United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 31 1989

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking “x” in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter “N/A” for “not applicable.” For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name  Camp (2) Greentop Historic District
   other names/site number

2. Location
   street & number  Catoctin Mountain Park
   city, town  Thurmont
   state  Maryland  code  MD  county  Frederick  code  021  zip code  21788

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property  private
   Category of Property  building(s)
   Number of Resources within Property  Contributing  22  Noncontributing  5
   site
   district
   structure
   object

Name of related multiple property listing:
ECW Architecture at Catoctin Mountain Park
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

   Signature of certifying official
   Date

   State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

   Signature of commenting or other official
   Date

5. National Park Service Certification
   I, hereby, certify that this property is:
   ☑ entered in the National Register. Patrick Anderson  10/11/89
   ☐ See continuation sheet.
   ☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
   ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
   ☐ removed from the National Register.
   ☐ other, (explain):
   Signature of the Keeper
   Date of Action
6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
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<tr>
<td>DOMESTIC/camp/institutional housing</td>
<td>DOMESTIC/camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECREATION &amp; CULTURE/outdoor recreation</td>
<td>RECREATION &amp; CULTURE/outdoor recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANDSCAPE/forest</td>
<td>LANDSCAPE/forest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

- NPS rustic architecture
- Development of RDAs

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

- Foundation: stone
- Walls: chestnut log and chink, waney board
- Roof: cedar shingles
- Other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The proposed historic district is bounded on the north by a border that extends about 400 feet east from the end of the camp entrance road, then turns south about 700 feet, continues due west for 2,000 feet, turns slightly northeast for 1,400 feet, and then slightly southeast for 750 feet to intersect with the sharp turn in the camp entrance road; the boundary line then drops southeast, then northeast, to meet the terminus of the camp road (600 feet each), forming an equilateral triangle-shaped wedge of land excluded from the district. The district encompasses about 40 acres and contains buildings that support overnight organized camping activities. Among the contributing buildings are the administration/office, infirmary, staff quarters, helps' quarters, craft shop/nature cabin, and storage. These serve as a hub of buildings shared by occupants of the four individual unit camps. Each unit camp is situated like a satellite group of buildings that includes a latrine and three 10-person camper cabins. Two leaders' cabins, two laundries, and two lodges are interspersed to serve more than one unit camp. Four unit comfort stations and a storage facility are modern, non-historic constructions. A modern dining hall, swimming pool, and related buildings are omitted from the district. All contributing buildings in the district are related to two themes: the human and natural conservation efforts of New Deal programs, and the development of NPS-sponsored rustic architecture in concert with the rise of outdoor recreation. The quality craftsmanship and carefully articulated design of architecture and landscape architectural elements developed from 1935 to 1938 has been largely maintained, thus preserving the spirit and character in which the camp was conceived and built. The district includes 22 contributing buildings and five non-contributing buildings.

* * * *
The public-use buildings and camp arrangements at Camp (2) Greentop were developed with a strong emphasis toward sensible uniformity, form, and layout.

In accordance with the size of the area—most of [the RDAs] contain from a few to several thousand acres—there are planned a number of organized camps. Each camp will serve a maximum of 150 people and will be divided into units, each accommodating not more than 30 people. A typical organized camp consists of a central kitchen and dining hall, a central wash and toilet house, an administrative building, staff quarters, service buildings and water and sewage facilities. The individual units of a camp consist of tents or shelters according to climate, a unit lodge with outdoor kitchen; a unit wash house and latrine.¹

Swimming pools were incorporated into organized camp settings as a "forced substitute" when manmade or natural lake frontage was lacking—as at Catoctin.² The original pool measured 25 by 75 feet, and had a depth of only 18 inches to 7 feet. It occupied the same site east of the main camp area, but it and surrounding buildings have since been rebuilt and are excluded from the historic district.

All the contributing public-recreation buildings feature stone foundations and are topped by cedar shingles. Their structure is log and chink, or the irregular waney board siding—and most commonly these are combined in uniform romantic compositions of one-story plans with low rooflines. The former provided the most judicious use of native wood and drew upon local building traditions. The specs for waney board planed at nearby Chopawamsic RDA at Triangle, Virginia, call for:

Random widths popular [sic], pine or oak boards 1-inch thick. Exposed edge shall be wavy edged and interior edge shall be squared. Exposed surface shall not vary in width more than 2 inches. All boards shall be sufficiently lapped to insure tight joint after shrinkage.³

¹ Harold Ickes, et al., p. 3-4.

² Albert Good, "Organized Camp Facilities" reprint from Park and Recreation Structures (1938), p. 15.

³ Virginia SP-22, Job No. 113-E, Staff and Help Latrine Specifications (undated).

x see continuation sheet
The facilities at Camp Greentop vary somewhat from the standardized NPS organized-camp plans because of its specific orientation toward handicapped campers. As Camp Misty Mount was being completed in 1937, plans for Camp Greentop were being developed with guidance from its sponsoring organization—the Maryland League for Crippled Children (MLCC)—with modifications based on observations made during the first year of disabled-camper occupancy. These included the installation of a bathtub with a grab bar and the swimming pool. Also, all facilities had to be no farther than 600 feet from the dining hall—as the younger children "were severely taxed by long distances several times a day." The eight- to 10-person style of cabin was also specified, to house four youngsters on each side of a center leaders' room. Two unit lodges were deemed unnecessary and eliminated from the Greentop plan because the cabin porches and outdoor space were used so much, and these were supplanted by additional staff quarters. Gravel surface trails linked cabins and dining hall for easier movement, and for the same reason underbrush was largely removed from areas around shade trees. The deviations from standard NPS layouts caused the maximum occupancy to fall to 98 campers plus staff, but the changes were ultimately considered flexible enough to oblige other populations.

Final plans were approved in early 1938 and it was ready that same year for the first seasons' campers—who dubbed it "Greentop" because of "their appreciation of the abundance of green trees on the top of the mountain."5

The building deviations also resulted in a less programmatic layout. While each unit camp features four group cabins and a comfort station (originally a latrine), the only two leaders cabins and two lodges are placed so as to each serve two unit camps. Otherwise, the traditional site plan was in place.

All of the 10-person group cabins (1938, photo 10) are identical. The 11-bay T-plans feature a central doorway with flanking screened openings, which on the interior leads to the private room shared by the two counselors; four campers occupy the flanking dormitory spaces. The main block is constructed of V-notched chestnut logs chinked with concrete, with a rear wing of vertical waney board. Pairs of double-hung sash have since been replaced with 1/1 storm windows. These and most buildings are equipped with a concrete ramp with railing to accommodate handicapped campers.


The staff quarters (1938, photo 11) and helps' cabin (1938, photo 12) are identical to those constructed at Misty Mount. The gable-front portion of the former building is constructed of vertical and horizontal waney board, while the wing is log and chink; the shed porch is supported by squared log supports. A stone chimney is located at the cruck of the plan and stone piers support the building. Contemporary storm sash have been added here, as well. The helps' cabin is primarily log and chink, with matching inverse shed porches on both main facades. Remaining rustic details include log supports and railings as well as paired eight-light casement windows.

Two lodges and two laundries serve all four unit camps. Good Luck Lodge (1938, photo 13) is typical of those at both camps, featuring a main four-bay log block with massive exterior gable-end chimney that dually serves as an outdoor "kitchen." This area has a stone foundation protected by an open, gable-roofed pavilion. The other lodge is somewhat larger with a partial shed porch on the rear facade and some original casement windows, though many have been replaced with contemporary storm sash.

The laundry building (1938, photo 14) is a semi-open structure of vertical waney board with a poured-concrete foundation. Two-thirds of the side facades are enclosed, with the front portion open under the gable-front roof and supported by log posts; banded and fixed four-light windows occupy the upper part of the walls to allow light.

The craft shop (1938, photo 15) is a modest rectangular building constructed of waney board, with a full shed porch on the rear facade. The extra-wide doorway is off center, flanked on either side by fixed four-light windows; some wood casement shutters with original hardware are extant.

The office (1938, photo 16) and primary storage building (1938, photo 17) are similar incidents of two separate gable-end buildings—one frame, one chink and log—being joined to serve as one. The front, log portion of the office features a near-full shed porch supported by four squared posts, with a wood deck accessed by stone steps and a concrete ramp. To the rear facade is attached a rectangular waney board building of the same dimension; both are contemporary to the period of WPA construction. The frontal log storage building is identical to the one at Misty Mount (photo 6), featuring a deeply recessed entry with no fenestration on the main facade; off the rear is attached a frame rectangular building of the same dimensions.

The original dining hall/kitchen, all four latrines, and the swimming pool have been replaced with modern constructions, and are excluded from the historic district.

x see continuation sheet
All contributing structures in the district are related to two themes: the human and conservation efforts of New Deal programs, specifically the development of RDAs, and the development of NPS-sponsored rustic architecture in concert with the rise of outdoor recreation. The quality craftsmanship and carefully articulated design of architecture and landscape architectural elements developed from 1935 to 1938 has been maintained, thus preserving the spirit and character in which the camp was conceived and built. The district includes 12 dormitory-style camper cabins, four comfort stations, four staff cabins, two lodges, two laundrys, two storage units, an administration/office, infirmary, and craft shop. There are 22 contributing buildings and five non-contributing buildings.

* * * *

INVENTORY (* = Non-contributing)

Dates, dimensions, and costs are from the March 1953 inventory located in park files.

Office (56, photo 16): 11 stone pier foundation, steps; two rectangular 3-bay plan buildings joined by a hyphen to form an H plan; V-notch chestnut log and concrete chink construction, with vertical waney board on gable ends; partial shed roof on front facade, squared posts, log railings, wood deck and stone steps; cedar and asphalt shingles; off-center single door with flanking sash and casement windows. Concrete ramp and iron railings have been installed on main facade to accommodate handicapped campers. Built 1938; 3,014 square feet; cost $1,100.

Infirmary (57): 24 stone pier foundation, steps; V-notch chestnut log and concrete chink construction, with vertical waney board on wings, gable ends; three original casement windows, 19 replacement single and banked 6/6 double-hung sash; waney board shed addition on rear houses hot-water tanks; off-center side porch entry and gable-end entry; cedar shingles. Interior: 6 rooms including full bath; built-in closets and cabinets. Concrete ramp and iron railings have been installed on main facade to accommodate handicapped campers. Built 1938; 1,028 s.f.; $2750.

Staff Quarters (58, photo 11): 20 stone pier foundation; irregular cross plan with central stone chimney; V-notch chestnut log and concrete chink, and horizontal/vertical waney board construction; shed roof on main facade with squared posts, log rails, stone steps; 19 contemporary 1/1 storm sash replaced casements; cedar shingles. Concrete ramp and iron railings have been installed on main facade to accommodate handicapped campers. Built 1938; 910 s.f.; $2,200.

x see continuation sheet
Helps' Cabin (59, photo 12): 17 stone pier foundation; cross plan with partially enclosed front and rear shed-roofed porches, stone steps, log rails, wood deck; V-notch chestnut log and concrete chink construction, with vertical/horizontal waney board; gable roof with cedar shingles; single and paired fenestration with screens and casement shutters; hand-wrought iron hinges. **Interior:** built-in closets and bunks, exposed rafters. Built 1938; 347 s.f.; $800.

Storage (60, photo 17): 12 stone pier foundation; rectangular plan with gable-end roof; rectangular plan with recessed entryway with wood deck, joined by hyphen to another rectangular building to form an H plan; V-notch chestnut log and concrete chink original block, with vertical/horizontal waney board addition; gable roof with cedar shingles; hand-wrought iron hinges. Built 1938; 864 s.f.; $900.

Craft Shop (61, photo 15): stone/concrete foundation; 9-bay rectangular plan with full rear shed porch with log posts; vertical/horizontal waney board construction; gable roof with cedar shingles; central double-width entry; 18 fixed four-light windows, three remaining casement wood shutters with hand-wrought iron hinges. Concrete ramp installed on main facade to accommodate handicapped campers. **Interior:** exposed roof trusses. Built 1938; 595 s.f.; $900.

Lodge (63), Good Luck Lodge (64, photo 13): stone pier foundation; V-notch chestnut log and concrete chink construction, with vertical waney board on gable ends; 7-bay rectangular plan with gable-end exterior stone chimney (with outdoor hearth); attached gable-roofed pavilion with stone floor, braced log posts; 1/1 contemporary storm windows, and door, and 8-light banded casements; rear partial shed porch, squared posts, wood deck; cedar shingles; some hand-wrought iron hinges. Built 1938; 1,042 s.f.; $2,500.

Leaders' Cabin (65, 66): stone pier foundation, front foundation; V-notch chestnut log with concrete chinking, and vertical waney board construction; 1-bay gable-front rectangular plan with overhanging eaves; central wood door with hand-wrought iron hinges; cedar shingles. Built 1938; 195 s.f.; $600.

Laundry (67, 71-photo 14): stone foundation; gable-front rectangular plan with open, cutaway porch, round-log posts; horizontal/vertical waney board; gable roof with cedar shingles; 10 fixed 4-light windows; concrete interior floor. Concrete ramp for handicapped access. Built 1938 as a latrine; 378 s.f.; $750.

Cabins A Unit: (68, 69, 70)
Cabins B Unit: (72, 73, 74)
Cabins C Unit: (76-photo 10, 77, 78)
Cabins D Unit: (80, 81, 82):
10-person dormitory cabin; stone piers; 11-bay rectangular gable-end T plan; V-notch chestnut...
log and concrete chink construction, with vertical waney board gable ends, rear wing; central, single door is flanked by screened window panels and wood siding; contemporary storm windows; cedar shingles. Interior: two large dormitory rooms flank central staff sleeping room; floors of random-width boards; exposed rafter beams; built-in closets and bunkbeds. Concrete ramp and iron railings have been installed on main facade to accommodate handicapped campers. Built 1938; 707 s.f.: $1,400.


Camp (2) Greentop Historic District qualifies for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C, for state and local significance. All contributing buildings in the park are 50 years or older and represent a single property type—public-recreation. The grouping of 22 contributing buildings is intact and representative of two themes: the human and natural conservation efforts of New Deal programs, specifically RDAs, and the development of NPS-sponsored rustic architecture in concert with the rise of outdoor recreation—both movements of the 1930s. While not individually noteworthy, the collective buildings of this organized cabin camp represent a design harmony with the natural and manmade landscape, as well as homage to indigenous materials, vernacular styling, and a hand-crafted aesthetic.

* * *

Continuous occupation of the mountainous region above Maryland's Monocacy River Valley, where farming and timber harvesting were the primary economies from the 19th through early 20th centuries, severely depleted local natural resources. The recreational demonstration area program was instituted in the mid-30s to identify just such lands in proximity to urban centers—on which to establish model resource-reclamation projects.

Development of Catoctin RDA/Mountain Park was initiated in 1934; public-use buildings were completed by 1938, natural resource development continued until 1941, when all work ceased because of the threat of U.S. involvement in World War II. This was one of 46 RDAs established nationwide, the only such facility in Maryland, and most exclusively, it was one of very few recreation projects designed for handicapped campers. The park gained added importance in 1942 when FDR selected Camp (3) Hi-Catoctin as a secure presidential retreat, a function maintained today.
The landscape and architectural designs are attributed to architects, landscape architects, and engineers of the National Park Service. Among the accomplishments of the many Emergency Conservation Work programs were RDAs, which served a twofold purpose: to rescue land depleted of its natural resources and to provide a recreation destination for underprivileged city children. The facilities were specifically developed to offer an out-of-doors experience to the greatest number of children with the least cost. The Catoctin camps hosted programs of the YWCA, YMCA and Maryland League for Crippled Children.

The organized-camp was a new genre of park facility in the 1930s. It features a central collection of buildings shared by all campers, including the dining hall, infirmary, and craft lodge. Beyond this hub are situated individual unit camps made up of several camper cabins, a lodge, latrine, and perhaps a leaders' cabin. A network of hiking trails links the buildings to miscellaneous sites, including campfire rings, playfields, and a swimming pool. Such buildings and their arrangements are common to all organized camps, and vary only according to the natural elements incorporated into the layout.

The buildings are oriented to harmonize with native materials and local architectural styles. At Catoctin, chestnut logs and waney board reflect rustic traditions combined with building plans and elevations that are uniformly one-story, horizontal compositions nestled into the natural profile of the land. These are enhanced by the additional use of wood shingles and stone in the construction of steps, foundation piers, and chimneys. Building features such as casement windows, braced posts, hand-wrought hardware, and interior roof trusses contribute romantic, as well as realistic, highlights.

The interest in further construction of these rustic public-recreation facilities and the financial means to do so ended with World War II. This watershed event marked the end of federally sponsored park development and NPS-directed rustic architectural styling. Catoctin was completed just prior to the war and Greentop remains in its original condition as a working organized-camp facility.
See Major Bibliographic References of the Multiple Property Documentation Form for "Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Architecture at Catoctin Mountain Park."

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
☐ has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # ________________________
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # ________________________

Primary location of additional data:
☐ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☒ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Specify repository:

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 40

UTM References

A

Zone | 18 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0

Easting | Northing

B

Zone | 18 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0

Easting | Northing

C

Zone | 18 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0

Easting | Northing

D

Zone | 18 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 0

Easting | Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated historic district is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the UTM reference points A through G.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the organized camp buildings that have historically been part of Camp (2) Greentop that maintain historic integrity. There are no natural topographical features with which to align the border, and a small area within the central camp area that contains new and replacement constructions has been excluded.

11. Form Prepared By

Sara Amy Leach -- Historian

NPS - National Capital Region

1100 Ohio Dr., S.W.

Washington, D.C.

September 7, 1988

202-485-9817

20242
United States Department of the interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Emergency Conservation Work (ECW)
Architecture at Catoctin Mountain Park

UTMs continued:

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<td>4391180</td>
</tr>
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<td>4391020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See continuation sheet
The illustration does not do full justice to this building, which harmoniously combines masonry, logs and slabs in a structure of great interest. The wings which flank the center room to result in a kind of combined dining lodge and recreation building are an unusual plan feature. Ordinarily recreational alcoves, these expand the dining capacity if occasion warrants. If closed off from the main building by doors, two unit lodges for winter use would be created.
Administration/office (Good, p. 24–26)

In plan, this building and the one directly below follow closely the typical arrangement represented by the administration buildings on the preceding page. For a minimum staffing it is almost the rule to incorporate the trading post in the administration building. Inasmuch as the store is open only for a limited time each day, tending it can be a secondary duty of the camp clerk.
CAMPERS' CABINS IN THE NORTHEAST

Grouping these cabins together is entirely on the basis of geography. They exhibit no special features unknown in other parts of the country. Two have entrances and porches at the end; three are entered on the long side and so have longer side porches. Noteworthy in the group is the Catoctin cabin, outstanding for its simple excellence and true craftsmanship. If built-in benches are not a part of the cabin porches, the steps should be wide enough to offer a place for the occupants to sit out-of-doors.
UNIT LATRINES

Here are unit latrines somewhat more spacious than the examples on the preceding page. Plans are shown opposite. The wash porches of those at Swift Creek and Hard Labor Creek Recreational Demonstration Areas are each provided with a two-part laundry tray, an equipment item usually found only in the centrally located shower house and laundry building of organized camps. Probably these are made use of, yet it must be in a limited way, for the unit latrine is not supplied with hot water. The unit latrine at Montserrat also departs from the typical in its provision of showers. Even though these are cold showers only, there is unnecessary duplication of fixtures that are best held to one central location. The merit of a hard-surfaced floor for the wash porch is again mentioned.
The appeal to the eye made by this squared log structure, shown in plan at upper right opposite, is unsurpassed by that of any unit lodge that has been pictured. It is not often economically logical to employ such expertly fashioned log construction in a building program having social objectives primarily. This is a great pity in view of the romance that a revival of pioneer methods can conjure up for youth. The plan is good, although ambitious beyond absolute essentials in the added porch. Louvres in the gable end are an aid in ventilation.
Camp (2) Greentop Historic District
MAP: 4-A
CAMP (2) GREENTOP HISTORIC DISTRICT

Office (56, photo _16_)
Infirmary (57)
Staff Quarters (58, photo _11_)
Helps' Cabin (59, photo _12_)
Storage (60, photo _17_)
Craft Shop (61, photo _15_)

Lodge (63), Good Luck Lodge (64, photo _13_)
Leaders' Cabin (65, 66)
Laundry (67, 71-photo _14_)
Cabins A Unit: (68, 69, 70)
Cabins B Unit: (72, 73, 74)
Cabins C Unit: (76-photo _10_, 77, 78)
Cabins D Unit: (80, 81, 82):
Storage (224)
Comfort Station (A-219, B-220, C-226, D-227)

= Non-historic, non-contributing

= Campfire ring
CABIN (UNIT C, 76) -- GReENTOP PHOTO #10
STAFF QUARTERS (53) -- GREEN TOP

PHOTO #11
Heip's Cabin (59) -- Green Top

Photo # 12
GOOD LUCK LODGE (64) -- GREEN TOP

PHOTO # 13
LAUNDRY (71) -- GREEN TOP

PHOTO = 14
CRAFT SHOP (61) — GREENTOP
PHOTO # 15
OFFICE (56) -- GREEN TOP

PHOTO # 16
STORAGE BUILDING (60) -- GREEN TOP
PHOTO # 17