
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2001



Bluffs Lodge
Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District

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Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Bluffs Lodge is a 24-acre component landscape set within 6300-acre Doughton Park, a Blue Ridge Parkway developed area in North Carolina. The site is accessed by a road leading off the parkway at Milepost 241.1. The road passes by the lodge and its parking lot and terminates in a parking lot for Wildcat Rocks Overlook. The component landscape includes the roadway, the lodge, Wildcat Rocks Overlook, and the nearby water tower. Views from this area include those over Basin Cove from the overlook, and into the meadow from the lodge.

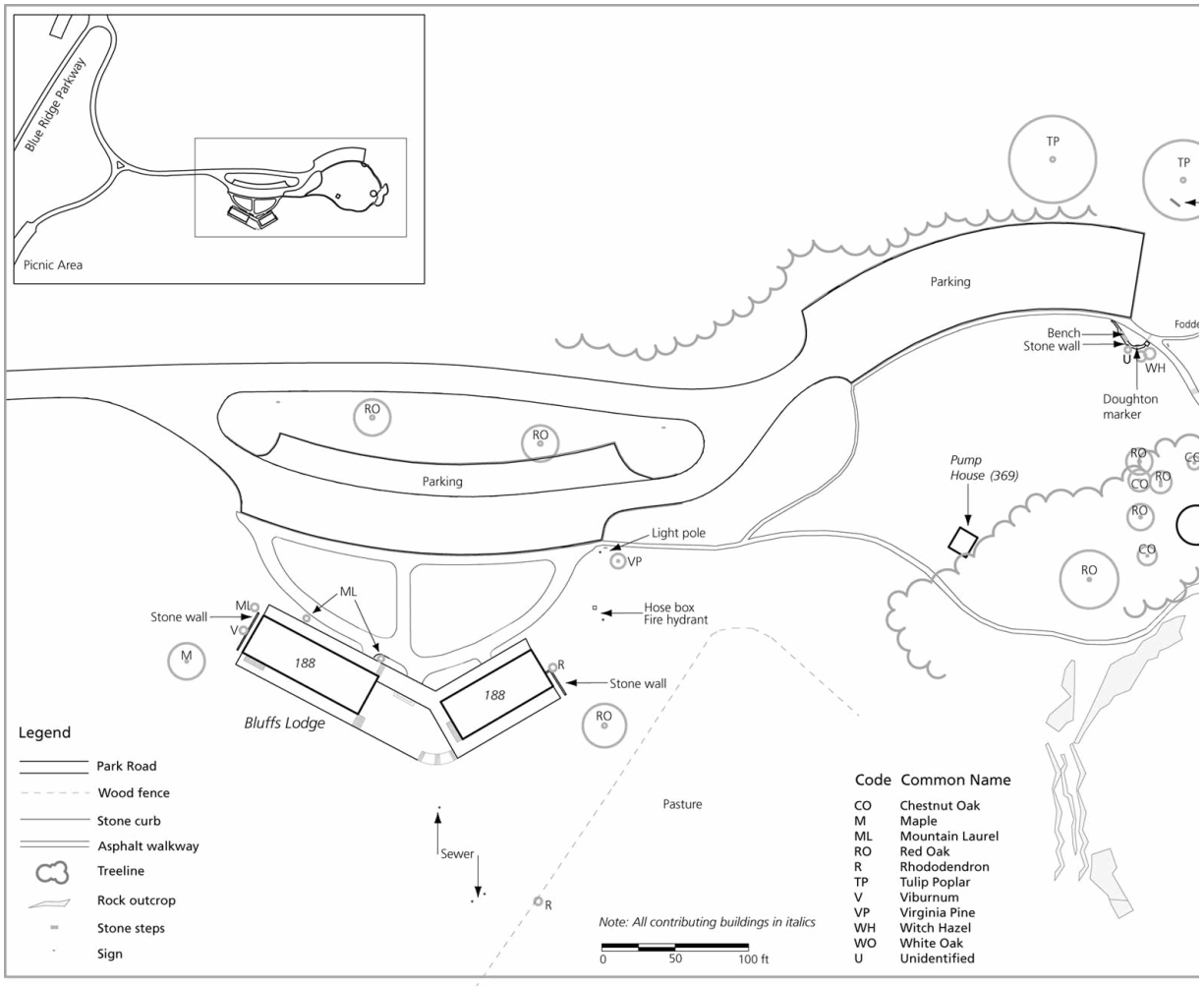
Bluffs Lodge is part of one of the first developed areas to be planned for BLRI. The entry road, Wildcat Rocks Overlook and its parking lot were built in 1938-9. The lodge was built about ten years later, opening on 1 September 1949. The overlook is a prime example of the rustic-style stonework used in the early years of parkway construction. The lodge is also rustic in style, but uses materials – like concrete shingles – that were important in post-WWII parkway development. It also represents the overall transition from cabin-style accommodations to the current motor court style. The open meadow, with its rolling topography, and scattering of trees, rhododendron, mountain laurel, and azaleas, are distinctive among parkway landscapes, and figured prominently in the siting of the lodge and associated development.

The period of significance for Blue Ridge Parkway, as defined in Ian Firth's draft National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination, is 1933 – 1987. Parkway road development between these dates possesses NHL significance, while associated development – such as lodge sites – possesses NHL significance only through 1955. (Later development may be historically significant to a lesser degree.) Construction at Bluffs Lodge began in 1938, and all major features at the property were in place by the installation of the Robert L. Doughton memorial plaque in 1953. All these features contribute to the national significance of Blue Ridge Parkway as a NHL property.

Bluffs Lodge, currently listed in good condition, retains all major features from the period of significance. The property possesses historic integrity in all seven criteria as defined by National Register standards.

Bluffs Lodge
Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District

Site Plan



Bluffs Lodge Sitemap

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Bluffs Lodge
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	550214
Parent Landscape:	550140

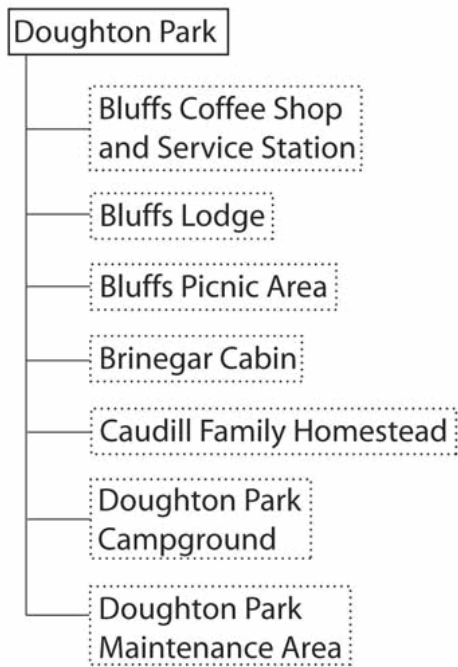
Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District -BLRI
Park Organization Code:	5157
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District - BLRI
Park Administrative Unit:	Blue Ridge Parkway

CLI Hierarchy Description

On the 1936 Blue Ridge Parkway Master Development Plan, Doughton Park (then known as The Bluffs) is shown as one of the proposed parkway developed areas. The 6300-acre site largely consists of forested land on steeply sloping land, with the built environment consisting of rustic trails, overlooks and a shelter. It is listed in the CLI in its entirety as Doughton Park. More intense development was planned for sites closer to the parkway in areas totaling 225 acres in size. Each of these seven sites has a separate developmental history and function and deserves individual listing in the CLI as a component landscape. They are, leading from parkway north to south: Brinegar Cabin, Doughton Park Campground, Bluffs Coffee Shop and Service Station, Bluffs Lodge, Caudill Family Homestead, Bluffs Picnic Area, and Doughton Park Maintenance Area.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY



Doughton Park CLI Hierarchy

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Field work was conducted for landscapes and component landscapes at Doughton Park during Summer 2001 by David Hasty, Lucy Lawliss and summer interns Patrick Beasley, Tom Gibney and Lindsey Heller. The park contacts are: Gary Johnson, Chief of Planning, and Bambi Teague, Resource Manager.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	08/01/2005
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/08/2004

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

Through BLRI consultation with North Carolina SHPO, the entire parkway property within the state of North Carolina was deemed eligible for listing on the National Register. A National Historic Landmark nomination is also being written for the Parkway by Ian Firth.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Bluffs Lodge
Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



H22(SERO-CRD)

July 19, 2005

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway
From: Chief, Cultural Resource Division, Southeast Region
Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventory

We are pleased to transmit Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLI) for five component cultural landscapes at Doughton Park Developed Area: Bluffs Coffee Shop and Service Station, Bluffs Lodge, Bluffs Picnic Area, Doughton Park Campground, and Doughton Park Maintenance Area. The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) or that contribute to an existing historic property. In order for the CLIs to be certified and counted under goals 1a7 and 1b2B in PMDS, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Keeper of the NR needs to concur on the eligibility of the property for listing. The North Carolina SHPO concurred on the National Register eligibility of all Blue Ridge Parkway land in North Carolina on September 8, 2004.

The Park Superintendent also needs to concur on the condition assessment and management category provided within the inventory. A signature page is enclosed for Park Superintendent approval. The assessment form needs to be signed and returned to the Regional Office for final certification and listing in PMDS goals 1a7 and 1b2B. If the condition assessment and management category are agreed upon, please sign the attached approval forms and return to our office to the attention of David Hasty.

Attachments



Letter to Superintendent

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET - 6 June 2005

Park Information

Park: Blue Ridge Parkway
District: Highlands
State: North Carolina
Counties: Wilkes, Alleghany

Cultural Landscape Information

Inventory Name	CLI Id #	Condition	Management Category
Bluffs Coffee Shop and Service Station	550218	Fair	Must Be Preserved and Maintained
Bluffs Lodge	550214	Good	Must Be Preserved and Maintained
Bluffs Picnic Area	550215	Good	Must Be Preserved and Maintained
Doughton Park Campground	550216	Good	Must Be Preserved and Maintained
Doughton Park Maintenance Area	550219	Good	Must Be Preserved and Maintained

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Concur X

Do Not Concur _____


Superintendent

8/1/05
Date

Superintendent Signature of Concurrence

Bluffs Lodge

Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – 31 August 2011**

Park Information

Park: Blue Ridge Parkway
District: Highlands
State: North Carolina
Counties: Wilkes, Alleghany

Cultural Landscape Information

Inventory Name	CLI Id #	Condition	Previous Condition Date
Bluffs Coffee Shop and Service Station	550218	Fair	5/4/2005 (Fair)
Bluffs Lodge	550214	Good	5/4/2005 (Good)
Bluffs Picnic Area	550215	Good	5/4/2005 (Good)
Doughton Park Campground	550216	Good	5/4/2005 (Good)
Doughton Park Maintenance Area	550219	Good	5/4/2005 (Good)

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Concur ☒ Do Not Concur ☐



Superintendent Date 9/23/11

Superintendent Condition Recertification, 2011

Bluffs Lodge
Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District

10/12/2004 10:48 FAX

0002



H32

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Blue Ridge Parkway
199 Hemphill Knob Road
Asheville, North Carolina 28803

MMB
8/17/04

JUL 21 2004

Dr. Jeffrey J. Crow, State Historic Preservation Officer
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
Division of Archives and History
4610 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4610

Dear Dr. Crow:

As you know the National Register of Historic Places is the official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture. These contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation. The National Register includes:

- * All prehistoric and historic units of the National Park System;
- * National Historic Landmarks, which are properties recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as possessing national significance; and
- * Properties significant in American, State, or local prehistory and history that have been nominated by State Historic Preservation Officers, Federal agencies, Tribal Preservation Officers, and others, and have been approved for listing by the National Park Service.

The Historic Sites Act of 1935 (Public Law 74-292) established the National Historic Landmark Survey. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) authorized the National Register of Historic Places, expanding Federal recognition to historic properties of local and State significance. The National Park Service in the U. S. Department of the Interior administers both programs. Regulations for these programs are contained in 36 CFR Part 60, "National Register of Historic Places", and 36 CFR Part 65, "National Historic Landmarks Program".

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorizes State Historic Preservation Officers to nominate properties to the National Register of Historic Places and to carry out other preservation activities. Federal Preservation Officers have been designated in Federal agencies to nominate Federal properties and to fulfill other responsibilities of the Act. The Blue Ridge Parkway leadership, acting in concert with the leadership of the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office, are working energetically and enthusiastically to nominate the Blue Ridge Parkway for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic Landmark. We would highly value your support and concurrence on the signature line below. We look

Memo to NC SHPO

Bluffs Lodge
Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District

10/12/2004 10:49 PAA

forward to working closely with your office as we strive to protect the resources and enhance the integrity of the fabulous Blue Ridge Parkway. Please sign on the line below on both copies of this document and return one copy to Parkway Headquarters.

Thanks so much for your assistance and willing cooperation.

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Brown
Superintendent

The Blue Ridge Parkway clearly meets the eligibility requirements for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic Landmark. The Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer, State of North Carolina, supports and endorses the National Park Service efforts with regards to this listing of the Blue Ridge Parkway in the National Register of Historic Places.

I Concur: Jeffrey Brown, SHPO Date 9 Aug 04

	DIVISION CHIEF, RP & PS	
	LAND RESOURCES SPEC.	
	LAND RESOURCES SPEC.	
X	CULTURAL RESOURCES SPEC.	
	ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SPEC.	
	COMMUNITY PLANNER	
	RESIDENT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT	
	CURATOR	
	GEOGRAPHIC INFO. SPEC.	
	ENGINEERING DRAFTSMAN	
	ADMIN. ASSISTANT	
X	FILE: <u>BLUFFS - FILED</u>	
	<u>COMPLIANCE FILE</u>	

GW 8/20

NC SHPO Signature

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Bluffs Lodge component landscape includes the entry road at Milepost 241.1, the lodge and its parking area, Wildcat Rocks Overlook and its parking area and the open meadow behind the lodge.

State and County:

State: NC

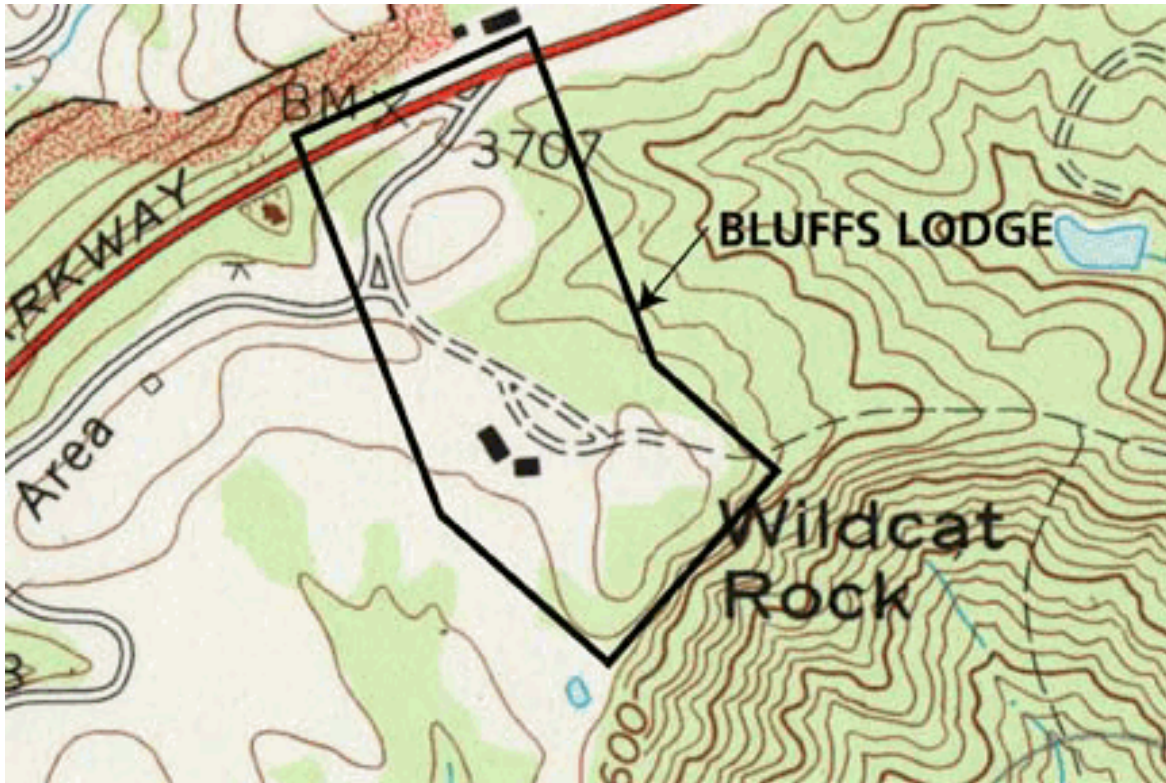
County: Alleghany County

Size (Acres): 24.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	17
UTM Easting:	484,165
UTM Northing:	4,031,835
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	17
UTM Easting:	483,801
UTM Northing:	4,031,513
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	17
UTM Easting:	484,215
UTM Northing:	4,031,280
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	17
UTM Easting:	484,386
UTM Northing:	4,031,450

Location Map:



Bluffs Lodge Location Map (Whitehead, NC, USGS Quadrangle - 1968)

Tract Numbers: 34-101, 35-101, 35-102, 35-104

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 05/04/2005

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The major features of Bluffs Lodge were planned in the 1930s and early 1940s. The entry road and Wildcat Rocks Overlook were completed by 1938, and, by 1948, the lodge was in place. These features were completed during the first three periods of BLRIs history (1933-1942, 1942-1945, and 1946-1955) as defined by Ian Firth, and thus contribute to the national significance of Blue Ridge Parkway as a potential National Historic Landmark.

Maintenance Location Code: 4512
63535
4457
48222
4533
47918
5015
5018
52613
52614
4458

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Expiration Date: 1/1/9999

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Description:

The vast majority of the Bluffs Lodge viewshed is contained within the Doughton Park property leading down from Wildcat Rocks into Basin Cove.

National Register Information

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Criteria Considerations:	G -- A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1987
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Recreation
Facet:	General Recreation
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1987
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Transportation by Land and Air
Facet:	Carriage Roads, Touring Roads and Parkways
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1987
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Rustic Architecture
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1987
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Protection Of Natural And Cultural Resources
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Transportation
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Conservation
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

Bluffs Lodge is part of one of the first developed areas to be designed and built along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Two buildings exist at the property: the lodge (Building # 188) completed in 1949, and the pump house (Building # 369) completed circa 1948-1952. The entry road was completed by 1939, along with Wildcat Rocks Overlook and its parking lot and walkway. The final major addition to the site is the Robert L. Doughton Memorial Plaque, which was installed in 1953 at the start of the walkway leading from the parking lot to the overlook.

The rolling mountain laurel and rhododendron meadows, interspersed with patches of forest, figured prominently in this location for the lodge. A 1942 planting plan called for the enhancement of this existing flora, with a few trees suggested for the entry.

As one of the first lodges to be designed and built, the property contributes to the historical significance of the parkway. All major development took place during the first three periods of BLRI history (1936 – 1955) and contributes to the national significance of BLRI as an NHL. These features include the entrance road, Wildcat Rocks Overlook and its parking area and walkway, the water tank, the lodge (building # 188) and its associated parking and walkways, and trail connecting it to Wildcat Rocks Overlook, the pump house (building # 369), as well as the existing vegetation, and the views into Basin Cove and the surrounding meadows.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type:

Designed

Other Use/Function

Lodge (Inn, Cabin)

View

Hiking Trail

Other Type of Use or Function

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Wildcat Rocks Overlook

Bluffs Lodge

Type of Name

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1937 - 1938	Built	The lodge entrance road is designed in 1937, and construction is complete by 1938. The end product is the entry road - with a stone-lined gutter on the north side for about 100' - and a parking area near Wildcat Rocks.
AD 1938 - 1939	Built	The water supply system for the Bluffs development is designed and built. It consists of a dam, and water lines leading to water tanks at the campground and at Wildcat Rocks.
AD 1939	Built	The Overlook at Wildcat Rocks is designed and built. A stone wall is built close to the cliff edge, w/ flagstone & cement mortar joints for 5' followed by flagstone with grass joints. A gravel walk leads from the existing parking lot.
Burns		
AD 1942 - 1947	Designed	A 1942 planting plan (approved '47) calls for the addition of a scattering of trees near the parkway entrance to the lodge area - <i>Acer rubrum</i> (1), <i>Pinus pungens</i> (2), <i>Quercus alba</i> (4), <i>Quercus borealis</i> (3), and <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> .

Bluffs Lodge
Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District

AD 1943 - 1949	Built	Designs for the lodge unit (Building # 188) appear by 1943. Final plans in 1948 call for 2 buildings situated at an angle, built into existing contours, and joined by a patio. Walkways connect it to a new parking lot. The lodge opens 1 Sept 1949. Grossman Newcomb and Batten Van Cleve
AD 1948	Explored	Lodge development plans show existing vegetation near the lodge. The area is largely an open meadow, but there are a few mature trees near the lodge - to the east a 20" locust, 30" white oak, 16" shad (?), to the SW an 18" locust 48" red oak, 24" apple.
AD 1943 - 1962	Planned	From the 1940s through to the early 1960s, several plans are drawn for the lodge area expansion. Most call for additional lodge units, along with a dining hall and lounge. Some are approved but none are built.
AD 1948 - 1952	Built	A pump house (building # 369) is built near the water tower, a new trail leads from Wildcat Rocks Overlook west of the water tower to the lodge.
AD 1953	Memorialized	A bronze memorial plaque commemorating retired Congressman Robert L. Doughton is installed at the overlook parking lot near the start of the 1939 walkway. Doughton was a longtime supporter of the parkway.

Physical History:

g



cover

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Bluffs Lodge is part of one of the first developed areas to be designed and built along Blue Ridge Parkway. An entry road starts at parkway road Milepost 241.1, leads past the lodge, and terminates in a parking lot next to the Wildcat Rocks Overlook. Striking views extend out from the overlook into Basin Cove, 1000' below, and from the lodge out into the surrounding meadows.

The lodge area was planned for and partially designed in the late 1930s, with the water storage tank, entry road, overlook and associated parking lot built in 1939. The lodge (building # 188) and its parking lot and walkways were completed in 1949. A nearby pump house (building # 369) was in place by 1952. A Parkway Land Use Map called for the addition of several trees at the parkway entrance to the site, enhancing the existing open meadow and scattered forest landscape. In 1953, a bronze plaque was installed to commemorate retired local Congressman Robert L. Doughton and his support of the parkway. No major development has occurred at the site since this time.

As one of the first lodge areas to be designed and constructed, the property contributes to the national significance of the parkway. All major construction took place during the first three periods of BLRI development (1936 – 1955). Wildcat Rocks Overlook is built with the rustic stone materials and workmanship of early park development. The lodge uses rooflines, pitch, and massing from local architecture, but incorporates materials, like the concrete shingles, that express the parkway's 1940s move to more streamlined and economical development. The overlook and lodge illustrate both facets of development, and both are significant, as they show the evolution of parkway design. Views from the overlook take in the natural scenery, namely second-growth forest in Basin Cove, as well as the historic Caudill Cabin in a clearing 1000' below. Views from the lodge take in the rolling, open meadows, punctuated by isolated trees and stands of rhododendron, mountain laurel and azaleas. The views and scenery figured prominently in the location of the lodge, and contribute to the overall significance of the parkway.

Bluffs Lodge retains integrity in all seven aspects of the National Register criteria: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The location of all primary features – the entry road, parking areas and walkways, Wildcat Rocks Overlook, Bluffs Lodge (building # 188), the water storage tank and pump house (building # 369), existing natural and introduced vegetation, and views into Basin Cove and the meadows – is the same today as during the historic period. The design, materials and workmanship of these features largely remains rustic and utilitarian in nature. The feeling is the same as originally intended – a lodge nestled into the existing contours, with views into the meadows, and, from the overlook, views into Basin Cove. The mountain plateau setting, with its open meadow and abundant stands of mountain laurel and rhododendron perched on a dramatic 1000' cliff, remains in place. Finally, the original association of this property – namely a place for overnight parkway guests – continues today.

Landscape Characteristic:

Buildings And Structures

The current Bluffs Lodge area was set aside in the late 1930s, and the water storage tank was installed during this time. Designs for the lodge appear as early as 1943. Abbott, and Grossman - the architect for the project, wanted to continue on in the rustic style of the pre-war development along the parkway. Given the post-war budget, and reassessment of materials and maintenance costs, the building took on a "plainer, more economical style." The massing, rooflines, and pitch of the building mimic the native architecture, but the materials were updated, including concrete shingles substituted for hand-split shakes. The lodge is significant for depicting this change in style, as well as for representing an overall transition from cabins to motel-style lodging. As a part of the pre-1955 development at the site, the pump house is also a contributing resource. The water storage tank is significant as one of the earliest structures built at Doughton Park.

Intentions were to add to the lodge complex, building new lodge units and a dining hall & lounge. Drawings for these proposals appear from the 1940s to the 1960s, but they were never implemented.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Bluffs Lodge (Building # 188) (c. 1949)

Feature Identification Number: 95928

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wildcat Rocks Pump House (c. 1952)

Feature Identification Number: 95930

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Water Storage Tank (c. 1938)

Feature Identification Number: 95929

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Bluffs Lodge during construction circa 1949



Bluffs Lodge (2002)

Circulation

The entry road to the lodge was built in 1938, with a stone-lined gutter along a portion of its length and a parking area at its terminus. By the late 1940s, a second parking area was added for the Lodge (building # 188). A walkway to Wildcat Rocks Overlook was constructed in the late-1930s/early-1940s. Additional walkways were constructed in the late-1940s/early-1950s connecting the lodge to Wildcat Rocks Overlook and to its parking area. All these features were built during the first three periods of BLRI development (1936 - 1955), as defined by Ian Firth in the current draft NHL nomination, retain their historic integrity and contribute to the national historic significance of the parkway.

Character-defining Features:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Feature: | Bluffs Lodge entry road (1938) |
| Feature Identification Number: | 95931 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |
| Feature: | Wildcat Rocks Walkway (c. 1938) |
| Feature Identification Number: | 97243 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |

Bluffs Lodge

Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District

Feature: Wildcat Rocks - Lodge Walkway and Parking Area (c. 1948 - 1952)

Feature Identification Number: 95933

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Bluffs Lodge Walkways (c. 1949)

Feature Identification Number: 95932

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Walkway leading from parking lot to Wildcat Rocks Overlook (1951)



Walkway leading from parking lot to Wildcat Rocks Overlook (2002)



Entry road leading from parkway to Bluffs Lodge and Picnic Area (2002)

Vegetation

Bluffs Lodge is located on an open highland meadow with mountain laurel, rhododendron, and azaleas - usually understory woody species - growing in abundance. This site was chosen in large part for the exceptional vegetation and open, rolling landscape, and the same character found in the 1930s and 40s still exists today. Late-1940s documentation shows a few large specimen trees close to the lodge. Shown off the eastern corner of the lodge, are a 20" locust, 30" white oak, and 16" shad [sic], and starting roughly 100' southwest are an 18" locust, 48" red oak, and a little beyond a 24" apple. Mature trees exist in the same areas today, and may be the original trees, or descendants, but in either case they perpetuate the feeling and setting of the area as it was documented in the 1930s and 40s. Drawings from the late 1930s show a light stand of trees and understory at the overlook. The vegetation is similar today and perpetuates the feeling and setting of the property. The existing vegetation at Bluffs Lodge retains its historic character and contributes to the national significance of Blue Ridge Parkway as a National Historic Landmark.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

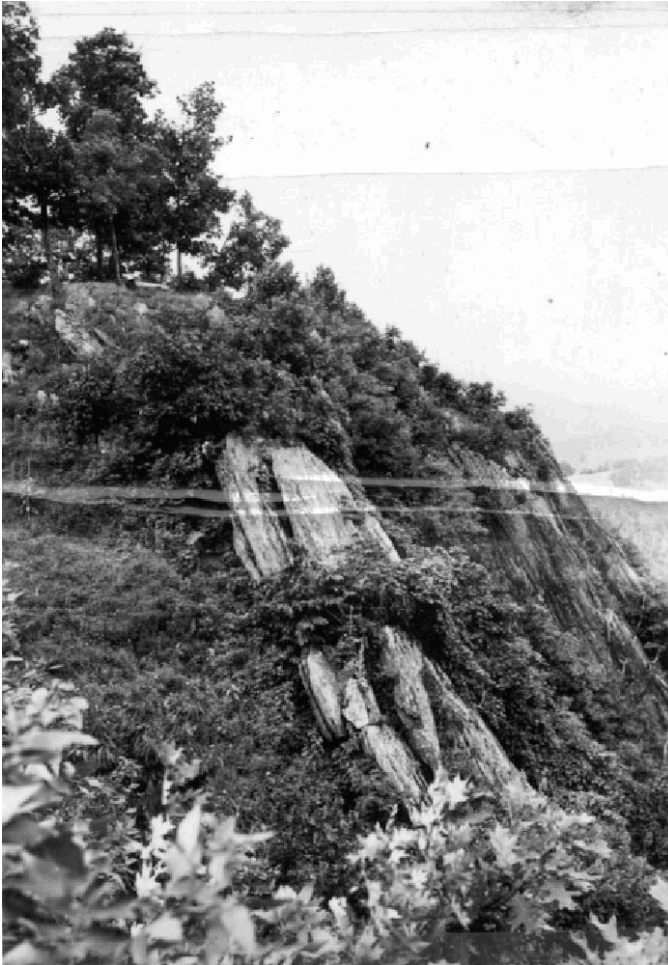


Specimen tree at between Bluffs Lodge and Wildcat Rocks Overlook (2002)

Topography

Bluffs Lodge is notable for its location in a rolling highland plateau, with a steep drop to the east down the face of Wildcat Rocks. No changes have been made to this terrain, and it remains a distinctive part of the lodge setting.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Wildcat Rocks circa 1939

Small Scale Features

The Overlook at Wildcat Rocks was built in 1939, and consists of a stone retaining wall, a flagstone patio, and an interpretive plaque for Caudill Cabin in Basin Cove below. The wall and patio use the rustic stone materials and workmanship of the early parkway construction. They retain their integrity today and contribute to the historical significance of the parkway. The interpretive plaque may also be a contributing feature, but its date of construction is not known. A bronze memorial was installed in 1953 for retired Congressman Robert L. Doughton. Given his association as a supporter of the parkway and its pre-1955 construction, the plaque is contributes to the parkways historical significance also.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Caudill Cabin Interpretive Plaque

Bluffs Lodge

Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District

Feature Identification Number: 97927

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Wildcat Rocks Overlook Stone Wall

Feature Identification Number: 97930

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wildcat Rocks Overlook Stone Patio

Feature Identification Number: 97929

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stone-lined Gutters along Bluffs Lodge entry road

Feature Identification Number: 97928

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Wildcat Rocks Overlook (1951)



Wildcat Rocks Overlook (2002)



Caudill Cabin Interpretive plaque at Wildcat Rocks Overlook (2002)



Doughton Marker at Wildcat Rocks Overlook parking (2002)

Views And Vistas

Designers took advantage of two major viewsheds at Bluffs Lodge. The first is at Wildcat Rocks, where an overlook was constructed in 1939 to take in the spectacular views. From the overlook height of about 3600', the land plummets sharply down 1000' feet to Basin Cove. The visitor is provided with uninterrupted views of the cove and its second growth of forest. An interpretive plaque at the overlook tells the story of Caudill Cabin, which is visible in a small clearing below. The second viewshed consists of the open fields with scattered stands of rhododendron, mountain laurel and azaleas. The lodge was sited to take advantage of these views, as indicated on the Grossman drawings. Both viewsheds retain their original character and contribute to the feeling and setting of the property.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Wildcat Rocks Overlook (1940)



Wildcat Rocks Overlook (1952)



Wildcat Rocks Overlook (2002)

Spatial Organization

Early plans for the lodge call for one unit, which in the words of parkway landscape architect Edward Abbuehl looked like an army barracks. The designs were modified and the result was a lodge, split into two units that met at an angle in a stone patio. The buildings were set into the existing topography and angled along the existing contours. This modified spatial organization greatly enhanced the quality of the design, allowing the building to sit more unobtrusively in the open meadow and take advantage of the views. The lodge organization remains unaltered today and contributes to the historical significance of the property.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good
Assessment Date: 05/04/2005
Condition Assessment: Good
Assessment Date: 09/23/2011

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost: 0.00
Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

No LCS or landscape stabilization costs exist. With the completion of the pending CLR, cost data will be available.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined
Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

A CLR is pending for Doughton Park, and a GMP is underway for the Parkway. With the completion of these efforts, approved treatment should become available.

Approved Treatment Costs

Landscape Treatment Cost: 0.00
Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

No approved cost data exist for the Bluffs Lodge. With the completion of the pending CLR, cost data will be available.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Title:	2002 "Entrance Road to Lodge & Parking Area – Bluff Park" 1 May 1937; designed by BGH; approved 10 July 1937; job completed 14 May 1938
Year of Publication:	1938
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	5350 "Water Supply System – Dam" Designed by Shaw & Cox 9 August 1938; concurred by Abbott 11 August 1938; job completed 26 June 1939
Year of Publication:	1939
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	5351 "Water Supply System – Pipeline – Bluff Park" Job completed 17 Dec 1938; approved 22 Sept 1938
Year of Publication:	1938
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	2029 "Overlook At Wildcat Rocks – Bluff Park" Designed by Burns – 3 August 1939; concurred by Abbott 7 August 1939
Year of Publication:	1939
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	5371 "Water Distribution Picnic Area No. 1 – Bluff Park" Approved 24 Sept 1939. Designed by Arnold? and Browning?
Year of Publication:	1939
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	5377 "Drop Inlets – Culvert Headwalls – Catch Basins – Bluff and Cumberland Knob Parks" 23 August 1939 – designed by Armfield and drawn by Browning; concurred by acting Supt. Abbott 30 Aug 1939
Year of Publication:	1939
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	5376 "Drainage – Entrance Lodge – Stable Site and Maintenance Area Bluff Park" Recommended 4 Dec 1939, Concurred by Abbott 20 Aug 1939, designed by Armfield and drawn by Brown 1 Aug 1939
Year of Publication:	1939
Source Name:	DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 5392 "Utility Layout Lodge, Sandwich Shop & Picnic Areas – Bluff Park – Part of the Master Plan – Blue Ridge Parkway"
1 Jan 1943, drawn by Batten

Year of Publication: 1943

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2050 "Coffee Shop, Lodge & Picnic Areas – Bluff Park – Part of the Master Plan for Blue Ridge Parkway"
1 Jan 1943, drawn by Huddleston

Year of Publication: 1943

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2C-2052A "Section 2C Sta 190 to ?" Sheet 7 of 19 (and cover sheet, 1 Jan 1944, Delineated by Huntoon, designed by AHH 27 Sept 1942, recommended by Abbott 16 April 1947)
8 Oct 1942 AHH

Year of Publication: 1942

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2174 B "Road System Plan – Part of the Master Plan"
18 March 1948; Designed by Kearney

Year of Publication: 1948

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2073 "Lodge Group"
Designed by D. S. 14 February 1943; recommended by Vint 24 March 1948; approved by Demaray 24 March 1948

Year of Publication: 1948

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2075 "Roads, Walks and Parking Area, Lodge"
Designed by Van Cleve 12 May 1948; recommended by Weems 26 May 1948 and Allen 15 June 1948; approved by Wirth 6 July 1948

Year of Publication: 1948

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title:	2078 "The Bluffs – General Development – part of the Master Plan" 19 July 1948; Designed by Van Cleve and checked by Abbuehl; recommended by Weems 13 August 1948
Year of Publication:	1948
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	2076 "Lodge Development" Designed by Van Cleve 13 May 1948; no recommendations or approval
Year of Publication:	1948
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	5473 "Roads, Walks & Parking Area, Lodge" Designed by Newcomb and Batten 30 August 1948; recommended by Weems 1 September 1948; approved by Lisle 20 September 1948
Year of Publication:	1948
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	2073 A "Lodge Unit Building # 188" Designed by Van Cleve 12 May 1948; recommended by Charles Peterson and approved by Elbert Cox 18 November 1948
Year of Publication:	1948
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	5477 "Sewage Disposal System Lodge Unit A" Approved by Allen 18 February 1949
Year of Publication:	1949
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	5480 "Water Supply – Lodge Unit A & Service Center" Designed by Newcomb 4 March 1949; approved by Elbert Cox 16 March 1949
Year of Publication:	1949
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	5481 "Water Piping Diagram – Lodge Unit 'A'" Designed by Newcomb 22 March 1949; approved by Thomas Allen 7 April 1949
Year of Publication:	1949
Source Name:	DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2386 B “Road System Plan – Part of the Master Plan”
April 1952; drawn by Lewis and checked by Abbuehl

Year of Publication: 1952

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2174 C “Road System Plan – Part of the Master Plan”
May 1952; Designed by PWK – WHG

Year of Publication: 1952

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2078 B “Doughton Park, NC – Developed Areas & Utilities Plan
– Part of the Master Plan”
Jan 1952; designed by PVC-AFR

Year of Publication: 1952

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2386 C “Road System Plan – Part of the Master Plan”
June 1952; drawn by Lewis and checked by Abbuehl

Year of Publication: 1952

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2174 D “Road System Plan – Part of the Master Plan”
October 1956; Designed by PWK – WHG

Year of Publication: 1956

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2163 “Central Development Study”
1 November 1959, not approved or recommended

Year of Publication: 1959

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 3036 “Central Development Plan Doughton Park”
Prepared by Abbuehl, designed by Skillman; signed by Weems 23
June 1960; approved 31 August by Conrad Wirth

Year of Publication: 1960

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Citation Title: 2174 E “State Line to Horse Gap – General Development Plans –
Part of the Master Plan”
February 1961; designed by PWK-WNG

Year of Publication: 1961

Source Name: DSC/TIC

Bluffs Lodge

Blue Ridge Parkway - Highlands District

Citation Title:	2078 C "Doughton Park, N.C. – Developed Areas & Utilities – Part of the Master Plan" December 1962 update; designed by PVC-AFR; recommended by Weems 10 January 1963
Year of Publication:	1963
Source Name:	DSC/TIC