 feature an unpainted metal finish.

The fencing at the north end is no longer chain-link, having been replaced with wood. This feature is, therefore, a non-contributing but compatible feature, having been replaced over time for the continued use and security of the maintenance area.

ENTRANCE GATES

Historic Condition

The first documented entrance gate was installed in June 1965 at the entrance to the new JCCC along Manahan Road.[110]

Another gate was installed at an unknown time at the entrance to Foxville Plaza, the Naval Support Facility Trailer court along Manahan Road, sometime between the 1960s and 2010s. Images of the entrance to this area in the 1980s show a guardhouse instead of a gate, suggesting that this gate was installed in more recent decades.

Existing Condition

There is an existing entrance gate at Manahan Road, but further research is needed to determine if this is the same gate installed by the Job Corps as the entrance to the JCCC. The gate features two metal pipe arms supported by a diagonal metal arm and mounted on posts on either side of the road. When the area is closed, both arms meet in the middle of the road with a lock. The gate is approximately 3' tall and 9' wide (*see Figure 217*). This gate's significance is undetermined.

The contributing status for the extant gate to Foxville Plaza is also undetermined. No records

109. Williamson et al 2024, *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Additional Documentation),* 7-24.

110. *Monthly Progress Report* June 1965, i



Figure 217: One of two pipe gates at the entrance to Round Meadow from Manahan Road. The contributing status for these gates is undetermined. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 218: The significance of the gate to Foxville Plaza is undetermined. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

have been found to document its design or installation, although its design suggests a later date of construction. It features a black-painted metal pipe arm supported by three vertical supports and a diagonal arm, all affixed to a metal pipe pole. The gate is approximately 3½' tall and 12' wide (*see Figure 218*).

Evaluation

The small-scale features within Camp Round Meadow include a complex combination of historic and non-historic features. The study area contains features dating to its historic period, including a flagpole and decorative boulders.

Many of the small-scale features, including lighting and signage, have been regularly replaced throughout the camp's history, largely in-kind or in the same locations. Additional small-scale features are not historic, but are in keeping with rustic and administrative atmosphere of the landscape. As a result, the study area retains integrity with respect to small-scale features.

SMALL-SCALE FEATURES - CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Feature Description	*Period of Significance*	*Date Established*	*Contributing Status*
Flagpole (count: 1)	1936-1981	c 1965	Contributing
Boulders scattered throughout the dormitory area	1936-1981	c 1979-1981	Contributing
Lampposts Type A (black painted metal with shepherd hook luminaire)	N/A	c. 2010	Non-contributing
Lampposts Type B (wood pole with cobra-style luminaire)	N/A	c. 2010	Non-contributing
Lampposts Type C (Foxville Plaza)	N/A	Unknown	Undetermined
Signage	N/A	Various	Non-contributing
Interpretive waysides (count: 3)	N/A	Various	Non-contributing
Picnic tables (count: 17)	N/A	Various	Non-contributing
Chain-link fence and gates between the Camp Round Meadow area and Foxville Plaza	N/A	c. 2010	Non-contributing
Chain-link metal and wooden picket fences and gates enclosing the maintenance area	N/A	c. 1979-Present	Non-contributing
Entrance Gates	N/A	N/A	Undetermined

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Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Small-Scale Features - Existing

Urban Heritage Project
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson and Zhijie Wang, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Fences and Gates, Non-Contributing
- Bench, Non-Contributing
- Electric Vehicle Charger, Non-Contributing
- Flagpole, Contributing
- Lamppost, Non-Contributing
- Lamppost, Undetermined
- Signage, Non-Contributing
- Tetherball, Non-Contributing
- Trashcan, Non-Contributing
- Wayside, Non-Contributing
- Buildings/structures
- Circulation
- Circulation

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Map Version, October 2025

N 0 40 80 160 240 Feet

Drawing 13

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PART 2: TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

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Introduction

This chapter presents a treatment strategy for the long-term preservation and management of the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape based on the research, inventory, and analysis conducted for Part 1 of this Cultural Landscape Report.

According to National Park Service policy, the cultural landscape report serves as the primary document guiding the treatment of a cultural landscape and is required before major interventions. Treatment is the collective set of actions taken within a cultural landscape, intended to ensure the protection and preservation of the resources and characteristics that contribute to its historic character. Treatment guidance may range from broad guidelines and principles to specific tasks. The overall goal of treatment is to provide a basis for the sound stewardship of the cultural landscape according to the National Park Service's *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines* (1997) and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1996).

The treatment recommendations that follow were developed through discussion and collaboration with park staff and resource specialists, and were refined based on a treatment workshop convened in April 2025.

Treatment Framework

Enabling Legislation

Catoctin Mountain Park has no single piece of enabling legislation; rather, it was created from a series of legislative efforts and Executive Orders issued between 1932 and 1936. The first such order, the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932, authorized the acquisition of land by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise for emergency relief projects outside the District of Columbia. All ensuing efforts focused on emergency relief, land conservation, and resettlement, eventually resulting in the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA)—including what would later be called Camp Round Meadow. The Catoctin RDA was transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) by Executive Order 7496 on November 14, 1936. Public Law 77-594, 56 Stat. 326, passed on June 6, 1942, required all RDA projects to be maintained for "public park, recreational and conservation purposes," solidifying the park's (and Camp Round Meadow's) recreational land uses. When most RDAs were transferred back to state ownership in 1942, Catoctin remained federal property after President Harry S. Truman issued an executive order stating that the park would remain in federal ownership as a buffer to the presidential retreat at Hi-Catoctin/ Shangri-La (now Camp David). On June 11, 1954, approximately 4,400 acres south of Route 77 were transferred to the State of Maryland and became Cunningham Falls State Park, with the remaining part of the Catoctin RDA north of Route 77 retained and renamed as Catoctin Mountain Park on July 12, 1954. For more on the park's enabling legislation and executive orders, see the April 2013 Catoctin Mountain Park Foundation Document, Appendix A.

Definition of Policies, Guidelines, and Standards

The treatment and use of the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape must be considered within a framework of applicable laws, agreements, and policies. These mandates govern a wide range of management issues, including the preservation, protection, and interpretation of the Memorial Avenue Corridor's cultural resources. Key laws, regulations, and functional requirements that apply to the recommended treatments include the following:

Treatment of the cultural landscape is subject to the **National Park Service Organic Act (1916)**, which established the National Park Service and defines its purpose "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such a means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations" (16 USC 1).

The **National Historic Preservation Act (1966)**, as amended, protects buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects that have significant scientific, historic, or cultural value. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on properties listed, or potentially eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. All actions affecting a park's cultural resources must comply with this law, which is implemented through 36 CFR 800.

Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment (1971), mandates that "the Federal Government shall provide leadership in preserving, restoring, and maintaining the historic and cultural environment of the Nation."

The **National Park Service Resources Management Guidelines (NPS-28) (1998)** provides guidance on management and landscape preservation, including biotic systems, which are defined as plant and animal communities associated with human settlement and use. NPS-28 directs management of specimen vegetation—such as trees, shrubs, and orchards—to ensure health and vigor and, if appropriate, provide for propagation of the next generation, especially for rare plants or those unavailable in commerce. For natural systems, NPS-28 calls for managing landscape patterns to allow for natural dynamics. Exotic plant species, which are often found in cultural landscapes, should be monitored and controlled to avoid spreading and disrupting adjacent natural plant communities. In addition to biotic systems, NPS-28 states that historic circulation features are to be rehabilitated to accommodate health and safety codes in ways that minimize impact on historic character.

For a list of additional Related Federal Legislation, Regulations, and Executive Orders, please see the April 2013 Catoctin Mountain Park Foundation Document, Appendix B.

Summary of Park Management Objectives and Goals

A Foundation Document serves as the underlying guidance for all management and planning decisions in a unit of the national park system. It describes the core mission of the park unit by identifying the unit's purpose, significance, fundamental and important resources and values, interpretive themes, assessment of planning and data needs, special mandates and administrative commitments, and the unit's setting in the regional context. The 2013 Foundation Document for Catoctin Mountain Park identifies the park purpose as:

> ...to provide quality recreational opportunities in the Catoctin Mountains and serve as a setting and buffer for the Presidential Retreat, while protecting and conserving the park's natural and cultural environments in the spirit of New Deal conservation programs. (NPS Foundation Document 2013: 9)

Cultural landscapes are included among the Fundamental Resources or Values (FRV) recorded in the Catoctin Mountain Park Foundation Document. The "Data Needs to Protect and Maintain FRVs" include the assessment of integrity for Camp Round Meadow followed by cultural landscape documentation.

Catoctin Mountain Park does not have a current General Management Plan and does not have any current Development Concept Plans that pertain to Camp Round Meadow.

Summary of Stakeholder Interviews

METHODS AND PARTICIPANTS

In order to gain first-hand perspective on the uses and perceptions of Camp Round Meadow, the project team interviewed several stakeholders, including current and former Catoctin Mountain Park staff, representatives from camp user groups, a representative from a neighboring property (Caboose Farm), a representative from a park friends' group, and a former Youth Conservation Corps leader. Most interviews were conducted virtually via Zoom during December 2024 and January 2025; a few additional interviews were conducted via email. The project team also distributed a survey to camp user groups.

Current and former CATO staff interviewed:

- Rick Slade, Superintendent
- Lindsey Donaldson, Chief of Resources
- Katie Wackrow, Cultural Resources Program Manager
- Troy Strawn, Supervisory Facility Operations Specialist
- Jason Prochazka, Maintenance Supervisor
- Jennie Pumphrey, retired Supervisory Recreation Fee Specialist (Campground Manager)
- Joe Darling, Chief Ranger
- Rich Condon, Volunteer Coordinator
- Phillip Greenwalt, Chief of Interpretation and

Education

- Becky Loncosky, retired Biologist
- Angela Sirna, Intermountain Region Historian

Non-CATO staff interviewed:

- Ronald Albaugh, former Youth Conservation Corps leader
- Colby Stouffer, Property Manager, Caboose Farm
- Jim Robbins, President, Catoctin Forest Alliance
- Jeff Huggins, Program Manager, Catoctin BSA
- David Greenburg, President and CEO, The League for People with Disabilities
- Lillia Sheline, Director of Camp Greentop, The League for People with Disabilities

Email correspondence surveys with:

- Chris Hey, Law Enforcement and former Round Meadow resident
- Sofia Krom, Archeologist and former Round Meadow resident
- Survey responses from the following user groups:
- The League of People with Disabilities
- Young Women's Group, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Camp Catoctin, Scouts BSA
- Archdiocese of Baltimore (Renovacion Carismatica Catolica de Baltimore)
- St. Timothy Youth Ministry & Baltimore Work Camp
- DC's Different Drummers
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Young Women-Silver Spring Stake

The interview questions focused on the strengths and opportunities at Camp Round Meadow. Interviews began with a discussion of what the interviewee's typical day-to-day operations look like as they relate to Round Meadow. Interviewees were asked about any suggestions for future developments and enhancements (i.e., preservation, interpretation, etc.) that would improve the camp for their use. They were also asked what they think is important about the history of Round Meadow, and how and where that story should be told.

For the three interviews conducted by email, questions and responses addressed strengths of Camp Round Meadow; any particular issues or challenges experienced; what to change or improve; what should not be changed; and any unique challenges experienced as a resident of Camp Round Meadow.

User group surveys sought input on how the groups use the rental spaces at Camp Round Meadow; how the camp has changed over the years; areas for improvement; strengths of the camp; and if groups are interested in learning more about the history of the camp, in addition to other aspects of the group's use and experience of Camp Round Meadow and its facilities.

THEMES AND TAKEAWAYS

Across the stakeholder interviews, several themes emerged, including: vegetation management; visitor use of the west side of Catoctin Mountain Park; interpretation; wayfinding; camp strengths; materials for circulation; and future development of Camp Round Meadow.

Camp Round Meadow hosts a complicated amalgam of uses. Among the most concentrated hubs in the park, the camp houses a range of functions and programming needs for the park, including group rental uses; visitor access to trailheads; administrative uses; and maintenance uses, including the "ballfield" for storage. Interviewees suggested that among Camp Round Meadow's greatest strengths is how visible the layers of history are in the physical environment, including the rustic architecture of the blacksmith shop (Building 4) and the current resource management building (Building 1); the presence of Job Corps buildings and circulation features; and history associated with the use of Camp Round Meadow for environmental education programming. Other strengths include the affordability and good condition of the dormitories and other facilities for user groups. Camp Round Meadow is a versatile mixed-use space and has a longstanding pattern of adaptation to accommodate evolving uses.

With the wide range of functions operating in one space, some interviewees communicated concerns and challenges in regard to safety—particularly with respect to the intermingling of groups renting the camp facilities and park visitors within the surrounding public areas. Interviewees suggested new ways to support the intermingling of functions, uses, and groups at Camp Round Meadow, adding value to all programming needs.

Vegetation management

Interviewees expressed the desire for successional canopy plantings throughout the camp. As oak trees have been removed at the end of their life cycles, particularly over the past five years, additional tree plantings are necessary. They suggested planting new trees (selected in part for their eventual large size) around the dormitories to create a shady environment in the summer when camp use is at its peak. They also suggested planting new native beautification plantings around dorms, including small shrubs and dogwood (*Cornus* sp.), redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*), and Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*).

Interviewees emphasized that the new shrubs and trees should be easily maintained, recognizing the importance and necessity of long-term maintenance. There may be opportunities for less intensive maintenance practices in Camp Round Meadow, including by the former tennis court and in medians.

The neighboring Caboose Farm property has undertaken reforestation efforts in recent years, planting 2,000 trees (of unspecified species) in April of 2024. Caboose Farm is also part of a joint effort with the park to remove invasive barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*).

Visitor Use of the West Side of the Park

With several popular trailheads and the Visitor Center located on the east side of the park, visitor use is less intensive on the west side of the park, where Camp Round Meadow is located. Interviewees acknowledge the untapped potential of the west side of the park, with the possibility of drawing more park users to the west side using Camp Round Meadow as a base for trailheads and visitor use. Other than existing trailheads and rental group use, the blacksmith program is the primary draw for visitors to Camp Round Meadow; related programs are advertised via social media and other internet channels. Some park rangers are duty-stationed on the west side of the park on the weekends.

Interpretation

There is currently limited interpretive signage at Camp Round Meadow, with one wayside related to the history of the blacksmith shop, one related to the rain garden, and one “tracks” wayside. A blacksmith demonstration program, held monthly in the summer and early fall, is considered a successful living history program. While the program was on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic, the program resumed in spring of 2023, with community volunteers working to revive the program. Park employees reported roughly 50 to 100 individuals attending each monthly event. The current volunteer blacksmith has been leading the demonstrations for 40 years.

With the exception of the blacksmith demonstrations, current interpretation at Camp Round Meadow is considered fairly static, with suggestions to focus future interpretation on cultural history; changes in the landscape over time; the lineage of social programs in the park; and usage of the west side of the mountain by the Appalachian community before the establishment of the park.

Many camp rental user groups expressed interest in opportunities to learn more about the history of Camp Round Meadow.

Interpretation at Camp Round Meadow is limited due to staff capacity and challenges of inviting the public to programs in areas rented by groups.

Wayfinding

Interviewees stated that there is often confusion between what the public can and cannot access at Camp Round Meadow. There is no clear orientation to Camp Round Meadow for visitors, and it can thus be disorienting; the wayfinding around Camp Round

Meadow is not intuitive, and it is unclear which roads and buildings are open to park visitors. It is also unclear whether the camp rental facilities are open to the broader public.

The average visitor may find it difficult to locate the blacksmith shop demonstration program, as there is no direct road to the blacksmith shop for monthly presentations.

Materials for Circulation

Interviewees suggested that the paving within Camp Round Meadow needs to be addressed and returned to its historic condition to reflect the Job Corps era in design and material. Paving materials from the Job Corps era are visible and have been patched by asphalt over the decades. Removing the non-historic asphalt would also have beneficial effects for the overall amount of impermeable surfaces in Camp Round Meadow. With the exception of the addition of accessible trails, non-historic paving should be removed, as appropriate.

Camp Strengths

Interviewees suggested that one of Camp Round Meadow's greatest strengths is how visible the layers of history are in the physical environment. From the user group perspective, the strengths of Camp Round Meadow include the affordability of the dormitories and other rental facilities; they also praised the good condition of the facilities, many of which have been updated recently. The camp rental facilities are usually fully booked during the operating season, and many groups return year after year. They also commented on the campus-like feel of Camp Round Meadow, celebrating the compact nature of the site for individuals with limited mobility and for efficiency of congregating groups.

Future Development

Many stakeholders offered ideas for improvement and opportunities for further development at Camp Round Meadow. There was a recurring recommendation for a public restroom facility, as there is currently no restroom open to the public.

Over the years, there has been less space available for user groups to rent (Building 83 and Building 12 were formerly available for rental), making it difficult to accommodate larger user groups. User groups noted being maxed out on space, expressing a desire for more facility options, including mixed-use spaces and a more diverse array of amenities, such as shelters, dedicated storage space, and multi-purpose spaces. Some interviewees suggested adding pavilions (large and small) within the Camp Round Meadow landscape to facilitate camp programming and create outdoor focal points. They proposed the north end of the playing field as an appropriate location. The camp currently lacks an accessible outdoor destination.

Other suggestions included:

- dedicated storage space for user groups;
- re-grading and re-graveling the parking lot, which accommodates many parking and unloading needs, often simultaneously;
- the addition of more permanent structures in the ballfield for maintenance use;
- rehabilitation and rental use of the infirmary building (Building 12);
- reconfiguring the dining hall to serve more individuals at once;
- making the campfire circle accessible;
- adding new restroom and shower facilities; and
- updating the lodging location of the Camp Round Meadow host to offer more privacy.

Conversations also touched on the possibility of a future concessionaire agreement to take the pressure off of NPS staff operations and increase the quality of visitor services, including food service and housekeeping. The concessionaire would manage Camp Round Meadow, Camp Misty Mount, and Camp Greentop.

SWOT Analysis

A SWOT analysis (assessing Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats) is a strategic planning tool that helps identify key internal (strengths / weaknesses) and external (opportunities / threats) influences for a specific park or system of parks. This analysis gives a holistic sense of the current situation and dynamics facing the park at this point in time, and provides the space to evaluate current and future contexts for park planning.

The analysis on the following pages was completed in 2025 by the authors of this CLR. (The bullet points within each quadrant of the diagram are not arranged in priority order.)

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
• Visibility of interwoven layers of history of federal social reform programs • Continued use of historic resources as originally intended and used • Versatility of the camp resources • Affordable cost for user groups with diverse rental facilities including the gym, dining hall, etc. • Good condition of the camp facilities • Popularity of the blacksmith program housed within the historic blacksmith shop • Public access to the cultural landscape • Appropriate scale of the campus-like environment for user groups • Repeat user groups • Ongoing utility improvements • Proactive cyclical and preventative maintenance (rather than reactive maintenance)	• Confusion regarding which buildings and circulation features are open to the public • Perceived safety concerns from overlapping uses by members of the public and those renting out facilities • Difficulty of wayfinding • Declining mature tree canopy • Limited capacity of existing rental facilities • Excessive hardscaping • Competing uses of gym parking lot (parking, loading and unloading, and equipment storage) • Remoteness from the east side of the park, where the Visitor Center and many trails are located • Lack of interpretive signage • Lack of visitor understanding of the history of Camp Round Meadow • Lack of storage for rental groups • Lack of public restroom facilities • Lack of maintenance for ornamental vegetation, including the rain garden • Lack of air-conditioning

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
• New successional canopy • Native vegetation that would require less mowing • Redevelopment of Foxville Plaza • Improved wayfinding • Improved and expanded interpretive signage, including about the history of human conservation in the park • New public restrooms • Additional infrastructure for maintenance in the ballfield area • New beautification efforts to complement the historic design intent • Improved facilities for the Camp Round Meadow host • Opportunities for park partners and volunteer groups to assist with maintenance of vegetation or other targeted projects • Potential to increase operational footprint • Opportunity to use Camp Round Meadow to draw visitors to the west side of the park • High tolerance for change for new facilities (e.g. pavilions, shelters, and other multi-purpose spaces) in select locations • Improved accessibility of outdoor facilities, including the campfire circle • Rehabilitation of the infirmary (Building 12) for expanded capacity • Potential for year-round rental use • Modernization of specific camp features • Enhanced privacy for user groups and residents • New opportunities for dynamic storytelling of the camp's history • Improved climate resilience via drought-tolerant and low-maintenance plantings	• Low staffing • Stormwater issues and erosion around the Visitor Services Office (Building 215) • Tree loss and/or removal • Lack of canopy regeneration • Loss of rental groups due to outdated facilities (e.g. no air-conditioning) and lack of accessibility • Loss of historic land use associated with educational programming • Loss of integrity under concessionaire management • Construction activity that damages historic resources • Deferred maintenance (e.g. Building 12) • Lack of active forest management

Treatment Philosophy: Principles and Assumptions

Based on the input of stakeholders and park managers, the CLR authors have established these principles and assumptions to guide the treatment approach and recommendations that follow. They include design and preservation principles, grounded in the appropriate management policies and treatment standards, and assumptions about the current and future context of the landscape.

1. The treatment strategy for Camp Round Meadow should **preserve the layered historic significance** of the cultural landscape. Camp Round Meadow embodies the park's multiple layers of history and significance associated with successive federal social reform programs that shaped the park's design and use.

2. During the period of significance, WPA and CCC enrollees, Job Corps enrollees, and YCC enrollees were integral in transforming the landscape to what we see today. These development campaigns are vital to the understanding of Camp Round Meadow, and preservation treatments should **acknowledge the multiple development campaigns that shaped it**. To encourage continuity of use of the cultural landscape, the treatment recommendations must balance the preservation of these layers of development with ongoing adaptation for evolving needs.

3. Camp Round Meadow's evolution has been marked by multiple uses and continued change. The cultural landscape has a **high tolerance for change** and can accommodate compatible, future developments while preserving the historic character of the cultural landscape.

4. Camp Round Meadow is meaningful and useful to many groups of people, including internal park staff and members of the public. The treatment recommendations should seek to **enhance their experiences for private administrative and public use**.

5. The CLR treatment recommendations recognize that the cultural landscape comprises **distinct character areas with varied program needs**, including rental use, administrative use, and maintenance use, with shared characteristics but specific conditions and treatment opportunities in each. According to both its historic development and its existing uses, this cultural landscape must accommodate multiple uses simultaneously. The character areas of the cultural landscape have specific conditions that require varied treatments.

6. Treatment of the Camp Round Meadow cultural landscape should **prioritize the rehabilitation of historic buildings and structures**, allowing for limited modern amenities in the interiors while preserving the historic exteriors.

7. The cultural landscape has experienced canopy loss as trees reach the end of their lives, and there is no comprehensive plan for canopy regeneration at Camp Round Meadow. Any future treatment will occur in a warming climate and **require a balance between historical integrity and adaptation for climate resilience**.

Treatment Approach

For cultural landscapes, a treatment philosophy defines an overall goal of enhancing historic character and perpetuating those characteristics and features that convey historic significance based on the landscape's historic integrity, park policies and planning, natural resource protection, park operations, and other resource management issues.

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for establishing professional standards on the preservation of cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, revised in 1992, were codified as 36 CFR Part 68 in the 12 July 1995 Federal Register (Vol. 60, No. 133). The standards identify four primary treatment approaches: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Each treatment calls for a different level of physical intervention and includes specific guidelines and standards, as described below.

Preservation is the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. Work,

including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

Rehabilitation is the act or process of making possible a compatible use of a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration is the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other historic periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code required work to make the property functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Reconstruction is the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and details of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, or objects for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time in its historic location.

OVERALL TREATMENT STRATEGY DETERMINATION

In November of 2023, park staff identified goals and objectives for the Camp Round Meadow CLR in a preliminary planning call. These were further developed by the project team, who conducted a treatment workshop with park staff on April 11, 2025. The treatment section of this report is informed by these convenings.

This CLR recommends **rehabilitation** as the primary treatment for the cultural landscape. The recommended treatment of rehabilitation provides the flexibility needed to preserve the historic resources and enhance the historic character of the landscape, while improving site conditions and climate resilience.

According to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, rehabilitation treatment actions must conform to the following standards:

- A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
- The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
- Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
- Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
- Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
- Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be supported by documentary and physical evidence.
- Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
- Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
- New additions, exterior alterations, or related

new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

- New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

TREATMENT REFERENCE DATE

The treatment reference date for Camp Round Meadow is 1981. The Camp Round Meadow period of significance spans from 1936 through 1981, and the treatment reference date is based on the cultural landscape conditions that existed at the end of the period of significance. The contributing resources at Camp Round Meadow include those added up until 1981 to accommodate changing needs, including the final extant dormitory (of four total) associated with environmental education initiatives at Catoctin Mountain Park.

Statement of Desired Landscape Character

In its century-long history as a public recreational landscape, Camp Round Meadow has seen consistent change, accommodating multiple, overlapping park uses. This CLR's treatment philosophy assumes **ongoing adaptation of the landscape** to serve the landscape's recreational and administrative functions, **support future growth**, and **accommodate additional land uses**. Additional amenities should be constructed to enhance the experience of rental groups. Anticipating increased use of the west side of the park by visitors, the west side would benefit from additional interpretative features.

Camp Round Meadow encompasses several character areas with distinct uses and user groups. The desired landscape character would **clarify the intent of each character area around a shared "camp commons,"** introducing screening elements where necessary, and **reorient the circulation** through the cultural landscape to establish a **public entrance via Foxville Plaza** and an **administrative entrance via the existing entrance road**. Wayfinding elements should be introduced to reinforce these distinct routes and reduce the conflicting land uses/ traffic patterns that exist at present.

During the period of significance, Camp Round Meadow would have included mature tree canopy punctuated by native turf and ornamental plantings around built features added during the park's development campaigns. Due to the age of vegetation, trees continue to be removed from the landscape. With no comprehensive plan for canopy regeneration, careful landscape treatment recommendations seek to re-establish the design intent for vegetation by **establishing successional canopy and understory and augmenting ornamental plantings** while mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events.

MAINTENANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

The Maintenance and Administrative Area should **maintain its associations with the significant and multi-layered histories** of the CCC, Mission 66, and YCC development eras by rehabilitating or preserving all historic buildings, structures, and circulation features. New **vegetation features should help screen this area** from the more public areas of Camp Round Meadow, reinforcing this character area's distinct use for back-of-house operations. The sole exception to that pattern of use is the **Blacksmith Shop** (visible from the more public areas based on its location in line with the driveway), which should continue to operate as a demonstration area that is open to the public on an occasional basis.

FOXVILLE PLAZA[1]

This character area presents opportunities for increased use and visitation, creating a **public-facing hub for visitors** on the west side of the park that could include a campground, trailhead, restrooms, and visitor contact station. Foxville Plaza should be rehabilitated as a **year-round campground** and may also serve as a new public-facing visitor contact area. Based on that intensification of visitor use, the rehabilitation should include **interpretation of the area's history and development** as a farm, RDA headquarters, CCC camp, OSS camp, and Navy trailer court. Additionally, the rehabilitated Foxville Plaza area should include **trail connectivity** for visitors.

RENTAL AND DORMITORIES AREA

The Rental and Dormitories Area should maintain its current function and preserve significant features while enhancing the experience for rental groups. The desired landscape character would include **additional accessible amenities to facilitate outdoor gatherings for users**. The desired character would include successional native plantings to **retain the semi-forested environment** and provide shade for visitors.

BALLFIELD

The ballfield should remain a maintenance area **closed to the public** and accessed via Park Central Road. The ballfield may accommodate **additional operational uses as needed**, including additional structures such as sheds. The desired character would include **screening vegetation** to establish a visual barrier between this character area and Foxville Plaza, Camp Round Meadow, and Manahan Road.

AUXILIARY AREAS

The auxiliary areas of Camp Round Meadow, encompassing two non-contiguous residential and utility clusters, should continue in their current functions. The Visitor Services Office sign should be removed from Building 215 to clarify that the building is not a public visitor center.

In order to achieve this desired character for each area of the landscape, the treatment recommendations that follow are organized according to Treatment Goals and Treatment Tasks to fulfill those goals.

1. As of April 2025, park and regional staff began undertaking a preliminary redesign of the Foxville Plaza layout as an RV park. This includes making the road a one-way counterclockwise route, adding additional RV spurs on its northern side, and reversing the direction of a limited number of spurs to accomodate the new one way layout.

Treatment Recommendations

Treatment Character Areas

To achieve this holistic effect within the cultural landscape overall, this report divides the cultural landscape into five landscape management zones, or character areas, to establish priorities, articulate historical character, facilitate the cultural landscape's management, and consolidate treatment efforts. These management zones are based on geographic location, use, character, and resources. Each character area may have different treatment tasks, but the overarching treatment philosophy and goals apply globally.

These management zones are: the maintenance and administrative area, Foxville Plaza, rental and dormitory area, ballfield, and auxiliary areas; they are described below and depicted in ***Drawing 14*** and ***Figure 219***. The area names are abbreviated with a two-letter code that is used to organize and enumerate treatment tasks. Each management zone presentation concludes with a treatment plan map and figures detailing the treatment tasks.

Maintenance and Administrative Area (MA)

Serving as the historical core of both the RDA and the park, the maintenance and administrative area is the densest and most developed area of Camp Round Meadow. This area contains buildings and structures associated with all eras of the period of significance, including the CCC/RDA, OSS, Job Corps, and YCCC. This area is organized around circulation features, including parking lots and a gravel maintenance yard. It is bounded to the north by a historic stone wall, to the east by the extent of the forest clearing along Manahan Road, to the south by the primary entrance road, and to the west by a screen of non-historic white pine trees.

Foxville Plaza (FP)

Foxville Plaza is a former trailer park once used as housing for military families, who worked at nearby installations or Camp David. This rectangular area is located south of the ballfield and north of the maintenance/administrative and rental areas; it is accessed from a driveway along Manahan Road or via a service entrance northwest of Building 83. Forest clearings bound it to the north and west, and historic stone walls to the south and east. The Foxville Plaza area slopes down from southeast to northwest. It consists of a circumferential loop road punctuated by former trailer spurs. At its core, it features an area of mature trees and play equipment in poor condition. This area currently has no steady use. It is characterized by an overstory of mature specimen trees likely dating to the CCC era and an understory of largely invasive species.

Rental and Dormitory Area (RA)

This loosely defined area contains all the rental amenities available to groups, a public trailhead, and a few administrative buildings. It is bounded by the maintenance and administrative area to the east, Foxille Plaza

and its chain-link fence to the north, the dormitory and gym service road to the west, and the forested extent of the dormitories to the north.

Ballfield (BF)

The ballfield area is a non-public boneyard that the park uses for storage and maintenance. This roughly triangular area is located in the northeastern portion of the cultural landscape, bounded by the ballfield access road to the west, a historic stone wall to the east, and the forest extent to the north. It is characterized by an open clearing surrounded by mature forest. Park staff access this area via a spur road from Park Central Road in the northeastern corner or via the ballfield access road from Foxville Plaza to the south. Historically, this character area was a farm field and, later, the temporary tent encampment of the CCC in the summer of 1939, before the Corps' permanent accommodations were constructed to the south in present-day Foxville Plaza. Over time, this area became increasingly more forested and took on a variety of uses, including as a horseback riding arena. Today, it is characterized by piles of paving materials and stacks of lumber, and it includes one large shed used for firewood splitting and storage.

Auxiliary Areas (AA)

These character areas consists of two non-contiguous residential and utility clusters. The first, adjacent to the main entrance and Manahan Road, consists of two housing units (one is currently used as the Law Enforcement Office). The other cluster, located in the southwest corner of the cultural landscape, consists of a cell tower and a premanufactured housing unit. With the exception of the clearings around the buildings, these areas are largely forested and removed from public use.



Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow

Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Treatment Plan - Overview

Urban Heritage Project | PennPraxis
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Vegetation
- Constructed Water Features
- Buildings/Structures
- Asphalt Circulation
- Gravel Circulation
- Forest
- Buildings/Structures
- Circulation
- Vegetation
- Contour (1ft Intervals)
- New Building
- New Circulation
- Appropriate Extents for New Construction
- New Trail
- New Vegetation
- Trees Removed During 2025 Utility Work

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Small-scale features and feature contribution status not shown on treatment plan
3. Map Version, October 2025

N 0 70 140 280 420 Feet

Drawing 14

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General Treatment Goals (for All Character Areas)

The following general treatment goals establish a strategy to achieve the desired landscape character by targeting the essential qualities of the historic character, including preserving historic buildings and structures, planning for future growth, rehabilitating Foxville Plaza, enhancing vegetation, and adding compatible features that complement the existing landscape.

Rehabilitate historic buildings and structures, allowing for limited modern amenities on the interior while preserving the historic exteriors.

- Rehabilitate or preserve all historic buildings and structures to sustain the significant and multi-layered history of human conservation programs at Round Meadow.
- Allow for limited modern amenities on the interior while preserving the exterior. Adding compatible features incentivizes long term tenants or new rentals.
- In consultation with a historical architect, enhance camp health and safety features to meet standards, such as those set by the American Camp Association, including:
  - Add historically compatible locks and window shades to appropriate buildings and structures to enhance camper life and property security.
  - Add air conditioning to dormitories to create cooling stations for health and safety; such changes may result in limited interior historic built fabric changes.
  - Add electrical outlets to the dormitories to accommodate modern camper needs, such as electronic devices or fans.
  - Add audiovisual facilities to the gym and its classrooms to support group rentals.
  - Conduct a lighting study to evaluate additional lighting for safety purposes; new fixtures should be night-sky-friendly and compatible with the desired landscape character. *(See **Treatment Task RA-5**)*
  - Add rental admin/staff-only WIFI at the dining hall and gym for rental administration; do not add wireless to the rest of the camp environment, including dormitories.

Plan for future growth and additional land uses.

- Conduct a feasibility study to increase the number of dormitories or additional amenities, especially with an eye toward accessibility, modernization, and future rental agreements. While this use is not immediately called for, having a plan in place for future growth will protect the cultural landscape's integrity. *(See also the related section in Treatment Policies.)*
  - Areas with a high tolerance for change that can accommodate compatible, future developments while preserving the historic character of the cultural landscape are outlined through the various treatment interventions recommended in this report. These areas can and should accommodate future development (e.g., new public trailhead, vault toilet, camp host building, pavilion, and campground).
- In consultation with returning user groups, add compatible features identified in this CLR or the future feasibility study that would incentivize long-term tenants, year-round rentals, or possibly a concessionaire (e.g. dining hall expansion, additional shower or restrooms, etc.). Any changes should be made in

consultation with cultural resources staff and a historical landscape architect.

Clarify and reorganize conflicting uses in each character area.

- Separate public and rental uses, including the Brown's Farm Trail, future Foxville Plaza campground (see below), and maintenance/administration area.
- As part of that reorientation, establish a new wayfinding program throughout the site to direct visitors to public-use areas (and away from maintenance/administrative areas).
- Rehabilitate Foxville Plaza as a public-facing visitor area, campground, and trailhead.
- Redesign vehicle circulation to support separated uses.
- Provide new facilities for the public, including restrooms, ranger station/host house, and interpretative kiosk.
- See *Figures 219, 220, 221, and 222* for diagrams of this conceptual plan.

Reorient the vehicle routing through the landscape to separate rental/public traffic from NPS operational routes.

- Separate NPS and public/rental traffic into separate entrances
  - Make the Foxville Plaza entrance the primary public/rental entrance. Formalize and possibly enlarge the gravel service road between Foxville Plaza and the rental area to accommodate this new use.
  - Establish gates and/or signage the indicates the existing main entrance is now for NPS use only.
- As part of that reorientation, establish a new wayfinding program to direct visitors to public-use areas (and away from operations/administrative areas).

Construct additional amenities to enhance group rentals.

- Construct a large outdoor pavilion in the playing field area, equipped with a stage, storage, and other rental amenities identified by long-term rental groups. *(Refer to the Rental/Dormitory Area recommendations below for more detail on these recommendations.)*
- Re-prioritize the original education, vocational, and environmental missions of Round Meadow over other private rental uses.

Establish robust on-site interpretation.

- Create an interpretive hub for the western side of the park.
- On-site interpretation should focus on the layered history of human conservation/social reform programs on the site. *(See the Policies, Planning + Partnerships section for more detail.)*
- Interpretative media should be located throughout the public/rental portions of the cultural landscape, including the blacksmith shop, gym, dining hall, and the rehabilitated Foxville Plaza.
- Maintain blacksmith programming as a core part of the Camp Round Meadow mission.

Re-establish vegetative design intent, establish successional canopy, and promote climate-adaptive plantings.

- Establish successional native plantings that provide for the long-term preservation of the landscape's semi-forested character, including canopy and understory; consider pest/climate resilient alternatives.[1]
  - Plants should come from native seed stock originating from MD, WV, or VA. If multiple sources are available, preference should be given to more southern populations or ecotypes over northern ones.
- Create a protocol to replace missing character-defining trees throughout the site so that significant trees are replaced in-kind as they are removed due to age or hazard tree status.
  - Hazard trees should be first pruned and then, as needed, removed. Given the more formal nature of Camp Round Meadow (as opposed to the rustic cabin camps), stumps should be ground down and turfed over. Snags should not be left unless they are of exceptional natural or cultural value.
  - Appropriate replacement trees include oaks, tulip poplars, hickories, and pines. Oaks are declining due to climate change; they should continue to be planted alongside other more-resilient species such as poplar and hickory.
- Protect mature canopy trees, including those preserved historically for dormitory construction and those that date to the period of significance (e.g. CCC and JCCC).
- After the completion of the utility project, restore the landscape from all disturbances using native or ornamental plants, as specified in the historic conditions portion of this report. (See ***Treatment Task RA-2***)
- Rehabilitate historic vegetative design palette.
  - Replant flower beds adjacent to historic buildings (e.g., seasonal florals, shrubs, etc.).
  - Replant shrubs adjacent to dormitories and other buildings and structures (*See Drawing 14: Treatment Tasks)*.

Increase accessibility while improving historic circulation features

- Rehabilitate circulation in-kind throughout the site (***see Figures 223 and 224***); add accessible pathways where needed.
- Reduce or remove unnecessary paving that is non-historic (***Figure 225***).
- Where additional paving is needed (e.g. to new built features), it should be limited to the smallest area necessary.
  - New paths should defer to and preserve existing landscape features, jogging around mature vegetation or other landscape features.
  - Circulation routes should be designed according to existing landscape geometries (i.e. running parallel or perpendicular to existing paths and not against the general pattern of circulation arrangement in the landscape).
  - Paving materials should be durable and accessible but not detract from the natural setting in coloring or materiality.
  - All new circulation features should be designed in consultation with a historical landscape architect.

1. The park should use straight species instead of nativars when possible.

Ensure consistency and compatibility of landscape features.

- Many existing small-scale features are incompatible with the naturalistic design of the cultural landscape. As features age, they should be replaced with naturalistic alternatives, being careful to avoid anachronistic options that give a false sense of history.
- All lighting should be converted to night-sky-friendly units. Add lighting, as needed, to enhance visitor safety and experience, in consultation with a historic landscape architect.

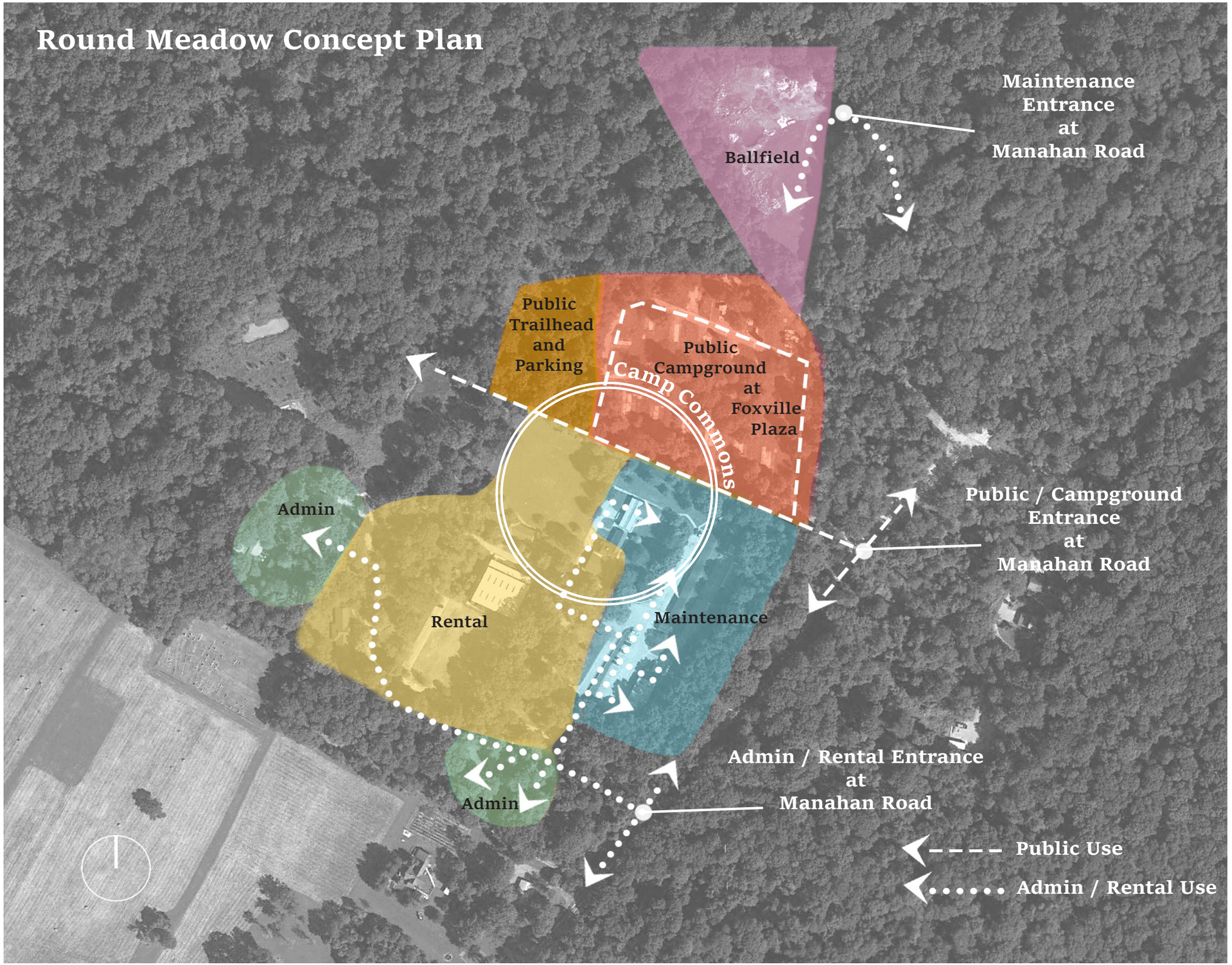


Figure 219: Diagram of treatment character areas showing the overall treatment concept of the "camp commons." (Urban Heritage Project 2025)

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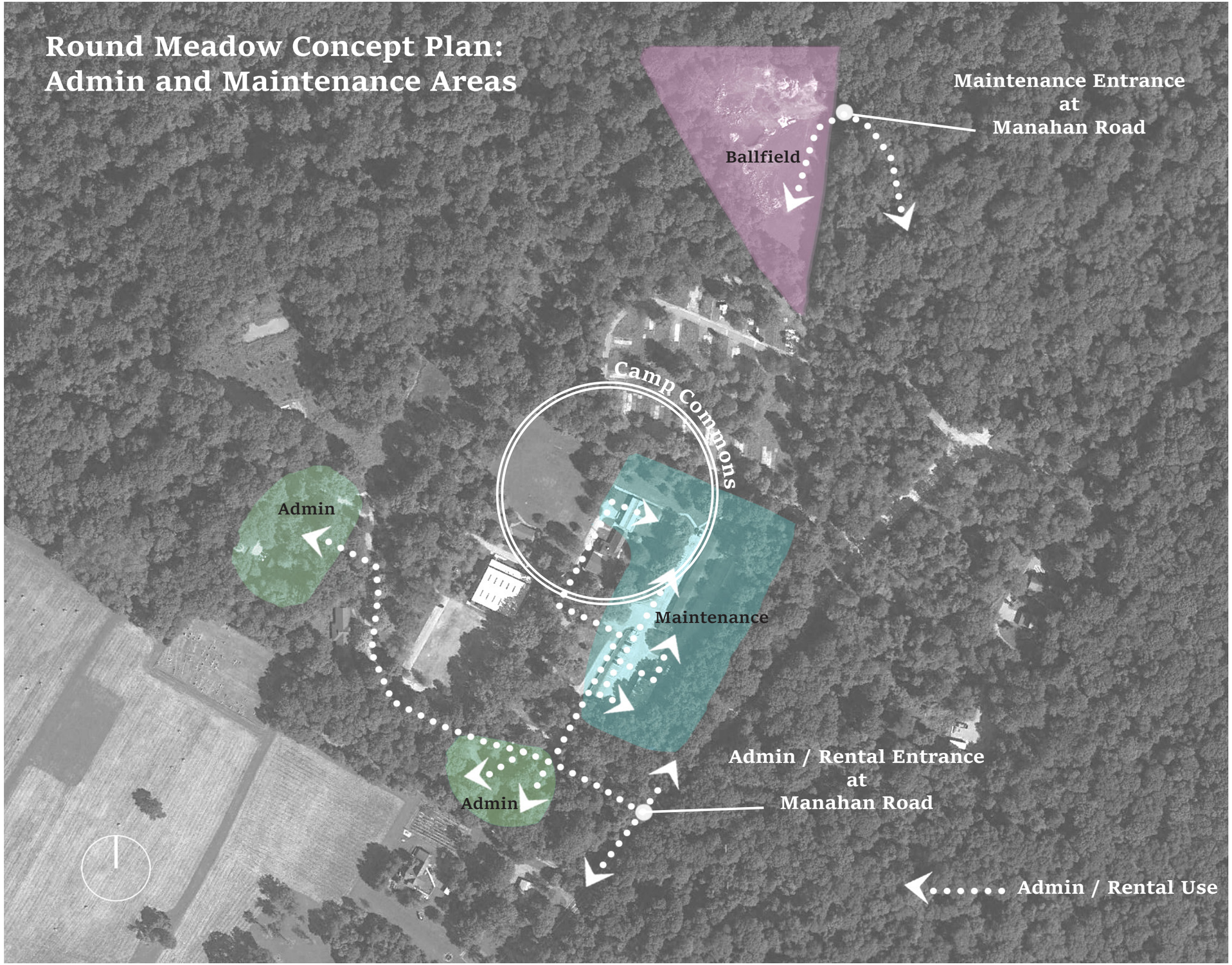


Figure 220: Diagram of administrative and maintenance areas and circulation, oriented around the shared "camp commons." (Urban Heritage Project 2025)

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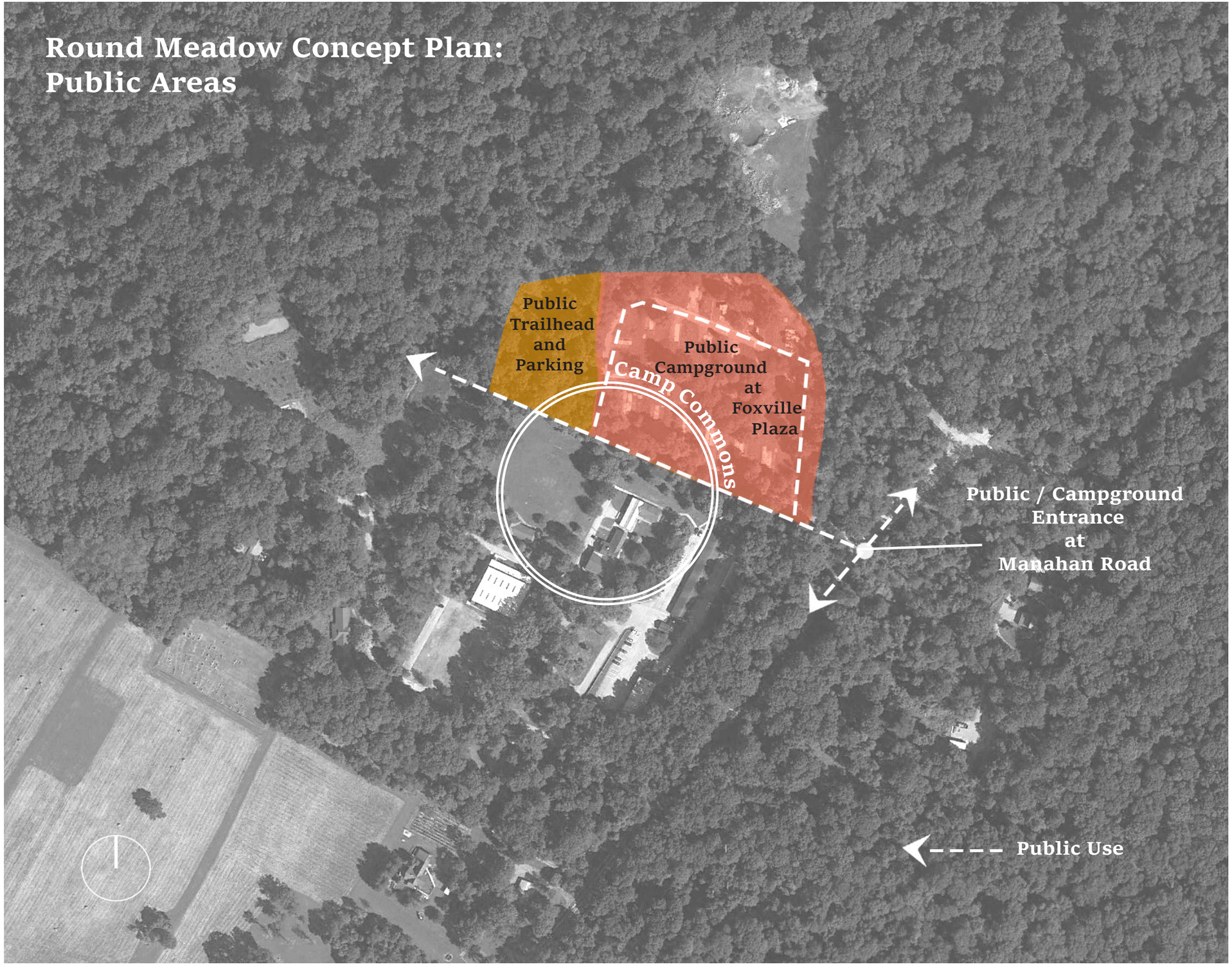


Figure 221: Diagram of the public access areas and circulation, oriented around the shared "camp commons." (Urban Heritage Project 2025)

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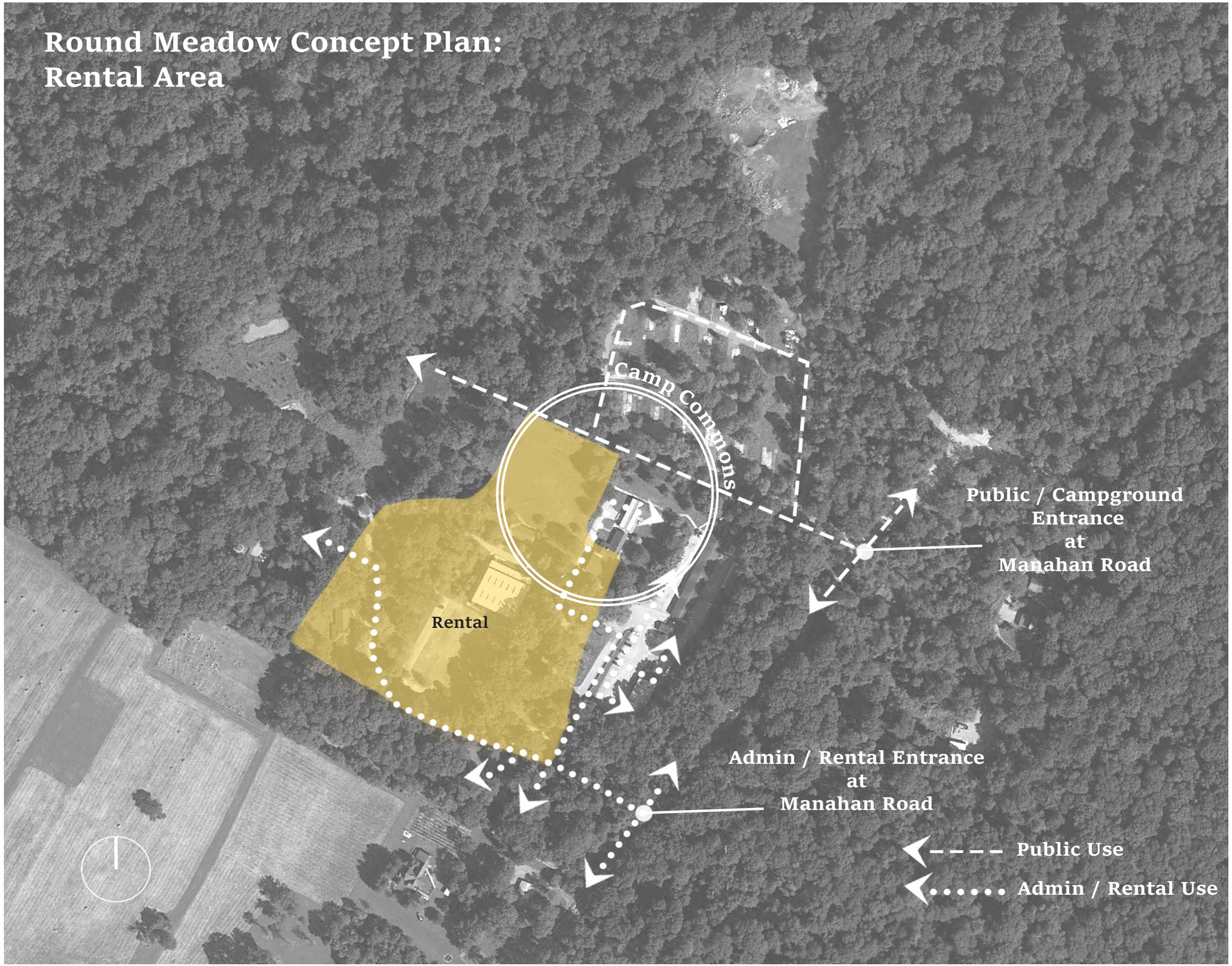


Figure 222: Diagram of the rental area and circulation, oriented around the shared "camp commons." (Urban Heritage Project 2025)

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Figure 223: Existing circulation features include paving materials such as exposed aggregate concrete, featuring a bluestone aggregate. Such a material should be matched in future accessibility improvements to reflect the historic character of the cultural landscape. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 224: The bluestone aggregate concrete paving was also used in Job Corps-era staircase, such as this one in the maintenance area. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

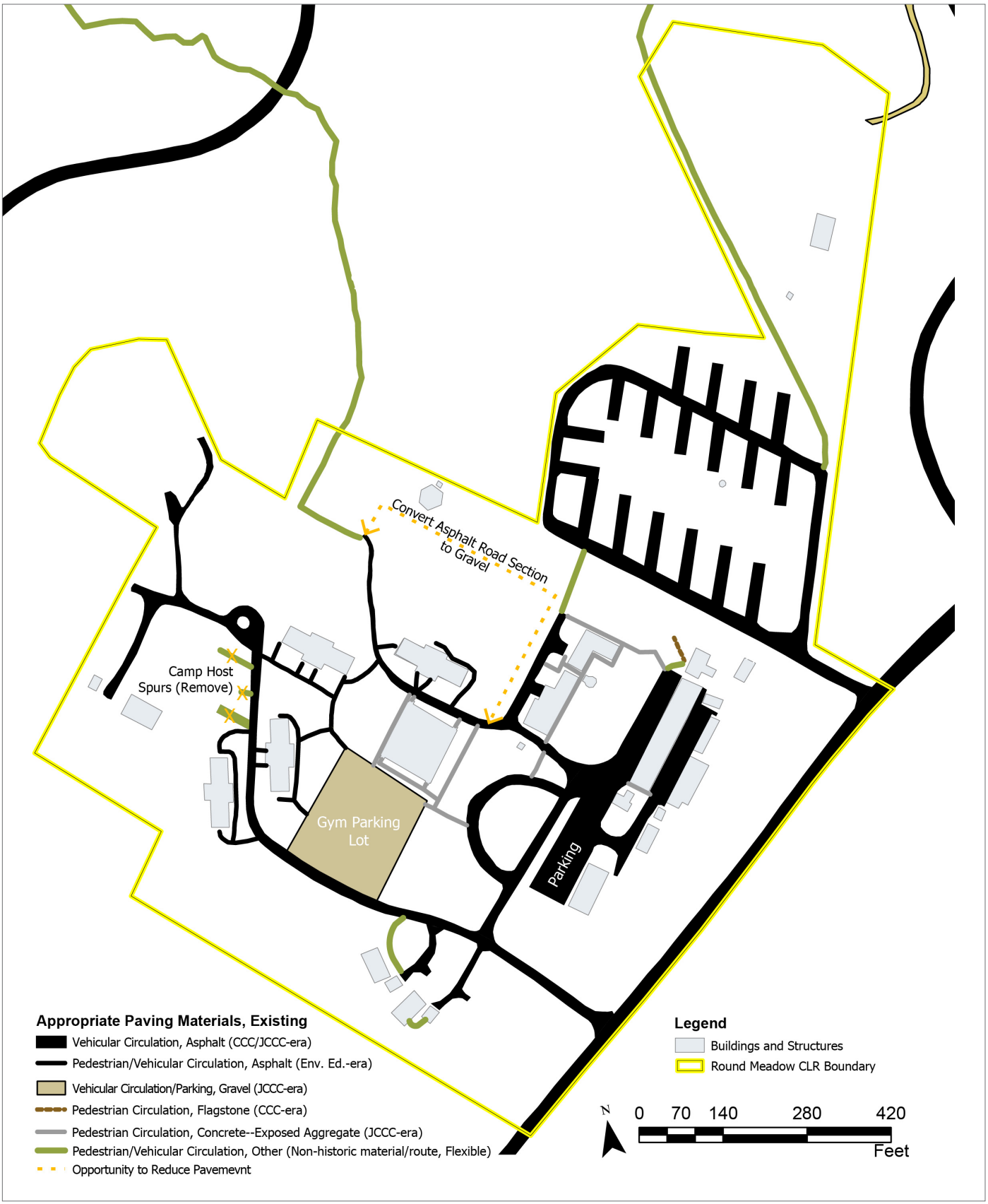


Figure 225: Diagram showing appropriate paving materials including asphalt, exposed aggregate concrete, and gravel. Also indicated on the drawing are areas where hardscape can be removed in favor of more permeable paving materials. (Urban Heritage Project 2025)

Treatment Tasks (by Character Area)

The following treatment tasks elaborate on the treatment goals in order to preserve the cultural landscape and enhance its historic character. The tasks are organized according to the five character areas and include descriptions of the existing conditions that should be addressed, the desired conditions, and task actions to achieve these conditions. For specific locations, refer to the treatment task map in *Drawing 14*.

Maintenance and Administrative Areas (MA)

(MA-1) Address drainage issues; restore drain (see 2019 park hydrology report).

EXISTING CONDITION

Drainage is a problem in the vicinity of the parking lot and retaining wall to the northwest of Building 176. Sheet flow begins here in the parking lot and has eroded the hillside south of it. From here, water flows downslope across the road to Building 215, where it has caused the building to flood and resulted in significant structural issues over time. (*See Drawing 15*)

DESIRED CONDITION

Note: These recommendations come directly from fieldnotes prepared by NCR Hydrologist Matt Schley from his August, 12, 2019 visit to Camp Round Meadow.

"This area will require formal stormwater management in order to reduce the erosion and flooding concerns. Potential options include installing an inlet on the corner of the natural resources parking lot and tying into the existing stormwater pipe network, installing the same inlet and creating an infiltration basin in the wooded area [adjacent to the retaining wall and parking lot], or retrofitting the natural resources parking lot and stone wall structure to create an infiltration basin on the corner of the parking lot. Pending the Park's investigation of a nearby stormwater inlet that should help to elucidate the status of the underlying stormwater network, the installation of a drop inlet and pipe is the simplest solution." (*See Figures 226 and 227*)

In the immediate term, vegetation may serve as a temporary mitigation measure to slow water runoff. Plantings, including the new screen discussed in *Treatment Task MA-2*, could help to slow water. Additional plantings or erosion barriers along the hillside could provide temporary mitigation measures, but will not address the root cause of the issues addressed above in the hydrologist's report.

TASK ACTIONS

- Continue to consult with the regional hydrologist.
- Construct additional drainage features, as needed.
- Plant vegetation as a temporary mitigation measure to slow runoff from the parking lot downslope.

(MA-2) Rehabilitate the vegetative screen + plant new parking lot screen.

EXISTING CONDITION

The existing vegetative screen that separates the rental and maintenance areas is in poor condition, limiting its effectiveness as a screen. All plantings within the screen are the same age, and the only mid-story or understory plantings are invasive species. Several white pines are dead or dying and need to be replaced (*see Figures 228 and 229*).

There is currently no screen between the staff parking lot (adjacent to Buildings 175 and 176) and the public rental area. Instead, there is a strip of mown turf between the parking lot and a stone retaining wall.

DESIRED CONDITION

The vegetative screen should be rehabilitated as a more robust privacy screen of mixed plantings; this means replanting the screen with a variety of different plant types, sizes, and aesthetics (*see Figures 230 and 231*). Such an arrangement would add visual interest, screen views, separate functions, and make the screen more resilient to diseases, pests, and climate change. The variety of species means that as pests or age kill plants in the screen, others will remain and achieve the desired effect. Screens with more structural diversity—meaning layers of plants of different heights and forms (trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, groundcovers)—have greater visual interest and support more wildlife, such as pollinators and beneficial insects.

An additional mixed screen should be constructed between the staff parking lot (adjacent to Buildings 175 and 176) and the public rental area. Since the area available for plantings is much smaller, small trees and shrubs, identified in the list below, should be used in palce of larger ones.

A mixed screen can be designed to have a neat and tidy appearance: larger plants, including the existing healthy white pines, should function as the backdrop; medium-height plants should be layered in front and between them; and ornamental grasses or groundcovers should be planted around the perimeter.

The University of Maryland Extension recommends the following species:

- Evergreen Trees and Shrubs
  - American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
  - Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
  - Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*)
  - Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)
  - Great Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*)
- Deciduous Shrubs
  - Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillate*)
  - Common Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
  - Azalea (*Rhododendron arborescens, Rhododendron viscosum, Rhododendron periclymenoides*, *Rhododendron atlanticum, Rhododendron prinophyllum*)*
  - Common Witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
  - Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
  - Dogwood (*Cornus florida* ‘Appalachian Spring’)

  - Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Ornamental Grasses
  - Big Bluestem (*Andropogn gerardii*)
  - Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
  - Yellow Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

**species that are less resistant to deer browsing*

For more on mixed privacy screens, see:

- https://extension.umd.edu/resource/plants-mixed-privacy-screens/
- https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2020/01/01/winter-greens-for-wildlife/
- https://www.ecolandscaping.org/06/designing-ecological-landscapes/native-plants/native-hedges-and-hedgerows-beauty-and-biodiversity/)

TASK ACTIONS

- Remove dead trees and invasives in existing screens.
- Rehabilitate the existing vegetative screen as a mixed privacy screen, using a variety of native and deer-resistant plantings to achieve structural diversity and resilience.

(MA-3) Restore and maintain the CCC stone walk.

EXISTING CONDITION

The historic flagstone walk between the former parking lot and Building 1 is in fair condition. It has sunk considerably over time and is obscured by turf and debris. It is located in a shaded condition that has also caused some biogrowth on the stones (*see Figure 232*).

DESIRED CONDITION

The historic CCC walk should be documented with a rapid condition survey, noting issues such as loose or cracked stones, deteriorated mortar joints, drainage problems, and biological growth such as moss or algae.

The walk's structural issues should also be addressed in order to restore the path's integrity. The path has sunk over time and should be re-installed on a new base; sinking often results from inadequate or eroded base support. To rebuild the base, add appropriate base material, such as crushed stone or gravel, to the excavated area. Compact it thoroughly to provide a stable foundation. Then, carefully lift and reinstall flagstones in the exact locations and arrangement, ensuring they are level with adjacent stones.

Cyclical maintenance should include the regular removal of any debris or loose grass with a broom. Semi-annually clean the path using low-pressure water, with or without a non-ionic detergent, and scrub with a natural or synthetic bristle brush to remove dirt and biological growth. Avoid abrasive cleaning methods that can damage the stone surface.

Regular maintenance will ensure the historic path remains in good condition. This includes routine cleaning, sweeping, treatment for biological growth, weed control, and periodic inspection for signs of damage, such as cracked or loose stones, and addressing them promptly to prevent further deterioration. Avoid using lawn mowers with low decks that might damage the historic stones. Replace damaged stones in kind.

For more on preserving historic masonry structures, see: https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/preservation-brief-01-cleaning-masonry.pdf.

TASK ACTIONS

- Restore the path by installing a new base material and restoring its historic placement.
- Maintain the path with cyclical cleaning and debris removal.
- Conduct regular monitoring and documentation of its conditions.
- Implement regular and routine cleaning practices.

(MA-4) Assess the condition of and restore the historic Job Corps-era retaining wall, as necessary.

EXISTING CONDITION

The historic Job Corps-era stone wall is in fair to good condition. It shows some mortar cracking and settlement, likely due to the drainage issues that transect it (*see Figure 233*).

DESIRED CONDITION

The wall should be documented with a condition assessment that notes issues such as loose or cracked stones, deteriorated mortar joints, drainage problems, and biological growth such as moss or algae. Following the condition assessment, the wall should be restored using appropriate historic masonry techniques:

- Select salvaged stone or new matching stone to fit into existing stonework coursing, texture, and pattern;
- Remove deteriorated mortar carefully to avoid damaging adjacent masonry;
- Loose or missing mortar within the stone masonry should be replaced with new mortar based on mortar analysis; new mortar shall match the original mortar's color, texture, and strength. Repoint as needed.

TASK ACTIONS

- Conduct a conditions assessment of the Job Corps-era stone retaining wall.
- Restore the wall as needed using historic masonry techniques, based on the results of the condition assessment.

(MA-5) Preserve the historic fieldstone retaining wall adjacent to Building 1.

EXISTING CONDITION

The stone wall that composes the maintenance area's northern boundary pre-dates the park's creation and was later modified by the CCC as the main entrance to the RDA headquarters. It is a contributing resource. It has not been thoroughly documented and thus has not undergone stabilization or repair. It is currently in fair to poor condition; portions of the wall have collapsed and others feature significant overgrowth, including trees (*see Figure 234*).

DESIRED CONDITION

Since this area will be highly public if and when Foxville Plaza is redeveloped (refer to the treatment recommendations for that character area), this stone wall should be a high priority for long-term preservation. However, no immediate corrective actions are called for beyond those specified in the task actions.

The wall should be periodically assessed for signs of movement, collapse, or vegetative growth that could cause structural issues; a conservator or masonry specialist should advise on this process.

The original structure and materials should be maintained whenever possible, and repairs should be made using traditional dry-stacking methods. When replacing missing or damaged stones, use materials that match the original in size, shape, and composition. If sections collapse, they should be rebuilt using original dry-stacking techniques, interlocking stones properly and maintaining the wall's batter (slight inward slope) for stability.[2]

Remove vegetative encroachment near the walls, including small plants on the walls that may dislodge stones. Large shrubs and trees should be pruned back to the base of the wall but not removed entirely so as not to cause further damage to the wall. Prevent heavy machinery from working near the wall or storage on or against the wall, as these actions can destabilize the historic structure over time.

TASK ACTIONS

- Periodically assess the wall for signs of movement, collapse, or vegetation growth that could cause structural issues.
- Prevent heavy machinery from working in the vicinity of the walls; prevent the placement of heavy loads on the wall.

2. NPS has worked on stone wall projects with the Dry Stone Conservancy (based in Lexington, Kentucky); the Conservancy can be engaged for future projects with an agreement.



Treatment Tasks: Maintenance and Administrative Area (MA)

MA-1 (MA-1) Address drainage issues; restore drain (see 2019 park hydrology report)

MA-2 (MA-2) Rehabilitate the vegetative screen + plant new parking lot screen

MA-3 (MA-3) Restore and maintain the historic CCC stone walk

MA-4 (MA-4) Assess the condition of and restore the historic Job Corps-era retaining wall, as necessary

MA-5 (MA-5) Preserve the historic fieldstone retaining wall adjacent to Building 1

Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Treatment Plan - Maintenance and Administrative Area (MA)

Urban Heritage Project | PennPraxis
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Vegetation
- Asphalt Circulation
- Gravel Circulation
- Forest
- Contour (1ft Intervals)
- Buildings/Structures
- Circulation
- Vegetation
- New Building
- New Circulation
- Appropriate Extents for New Construction
- New Trail
- New Vegetation
- Constructed Water Features
- Buildings/Structures

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Small-scale feature points and feature contribution status not shown
3. Map Version, October 2025

N 0 30 60 120 180 Feet

Drawing 15

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Figure 226: Erosion adjacent to natural resources office parking lot as documented in 2019. (Schley 2019, NPS)



Figure 227: Roadside erosion upslope of ranger's station parking lot as documented in 2019. (Schley 2019, NPS)



Figure 228: The existing white pine screen between the rental and maintenance areas is in poor condition. It consists of one species of tree. As it has aged and trees have grown taller, it no longer serves a screening function. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 229: A similar existing white pine screen is located between Foxville Plaza and the playing field. This pine screen is in fair health but no longer serves a screening purpose and should be expanded and augmented with additional species to form a mixed privacy screen. Vegetation to the right of the photo will be removed during the Foxville Plaza rehabilitation. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 230: An example of a single species privacy screen similar to those found at Camp Round Meadow. Over time, gaps form when species die and privacy is lost. (University of Maryland Extension)



Figure 231: Example of a mixed species privacy screen, which is recommended for Camp Round Meadow. Such a screen contains both coniferous and deciduous species, as well as shrubs to create a healthier screen over time. (Jonathan Kays, University of Maryland Extension)



Figure 232: View to the north of the CCC-era flagstone walk near Building 1. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 233: View to the south of the historic Job Corps-era retaining wall. It should be regularly assessed and repaired as needed. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 234: View to the east of the pre-RDA fieldstone wall along the edges of Foxville Plaza. It is surrounded by encroaching vegetation that should be carefully removed. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

Foxville Plaza (FP)

(FP-1) Demolish the remaining play equipment and gazebo, remove trailer park infrastructure, and replace lighting.

EXISTING CONDITION

The central play area of Foxville Plaza contains a series of deteriorated play structures and a gazebo surrounded by invasive species and vegetation. The play area is shaded by mature pines and London planetrees that likely date to the CCC era. There are also several other ornamental trees and shrubs throughout Foxville Plaza that date to the use of the plaza as housing for military families and are considered contributing resources (*See Drawing 16*).

Foxville Plaza contains a series of trailer spurs that feature PVC sewage cleanout drains, water hookups, electrical boxes, and other utilities.

Foxville Plaza also features several lights that are non-functional, overgrown, or broken. Research for this CLR could not determine whether lighting in the plaza was non-contributing. However, the authors strongly believe this is the case, but more research is needed.

DESIRED CONDITION

The play equipment, gazebo, and trailer utility hookups are non-contributing features and hazardous, and should be removed in their entirety. When removing these features, avoid disturbing mature and historic trees or shrubs. Protect the critical root zones and trunks of trees of all pines and London planes. Once removed, the area should be returned to turf, shrubs, or additional canopy trees (as appropriate) until plans are made for the plaza-wide rehabilitation (*see Drawing 16*).

If the lights are determined to be non-contributing, they should also be removed according to the same parameters above.

TASK ACTIONS

- Remove play equipment, gazebo, and trailer park infrastructure.
- Restore the central play area to turf, shrubs, and canopy trees.
- Conduct further research on lighting; if units are non-historic, remove them.

(FP-2) Preserve and protect historic "witness trees," including London planes and pines.

EXISTING CONDITION

Prior to this CLR, historic trees within Foxville Plaza have not been documented or protected. They include a series of London planetrees along the loop road and a series of mature white pines in the central play area and along the western and southwestern edges. These trees were likely planted by the CCC, which would make them nearly 90 years old. Other mature trees and shrubs date to the use of the area as military housing and are considered contributing resources (*see Figures 236, 237, 238, and 239*).

As of winter 2025, parking spurs adjacent to these mature trees are being used for material and vehicle staging during utility line replacements elsewhere within Camp Round Meadow.

DESIRED CONDITION

Protect trees' critical root zone (CRZ) by using plantings, woodchips, or other barriers around the base of all mature character-defining trees within Foxville Plaza to prevent root compaction or damage to tree trunks during mowing or construction, or by campers as this area is repurposed in the future (*see Figure 240*).

Even when a tree has a defined protection area with fencing and signage, trunk (lumber) protection may still be required, in addition to fencing. Fencing primarily safeguards the root zone by keeping construction activity, soil compaction, and material storage away from the tree's critical roots; trunk protection prevents mechanical damage to the bark and cambium caused by nearby vehicles, equipment, or material handling. The two protective systems serve different (but complementary) purposes: one protects below ground, the other above.

If the fencing fully encloses the recommended protection radius, and no work or equipment will occur near the tree, additional trunk protection may not be necessary. However, when space is limited or construction occurs close to the fence line, wrapping or encasing the trunk with lumber remains important to prevent impact damage. Final decisions should follow the project arborist's recommendations and applicable standards such as ANSI A300 Part 5 or local tree protection guidelines. ISA best management practices for tree protection are included in this report as Appendix A.

Mulch or other organic material applied to the root zone should be piled 2-4" (and no further) to prevent the suffocation of tree roots. Mulch should also not touch the trunks or the root flares of vegetation.

- Create a protocol to protect existing canopy trees and character-defining vegetation during future construction projects (see ANSI A300 Part 5 [Management of Trees and Shrubs During Site Planning, Site Development, and Construction]).
- Install boards around tree trunks to prevent machinery damage (*see Figure 241*).
- Where possible, restrict construction vehicles from driving over the critical root zone; where this is not feasible, use protective matting and other preventative measures to protect mature trees.
- Prevent damage to the critical root zone by prohibiting the sustained storage or staging of material around historic trees; restrict overnight construction vehicle parking and material storage to parking areas or designated staging areas away from significant over-story trees.
- Require all projects to restore rustic vegetation and native turf after completion.

TASK ACTIONS

- Protect the critical root zones of historic trees using plantings or mulch.
- Preserve and protect historic trees and shrubs, including their critical root zones, during construction work.

(FP-3) Rehabilitate Foxville Plaza as a public-use area.

EXISTING CONDITION

Currently, Foxville Plaza is an unprogrammed site that is mown semi-annually; no firm plans have been formed for its future use. Park staff would like it to become a public-facing rental facility. Some have suggested a campground or RV park, in keeping with its past use as a trailer park for military housing.

DESIRED CONDITION

Foxville Plaza's current state represents a new opportunity to increase visitation to the western side of the park. The area should be rehabilitated as a year-round campground, which a concessionaire or the park could operate. Site planning for this use should anticipate the decline of RVs and campers as fossil fuel consumption decreases.

The entrance into Foxville Plaza may be restored to its original Y-shaped layout, including the wider paved surface that existed historically; the Foxville Plaza sign may be relocated as needed. Additionally, the steep slope at the entrance may be filled to minimize the possibility of off-road vehicle accidents where the existing slope is steep. Any significant infill should be assessed for appropriate drainage, and infill should avoid any impacts to historic stone walls. In order to slow traffic through the campground, it may be appropriate to incorporate speed bumps into the roadway.

The campground should retain the original orientation of the parking spurs in order to minimize damage to the historic trees within Foxville Plaza. Reorienting the parking spurs may damage historic witness trees, causing an adverse effect for the cultural landscape. Future changes to parking spur orientation and paving should be as minimal as possible to protect the integrity of the tree root systems (*see Treatment Task FP-2*).

Foxville Plaza should also serve as a new western public-facing visitor contact area. Like a staffed visitor center, this could include a pavilion or shelter with more intense interpretation than standard waysides. It should only be large enough in scale to accommodate a trail map and interpretive signage. (See *Treatment Task FP-7* and the Treatment Policies section for more information on interpretation.) It should be made of wood but appear distinctly modern (as opposed to anachronistically rustic) (*see Figure 243*). Alternatively, this shelter could also be combined with other structures, such as a camp host cabin or central wash house/bathroom.

Camp host facilities at the adjacent Camp Round Meadow do not meet modern standards and fail to attract a diverse array of volunteers. Although this CLR recognizes that in the short term, the existing camp host cabin should remain in use, a new host cabin in the Foxville Plaza area could serve as a shared facility in the long term. A host could check in guests at both Camp Round Meadow and the future Foxville Plaza campground. Examples of similar host cabins can be found at many state parks and national parks (*see Figure 242*).

Foxville Plaza should also include a new public trailhead area for the relocated Brown's Farm Trail. (The existing trailhead from the rental area should be retained as a spur for renters who want to access the park's public trail network.) Removing this use from the rental area would link Foxville Plaza, as the new public face of the park's west side, with the parkwide trail system; it would also make the rental/dormitory area more secure and private for user groups. The new trailhead should include a new gravel parking area and trailhead kiosk, likely on the western side of Foxville Plaza, to create a western park interpretive station (unstaffed).

TASK ACTIONS

- Rehabilitate the trailer area into a public campground featuring year-round rentals.
- Construct a new shower house/central bathroom for the campground.
- Construct a visitor contact station.
- Relocate the public Brown's Farm Trailhead to Foxville Plaza.
- Construct a new gravel parking area and trailhead kiosk (interpretive facility) for the Brown's Farm Trail.

(FP-4) Remove non-historic chain-link fencing and enhance vegetative screen between Camp Round Meadow playing field and Foxville Plaza.

EXISTING CONDITION

The boundary between Camp Round Meadow and Foxville Plaza is defined by a thickly vegetated ribbon containing a historic stone wall (refer to the Maintenance/Administrative Areas treatment recommendations for discussion of that resource) and a non-historic chain-link fence. Few of these species are intentionally planted. Instead, most are invasive species or volunteer vegetation. Contributing vegetation includes dogwoods, pines, and fruit trees.

DESIRED CONDITION

The chain-link fencing and non-contributing vegetation should be removed in preparation for the installation of a vegetative screen in *Treatment Task RA-3*. The current chain-link fence and gate (adjacent to Building 1 and 212) was added during a construction campaign in the 2000s and never removed. The gate to Building 212 should be replaced with a rustic wooden alternative that matches the rustic character of the pre-RDA era stone wall (*see Figure 244*). Similar gates have been installed at Prince William Forest Park (*see Figure 245*).

Non-contributing vegetation along this boundary should be removed. However, mature canopy (pines) and fruit trees (apples and cherries) in the thicket should be preserved, as they date to the CCC and Folk Culture Center eras, respectively. Due to the vegetation density during fieldwork, these historic features were not explicitly enumerated in the CLR's Analysis and Evaluation section and are not mapped. Vegetation removal along the historic stone wall should follow the guidance delineated in treatment task (BF-2) Stabilize and Preserve Historic Fieldstone Walls.

TASK ACTIONS

- Remove chain-link fencing and gate between Foxville Plaza and Camp Round Meadow.
- Clear vegetation along the boundary while preserving historic mature canopy and fruit trees.
- Replace the gate to Building 212 with a rustic wooden version.

(FP-5) Establish interpretation features highlighting the area's use as a farm, RDA headquarters, CCC camp, OSS camp, and Navy trailer court.

EXISTING CONDITION

There is currently no historic interpretation at, or public access to, Foxville Plaza.

DESIRED CONDITION

As Foxville Plaza is rehabilitated, visitors should be presented with interpretative elements that discuss the many different layers of this landscape. This should include the area's use as a farm, then as a regenerating forest under the RDA, as a CCC camp, as OSS headquarters, and lastly, as a military housing area (*see Figure 246*). This could include an interpretive shelter or kiosk that serves as a visitor contact station on the park's western end (*see Figure 247*). It could also include an interpretive trail highlighting points in the landscape, such as witness trees, dating to the various eras.

TASK ACTIONS

- Complete an interpretive plan as part of the rehabilitation of Foxville Plaza.
- Install additional interpretive features such as waysides, an interpretive trail, etc.



Treatment Tasks: Foxville Plaza (FP)

FP-1 (FP-1) Demolish the remaining play equipment and gazebo, remove trailer park infrastructure, and replace lighting

FP-2 (FP-2) Preserve and protect historic "witness trees," including London planes and pines

FP-3 (FP-3) Rehabilitate Foxville Plaza as a public-use area, including a new public campground + RV camp, ranger contact station, shower house/central bathroom, camp host site/cabin, trailhead kiosk, parking lot, and new Brown's Farm spur

FP-4 (FP-4) Remove non-historic chain-link fencing and enhance vegetative screen between Camp Round Meadow playing field and Foxville Plaza

FP-5 (FP-5) Establish interpretation features highlighting the area's use as a farm, RDA headquarters, CCC camp, OSS camp, and Navy trailer court

Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Treatment Plan - Foxville Plaza (FP)

Urban Heritage Project | PennPraxis
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Vegetation
- Asphalt Circulation
- Gravel Circulation
- Forest
- Buildings/Structures
- Circulation
- Vegetation
- Small-scale Features
- Contour (1ft Intervals)
- New Building
- New Circulation
- Appropriate Extents for New Construction
- New Trail
- New Vegetation

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Small-scale feature points and feature contribution status not shown
3. Map Version, October 2025

N 0 30 60 120 180 Feet

Drawing 16

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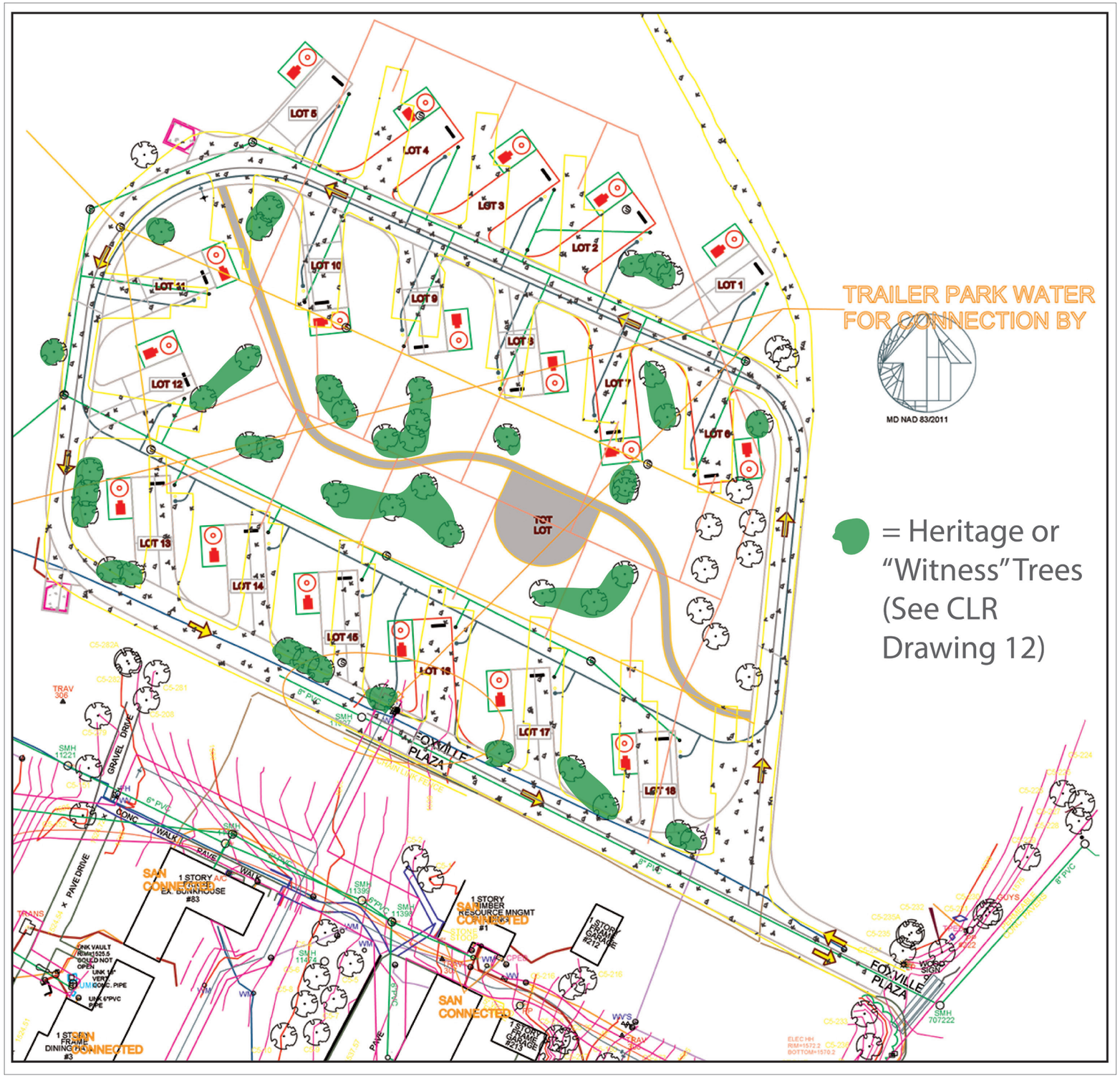


Figure 235: Preliminary park planning for an RV campground at Foxville Plaza, developed in spring 2025, has the potential to significantly impact cultural landscape features, notably heritage trees (annotated in green). Many of these mature trees were planted by the CCC and "witnessed" the CCC Camp and subsequent historic uses of Foxville Plaza. Foxville Plaza alterations have the potential to damage these historic features. (Catoctin Mountain Park 2025; annotated by CLR authors, 2025)

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Figure 236: This historic oblique aerial photo shows very young trees along the present-day entrance road to Foxville Plaza. These trees are the present-day mature London plane and pine trees found along the edges and in the center of Foxville Plaza. (National Museum of American History, Smithsonian)



Figure 237: These same trees are shown here in the background of this circa 1965 photo of Building 83 and Foxville Plaza. The gaps in the London planes correspond to the former locations of CCC camp roads and buildings in Figure 15. The photo also shows the tops of maturing pine trees at left, behind Building 83. (Catoctin Mountain Park, NPS)

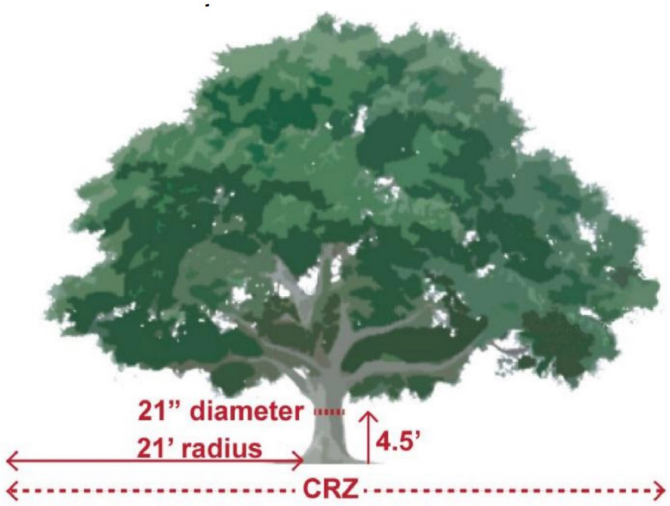


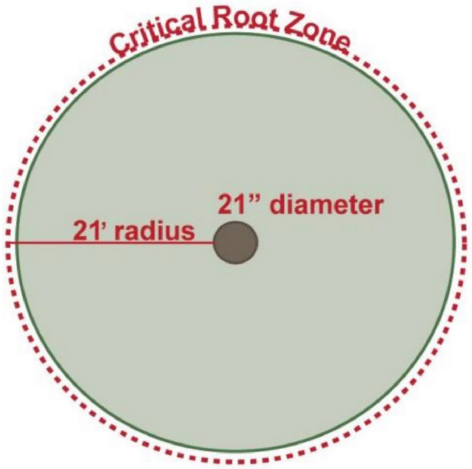
Figure 238: These London planes along the Foxville Plaza loop road likely date to the CCC era. Some are shown here with limited tree protection during construction work, while others remain unprotected. (Urban Heritage Project 2025)

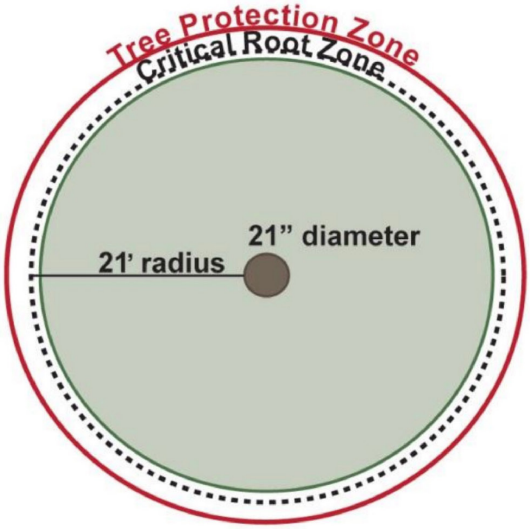


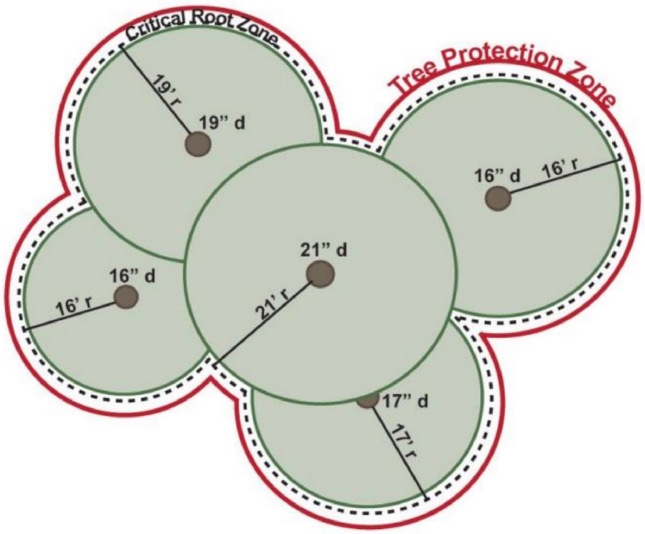
Figure 239: These pines also likely date to the CCC or early Navy eras. They are contributing features and should be preserved and protected during future work recommended in this report. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

Figure 240: (opposite) These diagrams show the Best Management Practices (BMP) for tree protection during construction projects. BMPS are general guidelines used in many different disciplines to help define the best currently known or accepted practice for an optimal outcome. Critical Root Zone (CRZ) is the area of soil extending from the tree trunk where roots required for future tree health and survival are located. This area can also be defined as a circle with a minimum radius of 1' for every 1" in trunk diameter at 4.5' above ground. Tree protection barrier encloses the Tree Protection Zone and is at least 4' tall, highly visible, sturdy, permanent and has warning signs on or near it for the duration of any construction activities. The Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) is an area where construction activities are prohibited or restricted to prevent injury to preserved trees, especially during pre-construction and construction, and includes the Critical Root Zone and/or beyond. (ISA Texas, "Best Management Practices for Tree Protection")


21" diameter
21' radius
4.5'
CRZ


Critical Root Zone
21" diameter
21' radius


Tree Protection Zone
Critical Root Zone
21" diameter
21' radius


Critical Root Zone
Tree Protection Zone
19' r
19" d
16" d
16' r
21" d
21' r
16" d
16' r
17" d
17' r

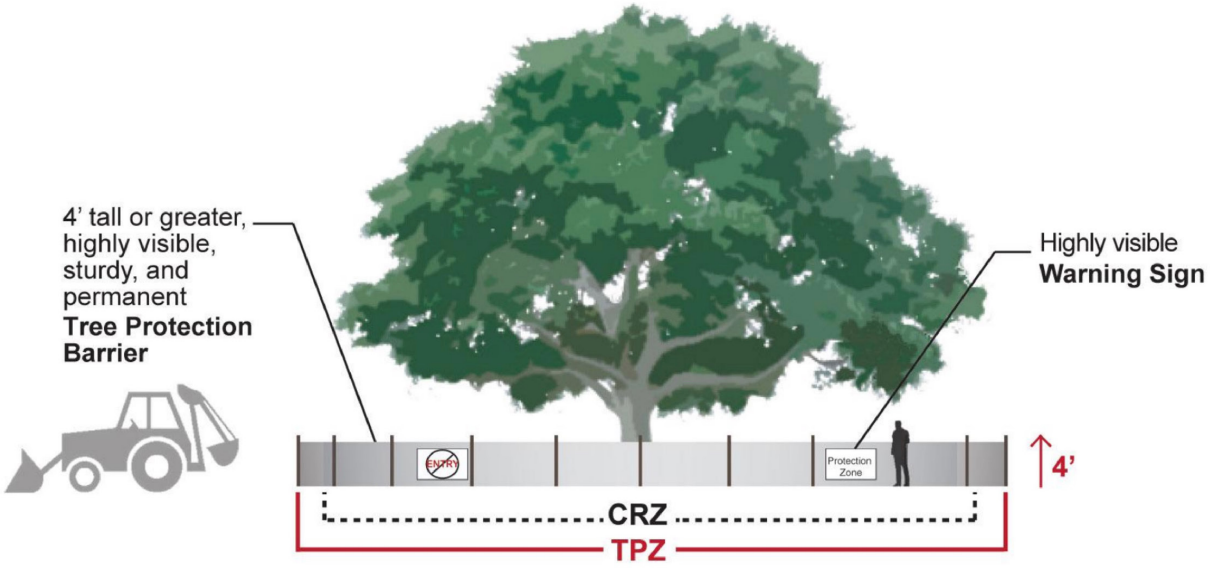

4' tall or greater, highly visible, sturdy, and permanent
Tree Protection Barrier
Highly visible
Warning Sign
ENTRY
Protection Zone
4'
CRZ
TPZ



Figure 241: Wrapping with 2x4 lumber is a satisfactory way to protect tree trunks from mechanical damage during construction. (Pepper, NPS 2018)



Figure 242: Example of small leader's cabin at Prince William Forest Park. A similar simple cabin could accommodate a camp host at Foxville Plaza. However, the camp host function could also be combined with other building needs into one structure. (Urban Heritage Project 2021)



Figure 243: Example of trailhead signage. Kiosks, such as the pay station at right, could instead be used for interpretive signage about the history of Camp Round Meadow. Trailhead paving could lead to the new restroom/ host house/ranger station and the relocated Brown's Farm Trailhead. (Oregon State Parks 2023)



Figure 244: The existing chain-link fence and gate will be removed. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 245: Example of a contemporary wooden gate at Prince William Forest Park. Such a gate could replace the chainlink one next to Building 1, while also complimenting the rustic character of the park's oldest building. (Urban Heritage Project 2021)



Figure 246: This early historic photo of the CCC camp in present-day Foxville Plaza could be used with the above scheme to indicate the layout of the camp to the public. This photo was likely taken before the planting of the historic trees depicted in Figures 15 and 16. (Catoctin Mountain Park, NPS)



Figure 247: Interpretive wayside can be more dynamic than traditional static means. Paired with see-through etched glass signs, visitors can understand what the landscape looked like in the past. Such an interpretive method could be used in Foxville Plaza to pair circulation and vegetation features with past CCC building locations on the glass. (Texas Parks and Wildlife 2019)

Rental and Dormitory Area (RA)

(RA-1) Restore vegetative design intent around rental buildings (dorms and dining hall).

EXISTING CONDITION

Few trees and shrubs remain around the perimeters of buildings and structures to reflect the conditions in the landscape during the period of significance. Historically, limited ornamental plantings were added by the CCC, and later, most were added by the Job Corps during the construction of the dormitories. According to interviews with park staff, limited floral bulbs sprout around the dining hall and Building 83; these may date to the Job Corps era but were not observed by the CLR authors. No shrubs exist adjacent to dormitory buildings. This is almost certainly because shrubs were removed as they grew or aged and were not replaced. Recently transplanted shrubs on the southwest side of the gym are non-contributing and in poor condition.

There is no comprehensive plan for maintaining ornamental shrubs at Camp Round Meadow.

DESIRED CONDITION

Trees and shrubs serve a critical role in a rental area like Camp Round Meadow, enhancing the visitor experience and creating a more campus-like feel within the cultural landscape. Foundation plantings soften the harsh lines of buildings and structures and help buildings better integrate into the landscape. Shrubs also slow water travel and reduce splash back along drip lines of adjacent buildings.

Planting beds on the east side of the dining hall should feature a variety of seasonal plantings to recall those planted by Job Corpsmen (***see Figure 248***). See the "Existing Conditions - Vegetation" section of this report. Appropriate species include:

- Tulips (*Tulipa* sp.)
- Daffodils (*Narcissus* sp.)
- Irises (*Iris* sp.)
- Chrysanthemums (*Chrysanthemum* sp.)
- Bearded iris (*Iris germanica*)

The planting bed between the JCCC-era retaining wall and the parking lot should also feature seasonal plantings and flowering shrubs. Appropriate species could include:

- Azaleas (*Rhododendon* sp.)
- Dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.)
- Eastern redbuds (*Cersis canadensis*)

Planting beds along the public-facing sides of dormitories (i.e. not those facing the forest) should also be restored to their historic condition (***see Figure 249***). Appropriate plantings include:

- Azalea (*Azalea nudiflorum* 'Pinxterbloom')*
- Rhododendron (*Rhododendron carolinianum* 'PJM')*
- Purple rhododendrom (*Rhododendron catawbiense*)
- Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentaum*)

** Species that are less resistant to deer browsing*

Generally, the taller Arrowwood viburnums were historically placed at the outer and inner corners of the dormitories, where the species could mature without blocking views into and out of the buildings. The height of the viburnums also helped to frame building fenestration. In contrast to these features, the designer called for shorter dwarf azaleas and rhododendrons underneath windows, flanking entrances, and along walkways and ramps.

Plantings on the southwest side of the gym should be removed and replaced with species that provide a varied effect year-round, beautifying the otherwise austere gym and parking lot. This would include a variety of evergreen and deciduous shrubs, as well as seasonal plantings. Like the rehabilitated white pine screen, a mixed selection of species will affect the best results, age well over time, and be both climate- and pest-resistant. Suggested plantings for the gym include:

- Evergreen Shrubs
  - American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
  - Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- Deciduous Shrubs
  - Gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
  - Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
  - Black elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
  - Red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)
  - Fothergilla (*Fothergilla major* or *Fothergilla gardenii*)^
- Grasses
  - Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah' or 'Northwind')
  - Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
  - Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
  - Deertongue (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*)
  - Indian woodoats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)
  - Bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*)
- Spring and Summer Perennials
  - Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
  - Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm')
  - Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
  - Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
  - Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks')
  - Woodland Aster (*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*)
  - Common goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*)
  - Giant goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*)
  - Blue-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*)
  - Wild Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*)

^ *Species is not native to the park*

Similar planting beds should also be established on the north side of the gym, flanking the entrances. Since this area is significantly more shaded, the species should be amended to include:

- Evergreen Shrubs
  - American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
  - Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)
- Deciduous Shrubs
  - Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
  - Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
  - Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)^
- Grasses
  - Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*)
  - Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
  - Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)
  - Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)
- Spring and Summer Perennials
  - Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
  - Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)^
  - Woodland Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)^
  - White Wood Aster (*Eurybia divaricata*)
  - Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)

^ *Species is not native to the park*

TASK ACTIONS

In consultation with a historical landscape architect:

- Plant and maintain seasonal flowers along the dining hall (Buildings 3 and 83).
- Replant shrubs along dormitories (Buildings 216, 217, 218, and 232).
- Remove viburnum bushes on the south side of the gym.
- Replant a new, varied, and climate-resilient garden on the southwest side of the gym.
- Define/improve/create beds on the northeast side of the gym, flanking entrances.

For more on historic vegetation conditions, see the corresponding Vegetation section in the Analysis and Evaluation portion of this report.

(RA-2) Establish successional canopy and preserve mature canopy trees that flank dormitories and other buildings.

EXISTING CONDITION

The rental area of Camp Round Meadow features a character-defining mixture of mature trees—primarily oak, hickory, and tulip poplar. These trees were preserved during the construction of the dormitories in the 1970s and 1980s, and incorporated into their design (*see Figure 249*). However, these mature trees lack younger counterparts in the understory. When they die or are lost to disease or weather, they have not been replaced. This is especially true of Eastern hemlocks that are being treated for the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid (HWA) and are in poor health.

The park is undergoing a utility improvement project, which will result in minimal tree removal; however, there are no plans for additional plantings.

DESIRED CONDITION

The continued threat of oak decline, the HWA, and extreme weather events will result in the further loss of mature trees at Camp Round Meadow. Without a strategy to cultivate a successional canopy, the cultural landscape will become more open, less shaded, and dominated by turf lawns. A successful successional canopy includes testing climate-resilient alternatives. The canopy today is dominated by oaks, but these are not expected to thrive in a changing climate. Instead, hickories or tulip poplars might be good alternatives.

Likewise, the Eastern hemlock is not likely to succeed in the increasingly warm and dry environment. Replacements for hemlock are challenging to find, due to their unique vegetative character. Similar evergreen trees might include:

- Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*)
- American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
- Carolina hemlock (*Tsuga caroliniana*)
- Taiwan or Chinese hemlock (*Tsuga chinensis*)

If no single tree type can fully replace the hemlocks, consider a combination of species to approximate the historic spatial and textural qualities:

- Use a mix of shade-tolerant evergreens (such as holly and pines) to maintain year-round greenery.
- Underplant with native deciduous trees such as serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.) or sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) to restore understory complexity.[3]
- If appropriate, plant rhododendrons or mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) to replicate the dense lower canopy found in hemlock groves.

Promote a healthy, mature eastern deciduous forest by encouraging natural regeneration of native trees and by engaging in active restoration (e.g., direct planting) where large canopy trees have been lost (*see Drawing 17*). Restoration activities may include removing invasive ground cover and vines to promote

3. Sourwood is a S1 highly state rare, so it may be hard to acquire for planting. Dogwoods and eastern redbud may be suitable alternatives.

natural regeneration or directly planting native tree species. Consider engaging in climate-adaptive forest management and tree species selection. Appropriate species could include, but are not limited to:

- Oaks (*Quercus alba, Quercus velutina, Quercus rubra, Quercus montana*)
- Hickories (*Carya ovata, Carya cordiformis, Carya tomentosa, Carya glabra*)
- Tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
- Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Dogwood "Appalachian Spring" (*Cornus florida* 'Appalachian Spring')
- Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- Hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)

Upon completion of the park utility project, staff should plant young trees or shrubs as needed. In areas of forest disturbed for utility corridor construction, cultivate screens along camp edges using species that would not interfere with overhead wires or underground cables. This is especially important where the camp scene meets the forest zone. Appropriate species could include:

- Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- Hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)

If plantings are not possible along utility corridors, large branches, downed trees, or other natural detritus could soften the edges between the adjacent forest and the utility scar.

TASK ACTIONS

- Establish a successional canopy; consider pest/climate resilient alternatives.
- Continue to treat hemlock trees for HWA; as they die, replace them with similar alternatives.
- Create a protocol to replace missing character-defining trees throughout the site, so that significant trees are replaced in-kind as they are removed due to age, disease, hazard tree status, or work projects.
- Plant shrubs to heal clear cut scars from utility work.

(RA-3) Rehabilitate the vegetative screen between Foxville Plaza and the playing field.

EXISTING CONDITION

The white pine screen between the playing field/dormitory area and Foxville Plaza is a non-contributing feature in fair condition. Currently, it limits some views between the two areas (*see Drawing 17*). It consists of one species: pine trees. Some of these trees are dying and are no longer limiting views between the two character areas.

DESIRED CONDITION

Among the overall treatment goals for this CLR is to reunite these two areas visually while limiting key views to and from each character area. (See also *Treatment Task FP-4*.) The white pine screen along the edge of playfield is beginning to decline. With additional amenities proposed for this area, including a new public

trailhead and pavilion, it is important to screen these two uses. This should be done using a mixed species privacy screen (*see Figure 250*). This screen should also extend along the wall northeast of Buildings 83 and 1 (*see Drawing 17* and *Figure 251*). Consideration should be given to leaving a slight gap (as illustrated) in the screen between Foxville Plaza and the new pavilion to maintain some visual connection with the public trailhead, should the pavilion be used for public events.

A mixed privacy screen can be designed to have a neat and tidy appearance: larger plants, including the existing healthy white pines, should function as the backdrop; medium-height plants should be layered in front and between them, and ornamental grasses or groundcovers should be planted around the perimeter. The screen should be regularly maintained to have an intentional and tidy appearance. This includes the regular removal of invasive species, the trimming of trees and shrubs, and the replacement of species as they age or need replacement.

TASK ACTIONS

- Rehabilitate the vegetative screen between Foxville Plaza and the playing field.

(RA-4) Remove the rain garden and associated wayside; restore the open design intent of the gazebo area.

EXISTING CONDITION

The rain garden is overgrown. Park staff, during interviews, noted their unfavorable opinions of its location, noting that there is not enough water to warrant its installation. Staff also expressed frustration with its mature plantings blocking access to the dining hall paths and limiting views to the gazebo's (Building 199) open field.

DESIRED CONDITION

The rain garden should be removed and replaced with turf. The historic condition of this area was more open and instead featured seasonal floral planting beds in between the sidewalk and adjacent buildings (*see Drawing 17*). These planting beds should feature additional daffodils, tulips, and irises. Colors mentioned in archival material include "yellows, reds, rusts, and pinks." See the Vegetation discussion in the Analysis and Evaluation section of this report.

TASK ACTIONS

- Remove the rain garden and replace with turf.
- Plant seasonal floral plantings to enhance existing plantings in beds between the sidewalk and the walls of Buildings 3 and 199.

(RA-5) Enhance camp lighting.

EXISTING CONDITION

Camp Round Meadow has very limited lighting. Not all existing lighting is night-sky friendly, as most fixtures are not fully shielded and many fixtures feature blue/white light more than 2700 Kelvin. Limited historic lighting remains on the exterior of the dormitories.

Park staff and camp user groups have expressed an appreciation of this, given the ability to see the night sky. However, they also expressed frustration with safety and way-finding at night due to the existing lighting conditions. For more on existing lighting conditions, see the Small Scale Features discussion in the Analysis and Evaluation section of this report.

DESIRED CONDITION

Camp Round Meadow should feature additional night-sky-friendly lighting units. Historic units, limited to fixed units on the dormitories, should be preserved and/or converted to night-sky-friendly options. These are contributing resources. NPS recommends a lighting color of 2700 Kelvin or lower. Blue/white light has a high impact on human adaptation and ecosystem function. Yellow and amber colors are lower on the Kelvin scale and are night-sky friendly.

New lighting elements could include low lighting along paths in the rental area (*see Figure 252*), additional free-standing units (similar to existing lighting elsewhere in the park) near vehicular circulation, or fixed units on additional buildings (similar to those currently existing on the gym and other structures). Lighting should be added to the parking lot area for security, and along paths—including to and from the dining hall, gym, parking lot, and campfire circle. Appropriate lighting fixtures are shown in *Figure 253*.

TASK ACTIONS

- Preserve and maintain the historic lighting units.
- Conduct a lighting study that focuses on increasing safety, wayfinding, and night-sky preservation. Install new lighting fixtures on buildings, in the parking lot, and along paths, based on the recommendations of the lighting study.

(RA-6) Construct a large pavilion for outdoor gatherings.

EXISTING CONDITION

Except for a small gazebo (Building 199), Camp Round Meadow currently has no group shelters or pavilions. In the absence of such structures, groups move picnic tables together to accommodate larger gatherings or sit in the grass outside dormitories. In poor weather, groups are unable to gather outside (the main goal of camp!), limiting their use of the camp. The lack of larger group facilities in this area also drives away potential user groups, as they instead rent modern accommodations at other state parks or private camps.

DESIRED CONDITION

Camp user groups expressed a desire to have a large outdoor pavilion with a stage and storage area; such facilities are commonplace at many other parks (and even in other parts of Catoctin Mountain Park) (*see Figures 254 and 255*). This CLR recommends adding a large frame structure that covers a seating or gathering area (*see Figure 256* for location details). It should be generally open air, consisting of a wood frame structure set in concrete and covered by a wood or metal roof. It could be partially enclosed at one end to accommodate a fireplace, stage, and/or storage for rental groups or equipment. Appropriate materials should reflect those already present in the dormitory area, including wood paneling, standing seam metal roofs, or glulam timbers.

Such a structure would primarily be used by rental groups; however, as part of the "camp commons" concept it could also be used for ranger talks or other public programming, should it not be in use by rental groups. These two uses should be facilitated by a small gap in the privacy screen between the two character areas.

All structures should be designed and installed in consultation with a historical architect and historical landscape architect. See the diagram below for recommended location.

TASK ACTIONS

- Construct a large outdoor pavilion in the playing field that could include an enclosed area for storage, as well as a stage.

(RA-7) Add a spur to the Browns Farm Trail to Foxville Plaza.

EXISTING CONDITION

Currently, the gym parking lot serves a variety of uses, including as a public trailhead. Rental groups and NPS staff have noted conflicts between this public use and the private nature of the rental campus. Public users wishing to hike the western side of the park have to walk around the gym and through the private dormitory area to access the trails.

There is currently a trailhead sign, series of wayfinding posts, and a parallel TRACKS trail and wayside.

DESIRED CONDITION

The trailhead should be relocated to a new public parking area and trailhead on the northwest side of the rehabilitated Foxville Plaza (refer to the treatment recommendations for that character area; *see Drawing 16*). This would remove the use conflicts in the rental/dormitory area and would create a more direct and less confusing route for hikers. The old trail should be retained as spur or connector trail to be used by rental groups seeking access to the park's trail system.

TASK ACTIONS

- Relocate the Brown's Farm Trailhead to Foxville Plaza.

(RA-8) Relocate the camp host site to Foxville Plaza.

EXISTING CONDITION

There are currently no permanent enclosed facilities for a camp host. There is a parking spur for a trailer or RV and corresponding hookups, and a parking spur for the host vehicle in the dormitory area. However, unlike other national parks, there is no permanent host housing—and there is none in Foxville Plaza.

Some camp users also expressed frustration at the location of the camp host site, noting how centrally located to the camp it is; this presents potential conflicts as some hosts want camp users to keep noise down or relocate their activities elsewhere. Hosts have little privacy (*see Figure 257*).

DESIRED CONDITION

This CLR envisions the camp host as a critical part of both a future Camp Round Meadow and a rehabilitated Foxville Plaza. In order to serve both of these character areas, and eliminate potential conflicts between user groups, the camp host station should be relocated in the future to the Foxville Plaza area; refer to the treatment recommendations for that character area for more detail. The host site could be a simple RV hookup site. However, to get a broader range of host applicants, consideration should be given to building a host cabin for individuals who do not have an RV or camper.

TASK ACTIONS

- *Short term*: Retain the existing RV infrastructure for camp host.
- *Long term*: Build a new camp host station in Foxville Plaza, closer to the rental area.

(RA-9) Increase accessibility; construct new accessible trail to the pavilion.

EXISTING CONDITION

Camp Round Meadow contains many accessible accommodations, including asphalt paths at grade and wooden ramps to and from nearly all buildings and structures that are not at grade. The dormitories also include accessible accommodations. The CLR authors conducted an interview with the League for People with Disabilities, which historically used Camp Round Meadow for a winter camp but no longer does. League interviewees noted that accessibility within the camp is generally satisfactory while noting two instances where access could be increased: the campfire circle and the gym (Building 177). Specifically, interviewees noted that there is no accessible path to the campfire circle, forcing those in wheelchairs to navigate the uncertainty of turf. Interviewees also noted challenges getting into the gym, which can be accessed only via stairs or a steep concrete ramp. Interviewees pointed out that the preferred method would be to adjust the grade of the building approaches in order to enter without ramps. Accessibility improvements to those two features could incentivize the group to return to Camp Round Meadow.

The CLR team also observed a few other public buildings and structures not served by accessible ramps or paths. These include the infirmary (Building 15; not currently in use) and the gazebo (Building 199).

DESIRED CONDITION

NPS staff should make the gym (Building 177) and the campfire circle accessible. This treatment task should be taken in conjunction with other treatment tasks, including the construction of a new playing field pavilion (*see Figure 254*) and the possible relocation of the campfire circle. Similarly, as new amenities are constructed at the camp, these should also be made accessible.

TASK ACTIONS

- Make gym entrances accessible, in consultation with a historical architect.
- Build an accessible path to the campfire circle, in consultation with a historical landscape architect.

(RA-10) Add a vault toilet to the gym parking lot.

EXISTING CONDITION

There are currently no permanent public restroom facilities at Camp Round Meadow. NPS rents portable toilets and places them in the parking lots. Historically, during public events, such as the blacksmith shop demonstrations, staff had to open their restrooms to the public. The gym parking lot is also the public trailhead for hikers or day-use visitors. This lack of facilities has caused conflicts between private rental groups and sometimes frustrated staff who get requests from the public for use of their facilities. During treatment interviews, park staff expressed interest in installing a vault toilet in the gym parking lot.

DESIRED CONDITION

This CLR supports the recommendation to install a vault toilet at the gym parking lot, although future improvements to Foxville Plaza as a public-facing facility and trailhead might make this an interim measure. Similar facilities are installed throughout Catoctin Mountain Park and at other national parks at trailheads, picnic areas, and parking lots (*see Figures 258 and 259*).

This CLR has identified appropriate areas for the vault toilet below (in dashed orange). There are two suggested locations: a primary and a secondary, as well as a generally appropriate zone for construction. If later design phases note that these precise locations do not work, the authors have also noted zones in which it would be appropriate to install such a toilet (*see Figure 260*).

TASK ACTIONS

- Install a vault toilet in the gym parking lot.

(RA-11) Rehabilitate the historic Building 12.

EXISTING CONDITION

Building 12 is in fair to poor condition. It is currently mothballed and not in use by rental groups or staff. Historically, it was used as a latrine by the CCC, an infirmary by the JCCC, and an office by the YCC. Several rental groups expressed frustration that they could no longer use this facility due to its deteriorated condition (*see Figure 261*).

DESIRED CONDITION

Building 12 should be rehabilitated based on its historic condition and returned to use by rental groups and/or as an interpretive space, hosting interior or exterior panels on its history and the history of Camp Round Meadow. It should not become staff or storage space.

The Catoctin Forest Alliance (CFA) expressed interest in collaborating with the park to restore Building 12. The CFA program has restored several other structures throughout the park.

TASK ACTIONS

- Restore Building 12 and return it to public use for rentals and/or interpretation.

(RA-12) Screen or relocate dumpsters.

EXISTING CONDITION

The rental area waste receptacles are prominently located along the new primary entrance road, adjacent to the dining hall. While this makes sense as a central location for rental users, it negatively impacts the experience of the cultural landscape (*see Figure 262*).

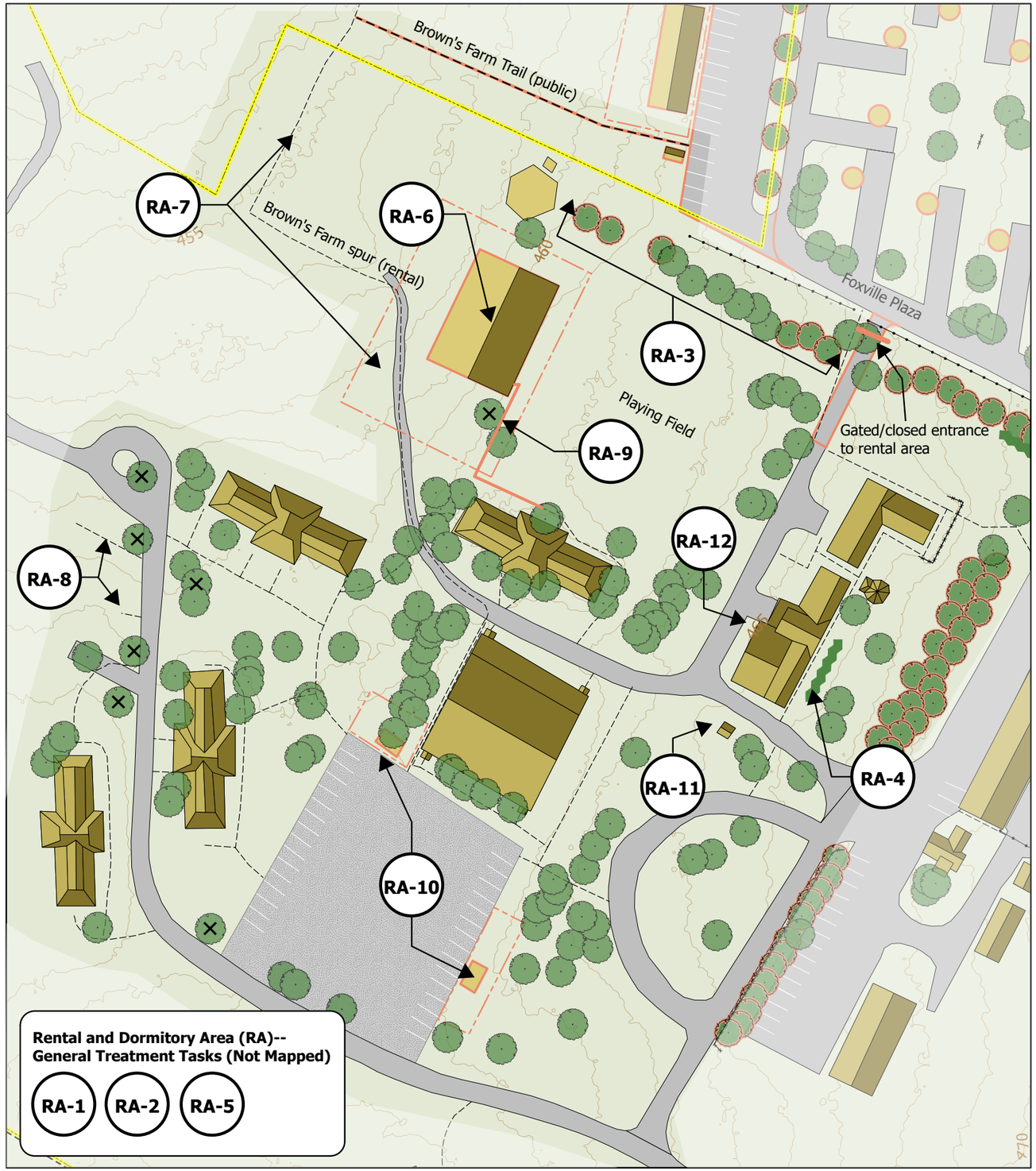
DESIRED CONDITION

Consideration should be given to relocating the waste receptacles to a less conspicuous location. If they cannot be moved elsewhere, they should be screened using vegetation or in a rustic wooden enclosure. An appropriate example can be found at Camp Misty Mount (*see Figure 263*).

TASK ACTIONS

- Construct a wooden screen to block rental dumpsters from public view along the new entrance road.

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Treatment Tasks: Rental and Dormitory Area (RA)

RA-1 (RA-1) Restore vegetative design intent around rental buildings (dormitories and dining hall)

RA-2 (RA-2) Establish successional canopy and preserve mature canopy trees that flank dormitories and other buildings

RA-3 (RA-3) Rehabilitate the vegetative screen between Foxville Plaza and the playing field

RA-4 (RA-4) Remove the rain garden and associated wayside; restore the open design intent of the gazebo area

RA-5 (RA-5) Enhance Camp Lighting

RA-6 (RA-6) Construct a large pavilion for outdoor gatherings

RA-7 (RA-7) Add a spur to the Browns Farm Trail; maintain old trail as rental spur

RA-8 (RA-8) Relocate the camp host site to Foxville Plaza

RA-9 (RA-9) Increase accessibility; construct new accessible trail to pavilion

RA-10 (RA-10) Add a vault toilet to the gym parking lot

RA-11 (RA-11) Rehabilitate the historic Building 12

RA-12 (RA-12) Screen or relocate dumpsters

Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Treatment Plan - Rental and Dormitory Area (RA)

Urban Heritage Project | PennPraxis
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Buildings/Structures
- Circulation
- Vegetation
- Small-scale Features
- Vegetation
- Forest
- Asphalt Circulation
- Gravel Circulation
- Contour (1ft Intervals)
- New Building
- New Circulation
- Appropriate Extents for New Construction
- New Trail
- New Vegetation
- Trees Removed During 2025 Utility Work

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Small-scale features points and feature contribution status not shown
3. Map Version, October 2025

N 0 30 60 120 180 Feet

Drawing 17

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Figure 248: The planting beds outside Buildings 3 and 83 feature limited historic plantings of daffodils. They should be rehabilitated using the historic planting plan of the Job Corps. (Urban Heritage Project 2025)



Figure 249: Conditions adjacent to the dormitories feature beautiful mature shade trees and ornamental dogwoods. However, the dormitories are missing the shrubs and ornamental plantings that once flanked them. Rehabilitation efforts should include the restoration of these plantings. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 250: The existing pine screen does little to visually separate the private NPS and public rental uses. It should be rehabilitated as a mixed privacy screen. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 251: There is currently no screen between the staff parking area and the public rental area. Since circulation is rerouted along this wall, it is necessary to plant a vegetative screen in the existing grass median to separate the functions. (Urban Heritage Project 2025)



Figure 252: This night sky friendly path lighting is located at Grand Canyon National Park. Similar units could be installed along the footpaths in Camp Round Meadow to improve safety. (National Park Service)

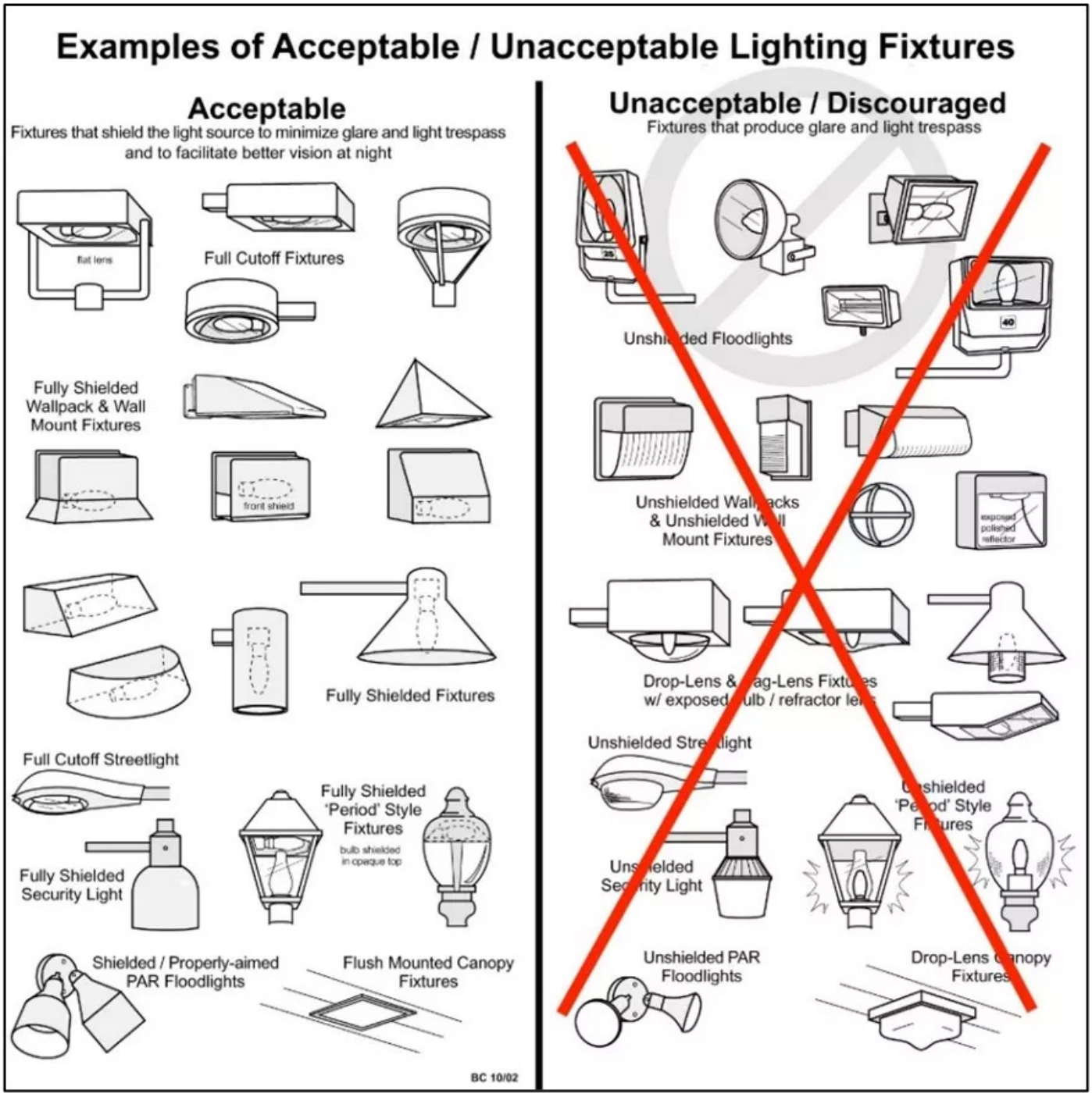


Figure 253: Examples of night sky friendly lighting units. (National Park Service)



Figure 254: This large outdoor pavilion, located in Prince William County, Virginia, is an appropriate example of a what could be constructed in the Camp Round Meadow playing field. The roofline uses similar geometries and materials to the adjacent dormitories but does not exactly copy the historic design. (Prince William County)





Figure 256: (above) Excerpt from Drawing 17 showing treatment tasks in relation to one another within the "camp commons" design concept centered on the playing field. Treatment tasks RA-6 calls for the construction of a large pavilion to define the western side of the playing field/camp commons. RA-7 relocates the public trailhead form the rental space to a public parking and trailhead that defines the northern side of the "camp commons." (Urban Heritage Project 2025)

Figure 255: (opposite) This example from Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 5 features one enclosed end with a stage and storage room. The other end features a fireplace. (Urban Heritage Project 2021)



Figure 257: Currently the camp host site consists of an RV hookup campsite near the rental dormitories. The new site should be located in Foxville Plaza and the host would then serve both the public campground and rental functions. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 258: An example of an appropriate double vault toilet at the Owens Creek Picnic Area. (National Park Service)



Figure 259: An example of an appropriate single vault toilet. (National Park Service)

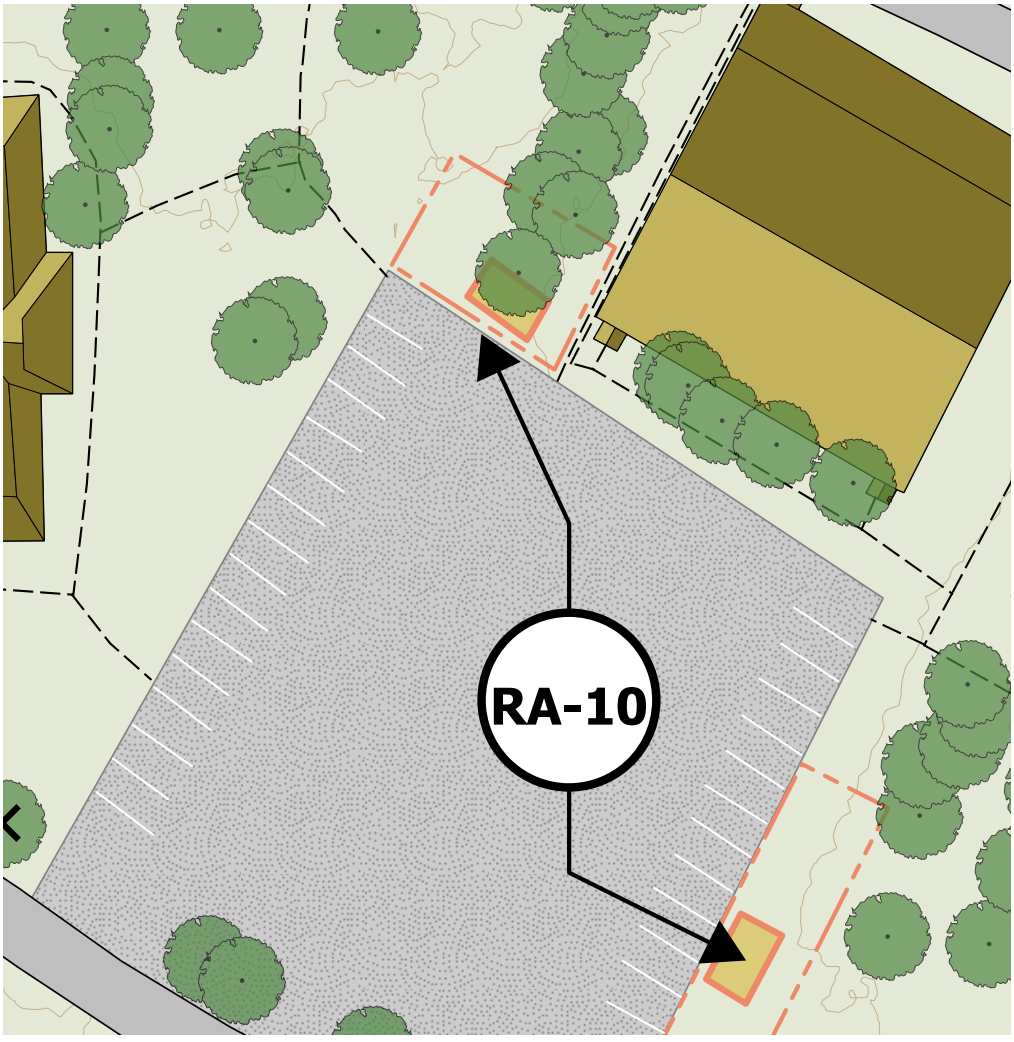


Figure 260: Diagram of suggested vault toilet location in the gym parking lot. The drawing includes a suggested primary and secondary locations, as well as appropriate areas for installation, should those two locations prove insufficient. (Urban Heritage Project 2025)



Figure 261: Building 12 in in poor condition. It should be rehabilitated and returned to rental use. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)



Figure 262: The existing dumpsters feature prominently in the viewsheds along the future primary vehicular entrance to the rental area. They should be relocated or screened. (Urban Heritage Project 2025)



Figure 263: Example of an appropriate wooden screen used at Camp Misty Mount. (Urban Heritage Project 2021)

Ballfield (BF)

(BF-1) Construct additional maintenance facilities, as needed, including storage sheds. Close the ballfield entrance from Foxville Plaza.

EXISTING CONDITION

The ballfield currently has no permanent facilities for storage. Park staff have expressed interest in relocating their operations from the fire cache area across Manahan Road to the ballfield. Based on its location, physical history, and separation from the public-facing areas of Camp Round Meadow, the ballfield can accommodate compatible future developments while preserving Camp Round Meadow's historic character.

This area is accessed from the south by Foxville Plaza and from the northeast by Park Central Road. The entrance from Park Central Road is paved with a type of permeable paver that the park plans to remove.

DESIRED CONDITION

The ballfield is a non-public area that could accommodate these additional operational uses easily and appropriately (*Drawing 18*). It should be screened by vegetation and separated from current and future public uses of Foxville Plaza, Camp Round Meadow, and Manahan Road. Vehicles accessing these new facilities should do so exclusively from Park Central Road; the entrance to the ballfield area from Foxville Plaza should be closed, or gated, as the Foxvilla Plaza area is rehabilitated. The forested areas to the north and west of the ballfield could be selectively cleared to accommodate new buildings or enlarge the footprint of the ballfield, as needed.

If permanent sheds are introduced in the future, they should be similar in character to existing Camp Round Meadow buildings and structures, while still complying with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* (in other words, avoid introducing anachronistic features). Permanent sheds should be similar in scale and materials to those used elsewhere in Camp Round Meadow and Catoctin Mountain Park, likely featuring dark-stained or brown-painted wood.

TASK ACTIONS

- Construct additional facilities in the ballfield, as needed.
- Close ballfield access road from Foxville Plaza, concurrent with the latter area's rehabilitation.

(BF-2) Stabilize and preserve the historic fieldstone walls.

EXISTING CONDITION

The stone wall that composes the ballfield's eastern boundary pre-dates the park's creation, and is a contributing resource. It has not been thoroughly documented and thus has not undergone stabilization or repair. It is currently in fair to poor condition; portions of the wall have collapsed and others feature significant overgrowth.

DESIRED CONDITION

The ballfield ceased being a recreational field likely in the 1990s, after the horse program was reorganized. Since this area is not public, the level of intervention on this stone wall should be minimal, except where it

interfaces with the adjacent character area in Foxville Plaza. No immediate action should be taken beyond those specified in the task actions.

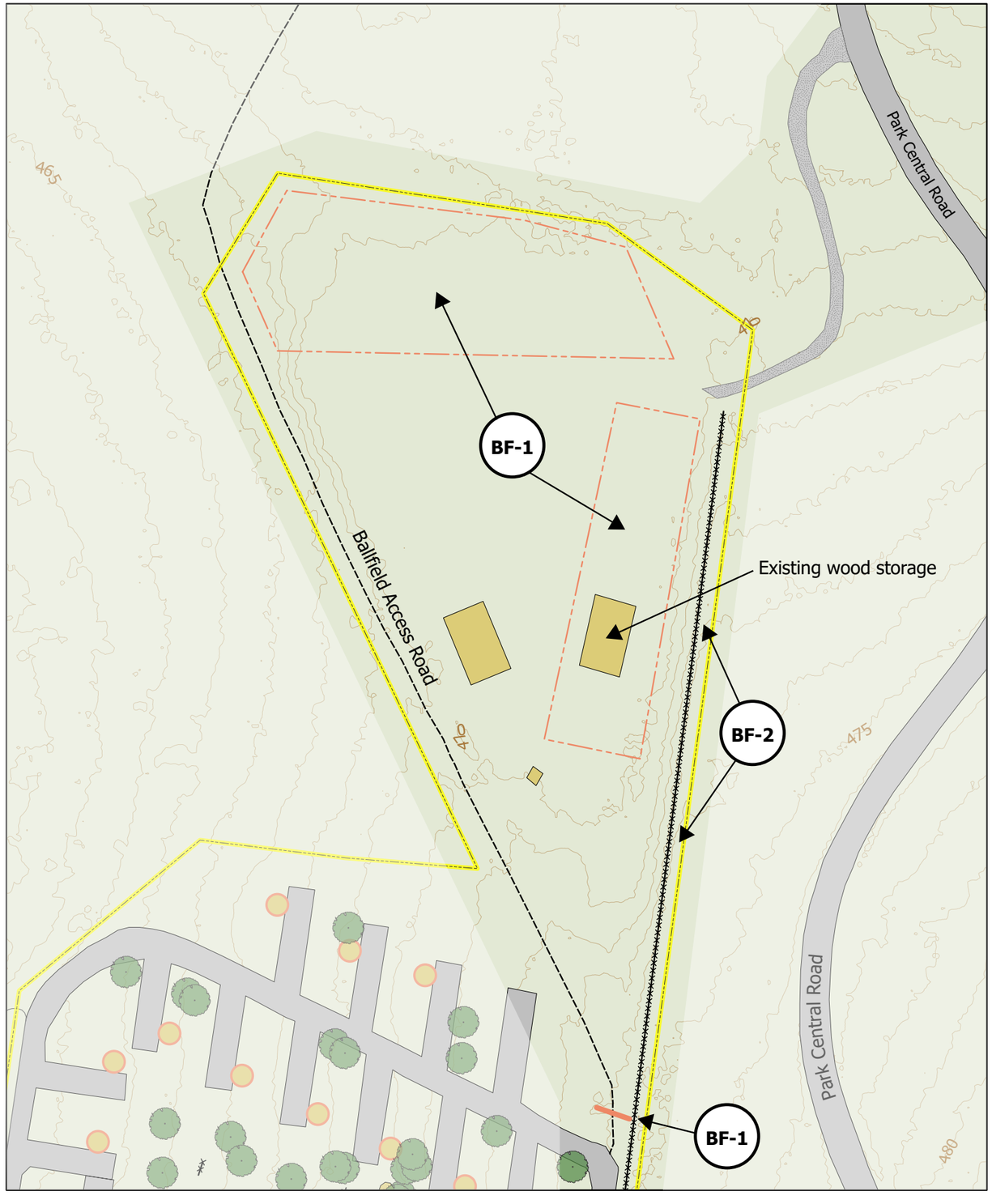
The wall should be periodically assessed for signs of movement, collapse, or vegetative growth that could cause structural issues; a conservator or masonry specialist can advise on this process. The original structure and materials should be maintained whenever possible, and repairs should be made using traditional dry-stacking methods.[4] When replacing missing or damaged stones, use materials that match the original in size, shape, and composition. If sections collapse, they should be rebuilt using original dry-stacking techniques, interlocking stones properly, and maintaining the wall's batter (slight inward slope) for stability. Remove vegetative encroachment near the walls, including small plants on the walls that may dislodge stones. Large shrubs and trees should be pruned back to the base of the wall but not removed entirely so as not to cause further damage to the wall. Prevent heavy machinery from working near the wall and do not store anything on or against the wall, as these actions can destabilize the historic structure over time.

TASK ACTIONS

- Periodically assess the wall for signs of movement, collapse, or vegetation growth that could cause structural issues.
- Prevent heavy machinery from working in the vicinity of the walls, and avoid placing heavy loads on the wall.

4. NPS has worked on stone wall projects with Dry Stone Conservancy out of Lexington, Kentucky. They can be engaged through an agreement for future projects.

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Treatment Tasks: Ballfield Area (BF)

BF-1 (BF-1) Construct additional maintenance facilities, as needed, including storage sheds. Appropriate extents are shown in dashed orange. Close, or gate, the ballfield entrance from Foxville Plaza.

BF-2 (BF-2) Stabilize and preserve the historic fieldstone walls.

Cultural Landscape Report

Camp Round Meadow
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD

Treatment Plan - Ballfield Area (BF)

Urban Heritage Project | PennPraxis
Department of Historic Preservation
Weitzman School of Design
www.cultural-landscapes.org

In cooperation with:
National Capital Region, National Park Service

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2024
2. Data collected in June, July, August 2023

Drawn By
Jacob Torkelson, ArcGIS Pro 3.5.3, 2025

Legend
- Catoctin Mountain Park Boundary
- Round Meadow CLR Boundary
- Vegetation
- Asphalt Circulation
- Gravel Circulation
- Forest
- Buildings/Structures
- Circulation
- Contour (1ft Intervals)
- New Building
- Appropriate Extents for New Construction

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Small-scale feature points and feature contribution status not shown
3. Map Version, October 2025

N 0 30 60 120 180 Feet

Drawing 18

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Auxiliary Areas (AA)

(AA-1) Remove VSO sign at Building 215.[5]

EXISTING CONDITION

Staff at Building 215, a law enforcement building, note that visitors are often confused by its label as VSO (Visitor Services Office). The icon on the sign indicates that the building contains public-facing services, which it does not (*see Figure 264*).

DESIRED CONDITION

The sign should be removed. If a sign is needed at Building 215, it should explicitly state that the building is not open to the public.

TASK ACTIONS

- Remove the VSO sign or update it to clarify that Building 215 is a law enforcement building and not a public visitor center.



Figure 264: Photo of VSO sign. (Urban Heritage Project 2023)

Policies, Planning + Partnerships

Interpretation

There are few interpretive features at Camp Round Meadow to present its rich history to the camp users. Building on the physical history documented in this CLR, new interpretive features could explore the following themes:

- Change in the landscape over time and the lineage of social programs, including:
  - History of the cultural landscape before the RDA/park (e.g. long history of farming on the west side of the mountain)
  - History of land acquisition and displacement, including the Lewis and Brown families
  - Formation of the RDA and its headquarters at Round Meadow
  - The role of public land agencies in solving job training issues (with a throughline of RDA, WPA, CCC, JCCC, YCCC, etc.)
  - The role of race and segregation in conservation programs (the CCC was segregated and white; later Job Corps and YCC programs were integrated)
  - Foxville Plaza as the site of the CCC camp that built and improved many of the park's features
  - Rustic architecture and workmanship of early park structures, including the blacksmith shop's role in creating metalwork for other rustic park buildings and structures
  - The former CCC camp as the site of the OSS headquarters for the area
  - Camp Round Meadow as the first Job Corps Conservation Center in the country
  - YCCC at Catoctin as one of the first in the country and its continued non-residential legacy today
  - History of outdoor and environmental school programming at the camp and the subsequent construction of residential dormitories to serve these programs
  - Folk Life Culture Center as a connection to Bicentennial planning and a renewed interest in craft; connections to local communities

These interpretive features (panels or other creative modes) could be developed in concert with local and longstanding partners, including the Maryland Room at the Frederick County Library, former YCCC or JCCC workers, the Maryland League, the Catoctin Forest Alliance, and others.

Suggested locations to place interpretive features include:

- Foxville Plaza
  - Legacy trees (London planes and pines planted by CCC and witness to overlapping development campaigns; only remaining evidence of former CCC camp)
  - Stone walls (as evidence of past agricultural uses pre-RDA, including the Lewis Farm)
  - Views into the former JCCC campus from Foxville Plaza to the playing field area
- Administrative and Maintenance Area (semi-public access areas only)
  - Blacksmith shop
  - Building 1 (Former RDA headquarters and drafting room)
  - CCC-era resources outside Building 1, including the sugar maple, stone wall, and flagstone walk
- Rental Area
  - Flagpole at Building 83 (Job Corps dedication site)
  - Gazebo (Folk Life Center performances)

  - Playing field (Job Corps campus center)
  - Building 12 (Many uses over time as a latrine, offices, store, and infirmary by CCC, OSS, JCCC, and YCC)
  - Gym (only remaining Job Corps gym in original use in the NPS)

Evaluate more dynamic forms of interpretation, including digital camp experiences (in the form of galleries, virtual walk-throughs, etc.) to increase access to these landscapes for those unable to visit in person or for the public when the camps are in use.

Rental Policies

- Preserve public and interpretive use of and access to the blacksmith shop
- Restore year-round use for dormitories and rental areas. (Park staff noted that this was the policy historically and could be implemented again.)
- Consider scenarios where multiple rental groups could co-exist in adjacent spaces, e.g., the gym.
- Any redevelopment of Foxville Plaza as a campground should reserve some sites as first-come, first-served to encourage access for those with limited internet or other financial resources.
- RV use in Foxville Plaza should be minimized or restricted to certain areas away from heritage trees, due to the possible damage to historic vegetation by large RVs and trailers. Foxville Plaza, while designed for stationary trailers, was not designed for the regular moving of large vehicles, and they have the potential to damage the historic integrity of landscape features.

Construction Mitigation

- Create a protocol to protect existing canopy trees and character-defining vegetation during future construction projects (See ANSI A300 Part 5 [Management of Trees and Shrubs During Site Planning, Site Development, and Construction]):
  - Limit construction staging to the smallest area possible and construct sturdy protection for vegetation, if possible.
  - Where possible, restrict construction vehicles from driving over the critical root zone (***See Treatment Task FP-2, Figures 19-20***); where this is not feasible, use protective matting and other preventative measures to protect mature trees and their root systems.
  - Install boards around tree trunks to prevent damage by machinery.
  - Prevent damage to the critical root zone by prohibiting the sustained storage or staging of materials within the camps; restrict overnight construction vehicle parking and material storage to parking areas or designated staging areas away from significant over-story trees.
  - Require all projects to restore rustic vegetation and native turf after completion.

Partnerships

CAMP USER GROUPS

- Record camp experiences and oral histories from current and past campers, and add recordings to park

archives.

- Expand existing ethnographic studies to include the legacies of displacement and dispossession for the families who lived within the RDA before its creation (many of whom still live in the area).

PARK PARTNERS

- Work with universities to design and/or test some of the ideas presented in this report; such collaborations could offer preliminary design and guidance for interventions at Camp Round Meadow
- Park staff suggested that with appropriate guidance (such as the maintenance schedule above), existing YCC crews could maintain new shrubs at Camp Round Meadow.
- Continue the partnership with the Catoctin Forest Alliance, which has expressed strong interest in helping at Camp Round Meadow.
- Continue to promote park programming (including the blacksmith shop demonstrations at Camp Round Meadow) in partnership with the Frederick County Library and Visit Frederick, Maryland.

Areas for Further Study

- Conduct oral histories of the last 50 years of social programs at Round Meadow.
- Pursue an oral history project for military families affiliated with the history of housing at Foxville Plaza.
- Catalog local historians' work in the park archives, including neighboring histories in Foxville, Sabillasville, and the Brown Family Cemetery. Existing groups have already compiled a lot of documentation on their website (https://www.foxvillebrownfamilyhistory.com/), including the authoring of a book.
- Conduct further engagement with historical users, including Job Corps and YCCC alumni who were not contacted for this CLR. This is especially important as the YCC turns 50 years old.

APPENDIX: Best Management Practices for Tree Protection

Texas A&M University [2015]



Best Management Practices for Tree Protection

Purpose

Provide the basic Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be implemented within any Texas community to initiate the protection and preservation of existing community trees and natural populations of forest and woodlands.

Benefits

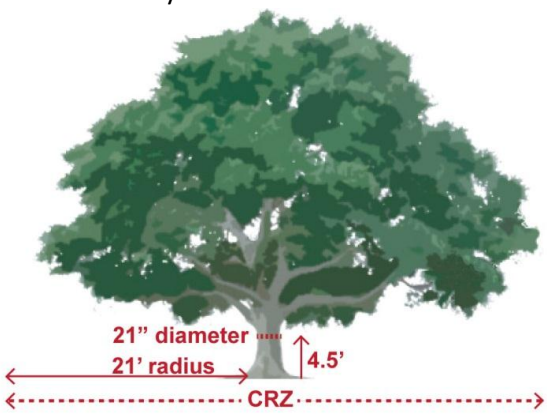
Trees provide a variety of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the community that often times go unnoticed. Trees increase property values, lower energy costs, improve air quality, reduce stormwater runoff, promote walkable communities and increase business sales, among many other benefits. These are some of the reasons many communities have already implemented tree protection codes.

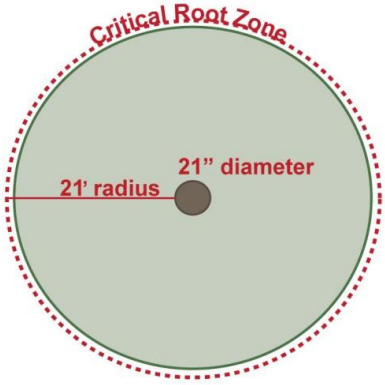
With this in mind, it is crucial to implement BMPs for tree protection early on to ensure trees remain healthy and continue to provide benefits long-term. Since tree roots are not visible to the naked eye, they are often crushed, cut and suffocated during construction. A healthy mature tree has stored energy resources within it and can sometimes withstand temporary disturbances to its roots. However, damage to tree roots and surrounding soils are often permanent and compromise tree health in the short- and long-term. Continual disturbance overtime from pedestrian, vehicle, and construction activities only perpetuate the declining health of the tree and eventually leads to structural failure (dropping of dead limbs or the entire tree falling over), which can damage property and even cause injury to people. Implementing basic BMPs for tree protection early on reduces the likelihood of tree decline and failure due to construction activities.

Definitions

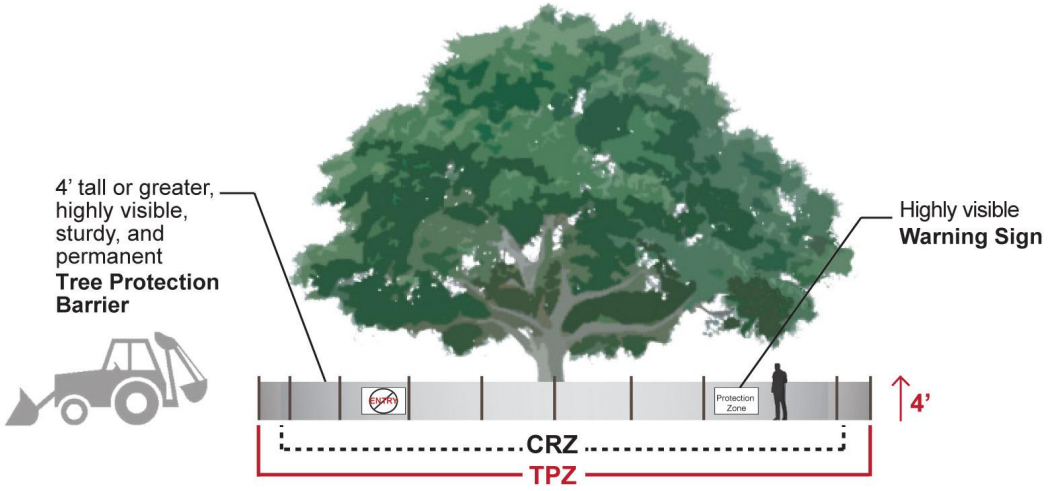
Best Management Practices (BMPs) are general guidelines used in many different disciplines to help define the best currently known or accepted practice for an optimal outcome.

Critical Root Zone (CRZ) is the area of soil extending from the tree trunk where roots required for future tree health and survival are located. This area can also be defined as a circle with a *minimum radius* of 1’ for every 1” in trunk diameter at 4.5” above ground.

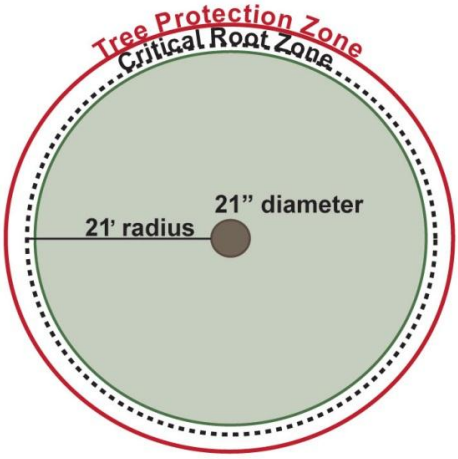


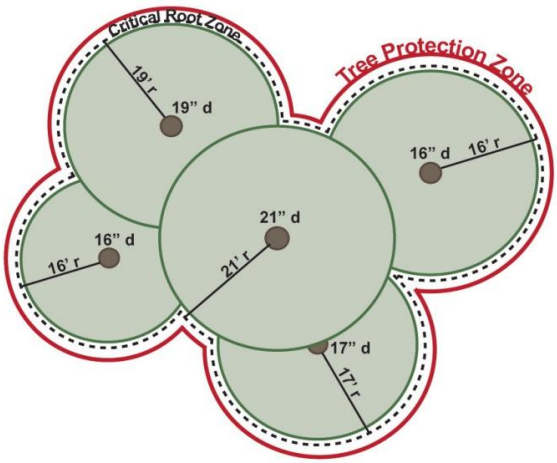


Tree protection barrier encloses the Tree Protection Zone and is at least 4' tall, highly visible, sturdy, permanent and has warning signs on or near it for the duration of any construction activities.



Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) is an area where construction activities are prohibited or restricted to prevent injury to preserved trees, especially during pre- construction and construction, and includes the Critical Root Zone and/or beyond.





Best Management Practices

To promote the health of trees and stands of trees before, during, and after construction activities, follow these basic BMPs:

Planning Phase

1. Before assessing trees and other site structures and conditions, mark the site boundaries on plans and in the field to delineate which trees and stands of trees will be inventoried.

2. Perform a tree inventory that includes at minimum the location, size, and health of each tree and delineates quality stands of trees. Scope of the inventory should be based on communication and needs of the project team (developer, planner, engineer, architect,

landscape architect, and other professionals involved), as well as City ordinances. This is the time to confer with the project team on conceptualizations for site design, so that way long-term tree protection and health gets integrated into the design.

Tips

- When selecting trees to be saved on site, other factors to consider include tree structure, tree species and tolerance to construction activity, age and health of trees, and soil properties.
- In addition to preserving existing trees on site, consider communicating with the project team on areas suitable for future tree planting so that way healthy soils can be preserved during and after construction activities for the preservation of all trees on site.
- It could be useful to write a tree management report that identifies which trees are most suitable for preservation and those that should be removed due to potential impacts from construction activities or structures and infrastructure.

Design Phase

3. Communicate with the project team to accurately site structures and utilities and determine the trees to remain on site. Conserve and protect trees in stands or groups where possible. Make sure the trees and stands of trees selected to be saved go into plans and construction documents. Include in all plans the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) for all saved trees to avoid conflict with the protected area and placement of structures and utilities during construction.

Tips

- Consider protecting beyond the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) of a tree to further protect the roots and soil essential to tree health and structural stability.
- If there are grade changes occurring on site, work with the landscape architect or engineer to incorporate the use of tree islands and wells to prevent disturbance to tree roots.

Pre-construction Phase

4. Prior to pre-construction activities, including tree removal, access roads, construction staging areas, and building layout, erect tree protection barriers to visually indicate TPZs. Be sure to:
    - Use tree protection barriers that are highly visible, sturdy, and restrict entry into the TPZ.
    - Install or erect signs along the tree protection barrier stating that no one is allowed to disturb this area.
    - Remove any branches or trees that pose an immediate risk to structures or people prior to any construction activities.

Tips

- Include highly visible language on all signs that specifies the financial penalties for violating policies.

Construction Phase

5. Communicate the intent of the tree protection barriers to the construction manager and workers to ensure that TPZs are not disturbed during construction activities. Have the construction manager sign a contract of compliance.

6. Prohibit these activities in the TPZ:
   - Stockpiling of any type, including construction material, debris, soil, and mulch
   - Altering soils, including grade changes, surface treatment, and compaction due to vehicle, equipment, and foot traffic
   - Trenching for utility installation or repair and irrigation system installation
   - Attaching anything to trunks or use of equipment that causes injury to the tree

7. Schedule site visits to ensure the contract is being met by the construction manager and that tree health is not being compromised by construction activity. Inspect and monitor trees for any decline or damages.

8. Keep in place all tree protection barriers until the project is completed.

Tips

- Sometimes site boundaries and existing site conditions prevent complete protection of the CRZ, so consider performing construction activities in these areas manually and installing trunk protection to prevent mechanical damage to the trunk.
- Apply at least 6" of mulch within the TPZ to prevent disturbance to tree roots and soil.
- Prior to any construction activity, consider taking photographs of the trees to be saved and surrounding areas to identify any construction damage caused to trees during construction.
- Add a penalty clause in the contract of compliance that prevents moving or altering the tree protection barrier and entering the TPZ.

Post-construction Phase

9. Perform a final inspection and continue monitoring after construction. Monitoring includes maintaining mulch, managing soil moisture, assessing tree damage, inspecting for insects and pests, and fertilization if needed.

Resources

- For information on managing trees during construction and guidelines for determining tree protection zones, see *Best Management Practices: Managing Trees During Construction*
- For more information on tree protection BMPs on construction and development sites, see *A Best Management Practices Guidebook for the Pacific Northwest* http://oregoncommunitytrees.org/tree-faqs/additional-resources/how-to-plant-a-tree/ and *A Community Forestry and Development Guide* http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org/resources/library/tree-protection-bmps-for-contractors-and-builders/view?searchterm=urban
- For information on conserving wooded areas in developing communities see *Best Management Practices in Minnesota* http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/urban/bmps.html
- Visit the Arlington Virginia webpage for standards on construction drawings http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/planning/docs/CPHDPlanningDocsLandscapeDocs.aspx

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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