
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2012



Gulpha Gorge Campground
Hot Springs National Park

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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:

Brief Physical Description:

The Gulpha Gorge Campground is situated within Hot Springs National Park, several miles northeast of downtown Hot Springs, Bathhouse Row, and the Fordyce Visitor Center. The 16-acre site, a portion of which is devoted to picnic use, lies adjacent to U.S. Highway 7S; this road acts as the campground's eastern border while Gulpha Creek defines the western side. It lies in a valley surrounded by Indian Mountain to the east and Hot Springs Mountain on the west. This dramatic sense of enclosure is one of several unique aspects exhibited by the campground and its setting. Although the campground is located approximately three miles away from the core of downtown and Bathhouse Row, it is linked to the park's extensive network of trails.

Distinct features found here include: stone retaining walls lying along portions of the creek, remnant stone and concrete ruins associated with two (non-extant) dams, Mission 66-era rock walls, fire ring, steps, comfort stations, amphitheater and related seating; a Ranger Residence (originally the "Caretaker's Cabin"; now the VIP Residence--Building #41); and mature vegetation that may date to one or both periods of significance.

The Gulpha Gorge Campground retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association. The aspects of materials and workmanship have been diminished slightly due to the loss over time of several key features such as the dams and associated swimming pool, original comfort stations, foot bridge, bathhouse, and original "community hall," which underwent several instances of rehabilitation/remodeling over time and is currently identified as building #43, the contact station. (Certain elements of the original building may lie within this modern building; this is discussed further in the "Buildings and Structures" section.)

The overall condition of the campground is considered good: the landscape exhibits no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and 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 (CLI v. 1.0 User's Guide 2005).

Period of Significance:

It is suggested that there be two periods of significance for the Gulpha Gorge Campground. The first is 1924-1934, covering the time that the park obtained the property, initial construction work was completed, and the CCC/CWA involvement at the campground. The second period is 1960-1965, reflecting Mission 66-era funded construction activities; much of the appearance of the campground today is a direct result of this later period.

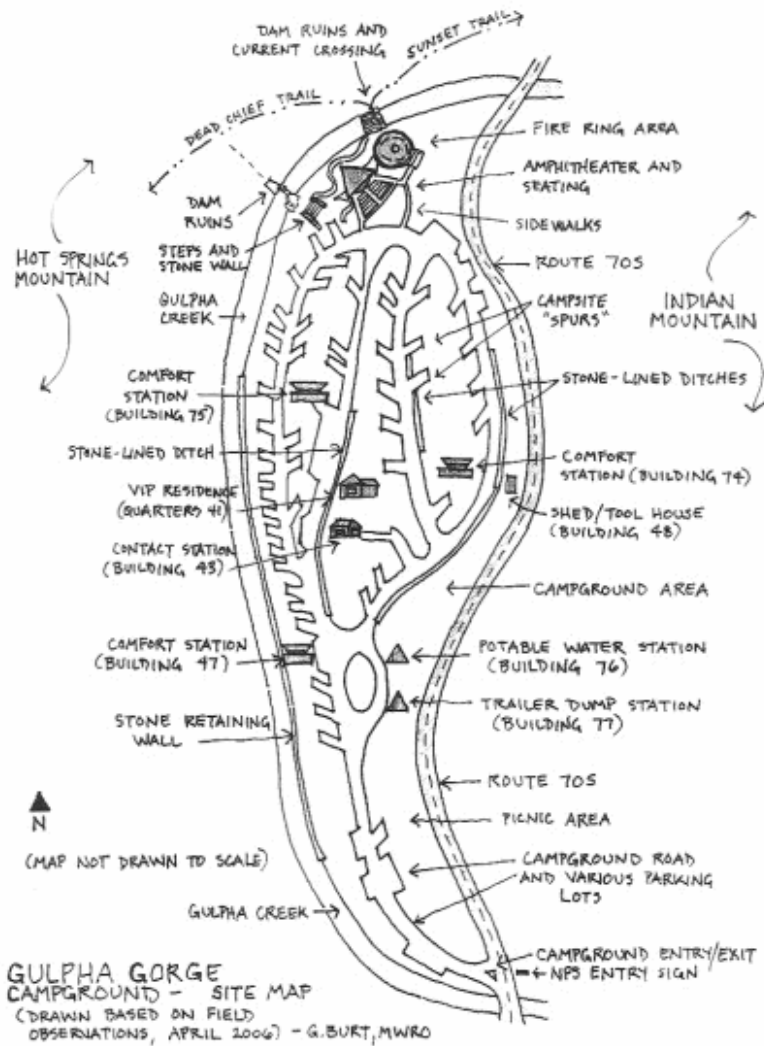
Landscape Integrity and Summary of Landscape Analysis and Evaluation:

The campground retains many features associated with the two periods of significance. The stone

retaining walls lying along portions of the creek, remnant stone and concrete ruins associated with two (non-extant) dams, and general camp layout and circulation are indicative of the first period. Also, the “Caretaker’s Cabin” (now the VIP Residence--Building #41) was constructed during this period. The rock walls, campfire ring, steps, two of the three comfort stations, amphitheater and associated seating are associated with the second period. The overall layout and pattern of the campground was updated during this period. Many of the trees situated throughout the site likely date to the second period and some may date to the first.

As mentioned previously, several important original features no longer exist and this has diminished integrity to some extent, but the retention of other important landscape characteristics such as the overall spatial organization and layout, land use, circulation, topography, vegetation, setting and natural systems serve to reinforce the historic character and integrity of the landscape as a whole and assist with the conveyance of the campground’s significance. Since 1924 when the park acquired the campground, the landscape has undergone an evolution that is reflected in the losses and additions as well as the continuity of form, order, use, features, and materials. The campground provides an excellent example of a landscape that reflects and emphasizes continuity while acknowledging a chronological “layering.”

Site Plan



Site map of Gulpha Gorge Campground, drawn in field, April 2006. Not to scale.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Gulpha Gorge Campground
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	975290

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Hot Springs National Park -HOSP
Park Organization Code:	7300
Park Administrative Unit:	Hot Springs National Park

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	07/25/2006
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	08/18/2006

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Hot Springs National Park
101 Reserve Street
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901



IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 25, 2006

H3017 (HOSP)

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Midwest Region
Attention: Historical Landscape Architect Geoffrey Burt

From: Acting Superintendent, Hot Springs National Park

Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Gulpha Gorge Campground
Reply due: July 28

As requested by the Acting Regional Director's memo of June 27, 2006, we have reviewed the CLI for the Gulpha Gorge Campground. We agree with the condition and management category assigned and have made comments/corrections on the document as necessary.

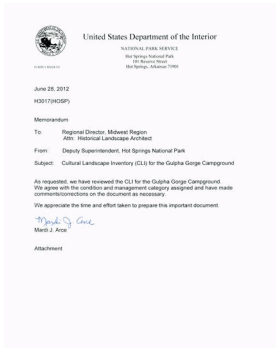
We appreciate the time and effort taken to prepare this important document.

Dale Moss

Attachment

Gulpha Gorge Campground Hot Springs National Park

Superintendent concurrence on CLI for Gulpha Gorge, dated July 25, 2006.



Superintendent concurrence on CLI for Gulpha Gorge update, dated July 28, 2012.



The Department of
**Arkansas
Heritage**

August 18, 2006

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

William S. Harlow
Chief, Historic Architecture and Landscapes
National Park Service, Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

Arkansas Arts Council
•
Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission
•
Delta Cultural Center
•
Historic Arkansas Museum
•
Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center
•
Old State House Museum

RE: Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas
Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Gulpha Gorge Campground
H3017(MWR-CR/HAL)

Dear Mr. Harlow:

This letter is written in response to your recent correspondence concerning the proposed referenced project. Thank you for providing a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Gulpha Gorge Campground for our files and review.

We have reviewed the report, and agree with the findings of the report that the Campground is eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

If you should have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Ralph S. Wilcox at (501) 324-9880.

Yours truly,

Ken Grunewald
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

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Arkansas SHPO concurrence on CLI for Gulpha Gorge, dated August 18, 2006.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The campground boundaries are defined by Gulpha Gorge Creek along the west edge and by U.S. Highway 7S on the east edge. The northern and southern boundary is defined by the points where the creek and the road intersect.

State and County:

State: AR

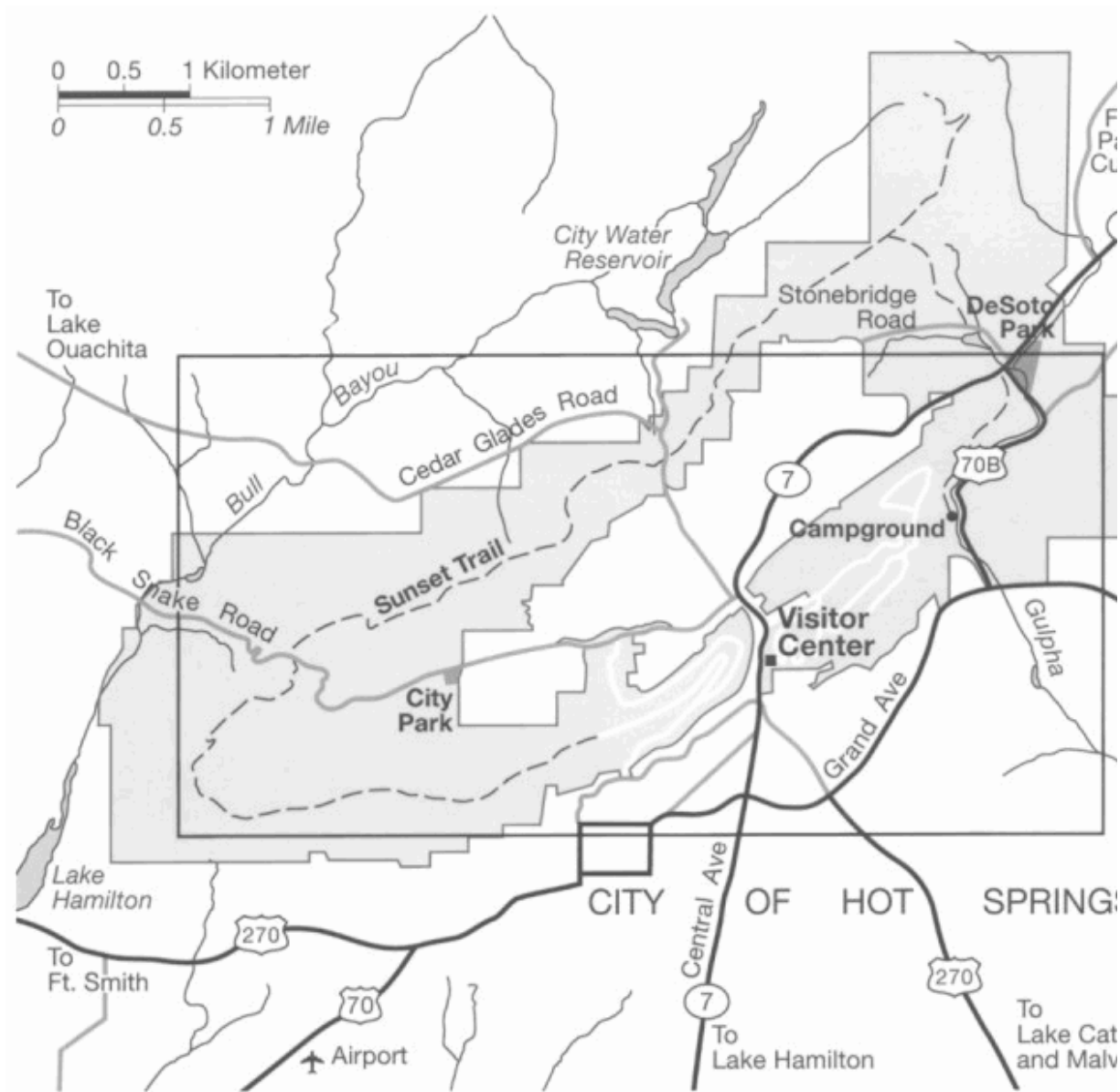
County: Garland County

Size (Acres): 16.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	Other Datum
UTM Zone:	15
UTM Easting:	496,656
UTM Northing:	3,820,487
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	Other Datum
UTM Zone:	15
UTM Easting:	496,628
UTM Northing:	3,820,319
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	Other Datum
UTM Zone:	15
UTM Easting:	496,717
UTM Northing:	3,820,069

Location Map:



Location map indicating relationship of the campground to surrounding park and city of Hot Springs. (Source: NPS web site <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/parks/hosp/ppMaps/HOSPmap2%2Epdf>)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/28/2012

Maintenance Location Code: 61341

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The NPS does not have a management agreement associated with this property.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Other Restrictions

Explanatory Narrative:

Campers must register at contact station, pay a fee, acquire a permit, and follow posted rules and regulations. Use of the amphitheater and/or fire ring area also requires a permit. Access to the picnic area is open between hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Picnicking activity within the campsites is prohibited unless registered for that specific campsite and the camping fee is paid.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

The surrounding mountain slopes remain much as they existed during the period of significance. This sense of enclosure reinforces the overall historic integrity of the site.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Undocumented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Prior to the completion of the CLI for the Gulpha Gorge Campground, the landscape was not documented through either the National Register or the Arkansas SHPO.

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:

Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Contributing/Individual:

Individual

National Register Classification:

Site

Significance Level:

Local

Significance Criteria:

A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	1924 - 1934
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Recreation
Facet:	General Recreation
Other Facet:	Tourism; Camping
Time Period:	1924 - 1934
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works
Time Period:	1960 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Recreation
Facet:	General Recreation
Other Facet:	Tourism; camping
Time Period:	1960 - 1965
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	NPS Mission 66--Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Entertainment - Recreation
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

Gulpha Gorge Campground is eligible for listing to the National Register under Criterion A for its association with trends related to the design and development of campgrounds in national parks. The development of this campground since its acquisition in 1924 has been directly affected by work related

to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Civilian Works Administration (CWA), and Mission 66-funded improvements. Although certain original features once associated with the campground no longer exist, the overall balance of continuity of use, evolution of campground facilities, and retention of distinctive characteristics contribute to the distinct historic character and identity of this site.

The park acquired Gulpha Gorge Campground at a time when design, layout, and improvement of campgrounds in national parks were a major focus. In 1918, Director Stephen Mather appointed Charles P. Punchard, Jr., as the National Park Service's first landscape engineer (as park designers were called at the time). Among other pressing matters, Punchard gave special attention to the development and layout of park campgrounds. In the years following the end of World War I throughout the 1920s, parks saw an increased need for new or enlarged campgrounds to accommodate an increase in visitors. This period coincided with a burgeoning popularity in automobile use and related recreational opportunities. Punchard's efforts entailed locating and developing permanent "automobile camps" or rehabilitating existing camps, such as Gulpha Gorge (McClelland 1998, 136, 143).

Punchard's basic requirements for national park campgrounds included: availability of good drinking water, accessible sanitary toilet facilities, selecting sites based on water supply and potential screening from roads, and potential for building dams to create reservoirs. Trees were cut and brush was removed to provide space for roads, parking, camp sites and outdoor living. Fireplaces, seats, tables and shelters were considered necessities. Punchard viewed campground improvements as a priority; in 1920 he urged the "higher development of the automobile campground" to proceed "with renewed vigor" (ibid., 144-145).

Little is currently known about the camp before the park assumed control. It is likely that the campground was a small, locally established site, with only minimal services and features before it was donated to the park in 1924. Engineer and philanthropist John Fordyce, son of Samuel Fordyce, donated the campground to the park through the local Chamber of Commerce. Upon acquisition, the campground's facilities and general condition were well below the standard of what was deemed acceptable by the NPS. As documented in the Superintendent's Report (FY1925): "The 16 acres of land, when taken over, were densely covered with underbrush, and there were several marshy places. The underbrush was cleared away; low places were filled in; ditches were cut and tile was laid to drain wet places. A comfort station for men and women, with pressure flush toilets, was erected...A road was built to open up parts of the grounds for camp sites...The dressing rooms were remodeled."

To further bring this campground up to the level defined by Punchard, the next several years saw a flurry of work intended to greatly improve the campground's appearance and functionality. Using Punchard's campground requirements as a guide, park workers continued to clear brush, make improvements to the camp road, water, and electrical system, graded and leveled grounds, dug ditches, and planted trees and shrubs. A dam along the adjacent creek had previously been built, creating a reservoir or swimming pool; this pool was drained and the dam was repaired and reconstructed during this time. Workers constructed an additional comfort station as well as a rustic "community hall" (Superintendent's Annual Reports, 1920s).

By 1932 the campground had undergone major improvements and visitor use was consistently high. Ongoing improvements included the construction of the Caretaker's Cabin as well as a new bathing building that contained changing booths. In this year, the "Meinecke Plan" for campground development was released by the U.S. Forest Service. This plan called for the "extensive rehabilitation of existing campgrounds" as well as closing of older outdated campgrounds and construction of new ones. Although developed through the Forest Service, the plan and the related work was closely adhered to, and Meinecke's theories were carried out extensively in the NPS (*ibid.*, 281-282). Elements of the plan were carried out at Gulpha Gorge: one-way loop roads, parking "spurs" off the road with adjacent campsites offering equal amenities, and protection of existing vegetation in addition to planting additional vegetation between camp sites to increase privacy (*ibid.*, 279-280). Plans drawn and approved in 1932-33 indicate that the overall layout and location of circulation pathways and camp features at Gulpha Gorge were established at this time. Noted NPS landscape architect Charles E. Peterson, a disciple of Thomas C. Vint, signed these plans for distribution.

The Emergency Conservation Work program (ECW), signed into law by President Roosevelt on March 31, 1933, provided funding for the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was viewed as a means to carry out a wide range of useful and needed work projects in state and national parks, including campground improvement. By May of that year a temporary camp had been established near Hot Springs to accommodate CCC workers. The improvements to Gulpha Gorge that had been accomplished since 1924 would be augmented by the additional work efforts by CCC workers in 1933.

CCC work in NPS campgrounds included clearing, grubbing, and thinning underbrush; marking of trees and screening vegetation for preservation; planting additional trees and shrubs as needed; and construction of campground-related features such as comfort stations, signs and picnic tables. The design and layout of campgrounds sought to accommodate further increases in automobile traffic and trailer camping (*ibid.*, 336, 372). CCC work at Gulpha Gorge included much of this type of work effort; specific projects included building a rock culvert and rock retaining wall along Gulpha Creek, further excavation of the existing swimming pool and new dam, and removal of certain mature trees and preservation of others (Superintendent's Annual Report for 1933).

CCC workers departed Hot Springs in December of 1933, and the work on the dam was continued and completed by workers funded through the Civil Works Administration (CWA) in 1934. The intervening years saw few major projects at Gulpha Gorge. Of note, the official name of "Gulpha Gorge Campground" was approved by the park superintendent in 1939; previous to this time, the campground had been known variously as "free auto camp," "government free campground," "government free tourist camp," "public campground," etc. Also during this time, the swimming pool was closed in 1941 due to tests indicating the water was polluted; the "community hall" was remodeled for use as a garage and fire tool cache in 1945; and the dam was dynamited in 1947 (Superintendent's Annual Reports, 1930s and 1940s).

By 1957, the park saw a renewed focus on the campground with the establishment of Mission 66, the NPS's multimillion-dollar program intended to alleviate the backlog of park work needed to meet the

demands of a post-World War II influx of visitors and automobile traffic. Although broader in scope than the Punchard and Meinecke plans, Mission 66 did have as a major component an emphasis on upgrading campgrounds throughout the park system. In September of 1957, a “Master Plan Conference” was held at Hot Springs that included a representative of the Washington, D.C.-based Mission 66 staff as well as two representatives from the Eastern Office of Design and Construction. It is unclear to what extent Gulpha Gorge was discussed at this meeting, but one immediate product of the Mission 66 effort at Hot Springs was the construction of the first amphitheater in Gulpha Gorge. Built by park maintenance staff, it had stone flooring and walls, concrete benches, a campfire circle, and possessed a seating capacity of 200 (Mark Blaeuer, HOSP, referencing Fixed Property Record #10-559, 1982). By 1960, a renewed emphasis on major improvements at the campground was under way (Shugart, 2000).

Between 1960 and 1965, in keeping with Mission 66 goals, the park constructed several new structures and the overall layout of the campground was redesigned to accommodate additional camping spurs and parking areas. Two new comfort stations were constructed in 1960 and a third was built soon after (1968). The “community hall” was remodeled once again ca. 1963-65 for use as a registration/ranger’s station. Although a major rehabilitation, it is believed a portion of the original 1926 building still remains within the newer structure, although this has yet to be conclusively proven. In 1965 the old changing bathhouses and the original amphitheater were razed to make room for a new, 300-seat amphitheater with adjoining stone and mortar retaining walls, fire pit, seating, steps, and paved surfaces. A new entrance road was completed in this year and other assorted camp features were installed such as picnic tables, fireplaces, and trash receptacles. Finally, landscape improvements were completed such as topsoiling, grading, and planting trees and shrubs (Superintendent’s Annual Reports for 1960s).

Gulpha Gorge campground today possesses key elements and retains integrity for both periods of significance: 1924-1934 and 1960-1965. The overall layout pattern and circulation alignment, the CCC-constructed rock work along the creek, and the Caretaker’s Cabin all date to the first period. The ruins and traces of the non-extant dams are still very evident and are important elements of the campground’s history. The campground conveys the goals of the Mission 66-era with regard to “quintessential” campground features: the amphitheater and the campfire circle (McClelland 1998, 468). These extant landscape features reinforce the historic character and assist with the conveyance of the site’s significance. As mentioned previously, the Gulpha Gorge campground cultural landscape retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association; the aspects of materials and workmanship have been diminished to some extent due to the loss of several key features over time. However, these aspects are reinforced through the subsequent addition of the Mission-66 funded comfort stations, amphitheater and associated rock walls, seating, and campfire ring.

Although associated with and representative of a national trend regarding the design, development and management of campgrounds in national parks, Gulpha Gorge campground is considered significant at the local level for its role in and importance to the city of Hot Springs and the surrounding region for over 82 years.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Campground/Picnic Area

Primary Current Use: Campground/Picnic Area

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Gulpha Gorge Campground	Both Current And Historic
Automobile Tourist Camp	Historic
Government Free Campground	Historic
Government Free Tourist Camp	Historic
Government Auto Camp	Historic
Public Campground	Historic
Free Auto Camp	Historic
Free Auto Trailer Camp	Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Physical History:

The following is an excerpt from the Historic American Engineering Record - Gulpha Gorge Bridges:

In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson sent William Dunbar and George Hunter to explore a part of Louisiana Territory known as “The Hot Springs of the Washita.” Their widely publicized report on the area’s many thermal mineral springs generated public interest, and people began making pilgrimages to bathe in and drink the therapeutic waters. By 1832m commercial exploitation of the hot springs had grown to such an extent that territorial representative Ambrose Sevier convinced Congress to set aside four sections of land as a national reservation. During the nineteenth century, “taking the cure” at mineral spring resorts became fashionable and Hot Springs became a popular tourist destination.

Gulpha Gorge, located two miles northeast of downtown Hot Spring, had long been a popular spot with visitors wishing to access the springs and commune with nature. From an early date, the gorge attracted charity patients, who erected “a little camp of rude tents and huts... where the bathers live, forming a little community drawn together by one common brotherhood of infirmity.” The advent of the automobile in the early twentieth century brought increasing numbers of transients to the area, accompanied by a certain level of squalor, vandalism and unlawful activities. Later, an influx of automobile tourists put an additional strain on the area’s infrastructure. Local, state and federal authorities cooperatively attempted to address these problems by transferring legal jurisdiction of the Gulpha Gorge campground to the Federal Government in 1924. Over the next year, the National Park Service built facilities for a modern, safe auto camp in the gorge.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The campground retains many important landscape features, most of which are associated with either or both periods of significance. The stone retaining walls lying along portions of the creek, remnant stone and concrete ruins associated with two (non-extant) dams, and general camp layout and circulation are indicative of the first period. Also, the “Caretaker’s Cabin” (now the VIP Residence-Building #41) was constructed during this period. The rock walls, campfire ring, steps, comfort stations, amphitheater and associated seating are associated with the second period. Many of the trees situated throughout the site likely date to the second period and some may date to the first.

As mentioned previously, several original built features no longer exist, and this has diminished the overall integrity slightly, but the retention of other important landscape characteristics such as the overall spatial organization and layout, consistent land use, circulation alignment, site topography and adjacent slopes, vegetation (primarily in the number and massing of mature trees), setting and natural systems serve to reinforce the historic character and integrity of the landscape as a whole and assist with the conveyance of the campground’s significance. Since 1924 when the park acquired the campground, the campground landscape has undergone a consistent, orderly evolution that is reflected in some losses and changes but more importantly in the continuity of form, order, use, features, and materials. The campground provides an excellent example of a dynamic landscape that reflects and emphasizes continuity while acknowledging change. It can truly be said that a visitor today can very much experience and gain a sense of the landscape as it was ca. early 1930s and again ca. early 1960s.

Aspects of Integrity:	Location
	Design
	Setting
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling
	Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

The general pattern and organization of this campground has remained essentially intact since the initial planning and design dating to the first period of significance, enduring subtle updates over time and the renewed planning during the second, up through current day. The alignment of the loop road and pattern of camping spur layout has evolved in subtle ways from the layout indicated in maps from both periods of significance. What exists today is a result of gradual

evolution of the camp site over 80+ years, in response to changing demands and needs of camp users and vehicles and park management policies. Subtle change of this sort is reflective of a dynamic, evolving landscape and such minimal changes do not seriously detract from the integrity of the site. Additional aspects of spatial organization that retain integrity include the defining edges of road (current U.S. Highway 7S) and Gulpha Creek, the overhead plane formed by the consistent massing of trees and canopy throughout the campground, and the immediate surroundings of the landscape—the sense of enclosure formed by neighboring Indian Mountain and Hot Springs Mountain.

Acknowledging that some individual features have been lost or endured change, including the loss of several buildings and structures and the dam and swimming pool, the essential patterns have remained generally intact. Additional buildings have been constructed to assume similar three-dimensional form in the landscape. The current spatial separation of the picnic area from the camping/amphitheater area dates to the early 1960s-Mission 66 period. The current spatial organization, appearance and function closely reflects the historic spatial organization, appearance and function and strongly reinforces the site's overall integrity.

Vegetation

The 1932 “Meinecke Plan” for campgrounds (discussed previously) focused on, among other issues, the preservation of as many mature, healthy trees as possible in order to provide substantial shade from the dense canopy overstory, and retention and planting of shrubs and smaller trees between camp sites to provide separation, privacy, and an overall natural setting that visitors expected (McClellan 1998, 280). Review of period photographs indicates that the vegetation at Gulpha Gorge conveyed these intentions and a large number of trees have consistently been present throughout the entire campground. This presence of a wide variety of large mature trees has not changed over time and is still the case today. A comparison of a listing of trees from 1933 and more current observations indicate that many of those species still exist. Various trees may not be of a type present during that earlier time, but of all the landscape characteristics, vegetation is the most dynamic in nature and it is expected that specimens will ultimately die and be replaced by the same or similar species.

One notable change at the campground between the current appearance and the historic period is that, again reflective of the Meinecke Plan, shrubs were planted between the individual camp sites to provide compartmentalization as well as to provide some degree of privacy and screening. Currently, there is little understory vegetation to provide this separation between camp sites. Although there is substantially less shrubbery between the camp sites, the massing and number of trees does continue to provide needed shade and a pleasant natural setting. The shrubbery once located between camp sites could potentially be gradually reinstituted to recover this functional aspect.

It is infeasible at this time to identify each individual tree as contributing; perhaps if a tree identification project is undertaken in the future this could yield helpful information to the park. In general, this characteristic retains integrity, primarily due to the overall number and massing of the trees. Integrity would be heightened by the gradual replanting of shrubs as mentioned.

Circulation

Hot Springs Superintendent's reports dating from the 1920s through the 1960s periodically mention work being performed on the circulation system within the campground and on the adjacent highway. Work ranged from major improvements of roadway segments (i.e., work on the "original Gulpha Gorge Road" in 1928, and subsequent improvements in 1936-1937 to the "new county road," later identified as U.S. Highway 70B and currently known as Highway 7S), to minor periodic resurfacing. Maps dating to the early 1930s, compared with existing conditions, indicate that the alignment of the portion of the highway that runs along the east side of the campground has not substantially changed over time. The location of Highway 7S as the defining eastern edge of the campground has always been a critical characteristic, as a boundary feature. North of the campground, a segment of the Sunset Trail lies along what was the original highway roadbed.

Within the campground, minor additions/alterations over time such as the number and location of parking spurs, location of parking areas, subtle realignment of the campground loop roads, and slight variations to the entrance to the park have not affected the overall integrity of this landscape characteristic.

The circulation systems at Gulpha Gorge, though likely altered somewhat since the period of significance, retain a continuation of use and integrity of location, setting, feeling and association. Their presence assists with the conveyance of the site's historic character.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Highway 7S
Feature Identification Number:	110656
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Campground roads
Feature Identification Number:	110660
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Campground spurs
Feature Identification Number:	110662
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Parking areas
Feature Identification Number:	110664
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Buildings and Structures

Historically, there were several buildings and structures that no longer exist at Gulpha Gorge. These include:

- Three comfort stations, a garage with storerooms, a pump and meter house, original dressing room shacks, and a 1932 bathing building with changing booths
- 2 dams, currently represented by submerged/partially submerged stone and concrete ruins in two locations in Gulpha Creek (see “Archeological Features” section)

Extant buildings and structures constructed during either the first or second period of significance include:

- The Caretaker’s Cabin (currently known as the VIP residence, Artist-in-Residence cabin, or quarters #41), built in 1932. This building has been determined eligible to the National Register and is documented in current LCS records.
- The stone retaining walls along the creek, built by CCC labor in 1933. These too have been determined eligible and are documented in the LCS.
- The Mission 66 amphitheater, associated rock walls, and fire ring. These are not currently listed in the LCS but are considered contributing to the significance of the cultural landscape.
- Two Mission 66-era comfort stations (buildings #47 and #74), built in 1960
- The “community hall” (currently building #43)—this was originally constructed in 1925-1926 and endured several rehabilitation/remodeling projects over the interim. Over the years it has been converted into a garage and storage for fire cache, a ranger’s station and garage, and ultimately became the current registration/contact station (building #43). It is not clear what if any portion of the original building still exists within the current structure—this is open to some debate. (As part of a 2003 Section 106 compliance action, Mark Blaeuer, Section 106 coordinator for the park, presented an excellent explanation of the evolution of the building and a rationale for the current thought that portions of the original structure lie within.) Although the building has undergone major alterations over time and individually may lack distinction and integrity, as a significant component of the overall cultural landscape it is considered contributing. It is in the same location, reinforces the character, setting and feeling of the campground, and it conveys the culmination and adaptation of a long evolution of campground needs and building uses.

Buildings and structures that have been built since the second period of significance include:

- Three structures lying along the east side of the campground—a water access station, a trailer dump station, and a storage/tool shed.
- Third, “upper” comfort station (building #75) constructed in 1968 (FMSS data). This comfort station, built outside the defined period of significance, is not considered contributing to the significance of the site, but because it is built with the same form and appearance and provides identical use to the other comfort stations, is considered contributing to the character of the landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Contact Station (building #43)

Gulpha Gorge Campground
Hot Springs National Park

Feature Identification Number: 110768

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VIP Residence (quarters #41)

Feature Identification Number: 110774

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64756

LCS Structure Name: Gulpha Gorge Ranger's Residence

LCS Structure Number: Q-41

Feature: Stone retaining wall

Feature Identification Number: 110780

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64757

LCS Structure Name: Gulpha Gorge Stone Walls

LCS Structure Number: 43

Feature: Amphitheater, walls, fire ring

Feature Identification Number: 110784

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 2 Comfort stations

Feature Identification Number: 110798

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Water access station

Feature Identification Number: 110804

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trailer dump station

Feature Identification Number: 110810

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Storage/tool shed

Feature Identification Number: 110816

Gulpha Gorge Campground
Hot Springs National Park

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: 1968 comfort station

Feature Identification Number: 110820

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



1933 view of dam, swimming pool, and bath house in background. (Source: HOSP archives, 2006).



Quarters 41 (source: CLI inventory)



Stone retaining wall (source: CLI inventory)



Mission 66 amphitheater and seating (source: CLI inventory)



Fire ring, steps, rock walls (source: CLI inventory)



Comfort station #47 (source: CLI inventory)



Building #43 (source: CLI inventory)

Small Scale Features

Small-scale features at the campground include the seating that faces and is part of the amphitheater, the associated stone and mortar benches and steps, drinking fountains, stone-lined drainage ditches, stone curbs, picnic tables (concrete and typical wood variety), various signs, street lights and light poles, and stone-lined surface at the camp entrance. Of all the landscape characteristics discussed, the least amount of information has been discovered that might shed additional light on these features. Future research and/or discussions with park staff may reveal useful information regarding these features. Based on professional judgment at the time of this inventory, it is felt that contributing features include the stone-lined drainage ditches, stone curbs, street lights and light poles. More recent campground facilities built subsequent to the Mission 66 period are not contributing at this time. (In 2004, bench seating associated with the amphitheater, composed of recycled plastic and wood chips, replaced the wood bench seating that was severely deteriorated and rotting. Funding for this project was provided by a National Park Foundation grant and a donation from Unilever Corp. Although not considered contributing historically, the seating reinforces the overall character and integrity of the amphitheater.)

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Stone-lined drainage ditches
Feature Identification Number:	110822
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Stone curbs
Feature Identification Number:	110824
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Street lights and light poles
Feature Identification Number:	110828
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Drinking fountains
Feature Identification Number:	110830
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Picnic tables
Feature Identification Number:	110834
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Signs
Feature Identification Number:	110836
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Bench seating at amphitheater
Feature Identification Number:	110840
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Stone steps and wall sw of amphitheater
Feature Identification Number:	116880
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	64757
LCS Structure Name:	Gulpha Gorge Stone Walls
LCS Structure Number:	43

Natural Systems and Features

Little is currently known about the campground prior to the park assuming control. It can be surmised that whoever observed this site and decided to establish a campground here was very likely impressed by the advantageous combination of a relatively level valley floor situated between two mountain slopes, access to an adjacent spring (Iron Spring), large rock outcrops, a well-flowing stream, and what was probably a generous massing of trees and shrubs. The dense canopy would provide ample shade and an understory of shrubs, grass and wildflowers would provide a lush natural setting. The original campground included a constructed dam that formed a swimming pool, providing recreational opportunities, and early, primitive shacks that served as changing booths. The park's adaptation to this campground included substantial clearing of brush and general overgrowth to open up the grounds for additional camping spaces as well to present an overall neat and orderly appearance. Buildings and structures constructed by the park were of the rustic appearance prevalent at the time. This balance of natural, rustic surroundings combined with a more managed approach within the campground, while providing facilities exhibiting rustic design characteristics, has been a consistent occurrence over time. This reflects the general intent of Charles P. Punchard, National Park Service landscape engineer, who in 1919 sought to preserve natural resources while providing "improvements for the comfort and accommodation of park visitors" (McClelland 1998, 137). This policy was acted on and renewed in 1932 with the release through the U.S. Forest Service of "A Camp Ground Policy," which essentially set forth Emilio Meinecke's ideas and plans for campground design and management (McClelland 1998, 278). Gulpha Gorge campground exhibits a true balance of a cultural adaptation and response to the rugged natural setting. The characteristic of natural systems and features retains integrity and continues to assist with the conveyance of the site's significance.

Land Use

The evolving spatial organization and pattern of the campground (discussed previously) was shaped by the land uses already in place in 1924 as well as various needs and uses that came about over the intervening years. Land uses for the campground have essentially changed very little since the first and through the second period of significance, through current day. This site has been used consistently as a campground since the NPS assumed control and management responsibilities in 1924. Inspection of period photographs and review of records and annual reports indicate that from the earliest days, the park's intention was to set a tone here by reducing the number of large trailers, associated hook-ups, and limits on long-term camping. Use of this campground has focused more on daily uses such as lunch picnicking, swimming, campfire gatherings and other outdoor leisure activities. This has continued over time and these uses continue to be the predominant focus. Additional campground uses currently include programs centered at the amphitheater, weddings, interpretive and educational programs, an Artist-in-Residence program, and opportunities to hike the trails that are linked with the campground.

Due to the retention of consistent types of use of this campground since the park assumed control in 1924, this landscape characteristic retains substantial integrity and greatly contributes to the historic character.

Archeological Sites

The remains of the two dams, currently represented by a combination of submerged and exposed concrete and stone ruins, are considered historic features that contribute to the significance of the campground. As ruins or traces, these are considered to be primarily archeological in nature. The concrete slab and stone pedestrian crossing that currently lies over the site of the earlier dam is likely a more recent construction. These “stepping-stones,” in combination with a slight build-up of mortar and stone and a broad, terraced concrete slab, act as a minor dam of sorts, reminiscent of the dam and swimming pool that existed pre-1941. Although currently listed on the LCS as an eligible structure, more research is needed to determine the construction history and potential significance of these features. Research in conjunction with the CLI has not discovered information specific to these more recent features.

In 1990, as part of a plumbing construction project, artifacts were discovered and are registered with the state of Arkansas (site 3GA760). This project is detailed in the report entitled “Comments on Historical Artifacts from Gulpha Gorge, Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas,” by James E. Bradford and Charles M. Haecker. Full reference can be found in the bibliography of this inventory report.

According to the 2008-2012 SAIP report, the archeological site 3GA00760 encompasses two-thirds of the campground’s northern portion, while the campground’s southern one-third has potential to have archeological resources associated with the ca. 1920’s Ozark Camp. The northern portion contains both historic and prehistoric components. The historic elements relate both to the ca. 1920s Ozark Camp and the early years of the Free Government Campground (later Gulpha Gorge Campground). There also may have been an historic burial in this location as well somewhere near the northern margin of the amphitheater. The prehistoric component below the historic levels is extensive and appears to be intact. This dates to the circa 1400-500 B.C. of the Late Archaic Period. While there are numerous prehistoric quarries in the park, this is one of the four very rare prehistoric campsites which occur there.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Remains of upper dam and current crossing steps
(source: CLI inventory).*

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 06/30/2006

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Definition: the landscape exhibits no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and 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 (CLI v. 1.0 User's Guide 2005).

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 05/24/2012

Stabilization Measures:

Current stabilization measures for Gulpha Gorge include the repair of stone retaining walls and stone surface water collection/draining raceways; current specific stabilization projects include repairing the concrete footbridge over Gulpha Creek by the amphitheater, replacement of deteriorated concrete picnic tables, and repairing rockwork and benches at the ring of fire area.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: Aggressive invasive plants are displacing native vegetation. Privet, honeysuckle, Trees of Heaven, and Wisteria are target species for the Exotic Plant Management Team but are located along the inaccessible steep slopes of the Gulpha Creek.

Type of Impact: Soil Compaction

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Frequent visitation could lead to areas of soil compaction

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Combination of time and deferred maintenance leads to deterioration of concrete picnic tables, sheds, buildings, retaining

walls, benches, etc.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Self-explanatory

Type of Impact: Erosion

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: Erosion of creek edges and retaining wall due to creek flow; erosion of soil due to compaction; erosion of rock features due to exposure to elements

Type of Impact: Flooding

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: Infrequent flooding of creek but potentially very damaging to resources when this happens

Type of Impact: Vandalism/Theft/Arson

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Typical instances of graffiti, damage to structures and vegetation, etc.

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost: 31,410.08

Cost Date: 04/13/2006

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

FMSS work order hierarchy indicates there is a parent work order entitled "Rehab Rock Walls Gulpha Creek." Child work orders under this parent work order include "Repair Rock Wall" and "Repair Rock Benches." Total stabilization cost for these work orders totals \$31, 410.08. Additional landscape-related work reported through FMSS is typical cyclic, recurring, and deferred maintenance such as repairing the flag pole, removal of hazardous trees, replacing signs, etc. and these costs are not reported here.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

Currently there is no treatment document completed for Gulpha Gorge Campground; however, a CLR for the park is underway and may provide treatment recommendations for this landscape.

Approved Treatment Costs

Landscape Treatment Cost: 0.00

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

No treatment costs are in place at this time.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Author:	Shugart, Sharon
Citation Title:	"The Hot Springs of Arkansas: A Chronology of Hot Springs Events"
Year of Publication:	2002
Citation Publisher:	NPS
Source Name:	Other
Citation Author:	Harrison, Laura Soulliere
Citation Title:	National Register documentation: "Historic Resources of Hot Springs National Park" (draft; never approved)
Year of Publication:	1988
Citation Publisher:	NPS
Source Name:	Other
Citation Author:	Bradford, James E. and Charles M. Haecker
Citation Title:	"Comments on Historical Artifacts from Gulpha Gorge, Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas." Park Papers HOSP-02, Sante Fe, N.M.
Year of Publication:	1993
Citation Publisher:	NPS, SWRO, Div. of Anthropology, Branch of CRM
Source Name:	Other
Citation Author:	Carr, Ethan
Citation Title:	"Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma" final draft
Year of Publication:	2005
Citation Publisher:	NPS
Source Name:	Other

Citation Author: McClelland, Linda Flint

Citation Title: "Building the National Parks"

Year of Publication: 1998

Citation Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: NPS staff

Citation Title: List of Classified Structures (LCS)

Year of Publication: 2006

Citation Publisher: NPS

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: various

Citation Title: Memos, letters and correspondence obtained from HOSP library and archives

Year of Publication: 2006

Citation Publisher: NPS

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: various

Citation Title: Facilities Management Software System (FMSS) database information

Year of Publication: 2006

Citation Publisher: NPS

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: Tolson, Hillary A.

Citation Title: "Laws Relating to the National Park Service: The National Parks and Monuments"

Year of Publication: 1933

Citation Publisher: NPS

Source Name: Other

Citation Author:	various
Citation Title:	Hot Springs National Park Superintendent's Monthly Reports, 1920-1970
Citation Publisher:	NPS
Source Name:	Other
Citation Author:	various
Citation Title:	Hot Springs National Park Superintendent's Annual Reports, 1920-1970
Citation Publisher:	NPS
Source Name:	Other
Citation Author:	Harrison, Laura Soulliere
Citation Title:	National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form: "The Development of the Thermal Waters, the Federal Reservation and National Park, and the Hot Springs Region" (draft; never approved)
Year of Publication:	1990
Citation Publisher:	NPS
Source Name:	Other