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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2021

Revised: 9/2020



Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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## **Table of Contents**

- Introduction
- General Information
- Concurrence Information
- Geographic Information and Location Map
- Management Information
- National Register Information
- Chronology & Physical History
- Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity
- Uses
- Condition
- Treatment
- Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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## Introduction

### Cultural Landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System:

#### The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources and cultural landscapes. The set of CRIS records for cultural landscapes is referred to as CRIS-CL. CRIS-CL records conform to a standardized data structure known as the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI).

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

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...*

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

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

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A) Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1*

*Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...*

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

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## General Information

### Property Level and CLI Numbers

**Inventory Unit Name:** Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
**Resource Classification:** Cultural Landscape  
**CLI Identification Number:** 500781  
**Parent Landscape:** 500781  
**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Park Information

**Park Name:** Wind Cave National Park  
**Alpha Code:** WICA  
**Park Organization Code:** 1560  
**Park District:** WICA  
**Region:** Midwest  
**Restricted:** No

**Landscape Description:**

Wind Cave National Park is located 10 miles north of Hot Springs, SD and was initially founded with the intent of protecting Wind Cave from exploitation as a for profit tourist destination. Wind Cave is identified as one of the largest caves the world. Above the cave, the terrain consists of rolling hills and ravines covered with grass, shrubs, pine, juniper, and deciduous trees. In the developed area, landscaping by the CCC has enhanced the natural vegetation and provided for screening of visual intrusion by the buildings. Features from all periods of NPS development persist in the landscape including an intact groupings of Mission 66 and Parkscape USA.

The boundaries for the CLI corresponds with the boundaries for the park which include the original 1903 boundaries (that which is still owned by the NPS) and all additional lands acquired since, including the Sanson Ranch/Casey property which is a separate documented component landscape. The landscape character is divided into character areas: the Administrative area, the Utility area, and the Historic Park Staff Residence area, the Elk Mountain Campground, and Rankin Ridge. These character areas contain extant landscape features that were constructed between 1890 and 1972 including various buildings and structures, circulation paths, and purposeful views and vistas.

The 1995 National Register of Historic Places Nomination identified only the Administrative area, which includes the upper housing units, and Utility Areas as contributing character areas to the Wind Cave National Park. This nomination identified a period of significance of 1905 to 1945, during which time 18 contributing historic structures were constructed. The Park was nominated under Criterion A and C for its association with late nineteenth and early twentieth century tourism and recreational development within the Black Hills and for its association with the CCC. Despite the scope of the 1995 nomination, and supplementary listing record that increased the number of contributing buildings to 19, landscape features other than buildings and structures are not considered to be adequately addressed and the Mission 66 and Parkscape USA resource were not considered. The CLI identifies landscape characteristics and features that contribute to a broader boundary and significance of the park and integral to conveying the integrity of the resource as a whole.

This cultural landscape inventory expands on the findings of the 1995 nomination. The inventory looks at the entire landscape within park boundaries and extends the period of significance to 1972. The expanded boundaries and extended period of significance allow for the documentation of landscape features that were added or constructed prior to park acquisition and includes landscape features that date to the Mission 66 Era. ("National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources" National Register Multiple Property documentation Form, August 2015.)

**Landscape Hierarchy Description:**

Wind Cave National Park is considered the parent landscape. Nested within the parent landscape are cultural resources representing Native American associations, ranching and settlement history, CCC development, state tourism development, and the National Park Service Mission 66 and later Parkscape USA initiative.

The Sanson Ranch is a component landscape of the parent. The landscape retains features of Native American use, settlement history, and life ways of ranching in western South Dakota. The ranch was home to locally a significant person, Carl Sanson.

**Landscape Type:**

- Historic Vernacular Landscape
- Historic Designed Landscape

# Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape

## Wind Cave National Park

### Other Names:

Other Name: Wind Cave

Other Name Type: Both Current And Historic

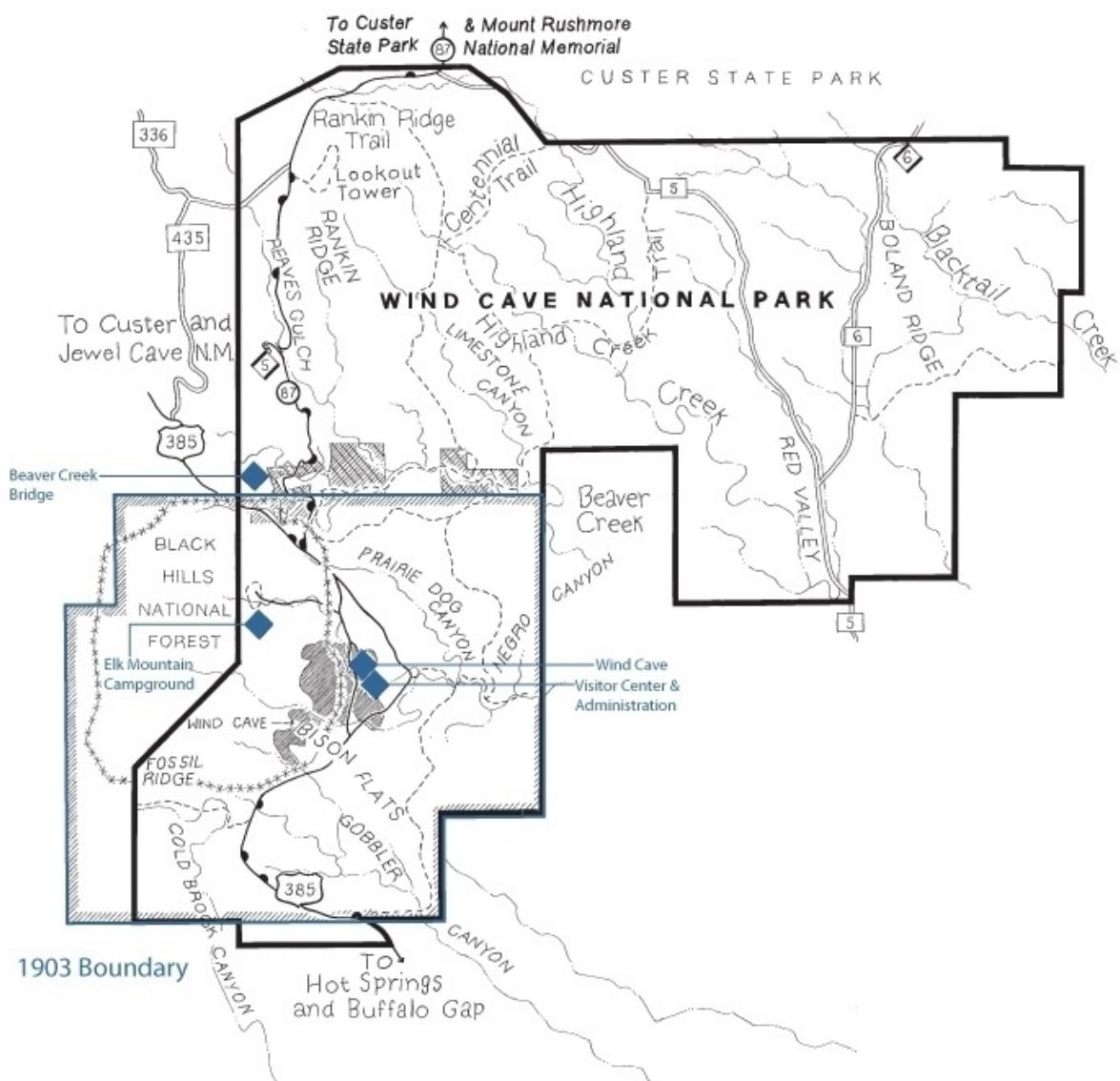
### Site Plan



Site plan showing the park boundary and some features contained within the current boundary. (NPS website, 2020)

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Site plan showing the 1903 boundary and some features contained within the historic boundary (Adapted from a 1968 HABS/HAER map, 2010).*

## Concurrence Information

### Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/20/2021

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

SHPO consensus on contribution of cultural landscape features, expanded significance and parkwide boundaries received 9/2020. The detailed comments on page 2 of the concurrence letter have been addressed in the CRIS system by: 1- changes in the system no longer document collects and displays data the way the previous system did and 2 - by adjusting the data in the National register tab to reflect the data on page 2 of the SHPO letter. The period of significance for the park wide landscape is 1882-1972 and includes resources up to and including Mission 66 and Parkscape USA. The period of significance for the Sanson landscape is 1882-1937.

This section 110 consultation with the SHPO should be referenced for 106 actions in PEPC and will assist the compliance process.

Initial research was conducted by seasonal employees K. Fitzgerald and R. Radford during FY99 to determine the number of landscapes for the park that should be added to the inventory. Cultural Landscapes Program Leader at the time, Sherda Williams, and Historical Landscape Architect Marla McEnaney reviewed the landscape hierarchy. Cultural landscape inventory research and data entry was conducted by Historical Landscape Architect Gail Gladstone after a site visit in October 2010 - but due to personnel transitions in the CLI program the record was never finalized with park review and SHPO consensus. In 2016 Roberta Young visited the park and agreed to update the data so the CLI could be completed, one park review cycle was completed. Sarah Addelman revised the data in 2019 and data entry and quality checks were completed later in 2019 by Martha Tack. 2020 Tom Farrell, Chief of Interpretation for the park reviewed the draft again in preparation for SHPO review. Final revisions were completed by R. Young, in October 2020 after SHPO concurrence was received. Final park Superintendent concurrence is pending in FY 2021 after final edits and clarifications requested by the SHPO have been entered in the CRIS.

SHPO consensus on contribution of cultural landscape features, expanded significance and park wide boundaries was achieved on 9/22/2020. Note the CLI also recommended a National Level of Significance for this park wide landscape.

### Concurrence Graphic Information:

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

Attachment File Path

Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 24 1982
DATE ENTERED JUL 11 1984	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Administrative and Utility Area Historic District,  
Wind Cave National Park

AND/OR COMMON

N/A

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Wind Cave National Park		N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN	X VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Custer	CODE	Second
STATE	46	COUNTY
South Dakota		CODE
		Custer 033

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
X-DISTRICT (X) BUILDING(S)	X-PUBLIC —PRIVATE —BOTH	X-OCCUPIED —UNOCCUPIED —WORK IN PROGRESS <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b> N/A IN PROCESS —BEING CONSIDERED	—AGRICULTURE —COMMERCIAL —EDUCATIONAL —ENTERTAINMENT —GOVERNMENT —INDUSTRIAL —MILITARY —MUSEUM X-PARK —PRIVATE RESIDENCE —RELIGIOUS —SCIENTIFIC —TRANSPORTATION —OTHER
—STRUCTURE			
—SITE			
—OBJECT			

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

National Park Service Rocky Mountain Region

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet		STATE
CITY, TOWN	N/A VICINITY OF	Colorado
Denver		

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	Wind Cave National Park
STREET & NUMBER	
CITY, TOWN	STATE
N/A	South Dakota
Custer	

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE	List of Classified Structures Inventory
DATE	X-FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
1979	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office
CITY, TOWN	STATE
Denver	Colorado

1984 National Register Listing for Wind Cave National Park - Administrative and Utility Area Historic District. - July 11, 1984

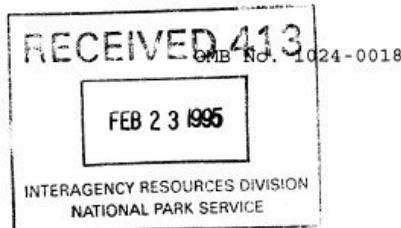
Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

840082-30

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



New Submission

X Amended Submission

1. Name of Property

historic name Wind Cave National Park Administrative and Utility Area Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Wind Cave National Park, Hot Springs vicinity X  
state South Dakota code SD county Custer code 033 zip code 57747-9430

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets        does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant        nationally        statewide        locally. (        See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barry L. Roberts 2/21/95  
Federal Preservation Officer (certifying official) Date

National Park Service  
Federal agency

In my opinion, the property ✓ meets        does not meet the National Register criteria. (        See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

                 1-20-95  
Signature of commenting official Date

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office  
State agency

1995 National Register Amendment for Wind Cave National Park - Administrative and Utility Area  
Historic District. Page 1 - February 23, 1995

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

List of Classified Structure Inventory 1976.  
Division of Publications, Wind Cave, NPS, US Department of the Interior.  
Building Maintenance File, Rocky Mountain Region files, National Park Service, Denver,  
Colorado.

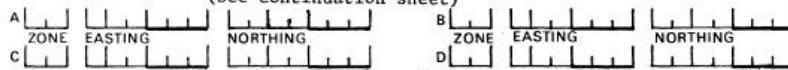
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 21

March 1984: Revised--23 acres

UTM REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)



VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See map with scale for boundary. The boundary follows the natural contour of the land and is drawn to include only the historic district.

(See continuation sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	N/A	CODE	N/A
STATE	<u>N/A</u>	CODE	COUNTY	<u>N/A</u>	CODE	<u>N/A</u>

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Carolyn Torma

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Historical Preservation Center

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

University of South Dakota

(605) 677-5314

CITY OR TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

Vermillion

South Dakota 57069

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE J. R. Holloman

FEDERAL PRESERVATION OFFICER

TITLE Associate Dir. Cultural Resources

DATE 8/20/88

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

J. R. Holloman  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE 7/14/84

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

1984 National Register Listing for Wind Cave National Park - Administrative and Utility Area Historic District. - July 11, 1984

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 84003259

Date Documentation Accepted: 4/19/95

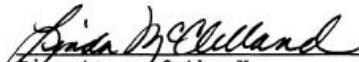
Property Name: Wind Cave National Park Administrative and Utility Historic District (Additional Documentation)

County: Custer State: South Dakota

Wind Cave National Park MPS

Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

April 19, 1995  
Date of Action

-----  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5. Classification>

The number of contributing buildings is hereby increased to "19," and the number of noncontributing buildings is decreased to "0".

Section 7: Description

Architectural Classification. Add "Late 19th Century and 20th Century Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman," and change "Other/Rustic" to "Other/NPS Rustic."

Narrative: Building HS-27 is hereby determined to contribute to the historic significance of the district as the only

1995 - National Register Supplemental Listing Record page 1 - April 19, 1995

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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NPS Form 10-900-4  
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

surviving building of the 1930s CCC camp located at the park's headquarters area. Although the building has been sided, it retains its historic massing, fenestration, window surrounds, stone chimney and fireplace, and floorplan, and it still retains the overall appearance associated with CCC camplife and construction. The references to the "noncontributing" status of HS-27 on pages 86 to 89 are hereby revised to read as "contributing."

**Sketchmap:**

Building HS-27 is hereby designated as a contributing resource.

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Cathy McKoy, Historian for the Rocky Mountain Regional Office,  
was notified of these amendments on April 19, 1995.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1995 - National Register Supplemental Listing Record page 2 - April 19, 1995

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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Wind Cave National Park Administrative and Utility Area Historic District,  
Custer County, SD

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register *Linda McClelland* 4/9/95  
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 Keeper      Date  
                                of Action

=====

**5. Classification**

=====

**Ownership of Property**

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
18	1 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
18	1 Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 17

**Name of related multiple property listing** Wind Cave National Park Multiple Property Submission

1995 National Register Amendment for Wind Cave National Park - Administrative and Utility Area Historic District. Page 2 - February 23, 1995

# Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape

## Wind Cave National Park



September 22, 2020

Michelle Wheatley  
Acting Superintendent  
Wind Cave National Park  
26611 US Highway 385  
Hot Springs, SD 57747

### SECTION 110 PROJECT CONSULTATION

Project: 200826005F – R2018020705063 – Section 110 Survey, Wind Cave National Park  
Cultural Landscape Inventory  
Location: Custer County  
(NPS)

Dear Ms. Wheatley:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project completed by the National Parks Service in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

On August 26, 2020, we received your letter and the report entitled “Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape Inventory, April 2020”. The report seeks to expand National Register eligibility to the entire park boundary and extend to the period of significance to 1972 to include development during the Mission 66 and Park Scape USA periods. Based upon the information provided, we concur with the determination of Eligible for the identified resources within the Wind Cave National Park boundary, but we do not concur with all identified periods of significance.

Based on the information provide in the Cultural Landscape Inventory, we agree that:

1. The period of significance for Wind Cave National Park should be extended to encompass 1882-1972.
2. Mission 66 and Park Scape USA-era architecture and landscape architecture be determined E under Criteria A and C for the connection to the historic period of NPS development and architectural style (period of significance: 1956-1972).
3. Identified resources in undeveloped areas of the park are Eligible under Criteria A for their connection to conservation, tourism, recreation, and entertainment (Period of significance: 1903-1972).
4. The identified resources within the boundary of the Sanson Ranch addition be determined Eligible under Criteria A and B for their connection to agriculture and the Sanson family (Period of significance 1882-1937).

900 GOVERNORS DR • PIERRE • SD 57501 • P { 605 • 773 • 3458 } F { 605 • 773 • 6041 } • HISTORY.SD.GOV  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION { DOE.SD.GOV }

9/22/2020 SHPO concurrence page 1

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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We disagree, however, with the following periodization and areas of significance:

1. In different places the starting periods of significance include 1860 and 1890. These periods appear arbitrary and are not supported by the evidence provided in the report.
2. Significance related to Native American associations identified in Chapter 5 of the Cultural Landscape Inventory are inadequate and should be omitted until they can be addressed more fully. The Evaluation and Integrity summary (pg. 75) indicates this level of significance has been intentionally not captured due to professional limitations. We accept this limitation and therefore will not comment on this area of significance in association with this report.
3. We suggest the Native American associations within Wind Cave National Park be evaluated pending additional research and with appropriate tribal consultation.

As the survey was conducted for the purposes of Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and no undertakings are planned for the surveyed area, the implementing regulations of Section 106, 36 C.F.R. § 800, are not applicable at this time. Therefore, we cannot concur with any proposed finding of effect.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Heather Mulliner at (605)773-6005 or at [Heather.Mulliner@state.sd.us](mailto:Heather.Mulliner@state.sd.us). Your concern for the non-renewable cultural heritage of our state is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jay D. Vogt  
State Historic Preservation Officer

  
Heather Mulliner  
Historic Preservation Specialist

9/22/2020 SHPO Concurrence page 2

**Revision:**

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
R.Young	Other	09/22/2020	InDesign report of the park wide inventory data was reviewed by the SHPO and resulted in a concurrence determination on eligibility. The report, along with SHPO clarifications, have been added to the CRIS Fall 2020 (FY2021) replacing previous versions of the data that originated from the legacy system.

## Geographic Information

**State and County:**

State	County
South Dakota	Custer County

**Size (Acres):** 33970.84

**Land Tract Number(s)**

01-101 through 01-173

**Boundary Description:**

This CLI is for all the lands within the park boundaries as of 2020. The original National Register boundary of Wind Cave National Park, Custer County, SD, more or less corresponds with the January 9, 1903 boundaries of the park. At that time, the park was rectilinear in shape and limited to the southwestern boundaries of the present day park. The 2020 boundary is much larger due to a series of land acquisitions and trades with the state of South Dakota and other Federal agencies, and covers all 33970.84 acres as specified on the tract map.

Note boundary polygon is for general reference since the points were derived from Google Earth Pro. Official location data on park boundary is available from the park and the NPS GIS Support Office, Omaha, NE.

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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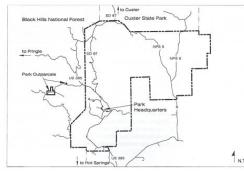
**Boundary Coordinates**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Type of Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
Other	Point	43.64059 37	103.48057 1	- Point A - Google Map Derived
Other	Point	43.66256 16	103.33674 4	- Point B- Google Map Derived
Other	Point	43.59343	103.34088 8	- Point C - Google Map Derived
Other	Point	43.49765 8	103.45991 4	- Point D- Google Map Derived
Other	Point	43.52131 7	103.52047 6	- Point E - Google Map Derived
Other	Point	43.54292 6	103.52020 7	- Point F - Google Map Derived
Other	Point	43.55765 2	103.50026 1	- Point G - Google Map Derived
Other	Point	43.63319 8	103.50002 9	- Point H - Google Map Derived

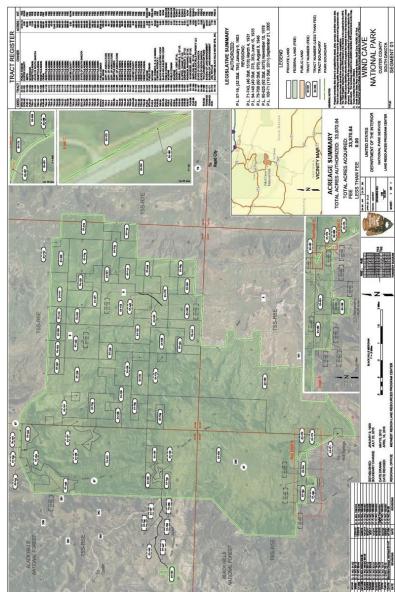
# Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape

## Wind Cave National Park

### Location Map:



*Park map by John Milner Associates, 2002 (CLR 2005). Size 90KB, Dim - 161x 496, Inches, 3.4" x 2.8", Res 180ppi, bit depth 8, color RGB*



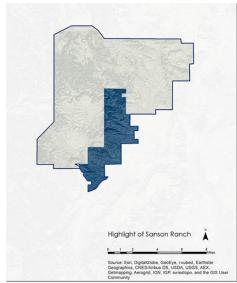
*2016 Park Segment Map showing land tracts within the park boundary.*

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape Wind Cave National Park

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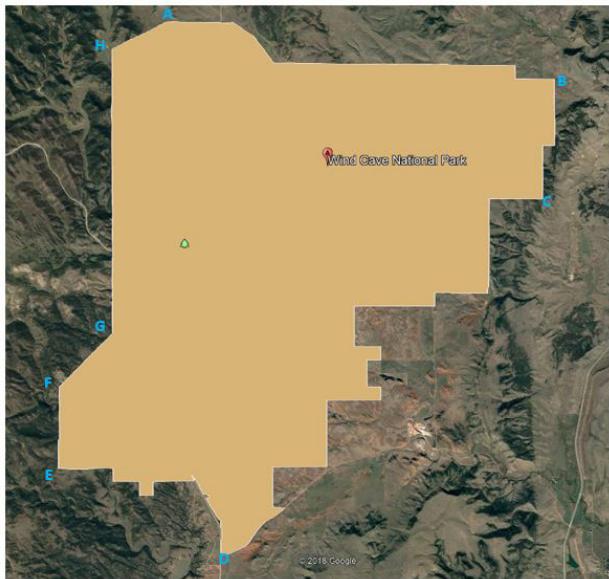
*Contextual location map for Wind Cave National Park (John Milner Associates from the CLR, 2005). file size 129 KB, Dim 875x579, Inches 4.4"x2.9", Resolution 200 ppi, Bit depth 8, Color B&W, Dot Grain 20%*



*Wind Cave National Park with the Sanson Ranch/ Casey Addition*

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape Wind Cave National Park

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- A= [Lat 43.6405937/Long -103.480571](#)
- B= [Lat 43.6625616/Long -103.336744](#)
- C= [Lat 43.593430/Long -103.340888](#)
- D= [Lat 43.497658 /Long -103.459914](#)
- E= [Lat 43.521317 /Long -103.520476](#)
- F= [Lat 43.542926/Long -103.520207](#)
- G= [Lat 43.557652 /Long -103.500261](#)
- H= [Lat 43.633198 /Long -103.500029](#)

*Map showing the point locations in Lat/Long decimal degrees marked by letters in a clock wise direction*

**Regional Landscape Contexts:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

The subject of many different sacred story cycles, Wind Cave is considered a sacred site by the Lakota, a subgroup of the Oceti Sakowin. Lakota traditions and stories associate Wind Cave within the larger cosmological traditions and tie the location with spiritual figures, bison, regeneration, and the power of wind. Wind Cave is “part of a larger network of important and sacred sites within the greater area.” (2015, NPS. Zoning/ GMP/EA, 167)

The proximity of the Wind Cave to Buffalo Gap, the Race Track, and the thermal water of Hot Springs, South Dakota, cause the feature to be intertwined with traditions associated with this larger network of sacred sites. “The Race Track, according to Cheyenne tradition, is associated as the location that the original Sun Dance occurred, as well as the possible site of the first Animal Dance. According to Cheyenne and Lakota tradition, the Race Track begins at Buffalo Gap and continues through Wind Cave National Park to a location referred to as the Stomping Ground of the Bison Bull.” (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR, 3-18)

Other ethnographic resources of special importance within the park include springs, bluffs, rocky outcroppings, ridges, and burial sites. It is important to note that the locations of places of many religious observances within the park are unknown and may never be known to park managers (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR,3-17 - 3-18).

In 1877, the Lakota land cession opened the Black Hills to ranchers as a viable source of grazing land for large herds of cattle (Spence, 133). Eager settlers filed homestead claims in the area under the terms of the Homestead Act of 1862. Following the conditions of the act, settlers had to improve a 160 acre plot of land and prove residency for 5 years, after which time a fee was paid and ownership was transferred from the United States government to the homesteader. Since the Black Hills had previously supported large herds of wild buffalo, settlers and cattle barons from Texas assumed that the landscape would support large herds of domestic cattle as well. After the initial homesteading rush on the area in the late 1880s, more successful farmers began to buy additional property and land claims to produce larger tracts of property that were used for open range grazing (Spence, 146-148). The practice of cattle ranching is the most recent cultural context overlay that is still a visible industry in the region.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic**Description:**

The park in southwestern S.D. in Custer County in the Black Hills, contains 33970.84 acres of land as well as miles of cave passages below ground both explored and unexplored. The forested uplands in the northwest area of the park from 4,300 to 4,800 feet above mean sea level (MSL). The highest elevation occurs atop Rankin Ridge at 5,013 feet MSL.

The southwestern portion of the park is dissected by a series of canyons: Reaves Gulch, Curley Canyon, Limestone Canyon, Gobbler Canyon, Wind Cave Canyon, Negro Canyon, Highland Creek Canyon, and a series of small unnamed canyons. The canyons in the southwest portion of the park are deep and host a diverse flora population. A notable canyon, Beaver Creek Canyon, extends from the southwest corner of the park towards the north-central boundary. Elevations for the feature range from 4,000 feet to 4,300 feet above sea level. Beaver Creek Canyon features the geological features of Gobbler Canyon and Bison Flats, as well as the land directly above the underground complex of Wind Cave.

The northeastern portion of the park contains the Red Valley, an area of open, rolling grassland. The Red Valley gets its characteristic color from soils derived from the iron-stained rocks of the Spearfish Formation. Elevations in this part of the park range from around 3,560 feet to 4,100 feet. Fusion Canyon contains the lowest above ground elevation point of 3,560 feet MSL. The Boland Ridge, a thin sandstone ridges on the eastern border of park, contains an elevation ranging from 3,900 to 4,200 feet above MSL. Wind Cave is an underground cave system that contains over 150 miles of passages, below ground, that are loosely organized into three levels. The extent of the cave corresponds to approximately 1.1 miles of property within the larger park. The cave's natural entrance occurs at an elevation of 4,082 feet above MSL. The cave contains lakes within the recesses of the cavern at the cave's lowest level which is at 3,592. This height corresponds with the elevation of the local water table. Wind Cave, one of the oldest known cave systems, formed through an unusually long and complex series of events. After lithification, uplift, and exposure of the Pahasapa limestone, caves began to form near the surface through the dissolving of limestone and dolomite by acidified groundwater. Fractures began to develop in the limestone as well as faults and joint planes. Fluctuations in the water table controlled the vertical aspect of cave formation, with dissolution of limestone occurring in the saturated (phreatic) zone, and groundwater circulation controlling the horizontal extent of development.

In the middle units of the Pahasapa limestone, anhydrite was hydrated into gypsum, the resulting expansion of the mineral veins fractured the surrounding rocks, particularly the dolomite beds. Gypsum in the deepest layers produced hydrogen sulfide, which migrated upward where it was oxidized to sulfuric acid, a powerful reagent which dissolved the limestone and formed the earliest cave openings. Then, as fresh water from the surface entered the cave, gypsum dissolved away, in some places being replaced by calcite, which formed the boxwork fins. During this time (late Mississippian, early Pennsylvanian) the existing cave passages and rooms were enlarged. The lack of significant surface openings indicates much of the cave was formed by rising hydrothermal water. This conclusion is further supported by the fact that, except in a few places, the cave does not reach to the top of the Pahasapa Formation, nor does it extend far below the water table. The cave is well known for its outstanding display of boxwork, an unusual cave formation composed of thin calcite fins resembling honeycombs. The park's above ground mixed-grass prairie is one of the few remaining and is home to wildlife such as bison, elk, pronghorn, mule deer, coyotes, and prairie dogs (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR, 3-3 -3-11).

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

Wind Cave National Park is located in the southwestern corner of South Dakota, ten miles north of Hot Springs. Wind Cave National Park is located 60 miles to the south and west of Rapid City, South Dakota. Rapid City is the largest metropolitan area nearest to the park. The park is contained within Custer County, South Dakota. U.S. 385 provides access from Rapid City south to Wind Cave National Park. The highway continues to Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Wind Cave NP averages 800,000 visitors per year. The main attraction is the cave, as it is known to be one of the world's longest and most complex. However, the park's large expanse of acreage above ground has both natural and cultural resources. The landscape provides habitat for fauna such as bison, elk, coyotes, prairie dogs and flora species including mixed-grass prairie and ponderosa pine forest. Park developed areas include the Headquarters Area—including the Administration Building (Visitor Center), the Historic Housing Area, cave entrances, the picnic area, and the Elk Mountain Campground, and the Rankin Ridge fire lookout tower, all connected by a designed scenic road with historically significant bridges. (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR, 3-12).

Prior to the work of the CCC at Wind Cave National Park, the South Dakota Highway Commission (SDHC) was responsible for the start of construction of the bridge and roadway system within the park. In 1928 the SDHC expanded South Dakota Highway 81 in the area of Reaves Gulch as a part of the Good Roads Movement. The Beaver Creek Bridge (1929) was constructed to link Wind Cave National Park with Custer State Park. The bridge was constructed by the Northwestern Engineering Co. under the direction of Morris E. Adelstein. The structure was designed by J. Harper Hamilton. In 1930 the Pig Tail Bridge was started by the SDHC. Further modifications to the structure were done by the CCC in 1940 (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR, 2-79).

Additional efforts by the State of South Dakota in the park include the construction dam and roadway near Cold Spring Creek in 1928 (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR 2-78)

## Management Information

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Should be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 09/20/2021

### Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Management Category date will be updated when the new park superintendent provides final concurrence on the park-wide CLI.

Based on definitions provided in the Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide, Wind Cave National Park should be preserved and maintained based on the park's legislation and inclusion of the property on the National Register of Historic Places. The park's Foundation Document (2011) indicates that "The purpose of Wind Cave National Park is to protect the unique Wind Cave resources and preserve and enhance the mixed-grass prairie and native wildlife, while providing for the enjoyment of the public.

The park's GMP amendment and zoning management plan (August 2015) identifies historic structures and cultural landscapes as "other important resources and values" important to protect and addressed in planning actions. (Zoning Management Plan, 15)

### Management Agreements:

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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**Legal Interests:**

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

**Narrative:**

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

### **Adjacent Lands Information**

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

#### **Adjacent Lands Narrative:**

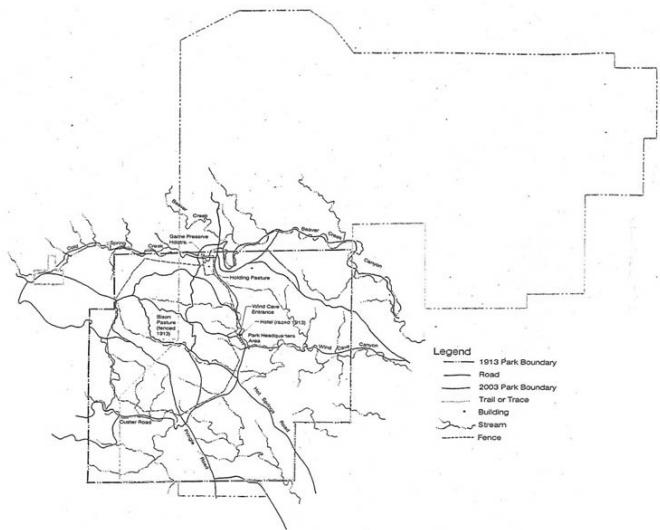
The 1903 boundary of Wind Cave National Park extended slightly further west until 1946 when these lands were exchanged with the Forest Service. The contributing adjacent lands to the Park are now part of the Black Hills National Forest.

The full extents of the cave are unknown. It is possible that adjacent lands have below ground cave resources.

Adjacent lands may also contribute to the ethnographic history and use of the region. The detail of which would be consider sensitive information and not suitable for this inventory.

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape Wind Cave National Park

### Adjacent Lands Graphic:



1903 boundary shown in relation to existing boundary (JMA from the CLR, 2005). - Graphic does not show Casey addition (Sansom Ranch)



2016 Google Maps snip - regional perspective of adjacent lands. Wind Cave represented by red dot.

## National Register Information

### National Register of Historic Places

**Documentation Status:** Entered Inadequately Documented

**Documentation Narrative Description:**

The original National Register of Historic Places Nomination of 1984 documents the Wind Cave Administrative and Utility areas as the Wind Cave National Park Historic District (NRIS 84003259, primary certification 07/11/1984). In 1995, a multiple property listing for Wind Cave National Park was produced that documents the development of recreation and tourism in the Black Hills, specifically highlighting the park, from 1903 to 1945 (POS listed as 1905-1945 with criteria A & C). Also on 4/19/1995 an amendment was submitted increasing the count of historic resources. Individually, the Pigtail Bridge was added to the National Register in 1995 (POS 1030-1945 criteria A & C) and designated has having local significance. The Beaver Creek Bridge was added to the National Register in 1995 (POS 1929-1945, criteria A & C)and was designated as having statewide significance. The Beaver Creek Rock shelter was added to the National Register in 1993 . The Sanson Ranch (POS 1882-1937) was determined eligible by the SHPO on March 3, 2010 based on the findings of the 106 consultation for the Southern Black Hills Water System.

The documentation found within these individual nominations does not adequately describe the landscape characteristics and features that contribute to the cultural landscape. The 2005 Cultural Landscape Report documented the significance of the cultural landscape surrounding the immediate vicinity of the Administrative and Utility areas. That document also included discussion on expanding the Era of Significance to include Mission 66 features in the park (POS 1956-1972). However, because the resource had not yet reached 50 years of age they were not recommended at that time In 2016 the Mission 66 resources reached the 50 years mark for evaluation. These resources are included in this CLI evaluation.

The association of Native Americans to the cave and the region is widely known, but due to the sensitive ethnographic nature of the information this data is not recorded in the CLI, nor is it documented in existing National Register nominations. In 2020 the State Historic Preservation Office recommended that "Native American Associations be evaluated for the National Register pending additional research and appropriate tribal consultation."

**Eligibility:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Concurrence Eligibility Date:** 09/22/2020

**Concurrence Narrative:**

The park's Chief of Interpretation has provided several rounds of review comments since the effort to document the park wide cultural landscape began. The report, which included the contribution of cultural landscape features, expanded significance and park wide boundaries at a National Level of Significance for the park wide landscape, was then reviewed by the SHPO in 2020 with a letter of concurrence dated 9/22/2020. The park superintendent concurrence on condition and management category will be processed early in FY 21.

**Significance Level:** National

**Contributing:** Individual

**Classification:** Multiple Property

### **Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:**

#### **Introduction and Level of Significance**

The following statement of significance is based on information presented in the 2005 John Milner Associates "Cultural Landscape Report, Wind Cave National Park," the 2010 report "Passages Through Many Worlds: A Historic Resource Study of Wind Cave National Park," National Register documentation from 1984 - 1995 and STRATA's 2015 "Sanson Ranch Historic Treatment Report." The 2005 Cultural Landscape Report recommended that Mission 66 resources be considered in future National Register Revisions after the 50 year milestone was reached. The historic resources study documents the history and importance of the cave to associated tribes; and the Sanson report documents homesteading and the evolution of ranching in the Black Hills. This CLI statement incorporated these recommendations and findings for the purpose of having an all-inclusive consensus determination process for the CLI. While the resources within the park vary in individual level of significance, the knitting together of them by the cultural landscape presents a unified history of national importance and applies the National Register Criteria to the park resources. A National Level of Significance is being considered for the park wide landscape.

#### **Period of Significance**

The period of significance for the cultural landscape at Wind Cave National Park is identified as beginning in 1882 and ending in 1972. The Euro-American history of the site beginning with conflicts between the U.S. Military and American Indians in the late 1860s and mid-1870s, when scholars believe the material significance of the Black Hills to the associated tribes was augmented (Spence, 93). The period incorporates the transition from cattle drive ranching to homesteading and pasture ranching, the exploration and organized development of Wind Cave for tourism, the park's establishment, mission in conservation, and architectural styles and includes the influence and projects completed by the CCC and the National Park Service Mission 66/Parkscape USA initiative. The selection of these dates is corroborated by the existence of extant features within the period. The period of significance ends in 1972 which coincides with the conclusion of the Parkscape USA program.

#### **Criteria**

Wind Cave National Park is significant based on Criteria A, B, C, and D. Wind Cave National Park is associated with the Sioux Nation (A & D), Homesteading and Ranching (A & D), Tourism associated with automobile travel and Senator Peter Norbeck's effort to make South Dakota a National Tourist destination (A & B), federal work programs (A & C), the National Park Service development and distinctive styles (C) and early conservation efforts (A).

#### **Native Americans**

The park's Historic Resource Study documents Native American association (approximately 10,000 years) with the region and in particular the area that is now the park. The association is documented through the archeological record that includes Paleoindian materials, the remains of bison kills, and stone circles from encampments. Culturally the association of the landscape with American Indians is documented in the Sicangu Lakota creation story (Mark David Spence, "Passages Through Many Worlds," 2010, 15). Another oral history of both Cheyenne and Lakota origin documents the formation of the Black Hills known as the Great Race (Spence, 16-17). These cultural accounts serve as the basis for some of the lessons, activities, and associations still taught and practiced today by American Indians who regard the Black Hills as Washmunka Oganunka Inchante – "the heart of everything that is" (Spence, 17).

The region is also significant for its association with Native American and United States conflict. "The decline of bison, conflicts with the U.S. Military in the late 1860s and mid-1870s, and the movement of most Lakota Bands to reservation agencies nearer the Missouri River..." (Spence, 93). The priceless value of the Black Hills to the Lakota was not comprehended by the Federal Government at the time. The resulting military conflicts and laws ushered in "a new era in the history of the Black Hills" by 1877, and a "number of ancient associations were pushed into exile" (Spence, 96). The removal of Native Americans to reservation lands however did not sever the ties of the native people to Buffalo Gap and Wind Cave which are regarded as the "source or womb of the bison" (Spence, 98). The associations to Wind Cave were drawn/mapped in ledgers by Bad Heart Bull, a great nephew of Red Cloud whose family lived through the tragic events associated with this period of American Indian History in this region of the United States. Bad Heart Bull's ledgers are said to "Illustrate the continuing importance of the Wind Cave National Park area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries for the Oglala, Sicangu, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and others..." (Spence, 98).

By the 1880s the “brief era of (cultural) destruction and creation yanked the Black Hills into broader national systems of commerce, transportation, and politics – and in doing so it set the terms and created the conditions that would eventually shape the establishment of Wind Cave National Park” (Spence, 102). Buffalo Gap and Wind Cave remain sacred features to the Lakota people and other associated tribes. The relationship of American Indian people to Wind Cave is an important aspect interpreted in the park. The long associations and histories of these relationships combined with the archeological record provide the justification for the landscape to yield more information about the past and eligible under criterion D at a National Level of Significance.

#### Homesteading and Ranching

Within the boundaries of Wind Cave National Park is a component landscape known as the Sanson Ranch. The Sanson Ranch was determined eligible by the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office at the state level of significance under National Register Criteria A, B, and C with a period of significance of 1882-1987. “The ranch property has significant associations with issues of American Indian culture, archeology, vernacular architecture, western settlement, cattle production, social history, historic agriculture, historic native short grass prairie vegetation, birds and wildlife. The Sanson Ranch is more than a historic ranch and can support a more comprehensive interpretation of history and the surrounding landscape and culture. The physical aspects of the ranch help express the role it played in the developmental history of the area, as well as its relationship to the surrounding landscape.” (STRATA, Sanson Ranch Historic Treatment Report, 2015, 1 and 7).

“The Sanson Ranch is eligible under Criterion A, as the property is associated with events that contribute to the broad pattern of United States History. The Sanson Ranch exemplifies the evolution and changes in practices associated with the setting of the Great Plains, Midwestern ranching and changes to American farming” (STRATA, 7). “The Sanson Ranch is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion B, as the property is associated with the locally significant Sanson ranching family that was instrumental in the development of the Buffalo Gap community and Custer County, South Dakota.” (STRATA, 8) “The Sanson Family was involved in the local community. His daughter, Freda Sanson, was a deputy tax assessor and member of the Custer County Board of Education, chairman of the Women’s Department of the County Fair, and Past Noble Grand of the Fairburn Rebekah Lodge (Freda Sanson, “Our Yesterdays: August and Johanna Sanson Family,” 1970, 43). Carl Sanson was a member of the Custer County Soil Conservation District, I.O.O.F, Custer County Fair Board, South Dakota Stock Growers Association, Society for Range Management, and the Black Hills Resource, Conservation, and Development Board (Sundstrom, “Carl Sanson,” 2009, 72-73). Sanson’s commitment to the county was recognized by the Custer County Soil Conservation on no less than three occasions. In 1985, he was recognized by Custer County for his operation of the Sanson Ranch for 103 years, which was the oldest continually operated ranch in the county. Adolph Sanson (father) was also involved with the Custer County Soil Conservation District, serving as its supervisor in 1952.” (STRATA, 9) “The Sanson Ranch is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The property embodies distinctive construction associated with rural Black Hills agricultural development. The Sanson Ranch is an example of a vernacular landscape (including buildings), utilitarian in form to accommodate the needs associated with open range grazing. The Sanson Ranch is characteristic of a Custer County ranch of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries which developed over time to meet the work and life needs of its residents. A compact homesite included the house, barn, support buildings, corrals, and vegetable garden as well as grazing space for the working horses.” (STRATA, 9)

#### Early Tourism - Private

Wind Cave National Park is significant under Criterion A based on the cultural landscape’s association with early tourism efforts in the Black Hills. From 1890 to 1901, Wind Cave was managed as a tourist destination by private individuals who wanted to capitalize on the cave experience. At the same time the area around the cave was seeing growth and expansion. Wind Cave National Park is unique in that the gateway community of Hot Springs, South Dakota, developed prior to the establishment of the national park. Originally marketed for the thermal waters, the town soon became known as a resort location for visitors seeking local natural attractions (Milner, “Cultural Landscape Report, Wind Cave National Park,” 2010, 4-8). McDonald, one of the original claim holders of the cave, led regular trips into Wind Cave. As a result, improvements were made to the entrance of the cave to accommodate additional visitors and tour routes within the cave were established. The perceived value of the cave lead to a series of complaints,

protests, and court cases to determine ownership. This prompted a federal investigation that by December 1900 removed all private claims to the cave and the surrounding property in an effort to protect the resource from exploitation and profit by any one person or group of people. Although reserved for the purpose of creating a national park, the Wind Cave National Park was not established until 1903 after its sponsors had worked out the details of what would eventually become known as the Antiquities Act [1906] (Spence 232). (Spence, 222-229) The site was put under the management controls of the Department of the Interior who contracted out supervision and guides for tours.

#### Early Tourism - NPS

The establishment of Wind Cave National Park on January 9, 1903, ushered in an early era of federal oversight pre- National Park Service, lasting from 1903 to 1916. The establishment of the National Park Service in 1916 created a complex management model for the park. The metamorphosis in oversight from that of a private entity to a “public park...for the benefit and enjoyment of the people” (Yellowstone Act of March 1, 1872) for the purpose of protecting the resource from degradation was unique at the time. Unlike Yellowstone National Park, Wind Cave National Park was concerned with subterranean resource conservation. Wind Cave National Park is significant under Criteria A, as the creation of the park represents a significant change early in the history of National Parks from the uniquely scenic towards subterranean resource protection and conservation. It is also significant for its designation serving as the model for the Antiquities Act of 1906. The efforts demonstrate the value placed on and careful manipulation of the subterranean landscape features for human use, enjoyment, and study.

#### NPS Conservation

Wind Cave National Park is also considered significant under Criterion A due to the creation of the Wind Cave National Game Preserve within the boundaries of Wind Cave National Park. It was the concern of prominent outdoors-men over the loss of American big game animals such as bison, elk, and pronghorn that lead to the establishment of a game preserve at Wind Cave in 1913 (legislated in 1912). Ironically, the bison origin at the cave is one of the very reasons the Lakota and other tribes associated with the Black Hills valued the area. While early conservation efforts focused on the cave resources, the extension of the effort above ground with the game preserve was novel. Restoration and management of the animal species was put under the direction of the US Biological Survey under the Department of Agriculture. The intention of the preserve was to re-establish bison and other endangered large mammals of the South Dakota Black Hills ecosystem. This effort was representative of a growing conservation ethic in the United States during the early nineties and twenties. The efforts to protect the bison also served as a major draw for tourism to the park and the effort came with federal funding from established government programs (Milner 4-11- 4-12).

The joint management of the site by the National Park Service and US Biological Survey was described as a friendly rivalry about landscape management and site improvements until the 1930s when the National Park Service announced new plans and funds for improvements at Wind Cave. This lead to the official end of the game preserve in 1935 and made the management of the bison and other animals the responsibility of the park, prompting expansion for transplanted wildlife to roam. (Spence, 249) While Wind Cave was not the very first park to focus on the protection of a species, the actions and lessons from the efforts at the park contributed to establishing a precedent for similar conservation efforts by the National Park Service at other locations. The action taken by the National Park Service at Wind Cave “affirmed the basic tenet of the 1932 landmark National Park Service publication Fauna of the National Parks of the United States...known more commonly as Fauna #1, this influential study declared that the primary “function of the national parks shall be to preserve the flora and fauna in the primitive state and, at the same time, to provide the people with maximum opportunity for observation thereof...With the incorporation of the game preserve into the park, Wind Cave fully matched this essential vision of a national park and its management.” (Spence, 251)

#### CCC

Under Criterion A, Wind Cave National Park is considered significant for the park’s association with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Part of President Roosevelt’s New Deal, the CCC established 16,953 camps over a nine year period that left an impression on the country’s “state and national parks, and forests in the form of lodges, bridges, roads, campgrounds, visitor centers, trails, rehabilitated forests and rangelands, restored stream environments, and a host of other projects” (Spence, 254). When the program was initiated the CCC was allocated 13 camps in the state of South Dakota and represented the largest

per capita share of CCC works in the nation (Spence 255). The expansion of the program in the state resulted in 16 camps with Camp Wind Cave's establishment at the park in 1934. Camp Wind Cave was the only CCC camp in the State of South Dakota located within a National Park unit at that time.

Camp Wind Cave was at the park from 1934 until 1939 when it was transferred to Badlands National Park. While at Wind Cave the CCC completed a number of new construction projects based on the park's development plan. A side camp based at Wind Cave of about 25 men also spent 2 years working on projects at the newly transferred into the service Jewel Cave National Monument. The park's historic resource study indicates that "it is no exaggeration to suggest that the CCC essentially remade Wind Cave National Park and established the basic parameters of park visitation and management for the rest of the twentieth century" (Spence, 258). In addition to constructing the basic camp necessities, the young men constructed the administration building, an elevator for a new cave entrance and tour routes, new circulation paths, and a new maintenance area. In addition to the new construction the CCC also rewired the cave, razed parts of the former game preserve headquarters (the house was retained and later removed in the 1950's), remove old game fences, and constructed a new perimeter fence for the park. A major accomplishment of the CCC was providing water to the developed area by repairing and constructing three miles of water line to the administrative area, installing fire hydrants, and building/installing a sewage disposal and filtration system (Spence 258-259). The original sewage lagoons are not extant.

"By upgrading and more clearly segregating high use areas, maintenance facilities, and infrastructural developments, the CCC projects followed two basic principles of National Park Service design in the years between World War I and World War II... accommodating the tremendous increase in visitation and automobile use that had begun in the 1920s....and the integration of natural features into the built environment" (Spence, 259 and 260).

#### NPS Rustic Style Modified for Wind Cave

The influence of the CCC on the National Park Service created a cohesive style that quickly became associated with the park service. The style known as rustic, utilizes native materials in proper scale, and the avoidance of over sophistication, to give the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools which is sympathetic to the natural surroundings and past (Spence, 260). The first rustic style designs within the current boundary of Wind Cave was the Beaver Creek Bridge (1929 – NR listed) and the Pigtail Bridge (1930 – NR listed). Both bridges constructed by the state as part of a scenic transportation route between Wind Cave and Custer State Park have rustic design principles to complement and blend the bridges into their surroundings. At Wind Cave a regional variation on the rustic style was designed by Thomas Vint, Chief Architect for the National Park Service. The style defined as "Northern Spanish Architecture" was described as not to rustic but pleasing in character (Spence, 263). Wind Cave National Park is considered significant under Criterion C as the park landscaping, planning, and architecture are examples of evolved National Park Service Architecture. When the NPS started managing the property, existing structures were utilized to house the functions of the Park Service. The 1928 design and planning effort proposed the creation of a cohesive designed landscape and associated architectural elements in a distinctive architectural style more regionally vernacular and appropriate for Wind Cave (Spence, 261-263). The result broke away from the traditional Rustic architecture that dominated the Park Service. However, in keeping with the rustic style principles the plans included harmonizing the built environment with the natural one. Native materials were used to construct the architectural motifs, leading the structures to have a rustic character. The structures were placed in planned clusters that reacted to the topography of the landscape. Thomas Vint's efforts are regarded as a change in the way the National Park Service approached park planning as he created a total design for the park, not a piecemeal plan (Milner 4-14).

#### Peter Norbeck

Wind Cave is also associated with Senator Peter Norbeck (criterion B). Senator Norbeck was an influential South Dakota Senator who envisioned the Black Hills as a tourist destination and secured funding for the development of the Black Hills and influenced the nearby

Mount Rushmore sculpture. With the advent of automobile travel in the 1920s and 1930s, South Dakota Senator Peter Norbeck, introduced and aided in the planning of a highway infrastructure system that would make the National Parks and State Parks of southwest South Dakota accessible to the American public. Norbeck considered Custer State park a crown jewel park in his state, its proximity to Wind Cave made the park a part of Norbeck's larger plan for the Black Hills. While Wind Cave was still in the early years of management by the Park Service and the US Biological Service, Norbeck had made comments about incorporating Wind Cave and all of its federal improvements into the State Park. His influence at Wind Cave involved securing funding for the Norbeck Dam, a project that sparked controversy with Park Service management, but was at the request of the US Biological Survey who was in need of water for the managed wildlife. When the political climate changed, his vision for a larger Custer State Park faded. Norbeck's influence at Wind Cave is seen in the connection of spaces/places in the Black Hills achieved through careful road design and alignment and the construction of a dam in the vicinity of Cold Spring Creek (Spence, 250). (The dam is no longer extant in the landscape.)

#### Mission 66/Parkscape USA

Mission 66 was a facility improvement initiative that was to reach completion and coincide with the National Park Service's half century celebration in 1966. This nationwide effort to improve park facilities resulted in many parks receiving improvements or overlays of cohesive design plans intended to provide for improved visitor and employee use and function. The design principals of Mission 66 were based on functional needs as perceived at the time and utilized standardized plans with common design elements. The style was modern and although believed to be a facility improvement did not reflect the same harmonization between the built and natural environment that the park service had become known for.

Throughout the park service remnant Mission 66 improvements are met with equal amounts of love and hate. The built elements have become the subject of studies on how evaluate visitor centers, maintenance and housing facilities, campgrounds, and picnic areas for the National Register of Historic Places as recent history. Prior to reaching 50 years of age it was recommended that Mission 66 resources be evaluated as systems. If a park had all their Mission 66 parts intact a greater case for eligibility could be made under criterion C, consideration G. With many projects now having reached 50 years old in 2016, it was decided that Mission 66 should be re-evaluated both as part of a system and independently. In 2015 the National Register accepted the Multiple Property Documentation for Mission 66 Era Resources which extends the period of significance to 1972 to capture the transition of the program to Parkscape USA.

The presence of Mission 66 designed features further solidifies the park's significance under Criterion C. When Mission 66 arrived at Wind Cave the improvement of visitor amenities was the primary focus. The first Mission 66 projects to be funded included drilling an approximately 800-foot deep well, and erecting the Rankin Ridge Fire Tower (1956). The first Mission 66-era Master Plan for the Wind Cave was drafted in 1957. This plan recommended the development of several self-guiding trails. At Rankin Ridge, a self-guiding trail was proposed "to lead from the saddle on Rankin Ridge where a parking area is planned. Hikers may then ascend the truck trail to the lookout. ...The trail users will be able to visit the lookout and learn something of fire control. It will be self-guiding through numbered stakes and a guide leaflet keyed to the stakes." Plans for a tower at Rankin Ridge dated back to 1939, but it was not until 1955 that specifications for the metal tower were created. The tower was assembled by September 1, 1956, in time to be incorporated into the park's larger Mission 66 planning effort which included a parking lot and access road to the tower. The fire tower (1956), parking (1960), and trail (1960) are all extant in the landscape of 2020 and used by visitors guided by signs who take in the sweeping vista that on a clear day extends to Badlands National Park. While the tower was found not individually eligible for the National Register, the need for tower and the eventual construction and planning around one is easily associated with Mission 66 design and development of the park. It was recommended to the park, by Mark David Spence, PhD in 2010, that the tower be added to the National Historic Lookout Register.

The Master plan also recommended other improvements. A shorter and more informal Nature Trail adjacent to the proposed campground was planned. At the park's headquarters area, improvements included new overhead power lines to the residential, headquarters, and utility areas. The utility area was enlarged and fenced and a single roof was built over the former carpenter's, plumbing, and mechanical shops. (Milner, 2-107) New interpretive signage was also installed throughout the park and new facilities (parking and housing) were constructed for staff. As part of Mission 66 at the park, a bypass road was

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape

### Wind Cave National Park

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created to route non park traffic away from the headquarters area and pull-offs were created along the main road way for interpretive opportunities and scenic/wildlife viewing.

The noticeable large scale feature remaining from the Mission 66 influence at Wind Cave is the intact Elk Mountain Campground. (Milner 4-18). The Elk Mountain Campground was constructed between 1962 and 1963 when selected areas were cleared and grubbed, topsoil stripped, culverts installed, and the main road, loop roads, and parking areas were constructed. A new camp tender's residence, five comfort stations, and a campfire circle (amphitheater building and paving) were constructed. In addition, cattle guards, water gates, timber curbing, sidewalks, and signage was erected. Four camp loops were built, A through D, containing 100 campsites. A 7,900-foot fence was built completely surrounding the Elk Mountain Campground. (Milner) When compared to historic photos from the 1960s, the Elk Mountain Campground as a system of period features is intact and in the original configuration with only minor repairs and upgrades appearing to have taken place.

Thoughts of modernizing the campground facilities at Wind Cave have occurred over the years. However new knowledge about the sensitivity of the cave make such actions complicated. Therefore, major improvements have not been implemented because of direct or indirect potential impact on the cave below. This leaves the campground as a historic piece of landscape architecture design with integrity to the Mission 66 period. The campground is essentially frozen in time and a contributing landscape feature.

#### National Register Significance Criteria:

- D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history
- B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
- A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
- C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

#### National Register Criteria Consideration:

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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

**Time Period:** CE 1882 - CE 1972

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Recreation	Tourism	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	NPS Mission 66	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Rustic Architecture	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	NPS Mission 66--Landscape Architecture	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works	
Peopling Places	The Earliest Inhabitants:	The Early Peopling Of North America	Cheyenne and Lakota
Transforming the Environment	Conservation of Natural Resources	Origin And Development Of The National Park Service	
Transforming the Environment	Conservation of Natural Resources	The Conservation Movement Matures 1908-1941	

**Time Period:** CE 1956 - CE 1972

**Time Period:** CE 1903 - CE 1972

**Time Period:** CE 1882 - CE 1937

**Area of Significance:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Architecture

**Explanatory Narrative:** Wind Cave National Park is significant in the category of architecture due to the high levels of integrity of features from the era of early National Park Service construction through the Mission 66/Parkscape USA period. Between 1920 and 1941 the National Park Service constructed a series of prominent new structures at Wind Cave including the Visitor Center, Administration Building, and the Elevator Building as part of the park improvement plan to make the site more accessible to visitors. These structures, as well as several ancillary buildings and landscape features in the park, were constructed in the style of architecture classified as Northern Spanish Revival. However, the use of local materials gave the structures an appearance similar to popular rustic style that was present in other national parks and commonly known as NPS rustic. (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR, 4-13- 4-14).

At Wind Cave National Park the pallet of materials selected for the early park buildings included the use of the local sandstone, stucco, and stained heavy timbers. The intention was to create structures that would harmonize with the landscape. The exterior rhythm expressed in the material consists of stacked sandstone on the lower levels of buildings with the stucco visible on the upper portions of the structure. The construction of all of the buildings with this design and these materials created a uniformed appearance and is attributed to the park master plan created by landscape architect Thomas C. Vint (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR, 4-13).

A second period of construction and significance occurred at Wind Cave National Park as a part of the Mission 66 and later Parkscape USA improvements. These projects were more modern in form than the earlier period of park architecture and reflected the influences of modern architecture and functionalism. The goal of the program was to create structures that catered to the ever growing visitor/automobile tourism industry. The highest concentrations of this style of architecture in Wind Cave National Park is at the Elk Mountain Campground which catered to the automobile tourist that visited the park (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR,4-17). The campground, a primary feature of Mission 66, remains virtually unchanged since its original design and construction.

**Area of Significance Category:** Engineering

**Explanatory Narrative:** The significance of Wind Cave National Park in the category of engineering is for the highway system and the CCC work at the site. Wind Cave National Park received an upgrade to highway infrastructure through the efforts of Senator Peter Norbeck who was a proponent of bringing tourism to South Dakota. Improvements at the park included widening of the main road and the expansion of the associated drainage system. In 1929 Beaver Creek Bridge was constructed to span Beaver Creek Canyon as a part of larger park automobile circulation efforts. In 1930 Pig Tail Bridge, a unique corkscrew bridge that allows for a rapid change of elevation within a confined space, was constructed as a part of park road infrastructure improvements. The CCC was utilized as a labor force to construct part of Senator Norbeck's transportation vision for the Wind Cave National Park. This included the construction of road beds, drainage systems, road alignments, and the reservoir for the park. Other projects related to the efforts of the CCC were focused on Wind Cave itself including the walk-in entrance, elevator shaft and building. Efforts also improved the cave trail system by widening it and constructing concrete stairs and installing a second lighting system. (NPS Tom Farrell and 2005, NPS/Milner, CLR, 2-84-87).

**Area of Significance Category:** Conservation

**Explanatory Narrative:** The creation of the Wind Cave National Game Preserve represents a maturing conservation ethic emerging in the United States at the turn of the nineteenth century. In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the legislation to create Wind Cave National Park, making it the 8th National Park in the United States. The original intention of the park was to protect the intricate cave system network. However, conservation efforts spread to areas above the cave that were contained within the park boundaries. The efforts of the Wind Cave National Game Preserve in 1913 were focused on creating an environment that would lead to the growth in the population of bison herds on the Great Plains. By 1923, by products from a healthy population were sold to visitors as a mark of the success of the NPS's bison breeding program (Milner, 2-62). Subsequent conservation efforts in the park have expanded to the creating an area that is conducive to the continued growth of native prairie.

**Area of Significance Category:** Entertainment - Recreation

**Explanatory Narrative:** Wind Cave was known as a regional tourist destination (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR, 2-35- 2-37). This was in part due to publicity efforts, including advertisement at the Chicago World's Fair (Mark David Spence, Passages Through Many Worlds, 198).

The following paragraph describing the visitor experience is taken from 1995 National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation form for Wind Cave National Park prepared by Kenneth W. Karsmizki. "Unlike attractions such as Niagara Falls with its showy, above-ground display, caves were viewed as something dark and mysterious, filled with religious symbolism and ritualistic meanings. A visitor must be guided through the cave, or would risk being lost or fail to interpret the experience, much the same way a religious leader interprets the religious sphere. The journey through the cave was difficult but ultimately rewarding, as spiritual journeys are. The cave was viewed as both the sacred and the profane by both the developers and the tourists. Though the proprietors sought to protect it and profit from tours through its natural wonders, they pillaged and sold its riches. The tourists reveled in its mysteries, and then purchased samples for souvenirs. This dichotomy of the time was well represented at Wind Cave."

After the United States Government acquired the property to end disputes and protect the resource, the property would remain in protective care with limited recreation occurring. The property was opened to visitors again in 1903 with the intention of allowing for the enjoyment of the resource. The National Park Service had acquired with the property a series of run-down buildings, from a previous era of for profit cave tourism. Incremental changes were made to the park to accommodate an ever growing visitor base (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR, 2-53-2-56). The focus of the tourist activities were on the Wind Cave itself.

Efforts to develop the resource for visitation became more of a priority during the 1920s. The success of creating an area associated with buffalo breeding created areas above ground that were of interest to visitors. In 1928 efforts to improve the park began in earnest with the appointment of Thomas Vint to role of landscape architect for the NPS. Vint viewed the park as a total work to make a pleasurable visitor experience. His plan led to a much needed improvement in the infrastructure of Wind Cave National Park. These included the construction of administrative and visitor facilities and other vital tourism infrastructure including an elevator was installed and entrances redone to provide a more safe and friendly user experience at Wind Cave. A second period of construction occurred in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s to further make the park ideal for automobile tourist.

**Area of Significance Category:** Landscape Architecture

**Explanatory Narrative:** The following paragraphs describing the significance of the site regarding landscape architecture is taken from the 1995 National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation form for Wind Cave National Park prepared by Kenneth W. Karsmizki. "This rustic design philosophy was applied to both architecture and landscape architecture in state and national parks. A naturalistic style of landscaping evolved from the 19th-century English gardening tradition, first applied in the United States to the "pleasure grounds" of the wealthy. By the time that the rustic architecture philosophy had become an accepted element to park planning, the NPS had acquired a great deal of land for public use. Many national parks were instated and visitation rose as the automobile made travel accessible for a large part of the population. To accommodate the influx of visitors, the NPS recognized the need to develop service and information areas, as well as roads and trails. With the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Public Works Administration (PWA), the NPS accomplished a great deal of development and improvement within the national parks, including Jewel Cave National Monument."

The second major phase of development at Wind Cave National Park occurred due to the Mission 66 infrastructure improvements instigated by the National Park Service. The project was a "forward-looking program" aimed at improving the park experience for the American public and the updating facilities used by park staff. The planning principles that guided the improvements included the use of curvilinear forms, improvements to interpretation, directing visitor movement, instigating zoning usage on the park, and constructing structures and buildings in a modern form (2005, NPS/Milner, CLR, 4-16-4-17).

**Area of Significance Category:** Politics - Government

**Explanatory Narrative:** The complex history of Wind Cave National Park has been greatly influenced by the political forces that crafted the trajectory of the site. Government involvement at the site formally began in 1892 with the completion of the Government Land Office's survey of the cave (Milner, 2-37). The report would serve as the basis of the Government Land Office denying all homestead claims and private mineral right claims on the property in 1899. The United States Government decided to hold the property in reserve, out of private ownership, but continue to run the site as a resort. However, the Federal Government would acquire administrative responsibilities of the site in 1901 (Milner, 2-40-2- 41). In 1903, Wind Cave National Park was formally created and recognized as the 8th National Park in the United States (Milner, 2-52-2-53).

Responding to the effects of a growing auto tourism market and a decaying state of park facilities, master planning for the park was initiated in 1928. The development of Wind Cave, in part can be attributed to the plans of Senator Peter Norbeck and the South Dakota highway Commission (Milner, 2-79). As a part of the New Deal legislation, President Franklin Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a work force that would be instrumental to the development of the Vint master plan of the park. The infrastructure updates to Wind Cave National Park became the responsibility of the CCC with efforts focusing on the cave, landscaping, and construction (Milner, 2-85).

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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**NRIS Information:**

**NRIS ID:** 84003259

**Primary Certification Date:** 07/11/1984

**State Register Documentation:**

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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**National Histic Landmarks:**

**National Historic Landmark?** No

**Theme:**

**Contributing:**

**NHL ID:**

**NHL URL:**

**Date:**

**Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:**

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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**World Heritage Site:**

**World Heritage Site?** No

**Category:**

**WHS ID:**

**WHS URL:**

**Date:**

**Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape:** No

## Chronology and Physical History

### Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1700 - 1803	Inhabited	American Indians within the larger region began to have indirect contact with Europeans through possession of horses and other trade goods during the first half of the eighteenth century. By midcentury however, this contact was direct as the first European explorers entered the area. (2005 CLR)
CE 1803 - 1877	Explored	After the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory in 1803, the American fur trade prospered. Several European trapping expeditions were led into the Black Hills during this period. By mid-century, the beaver had been supplanted by the bison for its valuable pelt, and active prospecting for minerals had been initiated in the Black Hills. Despite the presence of the Lakota, then the dominant tribe in the region, scientific explorations and military expeditions were conducted in the Black Hills throughout the 1850s. After the Custer Black Hills expedition of 1874, a gold rush led to the formal Custer establishment and subsequent European settlement of the area.
CE 1877 - 1890	Settled	This period may be characterized by increased European settlement of the Black Hills, the establishment of regional and local government within the Dakota Territory, and the initiation of open range stock grazing. Wind Cave was rediscovered by Jesse and Tom Bingham in 1881 and for the next decade stimulated only local interest and limited exploration. The first land claims to the Wind Cave vicinity were established in the late 1880s.
CE 1890	Built	J.D. McDonald established a residence near Wind Cave and became the manager on the site for the South Dakota Mining Company (Spence, 189).
CE 1892	Built	Wind Cave Hotel was built (Milner, 2-37).
CE 1893 - 1894	Memorialized	Alvin McDonald died in 1893. A monument was erected above the natural entrance to Wind Cave in 1894 (Milner, 2-38).
CE 1903	Established	President Theodore Roosevelt signed legislation that created Wind Cave National Park. Just two years later, the first building, the Superintendent's Cottage was built (Milner, 2-52).
CE 1905	Built	The Fire Office Building was constructed as a Superintendent's Cottage (Karsmizki, 26).

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape

### Wind Cave National Park

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Major Event Narrative</b>
CE 1909 - 1918	Developed	Improvements are made in infrastructure for the park. A stairway connecting the hotel to the cave was rebuilt, gates to the north and south entrance were replaced, concrete walks were placed at the Superintendent's Cottage, road and parking areas were widened in the HQ area, the road through the park was reconstructed, three new bridges were built, and a new access road to the Game Preserve was built (Milner, 2-54- 2-56).
CE 1913	Removed	Wind Cave Hotel was razed (Milner, 2-57).
CE 1918	Rehabilitated	The Fire Office Building was rehabilitated (Milner, 2-60).
CE 1924	Built	The Quarters 5 Building was constructed by Laurence Henry Kaudy. The building has a stucco exterior and was intended to be used as a ranger cabin (Milner, 2-69).
CE 1925	Developed	A new cave entrance structure was built over the existing entrance to Wind Cave (Milner, 2-76).
CE 1929	Engineered	The Beaver Creek Bridge was constructed to link Wind Cave National Park with Custer State Park. The bridge was constructed by the Northwestern Engineering Co. under the direction of Morris E. Adelstein. The structure was designed by J. Harper Hamilton (Milner, 2-78-2-79).
CE 1930	Built	Beaver Creek Bridge and Pig Tail Bridge was constructed by the South Dakota State Highway Commission (Spence, 261).
CE 1930	Built	The Pigtail Bridge was constructed in the rustic style (Spence, 261).
CE 1931	Built	Quarters 8 was constructed as the Ranger Dormitory and Mess House. The building was designed by Howard Baker (Milner, 2-82).
CE 1931	Developed	Wind Cave was electrified with indirect lighting. All wiring and light fixtures were concealed from view as much as possible (Milner, 2-100-2-101).
CE 1931	Built	The Window House was constructed to house a diesel generating unit (Milner, 2-82).
CE 1932	Built	Quarters 7 was built to the specifications of Hard Baker. The structure was intended to be used as the "Employee's Residence" (Milner, 2-94).
CE 1933	Built	Quarters 3 was constructed as a new Superintendent's Residence. The building was designed by Howard W. Baker and constructed by the Hot Springs Lumber Company (LCS Record).
CE 1934	Built	Quarters 6 Building was constructed by the NPS in 1934 following the design of Howard Baker (LCS Record).
CE 1934 - 1937	Altered	Quarters 8 Building was altered (LCS Record).
CE 1934	Built	The garage was built in the Wind Cave Administrative Area. The structured followed the design specifications of Howard Baker. The intention of the structure was to serve as a machine shop and garage for the employee automobiles (LCS Record).

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape

### Wind Cave National Park

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Major Event Narrative</b>
CE 1934 - 1939	Developed	The CCC camp at Wind Cave National Park (Spence, 258).
CE 1934	Built	The Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) Officers Quarters were constructed (Spence, 257-258).
CE 1934 - 1940	Built	Rock faced culverts were added by the CCC in the area surrounding the Visitor Center (Milner, 2-85).
CE 1934 - 1938	Built	The Elevator Building was constructed to provide access to the cave. The design was created by Howard Baker (LCS Record).
CE 1935	Built	The Wind Cave Administrative and Visitor Building was constructed in 1935. The design featured two structures connect by a central loggia. The design was the creation of collaboration between NPS architect Howard Baker and the Henry Carlson Company (Milner, 2-95).
CE 1935	Moved	Quarters 5 Building was moved from its original location (LCS Record).
CE 1935 - 1939	Built	As a part of the expanded trail system after the construction of the Visitor Center Building, the CCC constructed the Foot Bridge to serve as a means of crossing a stream (Spence, 259).
CE 1935	Maintained	Wind Cave National Park was given administrative duties associated with the Game Preserve (Spence, 252).
CE 1935	Built	The VIP Center was designed by Howard Baker and was originally intended to house the electrical generator for the elevator (Milner, 3-55).
CE 1935 - 1940	Built	The stone base of the park sign was constructed by the CCC (Milner, 2-87).
CE 1935	Built	The Mixing Circle Warehouse was constructed to aid in park operations (LCS Record).
CE 1935	Built	A paved trail was constructed from the Visitor Center to the cave entrances (LCS Record).
CE 1935 - 1939	Built	The CCC constructed the concrete stairwell that served as the access to the interior of Wind Cave. The stairwell system consisted of over 800 concrete steps (LCS Record).
CE 1936	Developed	A tunnel was excavated to provide a new walk-in entrance to the cave (Milner, 2-107).
CE 1936	Built	The CCC constructed a new cave entrance. The entrance was created through laying rocks in the tunnel and shaping dirt to give a natural appearance (Milner, 2-107).
CE 1936 - 1938	Rehabilitated	NPS Architect Howard Baker created the design for a dormitory addition to the Fire Office Building. The construction lasted for two years and significantly altered the appearance of the structure (LCS Record).
CE 1937	Developed	The Campground and Picnic Area were developed north of the cave entrance by the CCC labor force (Spence, 265).
CE 1937	Built	Rock barrier walls were constructed throughout the site (Milner, 2-99-2-100; 2-116).
CE 1937	Built	The Fire Cache Building was constructed in the Wind Cave Administrative Area in the rustic style (LCS Record).

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape

### Wind Cave National Park

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Major Event Narrative</b>
CE 1938	Built	The current roadbeds were constructed (Milner, 2-92).
CE 1939 - 1940	Altered	A sun room was added to Quarters 3 Building (Milner, 2-97).
CE 1939	Built	The Paint Locker- Coal Shed was constructed by the CCC (Milner, 2-97).
CE 1939 - 1942	Altered	The Window House was converted from a electrical power generating structure to a storage unit (LCS Record).
CE 1939	Built	The Maintenance Building was constructed by the CCC following the plans of Howard Baker. The structure served as a garage and a transformer shelter (LCS Record).
CE 1939	Built	The CCC constructed the Carpenter Shop, also known as Garage A, following the plans of Howard Baker (LCS Record).
CE 1940	Built	A wooden door with a ten-inch diameter opening was placed at the walk-in entrance (LCS Record).
CE 1940	Built	The gas station is built in the Wind Cave Administrative Area following the design of Howard Baker (LCS Record).
CE 1940	Moved	The Mixing Circle Warehouse was moved from its original location (LCS Record).
CE 1940	Altered	The Pigtail Bridge was altered by the CCC (LCS Record).
CE 1941	Removed	The Buffalo Corral and Compound in the Game Preserve was razed (Milner, 2-100).
CE 1946	Expanded	President Truman signed legislation that more than doubled the size of Wind Cave National Park from 11,718.17acres to 28,059 acres (Milner, 2-108).
CE 1946 - 1966	Developed	General cave trail maintenance repair and replacement of all landings, stairs, bridges , and handrails occurred in the cave (Milner, 2-121).
CE 1948	Rehabilitated	The Wind Cave Administrative Building and Visitor Center undergoes a rehabilitation (LCS Record).
CE 1951	Developed	A boundary fence was constructed encompassing the new lands including cattle guards and flood gates (Milner, 2-116).
CE 1952	Rehabilitated	The Elevator Building was rehabilitated (LCS Record).
CE 1954	Memorialized	A memorial plaque to honor Alvin McDonald was placed on his gravesite (Milner, 2-118).
CE 1955 - 1956	Maintained	The cave lighting system was rewired (Milner, 2-119).
CE 1959	Developed	Trails within the cave were reworked to provide more headroom for visitors. This work involved blasting away small projecting rocks (Milner, 2-119-2-120).
CE 1959	Rehabilitated	Further rehabilitation occurred to the Elevator Building (LCS Record).
CE 1960 - 1970	Altered	The rock barrier walls were expanded around a new parking lot. The appearance matched the historic wall (LCS Record).
CE 1960	Built	The parking lot and access road to Rankin Ridge were constructed (Milner, 2-115).

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape

### Wind Cave National Park

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Major Event Narrative</b>
CE 1960	Developed	A new residential area was developed between the Visitor Center and the Utility Area (Milner, 2-114).
CE 1962 - 1963	Developed	A new campground was developed at Elk Mountain. The old campground was designated as a picnic area (Milner, 2-114).
CE 1975	Altered	The Garage Building was altered (LCS Record).
CE 1980	Altered	The Wind Cave Administrative Building and Visitor Center loggia was filled in as a part of the 1980 renovation to the building. A large wing was added to the rear of the structure at this time (Milner, 2-129).
CE 1981	Altered	A rear addition was added to the VIP Center (LCS Record).
CE 1980	Developed	New indirect lighting was installed in the cave (Milner, 2-134).
CE 1985	Altered	The interior of Quarters 7 was further altered (LCS Record ).
CE 1981	Altered	The interior of Quarters 7 was renovated (LCS Record).
CE 1985	Altered	Alteration occurred on the Quarters 3 Building (LCS Record ).
CE 1985 - 1986	Developed	All asphalt trails with in the cave were removed and replaced with poured concrete (Milner, 2-132).
CE 1986	Altered	The CCC cave structures were altered by the NPS (LCS Record ).
CE 1987	Expanded	230 acres of adjacent property south of the boundary were acquired and added to the park's land (Milner, 2-124).
CE 1988	Altered	Additional alterations occurred at the Quarters 3 Building (LCS Record).
CE 1988	Developed	Fluorescent light were replaced with incandescent lights (Milner, 2-134).
CE 1990	Altered	The interior of Quarters 8 was altered (LCS Record).
CE 1990	Developed	The Cave Restoration Project focused on cleaning and removing accumulated lint and dust along trails and in the chambers. This project continues on an annual basis (Milner, 2-134).
CE 1991	Altered	The NPS added an airlock entry to the entrance of the cave, concealing the original CCC entrance (LCS Record).
CE 1992	Developed	Revolving doors were installed at the cave's walk- in entrance (LCS Record).
CE 1995	Rehabilitated	The Elevator Building undergoes additional rehabilitations (LCS Record).
CE 1996 - 1997	Developed	An airlock was constructed at each elevator landing within the cave (Milner 2-132).
CE 1997	Altered	Additional alterations occurred to the Wind Cave Administration and Visitor Center Building (LCS Record).
CE 1998	Rehabilitated	The Elevator Building undergoes further rehabilitation efforts (LCS Record).
CE 2001	Developed	The Headquarters Area was re-fenced (Milner 2-131).

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape

### Wind Cave National Park

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Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 2002	Maintained	Several decades of wax drippings were removed from the candlelight guided tour route (Milner, 2-133).
CE 2005	Explored	Explored/documentated - CLR prepared by John Milner Associates for Wind Cave National Park.
CE 2011	Expanded	5,555 acres of former ranchland (Sansom Ranch), including a thousand-year-old buffalo jump and historic homestead, were added to the park.
CE 2020 - 2021	Maintained	Wind Cave National Park landscape is maintained with minor upgrades for accessibility and repairs as well as implement treatment as prescribed in the CLR and the HSRs for the park. Additional information can be found at <a href="https://www.nps.gov/wica/learn/historyculture/wica-timeline.htm">https://www.nps.gov/wica/learn/historyculture/wica-timeline.htm</a>

### Physical History:

#### Pre-History

The following narratives of the physical history of the site are based on information presented by John Milner Associates in the 2005 Cultural Landscape Report for Wind Cave National Park. The Archaic Period, occurring from approximately ca. 7,500- to 1,500 BP, is characterized by migratory hunting and gathering. Seed grinding tools from this era have been found on the site. Caves and rock shelters are the most common form of shelter of the period. The Beaver Creek Rock Shelter is located within Wind Cave National Park and dates from the Early and Middle Archaic period. Evidence of communal bison hunting from this era has been located in the park as well.

The Late Plains Archaic period is characterized by the disappearance of the McKean Complex points and the emergence of Pelican Lake style. Evidence of habitation from this period associated with the park's land include evidence of ceramics, basketry, and the atlatl during this time period. Stone circles, or `tipi rings, begin to appear in large groups on ridges, butte tops, and other prominent topographic rises. (Milner, 2-6 – 2-7).

The Late Prehistoric period, occurring from 1,500 to 300 BP, is associated with the adoption of the bow and arrow and the expanded use of ceramics. Evidence found in the park indicates larger, more permanent house sites with evidence of the use of ovens. There is an intensification of the use of plant resources along with hunting as part of the diet.(Milner, 2-12).

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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Contact: 1700-1803

Early French explores glimpsed the Black Hills from the Missouri River. During this time the Lakota and Cheyenne began to inhabit the Black Hills by the end of the 18th century. These tribes utilized the Black Hills and their resources much as they had for centuries, conducting hunting and foraging excursions into the vicinity on a seasonal basis. By the end of the first decade of the nineteenth century, the Kiowas had moved southward and the dominant tribes that controlled the southern and eastern Black Hills vicinity were the Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Lakota. By the first half of the eighteenth century at the latest, it is documented that horses began to arrive in the Black Hills area via established trade routes from the American southwest. The small pox epidemic of 1781 decimated the Plains Indian cultures, particularly along the Missouri River (Milner, 2-17 – 2-18).

### European American Trade, Exploration, and Prospecting: 1803-1877

After the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803, the American fur trades prospered as additional lands were made available in which to trap for pelts. European trapping expeditions explored the Black Hills during this period. By the mid-nineteenth century, the nature of trapping shifted from small mammal pelts to the larger buffalo hides which could be used to make robes. Increased demand for bison led to increased hunting of the animals by both the native tribes and European Americans. The presence of the creature in the region began to decline (Milner 2-20).

Coinciding with the decline of the buffalo was the rise of the Lakota nation as the dominant cultural group in the Black Hills. The Lakota believe that Wind Cave in particular is a sacred site. In this vicinity, it is believed that all ancestors of the Lakota emerged from an underground cave to live on the earth's surface. In addition, Sitting Bull's nephew is quoted as saying that 'Wind Cave in the Black Hills was the cave from which Wakan Tanka, the Great Mystery, sent buffalo out into the Sioux hunting grounds (Milner, 2-19 - 2-25).

This led to conflicts with other tribes in the area including the Cheyenne and the Arapaho. The discovery of mineral wealth in the Black Hills including gold, copper, and iron, led to the introduction of a fourth faction onto the landscape, prospectors from the East seeking their fortunes in the Dakota wilderness. The declaration of the federal Homestead Act of 1862 allowed settlers to obtain 160-acre homestead on surveyed land in the public domain. In an effort to pacify the indigenous tribes of the upper Missouri and Platte River areas, in 1868 the U.S. Government signed a peace treaty near Fort Laramie with the Arapaho, Ankara, Assiniboin, Cheyenne, Crow, Hidatasa, Sioux, Mandan, and Shoshone tribes. The 1868 peace treaty further defined Sioux lands to include the Black Hills (Milner 2-21).

There was a great deal of pressure on the government to open up the Black Hills for industrial exploration. Ultimately, the government agreed to fund a large military expedition led by Gen. George Custer to explore the Black Hills. After the Custer Black Hills expedition of 1874, a gold rush led to the forced opening of the Black Hills, violating the previous treaty, and subsequently European settlement of the area (Milner 2-24). "While miners and immigrants were streaming into the Black Hills, the U.S. Government continued to place pressure on the Lakota and Cheyenne to cede their territory" (Milner 2-24). After failed negotiations in late 1875, the U.S. Federal Government issued an order for all Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho to return to their established agencies for the winter. The following spring, the U.S. military sent Gen. George A. Custer and a substantial force to make the Indians return to their agencies. In June of 1876, Custer and his forces were defeated by Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors at the Battle of Little Big Horn. Shortly thereafter, Congress ordered that all food rations be withheld until the Lakota and Cheyenne relinquished the Black Hills. By the fall of 1876, several bands of Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho were forced to concede the Black Hills. Although most Indians had resigned themselves to reservation life, a few Lakota and Cheyenne bands held out until 1877, when most of them, including Crazy Horse, surrendered to agencies after facing starvation (Milner 2-24).

### Open Range Stock Grazing, Homestead Settlement, and Rediscovery: 1877-1890

This period is characterized by increased European settlement of the Black Hills, the establishment of regional and local government within the Dakota Territory, and the initiation of open range stock grazing. By the 1880s, cattle and sheep were brought into the Black Hills in substantial numbers from Texas as a means to further spread the empires of cattle barons. The arid environment and lack of reliable water sources led to few homesteaders settling in the vicinity of Wind Cave National Park. In 1881 Wind Cave was "found" by Jesse and Tom Bingham in 1881 and for the next decade stimulated only local interest and limited exploration (Milner 2-26).

By 1886, the railroad arrived in Rapid City and Buffalo Gap, South Dakota, making the Black Hills assessable by rail. Throughout the decade of the 1880s, the small town of Hot Springs experienced tremendous growth, centered around the development of the Evans' plunge baths and resort spa. The Dakota Hot Springs Company was formed in 1886 and a wood frame hotel—the Minnekahta—was subsequently built. By the late 1880s, Hot Springs was promoted throughout the larger region as a resort area. By 1890, the early development and success of Wind Cave was tied directly to the resort town of Hot Springs (Milner 2-28).

Sporadic exploration of the cave found by Tom and Jesse Bingham continued throughout the mid-to-late 1880s. Much of this exploration can be categorized as leisurely outings and a fascination with what was described as a 'natural curiosity' (Milner, 2-25 – 2-28).

### Active Development of Surface and Subterranean Features: 1890-1903

During this period several mining claims were filed on Wind Cave attempting to establish formal ownership. The McDonalds, J.D. and his two sons Elmer and Alvin, arrived at Wind Cave in April of 1890. J.D. McDonald had been hired by the South Dakota Mining Company to manage and operate the Wind Cave claims. The years between 1890 and 1903 are classified as the period of formal site development, as the Wind Cave property was methodically 'improved' (Milner 2-35). The McDonalds enlarged the entrance to the cave by blasting out the rock making it more accessible to tourist. They erected a log house over the opening. J.D. McDonald also established a relationship with the newspaper in Hot Springs, the Hot Springs Star, for the purpose of promoting the improvements being carried out at the cave.

In 1891, John Stabler moved to Hot Springs. It was shortly thereafter that he visited Wind Cave and was impressed with its potential. He soon made an offer J.D. McDonald couldn't resist. McDonald and Stabler formed the Wonderful Wind Cave Improvement Company in early 1892 and along with J. George, H. Bronte, Charles Stabler and M.V.B. Osmer became its first stockholders. In May 1892, John Stabler constructed a two-story 22 x 32 foot frame hotel at Wind Cave for visitor accommodation. J.D. McDonald also promoted the cave by selling specimens extracted from the cave to local tourists (Milner 2-36- 2-37).

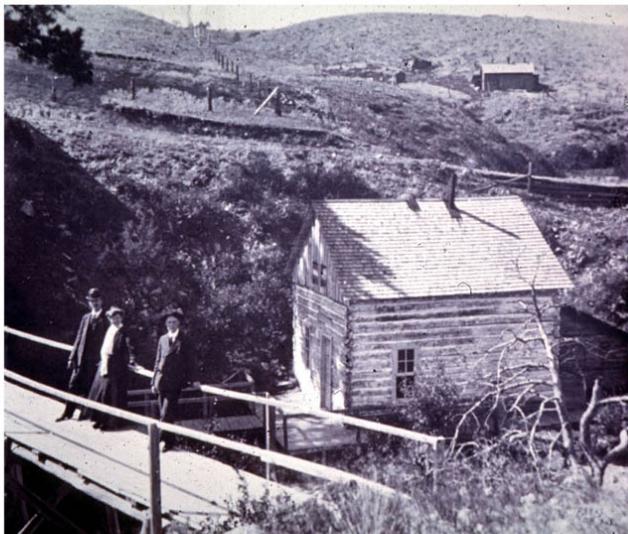
By September 1892, the Government Land Office had initiated formal surveys of the land surrounding Wind Cave. An analysis of the surveyor maps found approximately twenty- one structures associated with settlers who were also named on the map, and well over fifty miles of wagon roads were located within what is today the Wind Cave National Park area (Milner 2-37).

J.D.'s son Alvin systematically explored 8 to 10 miles of passageways in the cave system between 1890 and 1893. He kept a journal in which he described his exploration of the cave and the naming of the rooms and passageways. Alvin became "the chief guide" at Wind Cave, sharing his passion for the cave with visitors. He gave tours of the cave by candlelight and rolled out string to mark the way out. The earliest descriptions of trips inside the cave record that visitors had to climb ladders and ropes, slide down precipices, and squeeze through narrow openings and crevices just to reach rooms worth viewing. Between 1891 and 1892, Alvin, J.D., Elmer and other colleagues made improvements to the cave to improve accessibility. These included drilling, blasting and hammering in order to make the cave passages wider and taller. Alvin McDonald joined his father at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago in early November of 1893 to assist in the sale of specimens obtained from Wind Cave. Several weeks after his return, in mid-December, he died of typhoid fever. He was buried on a bluff overlooking the entrance to Wind Cave (Milner 2-47-2-50).

After discovering that J.D. McDonald was selling Wind Cave specimens without his permission, Moss and the South Dakota Mining Company sued the Wonderful Wind Cave Company in 1893. This began extensive and drawn out legal proceedings over the ultimate ownership of the Wind Cave property. In the cases of SDMC vs. J.D. McDonald, the Government Lands Office decided in favor of the McDonalds in 1896. The following year, the McDonalds and Stabler and Folsom families sued each other. The local courts awarded the Wind Cave property to Stabler, and the McDonald family was evicted from the site. The prominence of the legal dispute over the title to Wind Cave attracted federal interest in 1899. During this year, the GLO sent agent C.W. Greene to examine the surface and subterranean interests of all involved parties. Greene's ultimate assessment of the Wind Cave determined that no claimant had any interest in agricultural or mineral properties of the land; the primary interest was the cave itself. Based on Greene's report, in 1899 the GLO decided to deny both mineral and homestead claims to the Wind Cave property, ruling that no claimant was entitled to it. They further recommended that the government hold the cave in reserve as a 'public resort,' removing it from private ownership and exploitation. In April 1901, the U.S. Government took formal administrative responsibility for the Wind Cave property. Greene was placed in charge of the Wind Cave property and he hired George Stabler, Elmer McDonald and Peter Paulson to serve as official cave guides. Between 1892 and 1901, while the property was still in private hands, it is rumored that "tons" of specimens were taken from the cave with more rare specimens being taking from the more inaccessible chambers (Milner, 2-39 – 2-42).

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Early development at the cave with the McDonald cabin situated over the entrance (NPS archive).*

Park Establishment and Early Development, 1903-1928

On January 9, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed into law legislation that created Wind Cave National Park, making it the eighth national park to be established, and the first created to protect a cave resource. The property contained in the new park encompassed 16 ½ square miles or approximately 10,522 acres. The Wind Cave Hotel served as the Superintendent's residence until his own had been constructed in 1905. Work at the newly established park included road grading and bridge repair. A stone wall was constructed at the natural opening to prevent water from entering the mouth of the cave. The Headquarters Area was fenced to keep grazing animals out of the visitor use area (Milner 2-52- 2-53).

"During the 1910s, the Department of the Interior began emphasizing the improvement of Wind Cave National Park's existing road system in response to the growing impact of automobiles on park visitation and facilities" (Milner 2-58). Prior to 1907, all passengers had arrived at the park via horse-drawn private carriage or livery. Only four years later, statistics reflected that a majority of the visitors who came to Wind Cave arrived by automobile. By 1917, a majority of the major roads within Wind Cave National Park had been improved (Milner 2-58).

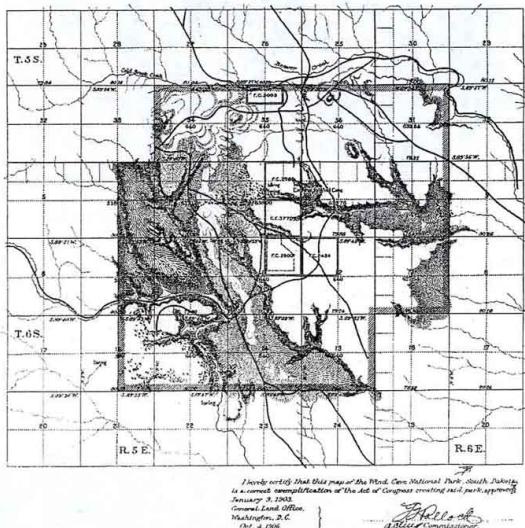
In 1912, the Wind Cave National Game Preserve was established on the site of the former Rankin Ranch. The first small herds of bison, elk and antelope were sent to the park, all of which had once lived there before. A great many improvements were done on the preserve including adding fencing and repairing and updating ranch structures. The Game Preserve was managed by the U.S. Biological Society, under the Department of Agriculture, and it served as a headquarters for the Warden on the northern boundary of the park. In 1924, the Game Preserve began selling live surplus buffalo as meat, hides, horns, and other by-products, based on the success of the bison population and the limited carrying capacity of its pastures. (Milner 2-58-2-59).

"Beginning in 1921, work was begun on extending South Dakota State Highway 81 (the Needles Highway) in Custer State Park southward towards the northern boundary of Wind Cave National Park." After the completion of its new road system, Custer State Park began to offer camping facilities that catered to automobile visitors. The construction of improved roads on surrounding non-federal lands had an important impact on road construction within Wind Cave National Park. Between 1924 and 1926, the NPS funded the reconstruction of the entire park road system within Wind Cave National Park (Milner 2-61).

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

## WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK

Embracing Sections 34, 35 and 36, T.S.S., R.5;  
Sections 1, 2, 3, E $\frac{1}{2}$  of 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$  of 9, and Sec's 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, E $\frac{1}{2}$   
of 16, T.S.S., R.5; Section 31, T.S.S., R.6; Sections 6  
and 7, T.S.S., R.6.  
All East of BLACK HILLS MERIDIAN  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
Containing 10,822.17 acres.



GLO survey map of Wind Cave National Park, 1903.

## Master Plan Development and the Civilian Conservation Corps: 1928-1946

In 1928, NPS Landscape Architect Thomas Vint visited to inspect the facilities and to make recommendations for the improvement for Wind Cave National Park. He had some strong condemnations for the state of the Park Headquarters buildings. Vint recommended a new administration building and a new concessionaire building. He also called for the construction of an equipment shed, shop building, warehouse, guide bunkhouse, and mess house. He recommended that the road in front of the headquarters be graded to a 60 foot width for 800 feet to accommodate angled parking, and that the 'Wind Cave' sign made of whitewashed stones in large letters situated on the hillside be removed (Milner, 2-77).

As a result of Vint's visit, the park received funding to improve facilities and a new master plan of the park was created, this coincided with the rise of master planning in the National Park Service system. During this time, the NPS required all parks to provide outlines of general plans for development to which the term Master Plan was subsequently applied. A fully developed plan for each park to be carried out over six years was prepared by a team of architects and landscape architects by the end of 1932. Every Master Plan was based on the uniqueness and understanding of the significance of each park. Using local materials and the natural topography of the site, a design with a Northern Spanish Revival aesthetic guided the work that was to occur on the site. While the Spanish style architecture was not indigenous to the Black Hills, it was decided that this style would harmonize with the surrounding landscape (Milner, 2-82- 2-83).

New development within the park Headquarters Area began in earnest in 1931. Construction started with the park's Power House and a new Ranger's dormitory. The Power House, located adjacent to

an old service road on a small bluff overlooking Wind Cave Canyon, was built to contain a 'power plant' transferred from Carlsbad Caverns and reconditioned and installed.

In March 1933, President Roosevelt established his New Deal public work programs, which included the following programs: Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), including the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Civil Works Administration (CWA), and the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) forces. Wind Cave National Park, like other national parks, received funding for a Civil Works labor force. The program was started at the park in December 1933. Much of the work accomplished by this program consisted of cleaning up and sloping shoulders along roads, cleaning drainage ditches, repairing fire roads, and tree planting. The Civil Works program was discontinued in April 1934.

Company 2754, Camp NP-1, an ECW (CCC) labor force was organized at Wind Cave National Park on July 9, 1934. The CCC force lived in a temporary summer camp between July and October. Construction of a permanent campsite was begun on August 2, 1934. The camp was located in Wind Cave Canyon and was completed in October and contained a mess hall (kitchen and store room), bath house/laundry, eight barracks, supply/warehouse building, supervisor's/officer's quarters, recreational hall, hospital, garage, administrative office, two latrines, coal shed, garbage rack, incinerator, and a tennis court. Much of the work carried out by the new CCC Camp continued the work of the previous Civil Works program. Major building projects initiated during 1934 included the construction of two new employee's quarters, a machine shop, a temporary elevator building, and a new Administrative Building (Visitor Center). During the course of the year, over 800 shrubs and trees including yellow pine, birch, aspen, cottonwood, wild plum, choke cherry, gooseberry and dogwood were planted throughout Headquarters Area (Milner, 2-84).

New lawns were seeded around the buildings and a cattle guard was installed south of the Headquarters Area. This eliminated the problem of grazing cattle in the Headquarters Area. Perhaps most significantly, the new planting program was initiated in 1933. A total of 143 western yellow pine trees, and many others including cedar, juniper, elm and wild cherry were planted in the Headquarters Area.

The CCC work continued through 1935. Major building projects included the construction of a new superintendent's residence. An additional 5,000 shrubs and trees were planted in the Headquarters Area. General Park wide maintenance, such as sloping road shoulders and the obliteration of old roads and borrow pits, continued. In front of the new Administration Building (Visitor Center) the road was widened and the headquarters parking area was being enlarged. Substantial fill was brought in to expand the artificial terrace, particularly to the north. Approximately 400 feet of crushed rock sidewalks and new stone curbing were completed. Log guard rails were placed on the northern and southern ends of the parking area. On the north end of the parking area, a 100-foot retaining wall was built. Construction of a pedestrian trail from the new Administration Building (Visitor Center) to the cave entrance was also begun. A rustic log bridge spanned a low area along the trail just north of the Administration Building. Work was also begun on construction of a permanent elevator building (Milner, 2-85).

In 1937, the CCC completed the first permanent Campground and Picnic Area at Wind Cave National Park. The Campground and Picnic Area was located approximately 1,000 feet north of the Headquarters Building. Campground development continued into 1938 and 1939 with the planting of trees, and graveling of the loop road and individual parking areas. By mid-1938, the park established the location for the Utility Area in the same location as had been the temporary buildings. Development included two garages, a blacksmith shop, furnace room, a sewage disposal and filtration plant, a coal bunker, an oil house, a carpenter's shop and a cement storage structure. Trees were planted to screen the Utility area from the visitors ( Milner, 2-87-2-88).

On October 31, 1939, the CCC Camp stationed at Wind Cave National Park was transferred and the camp abandoned. Obliteration of the temporary CCC Camp constructed in late 1934 began in April 1941 and the work was conducted by CCC Camps SP-5 Narrows and SP-4 Lodge. The structures and features were removed, with the exception of the frame officer's quarters adjacent to the Power House. Maps from the 1940s and 1950s document that this structure was utilized as temporary

housing for seasonal employees (Milner, 2-89).

As annual cave trail maintenance continued during this period, the park began experimenting with using concrete and stone to construct foundations, bridges, and stairs within the cave. A 1929 Wind Cave National Park inspection led to strongly worded recommendations for lighting the cave's recesses. In 1931, the electrification of the major guided tour routes within Wind Cave was achieved. Lighting was indirect and all new wires and fixtures were concealed from view. The new lighting system justified extensive improvements to the network of cave trails to improve comfort and safety. Wooden trails were replaced with gravel and concrete steps with hand railings. The trails were extended and widened providing head room and width so that visitors could walk through without stooping. Trail work done in the cave was not without significant impacts to the sensitive geological formations.

By the mid-1930s, proposed plans called for excavating a new entrance where the old cave house entrance was and reconstructing a more 'naturalistic' facade. The new tunnel was excavated in late 1936. The following year, landscape architects completed reconstructing the new naturalistic facade. The wooden door was added to the Walk-in Entrance by 1940 with a ten-inch diameter opening to restore the natural whistling effect at the entrance which led to the discovery of Wind Cave (Milner, 2-100-2-101).

The following paragraph is taken directly from the John Milner Associates CLR for Wind Cave National Park, published in 2005. Beyond the modifications to the structures and the cave facilities, a series of road construction projects were also initiated in Wind Cave National Park. In 1928 the U.S. Biological Survey, with the support of Senator Peter Norbeck, began construction of a dam and roadway at Cold Spring Creek near the Game Preserve headquarters. The dam, a 34 foot high, 200 foot wide, and 300 foot long earthen structure, was designed to create "a reservoir of sufficient capacity to insure a water supply adequate at all times for the wildlife of the district." Construction was completed in 1929 and the lake was christened Ta-Tan-Ka. The construction of the lake was considered controversial by the NPS because it was deemed "inconsistent with park policies to permit an artificial lake or reservoir.

By the late 1920s, new work on improving the state and federal regional road system throughout the Black Hills was initiated as part of the Good Roads movement. In 1928, work was begun on another southern extension to South Dakota Highway 81 in an area known as Reaves Gulch. This road provided a formal link between Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park. With the support of Sen. Peter Norbeck, in 1929 the South Dakota State Highway Commission began construction of the Beaver Creek Bridge over Beaver Creek Canyon on South Dakota State Highway 81 (now S.H. 87). The road and bridge was described as an effort to develop the State (Custer) Game Park. The Beaver Creek Bridge was designed by J. Harper Hamilton as reinforced concrete "open spandrel ...deck arch." Despite the modern materials, the bridge was also designed to be complimentary with its natural surroundings; the 'S' curve softening the rigid appearance of the bridge, and the concrete arches appearing to emerge from the rock walls of the canyon. The bridge was finished during the same year and was the largest concrete deck arch in South Dakota when completed. Circa 1930, the South Dakota State Highway Commission also began construction of the Pig Tail Bridge. The Pig Tail Bridge acquired its name for the corkscrew design that provides quick elevation changes over a short distance. The bridge's construction and design can be described as rustic, utilizing both native materials and unusual design to conform to the preferred aesthetic at the time of naturalistic design (Milner, 2-78-2-79).

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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Cave entrance in 1938 (NPS photo).



Road construction, 1932 (HAER SD-55-43).

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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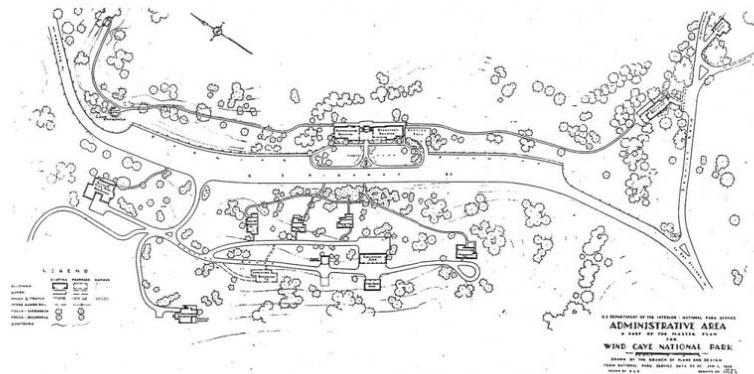
*Wall construction in the Headquarters Area (HAER, SD-55-48).*



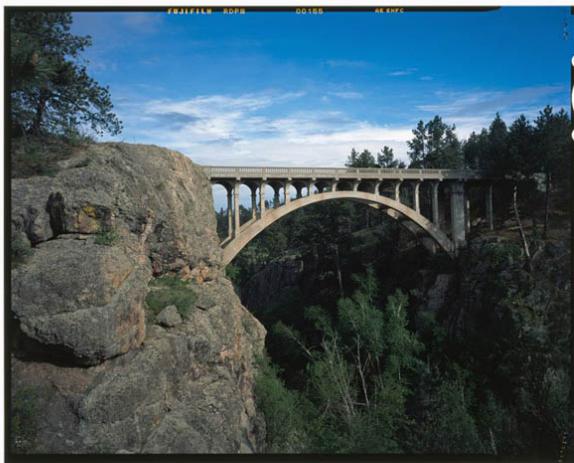
*Wind Cave CCC camp, 1934 (HAER, SD-SS-47).*

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Site plan for the Administrative Area from the Master Plan for Wind Cave National Park, 1939.*



*Beaver Creek Bridge, HAER photo, date unknown.*

### Land Acquisition and Mission 66: 1946-1966

"Based on recommendations from federal and state officials, in August 1946 President Truman signed legislation that more than doubled the size of Wind Cave National Park, from 11,718.17 to 28,059 acres." The new acreage was added from a portion of former Custer RDA lands to the east of the park. In addition, the National Forest Service also exchanged some land with Wind Cave National Park on its western boundary. A boundary fence encompassing the new lands, including cattle guards and flood gates, was constructed in 1951. In 1947, the Black Hills Power and Light Co. constructed electrical lines to the park, and the park formally acquired S.D. Highway 87, from its old northern boundary to the new northern boundary, and County Routes 65 and 66 (present day Routes 5 and 6) on the north and east sides of park (Milner, 2-108).

"By 1950, planning for the construction of a new residential complex between the elevator building and the Utility Area was well underway." A new Master Plan proposed five new individual residences, and three multi-unit buildings in this area. During the same year, the fire "lookout station" on Elk Mountain was moved to Rankin Ridge. The erection of the Rankin Ridge Fire Tower in 1956 was one of the first Mission 66 projects funded at Wind Cave. Numerous signs were installed throughout the park in 1952, and by 1954 a new interpretive sign was placed at the original cave opening, and a new roadside exhibit focusing on prairie dogs was constructed at the Norbeck Prairie Dog Town at the junction of Highways 385 and 87 (Milner, 2-109).

"The first Mission 66-era Master Plan for the Wind Cave was drafted in 1957. " The plan developed a series of self-guiding trails. Following the recommendations of the plan, Minor Headquarters Area development continued during the late 1950s. The Utility Area yard was enlarged and fenced and four new roadside exhibit signs were built. Between 1958 and 1959, new entrance signs were installed at each of the park's three entrances. These signs replaced the old stone entrance pylons. In 1959, bison salting stations and watering tanks were placed in strategic locations throughout the range. A new employee parking area was built adjacent to the elevator building, and a bronze plaque was installed on a rock at the site of the Alvin McDonald gravesite marker. At the Game Preserve, most of the former Game Ranch facilities were obliterated (Milner, 2-111).

In 1962, construction began on the Elk Mountain Campground. Selected areas were cleared and grubbed, topsoil stripped, culverts installed, and the main road, loop roads, and parking areas were constructed. A new camp tender's residence, five comfort stations, and a campfire circle were constructed. In addition, cattle guards, water gates, timber curbing, sidewalks, and signage was erected. Four camp loops were built, A through D, containing 100 campsites. A 7,900-foot fence was built completely surrounding the Elk Mountain Campground. The new Campground opened in June 1963. Additional roads and parking areas were also constructed to a new residential area. By 1965, two new employee housing units were constructed, and metal culverts replaced all wooden culverts on park Routes 5 and 6. The Visitor Center parking area was extended southward, increasing the number of parking spaces to 171. The CCC-era stone curbs and guard rails were relocated and the sidewalk was lengthened on both sides of the Visitor Center. A three-foot wide island was built to separate the north and south bound traffic. Parking was provided on both sides. Between 1966 and 1967 the roadside interpretive areas were renovated to include pullouts, walkways, and curbs (Milner, 2-111-2-112).

While changes were occurring above ground, other modifications were introduced to the interior of the cave. Inside the cave, a rewiring project was initiated in the spring of 1955 and finished in 1956. All fixtures were replaced with direct and indirect lighting. In addition, a black light was installed in the cavern known as the Fair Grounds area and flood lights were installed in the Temple to make amateur photography possible (Milner, 2-119).

On August 12, 1957, ten to fourteen tons of rock caved in approximately seventy-five feet from the Natural Entrance. The cave-in destroyed a large section of stairs, lights and handrails. Roughly eight

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape Wind Cave National Park

tons or fifteen cubic yards of rock and dirt were removed during the cleanup. Engineering studies were subsequently made to determine the best way to make the cave entrance safer, resulting in the cave entrance and trails reconstruction project being launched in 1958. Concrete columns and braces were installed at strategic points in the entranceway to support the ceiling, and all stairs, handrails and lighting were replaced (Milner, 2-120).

The formal survey of Wind Cave continued in late 1958 with an expedition into previously explored areas by the Colorado Grotto. Systematic exploration of Wind Cave continued throughout the late twentieth century by such organizations as the National Speleological Society, the South Dakota School of Mines, and the Windy City Grotto, and individuals including Herb and Jan Conn and Dave Schnute. Wind Cave was remapped during this period culminating in Herb Conn's 1962 detailed plan of known cave routes and features within the Administrative Area. This detailed map also shows subterranean features in relation to above ground development (Milner, 2-120).



Cave map drawn by Herb Conn, 1962 (from the CLR, 2005).

#### Modern Cave Resource Management: 1967-Present

A major expansion of the Administration Building /Visitor Center began in 1979. A new 14,000 square foot addition was completed after two years. In 1984, the park completed a Natural Resources Management Plan formally acknowledging the growing evidence of the related nature of aboveground and belowground resources with respect to cave management (Milner, 2-123).

The 1984 Natural Resources Management Plan for Wind Cave National Park addressed a number of cave resource management issues. Primary among these was the basic need to accumulate more research data on cave biology and mineralogy. The plan also directly linked surface activities to potential adverse modification of the subsurface environment. Of particular note, cave lighting was found to have introduced an 'unnatural' light source into the cave thereby encouraging the growth of both mosses and algae. By the late 1970s, chlorine bleach was used to treat these plants. The cave's twenty year-old lighting system was replaced with all-fluorescent lighting in 1980. In 1988, new incandescent lights were installed to replace the fluorescent ones (Milner, 2-131).

Between 1985 and 1986, many of the cave's asphalt trails were removed and replaced with poured concrete in an effort to eliminate petroleum based products from the cave environment. In 1990, the Cave Restoration Project was initiated focusing on cleaning and restoring rooms and trails to their natural appearance. The project removed the century old lint and dust accumulations and rubble from decades of blasting. This represents a continuing resource management effort for park staff. A revolving door was installed at the walk-in entrance to the cave in 1992 in an attempt to reduce the unnatural air flow into the cave environment (Milner, 2-132).

Throughout the mid-1990s, significant improvements were made to cave facilities to increase safety and maintain a stable cave environment. Additional handrails were installed. Between 1996 and 1997, airlock rooms were constructed at each elevator landing within the cave. These were built to mitigate the artificially altered airflow patterns caused by the elevator shaft. A dye trace study was initiated in the parking lot area to map the air flow to the cave. A total of fifteen sites within the cave were noted to have traces of dye. Experiments were conducted to determine dust accumulation patterns, and experiments with different cave lighting were also begun to reduce moss and algae growth (Milner, 2-132).

## Uses

### Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation	No	Yes	Yes
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation	Yes	No	Yes

### Public Access:

**Public Access:** Unrestricted

#### Public Access Narrative:

Public access for the cave is open during park operating hours, the surface is open for visitors at all times except where posted.

**Public Access:** With Permission

#### Public Access Narrative:

Until the visitor use plan is implemented, the Sanson Ranch requires permission for visitation.

### Associated Ethnographic Group

**Ethnographic Study Status:** Yes-Restricted Information

#### Ethnographic Narrative:

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

**Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:**

The cultural landscape inventory acknowledges that the landscape at Wind Cave has a level of significance to Native American people that is intentionally not captured in this evaluation due to professional limitations. It is recommended that ethnographic associations to the cultural landscape continue to be identified through appropriate studies with approved methodologies that protect data sensitivity and that are respectful to cultural associations.

The period of significance for the park-wide cultural landscape identified in this report is 1890-1972. This period begins in 1890 with initial development of the site for tourism. The period of significance ends in 1972 which aligns with the Mission 66 MPDF that also documents the transition to Parkscape USA.

The 2005 CLR recognizes that the landscape exhibits many characteristics and features that contribute to the integrity of the landscape. These features include a section of the park's original 1903 landholdings and include "vast natural features and systems such as terrain, surface water, vegetation communities and patterns, and the cave itself." The landscape also retains features from the early development in 1931-1946 including "roads, buildings, developed area patterns and organization, plantings, and land management regimes." The CLR acknowledges that changes since the initial development period have taken place. Some of these changes resulted in the removal of facilities from the original development, but ushered in a new development period which has since gained significance of its own.

Within the park are areas that exhibit remarkable integrity. The Headquarters Area retains all seven aspects of integrity owing to the survival of most of the buildings and structures in their original form, configuration, and location. Overlapped in and near the Headquarters is evidence of the Post World War II park housing and Mission 66 development at the Elk Mountain Campground. Both were efforts to improve park facilities for visitors and park staff. The Elk Mountain Campground introduced new buildings, a road, and camp site related development in what was an undeveloped area of grasslands, forested areas, and an unimproved road. The housing added additional units for park staff. Both were designed with the intention of limiting visual intrusion. The Rankin Ridge Fire Tower, envisioned earlier than Mission 66, was incorporated into the plan to include visitor enhancements. In general, the integrity of cultural landscape at Wind Cave has only been impacted by minor changes since the end of the period of significance, including minor road re-alignment, changes in tree cover and shrub vegetation, and the addition of various buildings and small-scale features to improve conditions and enhance the visitor experience.

The cultural landscape retains integrity of setting. The park and surrounding landscape continue to be sparsely settled and relatively undeveloped. On a broad scale, the resource management practices that have been conducted by the park over the years

have maintained much of the park in its natural state, with a strong attempt to maintain and enhance the viability, health, and diversity of the prairie community.

The cultural landscapes' features retain integrity of materials. Historic materials of stone, wood, crushed stone, and native plants remain evident. The primary materials that contribute to the integrity of materials include ashlar blocks of stone integrated into buildings, bridge structures, terraces and steps, guardwalls, and curbing; native stone boulders integrated into the cave entrance and bridge abutments; roughly-stacked stone retaining walls and culvert endwalls; painted or stained rough timber elements of buildings and bridges; cast-in-place concrete used in walks and bridges; crushed stone and soil road surface; painted wood siding used in buildings; and native tree plantings augmenting native plants communities are all extant.

The cultural landscape retains integrity of workmanship for features constructed during the early park period, CCC era, and Mission 66/Parkscape USA period. The primary features that convey historic integrity of workmanship are the stone elements including ashlar patterns of the stone walls of buildings, bridges, and guardwalls. Stone steps, terrace paving, and curbing also convey historic workmanship. The native stone boulders integrated into the cave entrance and bridge abutments, and the rough-hewn-stacked stone retaining walls and culvert headwalls also convey historic workmanship. The features associated with the Mission 66 development include site development that limits visual intrusion, spatial and cluster arrangement, circulation, and structures known for their standardized materials and functional placement.

The cultural landscape retains integrity of feeling. The maintenance of open prairie and the continued presence of landforms are timeless contributions to the historic feeling along with the natural wonders and the facilities offered. Surviving aspects of the 1930s park design contribute to the early park development period's integrity of feeling, including the use of native construction materials; the continued range use of much of the site, and the ranching uses that still surround the park. Similarly, the surviving aspects of the Mission 66 improvements and the Rankin Ridge fire tower and overlook provide a feeling associated with the park's plan for improved visitor use.

The cultural landscape retains integrity of association. The early park, NPS, CCC and Mission 66/Parkscape USA developments survive in much the same configuration as when they were established, helping to convey

associations with these periods and the efforts to create a natural resource park above and below ground.

To evaluate the park's Mission 66 and Parkscape USA period the Mission 66 MPDF has been applied to these resources at the park. The Mission 66 program is defined by the period 1956-1966 and was a visitor and facility improvement effort that corresponded to the anniversary of the park service. After 1966, the program continued under the Parkscape USA Program (1967-1972). According to the MPDF, a surviving campground or public use facility/amenity should fall within the period of significance from 1945-1972 to be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP. Mission 66 public use districts should possess the following characteristics:

- Mission 66 campground and public use districts contain a range of contributing buildings, structures, and cultural landscape features that encompass the goals of the construction program. Importance to the overall history of camping in a park and demonstrates integrated campground and day-use area planning including the entrance road and its signage, the camp tender's station if one exists, the looped road system, and the individual parking details at each site, such as a pull-in or a mini-loop layout.
- The campground or day-use area reflects the new concepts of providing more privacy for the users and contributes to the integrity of the development through its landscape features and constructed components.
- Trail access, if it exists, leads to one or more comfort stations, an amphitheater for evening programs, and for hiking to nearby scenic areas. This characteristic represents the part of the site planning for campgrounds and day-use areas that indicates a relationship to other park facilities.
- Furnishings at an individual campsite or day-use site may be important, though it is most likely that the furnishings have been updated to provide metal-framed picnic tables and new grills.

At Wind Cave National Park, the Mission 66 program created a new campground, interpretive pull-offs along the main road throughout the park, and a headquarters bypass road.

It is the opinion of the CLI evaluator that at least two Mission 66/Parkscape USA resource areas at Wind Cave meet the National Register Criteria, Rankin Ridge Fire Tower/lookout area (site) and Elk Mountain Campground/amphitheater (district). Research conducted in 2016 on the Rankin Ridge Fire Tower and the Elk Mountain Campground concluded that the character defining features are extant and retain integrity with only minor modifications since initial installation. The Rankin Ridge Fire Tower is maintained by the park to OSHA standards.

Completed in 1956, the Rankin Ridge Fire Tower was incorporated into the Mission 66 plan for the park for visitor access to the scenic viewing point. The Rankin Ridge Fire Tower and lookout are located in the northwestern portion of the park. Situated at an elevation of 5,013 feet, the highest point in the park, the tower's site provides a panoramic view of southeastern Black Hills and the surrounding Great Plains (Spence, 2010). It is indicated by the Master Plan that a self-guiding trail leading to the lookout would enable trail users to learn about fire control (Milner) In 1962, construction began on the Elk Mountain Campground/amphitheater. Selected areas were cleared and grubbed, topsoil stripped, culverts installed, and the main road, loop roads, and parking areas were constructed. A new camp tender's residence, five comfort stations and a campfire circle (amphitheater building and paving) were constructed. In addition, cattle guards, water gates, timber curbing, sidewalks, and signage was erected. Four camp loops were built, A through D, containing 100 campsites. A 7,900-foot fence was built completely surrounding the Elk Mountain Campground. The new Campground opened in June 1963. (Milner) The campground is maintained by the park and has only had minor upgrades and structure replacements to keep it viable for visitor and staff use. Sensitive accessibility improvements are expected in the future to keep facilities relevant to visitors and functional for park program use.

**Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features-Natural Systems and Features**

The identified features and narrative entry are based on information presented in the 2005 CLR. The developed areas (of the park) are situated on a karst upland underlain by the Englewood, the Pahasapa, and the Minnelusa Formations. Elevations are generally between 4,000 to 4,300 feet above mean sea level, with the highest elevations occurring to the west, near Elk Mountain, and the lowest point to the east, on the floor of Wind Cave Canyon.

The developed areas are drained by a number of small, ephemeral tributaries of Cottonwood Creek that empty through Wind Cave Canyon. Surface drainage is flashy, and considerable surface water is lost underground. The Headquarters Area is located within a steep ravine directly over the cave and is a part of Wind Cave Canyon. Native Americans knew of the cave for thousands of years prior to the Binghams finding the cave opening, or blowhole, in 1881 near what is now the north side of the Administration Building.

The developed areas have representative populations of most of the plant communities found in the rest of the park. The construction of the U.S. 385 bypass around the Headquarters Area, the construction of Elk Mountain Campground, and construction of the addition to the Administration Building, and the extension of the Administration Building parking lot to the south all resulted in some loss of undeveloped area. However, there is little change to the overall patterns and characteristics of the physiographic and natural systems that were present during the periods of significance (1904-1940) and Mission 66/Parkscape period (1945-1972).

**Landscape Features:**

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Gobbler Pass	147879	Contributing					No
Gobbler Ridge	147881	Contributing					No
Gobbler Canyon	147883	Contributing					No
Fossil Ridge	147885	Contributing					No
Windy Point	147887	Contributing					No
Bison Flats	147889	Contributing					No
Elk Mountain	147893	Contributing					No
Negro Canyon	147895	Contributing					No
Wind Cave Canyon	147899	Contributing					No
Prairie Dog Canyon	147909	Contributing					No
Lookout Point	147913	Contributing					No
Cold Spring Creek	147917	Contributing					No
Beaver Creek	147919	Contributing					No
Reaves Gulch	147921	Contributing					No
Wetlands, Springs, Sinkholes, Caves	147923	Contributing					No
Pine, Mixed-Grass Prairie, Riparian Veg.	147925	Contributing					No
Cottonwood Creek	147929	Contributing					No

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Natural opening protected by constructed stone wall (NPS, 2010).*



*Headquarters Area located within Wind Cave Canyon (NPS, 2010).*

**Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas-Views and Vistas**

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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The identified features and narrative entry are based on information presented in the 2005 CLR with additions from park staff.

The views and vistas at the park appear much as they did during the period of significance (1890-1972) and earlier. Views and vistas that were extant during the period of significance have been impacted by the spread of native and planted vegetation. Construction of park facilities during the later part of the period have since achieved significance, and were designed to be hidden and screened from view.

Views and vistas in the developed area are constrained by the location of many of the features. Intensive development is most often found along the bottoms of relatively narrow, steep-sided drainages: the Headquarters Area, the housing areas, the Maintenance Area, are in the gorge formed by Wind Cave Canyon Creek, and the Mixing Circle lies along the bottom of Cottonwood Creek. The waste water lagoons no longer occupy their original location in the lower area. They were moved from the gorge to a flat area that overlooks the maintenance area.

The Headquarters Area lies within a wooded swale and the only open views are across the parking lot. The Post-WWII Housing Area and the Maintenance Area have less tree cover and are considerably more open, but their position at the base of the drainage limits the range of view, while the Mixing Circle is also situated down in a drainage area and is surrounded by low, pine-covered ridges (Milner, 4-31)

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*View from Residential Area north on 385 (NPS, 2010)*

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*View from Picnic Area towards 385 (NPS, 2010).*



*View along Mixing Circle Road (NPS, 2010).*



Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*View of Visitor Center and 385 looking south (NPS, 2010).*



*Non-contributing view from Residential Area to 385 bypass (NPS, 2010).*

**Landscape Characteristic:** Vegetation-Vegetation

The identified features and narratives are based on information presented in the 2005 CLR. By the time the NPS established Wind Cave National Park in 1903, the region's vegetation was largely forest and grasslands used for cattle grazing. During park development, agricultural practices such as livestock grazing continued with the creation of new pastures and the planting of field crops. Land fenced for pasture was scattered throughout the park, crop fields were located in close proximity to residential areas. In addition, areas around early buildings were planted in lawn, transplanted native trees, and new trees and shrubs. Both planted and naturally occurring vegetation within the developed areas is generally comprised of native species found in these plant communities.

Planting was part of the CCC labor projects. Areas adjacent to residences and at the Superintendent's garage were seeded with grass lawn. New pastures were created, while some crop and orchard land was converted back to grassland through the planting of prairie grasses and forbs. Efforts to restore and maintain natural plant communities began in the 1950s with a reseeding program and furthered in the 1970s through prescribed burning and tree thinning in natural drainage areas.

Today, vegetation in the park includes the natural plant communities in undeveloped areas, composed of forest, woodlands, grasslands, and riparian communities, and planted areas associated with developed areas. The natural communities, especially grasslands and ponderosa pine forest, require fire for stand rejuvenation. Without fire, the distribution and composition of these plant communities evolves increasingly towards woody growth. Today the park actively uses fire as a management tool to maintain a healthy ecosystem and manage invasive plant species.

The Headquarters Area is characterized by plantings that survive from the CCC era. The residential area is maintained in buffalo grasses and a few trees and shrubs. The campground area consists of mostly turf with a few trees surrounded by pine/grass savannah. The Alvin McDonald gravesite has lilacs surrounding the memorial planted during the historic period. Areas around the Maintenance Area, Mixing Circle, and at the underground water tanks are maintained in mown prairie grasses. It is unknown whether the trees planted in the early 1900s still remain, although traces of hedges and a lilac are found at the Game Preserve Headquarters area and the former Superintendent's Residence. Much of the vegetation found today in the developed area survives from the CCC era. Lawn, seeded in buffalo grass, surrounds buildings and residences and several large massing of trees edge the developed area. The trees planted by the CCC in the Headquarters Area have increased in density over Overall, park vegetation has been managed since the 1950s to restore and rejuvenate natural plant communities. The pattern of scattered forest and grasslands interspersed with riparian vegetation contributes to the integrity of the cultural landscape.

2022 Note: a specimen apple tree near a former homestead site within the park's boundaries has been brought to the park's attention. Although old, the age, species, and historic significance of the tree has not been determined.

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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**Landscape Features:**

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Lilacs at Alvin McDonald Memorial	147933	Contributing					No
Trees/Lawn Admin Building (VC)	147935	Contributing					No
Trees/Lawn Historic Housing Area	147937	Contributing					No
Remnant planting at Game Preserve HQ	147939	Contributing					No
Tree/Shrubs plantings Elevator Building	147941	Contributing					No
Trees/Lawn Post-WWII Housing Area	147943	Non contributing – compatible					No
Trees/Lawn Elk Mountain Campground	147945	Non contributing – compatible					No
Apple Tree (specimen)	194010	Undetermined					No

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Lilacs at the Alvin McDonald Memorial (NPS, 2010).*

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Prairie grasses and pine trees along the Bison Flats area (NPS, 2010).*



*Ponderosa pine in the Historic Residential Area (NPS, 2010).*

**Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites-Archeological Sites**

The park has been surveyed for archeology and sites identified/recoded. Release of archeological data is a responsibility of the park and as such has not been incorporated into the CLI as to protect sensitive data.

#### Landscape Characteristic: Land Use-Land Use

The identified features and narratives are based on information presented in the 2005 CLR. Within the Headquarters Area there are a variety identified land uses:

Visitor services: Visitor services are available in the Headquarters Area and include rest rooms, a souvenir/bookstore, and snack machines in the Administration Building (Visitor Center) and a comfort station at the picnic area.

Interpretation: Interpretive displays on the cave ecology, cave history, and prairie and Black Hills ecology are located in the Administration Building and at interpretation sites throughout the park.

Recreation: Recreation activities include camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, and picnicking.

Administration: Wind Cave administrative offices are located in the Administration Building and fire prevention and management offices for the Northern Great Plains Fire Management staff are located in HS-4, the Superintendent's Cottage.

Residential: Housing, once required, is available for park employees.

Maintenance: The park's maintenance and storage facilities, including the park's wildland fire fighting equipment, are located in the Maintenance Area and at the Mixing Circle.

Utility: Utility land uses are associated with water supply systems, electric and telephone services, HVAC systems, and wastewater treatment facilities (Milner, 3-42).

Land uses that continue from those present during the period of significance include cave tourism, camping, recreation, wildlife viewing, wildlife management, motor touring, visitor services, residential, and maintenance. Uses that have been discontinued include the slaughter of livestock, mineral extraction, and food concessions.

#### Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures-Buildings and Structures

The identified features and narratives are based on information presented in the 2005 CLR, the context study for Rankin Ridge, and 2016 research/field work.

The buildings and structures that survive from the original period of significance are largely intact with relatively few major modifications. Modified areas include the Administration Building (Visitor Center) expansion into Wind Cave Canyon, and the CCC-era cave entrance. The CCC entrance was covered with a revolving door/air lock, but has since been replaced with a small stone structure at the Walk-in Cave Entrance. The old CCC-era "washing and greasing rack" in the Maintenance Area has been converted to a storage area and an addition was built onto the fire cache.

Buildings and structures added later during the period of significance include buildings and structures associated with the Post-WWII Housing Area, the Rankin Ridge area and fire tower, pull-off wayside exhibit structures, and the features associated with the Elk Mountain Campground. The most recent addition is the comfort station at the Picnic Area (former campground) (Milner 4-29, Spence, and CLI).

#### Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Beaver Creek Bridge	147947	Contributing	10761		Location	27796	Yes
Carpenter Shop	147949	Contributing	10751		Location	27942	Yes
VIP Center (Power House)	147951	Contributing	10755		Location	27953	Yes

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape

## Wind Cave National Park

CCC Officers Quarters	147953	Contributing	339939		Location	27958	Yes
Elevator Building	147955	Contributing	10754		Location	27952	Yes
Superintendant's Cottage	147957	Contributing	10741				No
Garage (Machine Shop)	147959	Contributing	10747		Location	27937	Yes
Gas Station	147961	Contributing	10750		Location	27941	Yes
Historic CCC Cave Entrance	147963	Contributing	50595		Location	27961	Yes
Garage (Fire Cache)	147967	Contributing	10748		Location	27938	Yes
Maintenance Shop	147969	Contributing	10752		Location	27943	Yes
Mixing Circle Warehouse	147973	Contributing	345797		Location	27949	Yes
Paint Locker	147975	Contributing	10753		Location	27944	Yes
Superitendant's Residence	147977	Contributing	10742		Location	27931	Yes
Employee Residence (Ranger Cabin)	147979	Contributing	10743		Location	27932	Yes
Employee Residence	147981	Contributing	10744		Location	27933	Yes
Employee Residence	147983	Contributing	10745		Location	27934	Yes
Ranger's Dormitory & Mess Hall	147985	Contributing	10746		Location	27936	Yes
Administration Building (Visitor Center)	147991	Contributing	10740		Location	27951	Yes
Window House	147993	Contributing	10749		Location	27939	Yes
Structures in Post WWII Residential Area	147995	Contributing					No
Wastewater Lagoons	147997	Non contributing – compatible					No
Cave Tour Assembly Shelter	147999	Non contributing – compatible					No
Picnic Area Comfort Station	148001	Non contributing – compatible					No
Above & Belowground Water Tanks	148007	Non contributing – compatible					No
Structures of Elk Mountain Campground	148011	Contributing					No
Rankin Ridge Fire Tower	179285	Contributing					No
H-B-19 RESIDENCE (QUARTERS B-40)	191715	Contributing					No
H-B-20 RESIDENCE (QUARTERS B-41)	191716	Contributing					No
H-B-21 APARTMENT BUILDING (QUARTERS B-42)	191717	Contributing					No
H-B-22 APARTMENT BUILDING (QUARTERS B-43)	191718	Contributing					No

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
 Wind Cave National Park

H-B-23 APARTMENT BUILDING (QUARTERS B-44)	191719	Contributing					No
H-B-25 CAMPGROUND TENDER'S RESIDENCE	191720	Contributing					No
H-B-26 CAMPGROUND COMFORT STATION	191721	Contributing					No
H-B-27 CAMPGROUND COMFORT STATION	191722	Contributing					No
H-B-28 CAMPGROUND COMFORT STATION	191723	Contributing					No
H-B-29 CAMPGROUND COMFORT STATION	191724	Contributing					No
H-B-30 CAMPGROUND COMFORT STATION	191725	Contributing					No
H-S-02 AMPHITHEATER STAGE	191726	Contributing					No
H-S-03 AMPHITHEATER PROJECTION BOOTH	191727	Contributing					No
H-S-04 CAMPGROUND WOODSHED	191728	Contributing					No
H-S-05 CAMPGROUND HOST SHED	191729	Contributing					No
Mission 66 Era pull-off way side structures	191730	Contributing					No

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Elevator Building (HS-2) (NPS 2010).*

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*The Window House (HS-13) located in the Residential Area (NPS, 2010).*



*Gas Station (HS-16) in the Maintenance Area (NPS, 2010).*



Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Quarters (HS-7) in the Residential Area (NPS, 2010).*



*View into the Residential Area from the parking lot (NPS, 2010).*



*Non-contributing revolving door over the Historic CCC Entrance (NPS, 2010).*

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

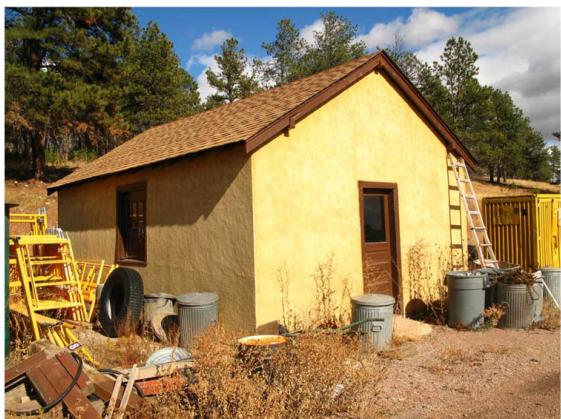
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*Non-contributing residences in the post-WWII housing area (NPS, 2010).*



*Historic Fire Cache (HS-12) (NPS, 2010).*



Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Warehouse (HS-25) located in the Mixing Circle Area (NPS, 2010).*



*View to Administration Building (VC) from the Residential Area (NPS, 2010).*



*Rear view of the Garage (HS-17) in the the Maintenance Area (NPS, 2010).*

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Mission 66 campground 1963*



*Elk Mountain Campground 2019*



Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Restroom facility (Typical) 2019*



*Mission 66 campground restroom 1963*



*Elk Mountain Amphitheater 2019*



*Rankin Ridge Fire Lookout Tower 2019*

#### **Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization-Spatial Organization**

The identified features and narratives are based on information presented in the 2005 CLR. The developed areas consist of two separate concentrations of spatially organized features, the Headquarters Area and the contributing Elk Mountain Campground. Each area is adjacent to a ravine area and each is enclosed by a bison fence.

The Headquarters Area is comprised of several developed clusters or nodes along Wind Cave Canyon. These clusters are connected by a system of roads and trails, with the hub of the area concentrated along the Headquarters Road that crosses the canyon. Clusters that form well-defined spaces within this area include the Administration Building Area, Historic Housing Area, cave entrance area, Maintenance Area, and Post-WWII Housing Area.

The Headquarters Road corridor enters the Headquarters Area, passing through the parking lot at its center. Here the pavement widens to form a 153-vehicle parking lot in front of the administration building. The road corridor in this area marks the division between two distinct use areas: the Administration Building (Visitor Center) and cave entrance area to the east of the road, and the Historic Housing Area to the west.

On the east side of the road, the landform slopes down into Wind Cave Canyon. The split-level Administration Building faces the parking area on its top level, and connects on its lower level to the bottom of the canyon. Sidewalks on the east (lower) and west (upper) sides of the building are connected by exterior stairs on the building's north and south sides. The walk on the lower side leads to the cave entrance area to the north, and the Elevator Building to the south. This walk is enclosed by the canyon walls on each side and light tree canopy above. The cave entrance sits within a sheltered space formed by the road embankment and the wall of Wind Cave Canyon. The character of this area is relatively open.

The Historic Housing Area is a cluster of residential buildings that sits immediately west of the Headquarters Road across from the Administration Building. Three of the houses are close to the road and on the same level as the Administration Building. The remaining houses are set back from the road and further up the slope. Light tree cover provides some enclosure and privacy for these residences. A short drive links the Historic Housing Area to the main road. A narrow road runs to the west of this cluster and climbs a grassy, open hillside to the east. The road ends at a small pump house building set against a forested hill and is associated with underground water storage

tanks.

The picnic area is located just to the north along the Headquarters Road corridor. This consists of a level, semicircular area along the road, and a picnic loop with parking spaces around an open center, surrounded by the forest and grassy hillsides.

To the south of the Administration Building, a secondary road departs the Headquarters Road to the east, gently descending into Wind Cave Canyon. This road passes between the rear of the Elevator Building on the north, and the VIP Center on the south. A short access drive behind the VIP Center climbs the hill to a Seasonal Residence (also known as the Bunkhouse and as the CCC Officer's Quarters).

Further along the south edge of the canyon to the east lies the non-contributing Post- WWII Housing Area, also known as the lower housing. The maintenance road continues east to the Maintenance Area, which hugs the edge of the hillside along the brow of an open ridge formed where a side canyon joins the main canyon.

The Maintenance Area is composed of two levels. The upper level is framed by one-story buildings on both sides and the lower level is set behind an eastern row of buildings. There are few trees in this area. The bison fence that surrounds the Headquarters Area runs just east of the Maintenance Area. The maintenance road intersects just past the Maintenance Area with the non-contributing U.S. 385 bypass corridor. On the opposite side of the highway was a fenced enclosure containing three non-contributing wastewater lagoons set in the bottom of the canyon. (Milner, 3-42 – 3-44). These lagoons are not extant as new ones were located to a flat area above the maintenance area. Much of the spatial organization that characterized the landscape during the period of significance survives today. Changes to spatial organization include encroachment of forest down slopes into formerly open areas, the addition of buildings and increased areas of trees and shrubs within formerly open areas in the developed area during the and the addition of a new campground in 1963 with its own distinct spatial arrangement related to the established visitor flow pattern of the design. Most of the road corridors established during earlier periods remains essentially the same spatially, although several small road sections have been added (Milner 4-21).

The Elk Mountain Campground also retains its original spatial pattern. Buildings, structures, the amphitheater, and campsites are all organized around a main road and connecting loop roads as originally designed.

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
 Wind Cave National Park

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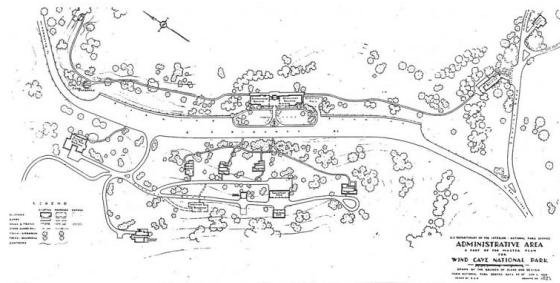
**Landscape Features:**

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Maintenance Area	148017	Contributing					No
Picnic area (former campground)	148019	Contributing					No
Headquarters Road Corridor	148021	Contributing					No
Administration Building (Visitor Center)	148023	Contributing	10740		Location	27951	Yes
U.S. 385 Corridor, excluding bypass	148025	Contributing					No
Historic Housing Area	148027	Contributing					No
Mixing Circle service road corridor	148029	Contributing					No
Road corridor to water storage/pump hous	148031	Contributing					No
Cave Resources	148033	Contributing					No
Elk Mountain Campground and Road	148035	Contributing					No
Wastewater Lagoons	148039	Non contributing – compatible					No
Post-WWII Housing Area	148041	Non contributing – compatible					No
U.S. 385 Bypass around HQ Area	148043	Non contributing – compatible					No

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



1939 site plan of the Administrative Area.



Aerial from Google Earth showing the clusters of development at Wind Cave (NPS, 2011).

**Landscape Characteristic: Circulation-Circulation**

The identified features and narratives are based on information presented in the 2005 CLR.

The Headquarters Road is the primary circulation corridor for the developed areas. U.S. 385 passes to the east of the developed areas. The Headquarters Road, formerly a segment of U.S. 385, was bypassed by the current U.S. 385 alignment in 1967. The north-south Headquarters Road has two

twelve-foot wide lanes, and spans a length of approximately two miles, joining with U.S. 385 at either end. There are no interpretive pull-offs along this road.

Midway along its length, the pavement of the Headquarters Road widens to form a parking area; along the parking area, the northbound and southbound lanes are divided by a narrow island with a concrete curb. A break in the island allows park personnel to enter the Historic Housing Area access road to the west. Concrete curbing edges the southbound lane of traffic. The 153-space parking lot is supported by stone retaining walls on the east side along the building.

A narrow, chip-and-seal surfaced drive runs west from the Headquarters Road across from the Administration Building to access the Historic Housing Area. This access road curves to the south and splits into two parallel segments. The eastern, 450-foot-long segment accesses three residences and ends in front of a two-story garage. The western segment, 675 feet long, accesses a storage building, a second garage, and the upper level of the first garage, where it ends at a residence. Portions of both drives have stone curbing.

A crushed stone and hard packed earth road originates along this drive at the curve, continuing west. This road curves, first north, then back to the west, and continues uphill for another quarter mile, ending at a pumphouse and underground water tanks on the flank of Elk Mountain.

Just south of the Administration Building parking lot, the Maintenance Road intersects the Headquarters Road on its east side. This unstriped two-lane asphalt road accesses the rear of the Elevator Building, the VIP Center, the Seasonal Residence, the Post-WWII Housing Area, and the Maintenance Area. Behind the Elevator Building is a paved parking lot. Across the road, a crushed-stone surfaced drive leads uphill to the Seasonal Residence. Three hundred feet down the maintenance road from this intersection, a paved, unstriped access drive intersects the Maintenance Road from the south and loops through the Post-WWII Housing Area. To the east, the road accesses the Maintenance Area. The Maintenance Area is comprised of two levels, each with a concrete-surfaced yard area, both connecting directly to the road but not to each other. A gravel parking lot is located at the entrance to the upper level.

North of the main parking lot on the east side of the Headquarters Road is the turn off for the picnic area. Following the road to the bottom of the canyon, lies an oval parking area with a planted island. Parking spaces radiate out from this loop.

A system of walks traverses the Administration Building and residence areas. The principal concrete walks lead along the parking lot in front of the Administration Building, and along the rear facade of the Administration Building. The sidewalk along the parking lot is paved in asphalt and edged by a stone wall. A set of concrete steps leads down to the trail to the Elevator Building from the parking lot. The sidewalk behind the Administration Building leads to the cave entrance to the north and the Elevator Building to the south. From the Administration Building, the walk crosses a crevasse via a stone and timber pedestrian bridge leading to the cave entrance.

Beyond the cave entrance, the sidewalk ends and a wooded trail, the Prairie Vista Trail, leads to the Picnic Area. From the picnic area up to the parking lot is a crushed stone path that crosses over a stone bridge and culvert and ascends timber stairs. Another gravel path leads from the picnic area to the upper-level vehicle turnaround (Milner, 3-44 - 3-45).

The horizontal alignment for the existing major road corridors—north and south segments of U.S. 385 and Headquarters Road (HS-93)—remain essentially unaltered in character since the period of significance. However, the material used to surface these roads has changed from stone to asphalt. The Elk Mountain Campground access and loop roads and U.S. 385 bypass around the Headquarters Area, both late in the period of significance, remain intact.

Many existing minor roads and drives remain substantially unchanged from the period of significance. These include the drives within the Historic Housing Area, the road heading west from the Historic Housing Area to the water supply facility, the Mixing Circle Service Road, and the road connecting the Headquarters Road to the Maintenance Area.

The drive associated with the Picnic Area (former campground) remains substantially intact. The large visitor and staff parking lot at the Administration Building was expanded south in the 1960s. Alterations to circulation after 1972 include changes in 2003-2004 to the concrete islands and the widening of paved areas.

The earliest circulation routes within the cave began at the Natural Entrance, and radiated from there. Movement was by squeezing, sliding, and climbing through narrow crevasses and tunnels using ropes and candles. Routes were makeshift and dictated by natural corridors. Starting in 1890, the McDonald family initiated improvements to make the trails more comfortable and less

## Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape

### Wind Cave National Park

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strenuous, enlarging passages by drilling, chiseling, hammering, and blasting. As new sections were explored, new rooms were added to tour routes, and by 1893 three formal routes for visitors had been developed: the Garden of Eden, the Fairgrounds, and the Pearly Gates tours. A bypass was created in the 1910s or 1920s to allow groups entering the cave to avoid running into groups exiting of the cave. The bypass went through the Cathedral. During the CCC period, wood steps and handrails were replaced with concrete steps and pavements and metal handrails. Many of these concrete circulation structures remain today. Recent changes such as the minor alterations of path edges including resetting of edging stones and the systematic removal and replacement of all iron and aluminum hand and guardrails with stainless steel handrails (Milner, 4-24).

Several road traces are extant. Many of these are historic wagon roads documented on the 1906 GLO survey. Many of these roads follow the natural topography and proceeded in a general northwest/southeast direction. Today, they are marked and used as trails by the park. Contributing traces within the historic boundary are Cold Brook Canyon Trail, Wind Cave Canyon Trail, and Lookout Point Trail.

#### Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
SD 87	148071	Contributing					No
Headquarters Road (HS-93)	148073	Contributing	50875		Location	27804	Yes
U.S.385, North & South of HQ Area	148075	Contributing					No
Historic Housing Area Access Road	148077	Contributing					No
Maintenance Area and Road	148079	Contributing					No
Underground Water Tanks Service Road	148081	Contributing					No
Mixing Circle Service Road	148083	Contributing					No
Picnic Area (former campground) Drive	148085	Contributing					No
Wind Cave Canyon Trail, segments	148087	Contributing					No
Lookout Point Trail, segments	148089	Contributing					No
Historic Cave Tour Routes (Pre 1972)	148091	Contributing					No
Post-WWII Housing Area Loop	148093	Contributing					No
Elk Mountain Campground Loop and Trail	148095	Contributing					No
Pedestrian Bridge	148097	Contributing	50596		Location	27962	Yes
Trail to Cave Entrance & Elevator Bldg	148099	Contributing	10757		Location	27960	Yes
Rankin Ridge parking lot and access road/trail	191731	Contributing					No

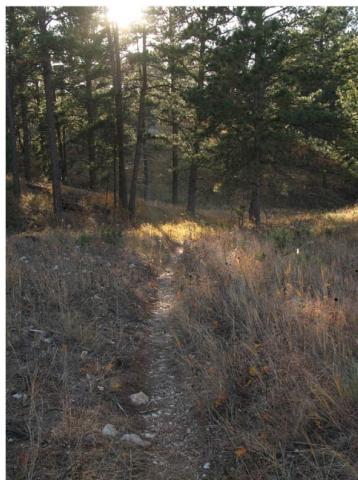
Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Service road to the underground water storage tanks. The road is located in the Historic Housing Area (NPS, 2010).*



*Cold Brook Canyon Trail (NPS, 2010).*

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Western segment of the Historic Housing Area access road (NPS, 2010).*



*Headquarters Road (NPS, 2010).*



Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Mixing Circle Service Road (NPS, 2010).*



*Parking lot in front of the Visitors Center (NPS, 2010).*



*Stone foot bridge in the Picnic Area (NPS, 2010).*



*Pedestrian Bridge along the trail that leads from the VC to the cave entrance (NPS, 2010).*

#### **Landscape Characteristic: Topography-Topography**

The identified features and narratives are based on information presented in the 2005 CLR. The Headquarters Area is situated in a ravine directly over the cave. As a result, there has been considerable topographic modification involved in siting the buildings, roads, parking lots, sidewalks, and trails on the ravine slopes. Some buildings, such as the old fire cache and the two-story garage, are built into the slope. In order to avoid extensive cut-and-fill engineering, the roads have been laid out to conform to topography. Both U.S. 385 and the Headquarters Road are built to conform to natural grades with minimal cut and fill (Milner, 3-46). At the Elk Mountain Campground the design worked with the topography to locate the roads, camp sites, support buildings and structures, and amphitheater.

For the most part, the landform and topography of Wind Cave NP and surrounding lands remains similar to that which existed prior to and during the period of significance. Over the years, topographic modification within the region has been associated with road corridor development, bridging of stream corridors and canyons, homestead development, and quarrying. Most of the topographic modifications effected during the period of significance are still evident in the landscape today.

Topographic modifications that post-date the period of significance include the excavation of wastewater lagoons (not extant) in Wind Cave Canyon and the installation of underground water storage tanks on the side of Elk Mountain.

Within Wind Cave itself there are few topographic changes since the period of significance. However, cave-ins have occurred that have resulted in minor alterations. In addition, the removal of blast debris and rearranging of loose rock materials in the cave has altered the topographic conditions resulting from initial development (Milner, 4-26).

#### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*CCC bank sloping along the road in Wind Cave National Park (HAER, SD-55-46).*



*Developed area situated in Wind Cave Canyon (NPS, 2010).*

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Contours of the landscape within Wind Cave National Park (NPS, 2010).*

**Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features-Small Scale Features**

The identified features and narratives are based on information presented in the 2005 CLR.

In 1931 the headquarters fence was extended to include new construction and a cattle guard was installed. A later fence, finished in 1936 and encompassing the entire park, was built after the NPS assumed control of the Game Preserve. Cattle guards were placed at the northern and southern entrances in 1935, and in late 1937 limestone and log entrance pylons with hanging signs were put up at the park's three main entrances.

Various small-scale water features were built during the CCC period, including water pipelines to the Headquarters Area, a 25,000 gallon reservoir in the Headquarters Area, 3,160 feet of six-inch vitrified clay sewer line from the headquarters to the wastewater lagoons (not extant) in the Maintenance Area, and an auxiliary concrete 6,250-gallon septic tank and 1,400 feet of sewer line from the Headquarters Area. It was not until 1947 that the Black Hills Power and Light Company hooked up electricity to the park headquarters. The overhead power lines to the various building clusters in the developed area were installed in 1957. The Maintenance Area was re-fenced that same year.

Most of the small-scale features described above are missing from the landscape. Some of the small-scale features include a 5,000 gallon oil storage tank in the utility area, an interpretive sign at the Natural Entrance, the Prairie Dog interpretive sign near the intersection of U.S. 385 and SD 87 (installed in 1954), and six more roadside interpretive signs from the following year, and interpretive signs identifying native trees and shrubs near the Administration building. New entrance signs were added in 1958- 1959. Bison watering tanks and salting stations were added in 1959. Wayside exhibit structures at pull-off sites are also small scale features when compared to the size of the landscape, but are documented under buildings and structures. All of the small-scale features associated with the Elk Mountain Campground are in the expanded period of significance. The park has had to replace some small scale features, such as way side panels, to address wear and tear and update information.

Most of the small-scale features within the cave are associated with lighting and circulation. Initially, lighting in the cave was provided by candles and lanterns. In 1931, some trails in the cave were illuminated with indirect electrical light, and the "long route," most likely the Fairgrounds Tour Route, was lighted in 1937. The lighting system was completely rewired from 1955-1956, with fixtures replaced, a black light installed in the Fairgrounds, and a flood light in the Temple to allow photography. A new indirect lighting system using fluorescent lights was installed in 1980, and these lights were then replaced with incandescent lights in 1988. In 1997, corroded light fixtures were replaced with plastic, and in 1998 portions of the old lighting system in the Blue Grotto and Pearly Gates were removed. New lights were again installed around 2010.

Before the turn of the twentieth century, wooden ladders, handrails, and climbing ropes were used to facilitate movement along the tour routes. Between 1935 and 1937 many of the cave's old wooden landings, stairs, and bridges were replaced with concrete structures. Some additional concrete stairs were added in 1948 to steep sections of the cave trails, and in other areas in the 1970s and 1980s. The old handrails were replaced with stainless steel tubing from 1963-1964 and maintained/replaced as needed.

Early explorers left behind various artifacts such as matches, candles, and string. Some of this material, along with graffiti as well as painted and metal survey markers, is still extant, including writing by Alvin McDonald. In addition, early workers left behind piles of rubble and construction debris.

Sources indicate that a small stone 'high water' wall was constructed around the cave's (natural) opening to prevent surface runoff from entering. Later, around 1967, a low rock wall was constructed around the base of the Natural Entrance and a plate was attached to the bottom of the existing iron gate.

The stone sign at the entrance of the Administration Building may be the one constructed during the CCC period. However, construction drawings prepared after WWII show a new edge of pavement lines running through the sign. It has not been determined whether the sign is the original sign in its original location, if it was moved, or if the sign was added later. In addition, though the stone structure may be historic, the date of origin of the sign panel has not been determined (Milner, 4-32 - 4-33).

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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**Landscape Features:**

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Stone Barrier Walls	148101	Contributing	50876		Location	27966	Yes
Visitor Center Pedestrian Bridge	148599	Contributing	50596		Location	27962	Yes
CCC Cave Structures	148601	Contributing	10756		Location	27959	Yes
Park Sign- Administration Area	148603	Contributing	50599		Location	27968	Yes
Rock Faced Culverts	148605	Contributing	50897		Location	27967	Yes
Stone Curbing	148607	Contributing					No
Iron Railings and Light Poles	148609	Contributing					No
Alvin McDonald Memorial and C. 1902 Unmarked infant boy grave	148613	Contributing					No
Fencing, Metal Culverts, Cattle Guards	148615	Non contributing – compatible					No
Pre 1972 Concrete Curbing, Informational Signs	148617	Contributing					No
Aluminum railings, Lighting in cave	148619	Non contributing – compatible					No
Concrete wildlife tanks, Propane tank	148621	Non contributing – compatible					No

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Light pole and iron railing along the walk to the Elevator Building (NPS, 2010).*

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Rock faced culvert in the maintenance area (NPS, 2010).*



*Stone curbing and walls in the Adminstration Area (NPS, 2010).*

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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*Park headquarters sign (NPS, 2010).*



*Contributing Mission 66 era stone wall (in the foreground) in the Residential Area (NPS, 2010).*

## Condition

**Assessment Interval (Years):** 6

**Next Assessment Due Date:** 09/20/2027

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 09/20/2021

### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape is assessed to be in Good condition.

The landscape shows no evidence of major negative disturbance or deterioration by natural and/or human forces.

The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

## Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Structural Deterioration

**Other Impact:**

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Narrative:** Certain landscape features are prone to deterioration as they age, such as cave structures and stone walls. Appropriate maintenance and cleaning activities will help mitigate these problems.

**Date Identified:** 04/26/2011

**Type of Impact:** Vegetation/Invasive Plants

**Other Impact:**

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Narrative:** Vegetation that was planted by the CCC during the development of the historic district is considered contributing to the cultural landscape. Plant species should be maintained in their historic spatial arrangement and density. Replacement in-kind or with a compatible substitute as plants age or die may be considered.

**Date Identified:** 04/26/2011

## Treatment

### **Stabilization Measures**

### **Approved Treatment**

**Treatment Type:** Rehabilitation

**Completed:** No

**Approved Treatment Document:** Cultural Landscape Report

**Document Date:** 2005-05-10

**Narrative:**

Rehabilitation (an on-going effort) was the selected treatment as it offered the most flexible approach by area/zone to preserve remaining features and enhance the ecological aesthetic at the park.

### **Approved Treatment Costs**

**Cost Narrative:**

Rehabilitation (an on-going effort) was the selected treatment as it offered the most flexible approach by area/zone to preserve remaining features and enhance the ecological aesthetic at the park.

## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

### Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
John Milner Associates, Inc. and Rivanna Archaeological Consulting in association with Bahr Vermeer & Haecker Architects, Ltd.	Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape Report	2005	National Park Service	Both Graphic And Narrative	MWRO	
Historic American Engineering Record	Beaver Creek Bridge. HAER No. SD 53	2003	National Park Service	Graphic		
Historic American Engineering Record	Pig Tale Bridge. HAER No. SD 54	2003	National Park Service	Graphic		
Historic American Engineering Record	Wind Cave National Park, Roads and Bridges. HAER No. SD 55	2003	National Park Service	Graphic		
Karsmizki, Ken	Wind Cave National Park Administrative and Utility Area Historic District. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	1994	NRHP	Both Graphic And Narrative		
National Park Service	General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement	1993	National Park Service	Both Graphic And Narrative	MWRO	
Mark David Spence, Ph.D.	Passage Through Many Worlds: A Historic Resource Study of Wind Cave National Park	2010	National Park Service Department of the Interior	Both Graphic And Narrative		

Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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Carolyn Torma and National Park Service	National Register of Historic Places: Wind Cave National Park, 1982, 1984, 1995 Administrative and Utility Area Historic District	1982	NPS	Both Graphic And Narrative			
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Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape  
Wind Cave National Park

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**Landscape Documents:**



**File Name:** 2020-4-6-WICA\_SHPO\_INDRPT\_CLI.pdf  
**Caption:** Cultural Landscape Inventory 2020 InDesign Report for SHPO Consultation  
**Alt Text:** Pdf of the InDesign report.  
**Date:** 04/06/2020  
**Attachment Type:** Other Report  
**Source:** CLI  
**Version:** Final