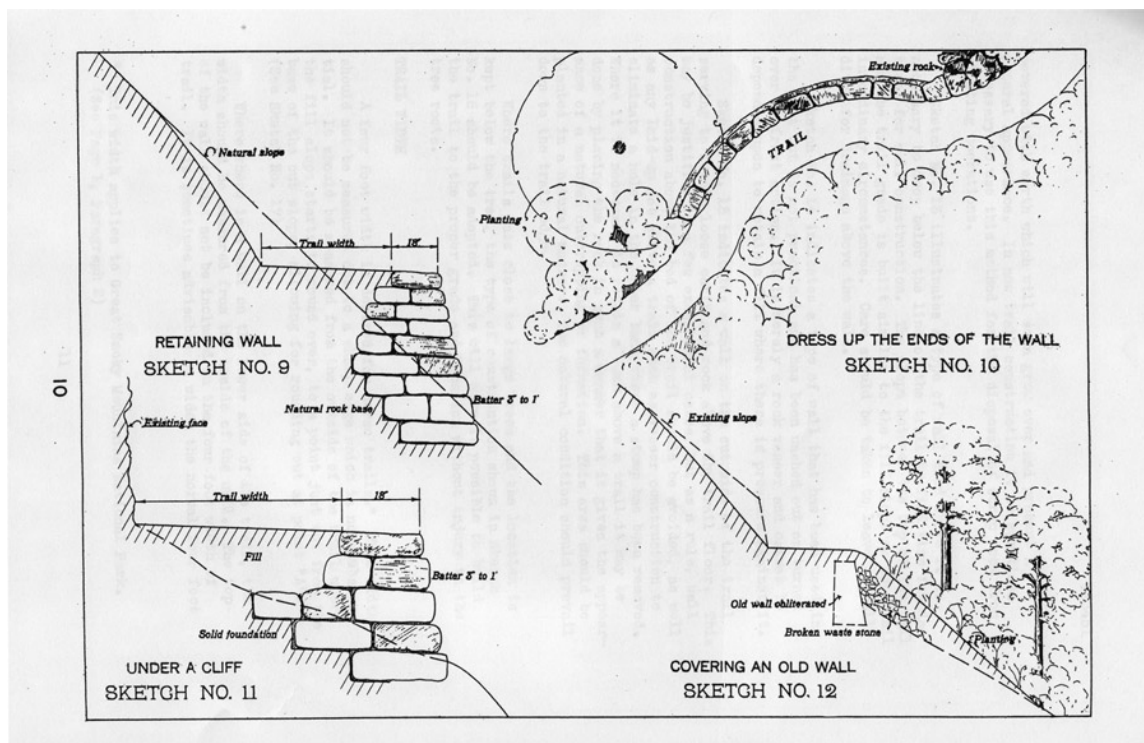

National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2007

Revised: 1/2026



Appalachian Trail Landscape
Shenandoah National Park

Table of Contents

Introduction

General Information

Concurrence Information

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Uses

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

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

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Appalachian Trail Landscape
Resource Classification:	Cultural Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	300129
Parent Landscape:	300129
Inventory Status:	Complete

Park Information

Park Name:	Shenandoah National Park
Alpha Code:	SHEN
Park Organization Code:	4840
Park District:	SHEN
Region:	Northeast
Restricted:	Yes

Landscape Description:

The Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park (NP) is comprised of three component landscapes, the North District, Central District, and South District. Together, they comprise the 103-mile long Appalachian Trail (AT) landscape within the 196,000-acre Shenandoah NP. The portion of the AT in Shenandoah NP is part of the 2,175-mile trail that follows the Appalachian Mountains from Georgia to Maine as conceived in 1921 and developed and opened as a continuous trail in 1937.

The North District includes twenty-four miles of trail from Possums Rest Overlook, accessed from Skyline Drive at Milepost (MP) 10.4 at the north end of the park near Front Royal, to Thornton Gap at MP 31.3 at Route 211. The Central District includes thirty-four miles of trail from Thornton Gap/Panorama, accessed from Skyline Drive at Milepost (MP) 31.5 at Route 211 (Lee Highway), to MP 65.5 at Route 33 (Spotswood Trail). The South District includes forty-five miles of trail from Swift Run Gap, accessed from Skyline Drive at Milepost (MP) 65.5 and the junction of Route 33 (Spotswood Trail), to the trail's end in Shenandoah NP at MP 105.4 at Interstate 64 and Route 240 at Rockfish Gap.

The study boundaries of the CLI for the AT include a twenty-foot wide corridor, ten-feet to either side of the trail's centerline. This distance was selected because it generally encompasses the constructed features associated with the trail such as retaining walls and signs. Features beyond this corridor were inventoried if they were associated with the construction of the AT, were easily viewed from the trail, or if they were part of the hiking experience (i.e. shelter or view). The trail corridor intersects Skyline Drive, numerous named side trails, and unnamed spur trails that lead to Skyline Drive overlooks, parking areas, rock outcrops, and views. Other trail junctions provide access to historic and non-historic cabins for day or overnight use.

Detailed information on the three segments of the AT in Shenandoah NP can be found in their respective reports.

HISTORY OVERVIEW

This area of the Blue Ridge Mountains was known and used by Paleo-Indians for many centuries, with the first human

presence beginning about 6,000-7,000 years ago, sometime after the last Ice Age. The first recorded European exploration of the area took place in 1669. After the arrival of European settlers, the local Native Americans were dying of introduced disease, and by 1800 they had disappeared completely or had moved away (Resource Management Plan, 1998:23). As the better farmlands were taken, the new settlers moved into the mountain hollows where they hunted, farmed, grazed livestock, and cleared the land of timber. Farming continued, including raising livestock, growing corn, and planting orchards but slowed during the droughts of 1929-1930. In 1926, Congress authorized Shenandoah NP in Virginia's Blue Ridge area to provide a large, western-type park accessible from the population centers of the East Coast.

In 1921, the idea of the Appalachian Trail was born when Benton MacKaye published "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning." It was a synthesis of ideas of the recreational movement and growing interest in regional planning and ignited a volunteer effort to build the AT from Georgia to Maine. MacKaye organized and convened the Appalachian Trail Conference in 1925, which later became the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. In 1927, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) was organized by Myron H. Avery, and in 1928 construction of the AT in Shenandoah began (Bates, 1987:7). By 1930, the last portion of the AT in Shenandoah NP was completed and its alignment generally followed the ridgeline in a north-south direction.

In 1931, the construction of Skyline Drive along the ridgeline in Shenandoah NP began, and between 1931 and 1938 the PATC worked to rebuild portions of the AT that were supplanted by the drive. In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) arrived in Shenandoah to work on the drive, the AT relocations, and other projects. The CCC improved old roads for the trail and constructed new trail using the National Park Service (NPS) Rustic style design guidelines, often employing stone retaining walls and trail edging to support the trail bed. The CCC also built stone and log cabins and shelters, and developed compatible yet more modern zinc-banded concrete trail markers. With the entry of the United States into World War II, the CCC was disbanded and park visitation slowed, although hiking continued. After the war, recreational interests increased nationwide and visits to the park rose along with hiking of the trail.

In 1956, NPS Director Conrad Wirth launched the "Mission 66" program, which anticipated high use of the parks, and planned improvements and expansion of facilities accordingly. In Shenandoah NP, a new highway overpass was constructed at Route 211 in 1960-61 and this area of the AT was relocated west. Visitation to Shenandoah NP and hiking the AT continued to increase in the 1970s, but the trail was showing signs of wear after so many years of heavy use. It had become more enclosed with vegetation, and erosion had changed the pitch on the trail bed requiring interventions such as log water bars.

Visitation was also on the rise on the entire AT. Recognizing the ever-increasing outdoor recreational needs of an expanding population and the promotion and preservation of outdoor areas and historic resources, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Trails System Act in 1968 designating the entire AT as the first National Scenic Trail on the East Coast. At this time, the PATC became a partner of the NPS. Developmental pressures also began to emerge along the trail. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the Appalachian Trail legislative amendments (Foster, 1987:149). These laws provided new tools and funding for land acquisition and additional lands were acquired along the trail corridor. That same year, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail was designated as a unit of the National Park system.

In 1981, the NPS Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan was developed and outlined how the AT was to be managed and maintained in light of its growing use and various outside pressures. In 1983, the Appalachian Trail Conference and the PATC entered into a cooperative agreement with the NPS for the management of the AT in Shenandoah NP. The gypsy moth epidemic of the 1980s and the start of the hemlock wooly adelgid infestation of the 1990s changed the character of some portions of the trail as trees succumbed to the diseases, leaving behind open areas and changing the scenic views.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY FOR THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL - NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH DISTRICTS

The AT in Shenandoah NP is significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of landscape architecture, architecture, community planning and development, politics/government, and entertainment/recreation. Under Criterion A, it is significant for its association with the early regional planning effort to establish a linked pedestrian greenway corridor on the East Coast. It also derives significance for its role in the history of park development to develop national parks for public enjoyment and to preserve natural features and scenic areas, by creating a pedestrian spine which parallels, both conceptually and

geographically, the vehicular spine of the Skyline Drive. Under Criterion C, the AT is significant as an example of trail design and methods of construction established by the NPS and implemented by the CCC. Now known as the NPS Rustic style, its principles and practices endeavored to harmonize development with the natural environment and enable the visitor to experience scenic features and views.

The period of significance for the AT in Shenandoah NP is from 1928 to 1942. In 1928, the PATC, made up of volunteer members, began construction of the trail in Shenandoah NP, which had been authorized as a national park in 1926 but would not be fully established until 1935. The period extends until 1942, encompassing the completion of the AT by the PATC in 1930; the relocation and reconstruction of portions of the trail caused by the building of the Skyline Drive, done by the CCC using NPS trail design and construction methods from 1933 to 1938; and the completion of the trail refinements by the CCC as the program came to a close, they disbanded, and the United States entered World War II. Today, the AT in Shenandoah NP retains sufficient integrity to convey its fourteen-year period of significance.

INTEGRITY SUMMARY FOR THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL - NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH DISTRICTS

The AT North District, Central District, and South District in Shenandoah NP retain the seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The AT still travels a north-south alignment over the ridgeline although there have been some realignments since the historic period. The trail continues to display the harmonization of NPS Rustic style design elements with the natural character, and overall there are few modern intrusions along the trail corridor. Materials have been maintained, are evident in the constructed features, and are generally in good condition. Although the trail is more wooded today than it was historically and views are more limited, the feeling and setting of a wilderness trail are still intact, as originally envisioned by Benton MacKaye. Lastly, there remains a strong association of the PATC, CCC, and the NPS with the AT.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

The trail sections corresponding to the North District, Central District, and South District of Shenandoah NP are component landscapes of the 103-mile Appalachian Trail landscape in Shenandoah NP. The park also includes the following landscapes and component landscapes:

- Rapidan Camp landscape
- Headquarters landscape
- Mt. Vernon Iron Furnace landscape
- Skyline Drive landscape with component landscapes: Big Meadows, Dickey Ridge, Elkwallow, Lewis Mountain, Piney River, Pinnacles, Skyland, Simmons Gap, South River Picnic Grounds

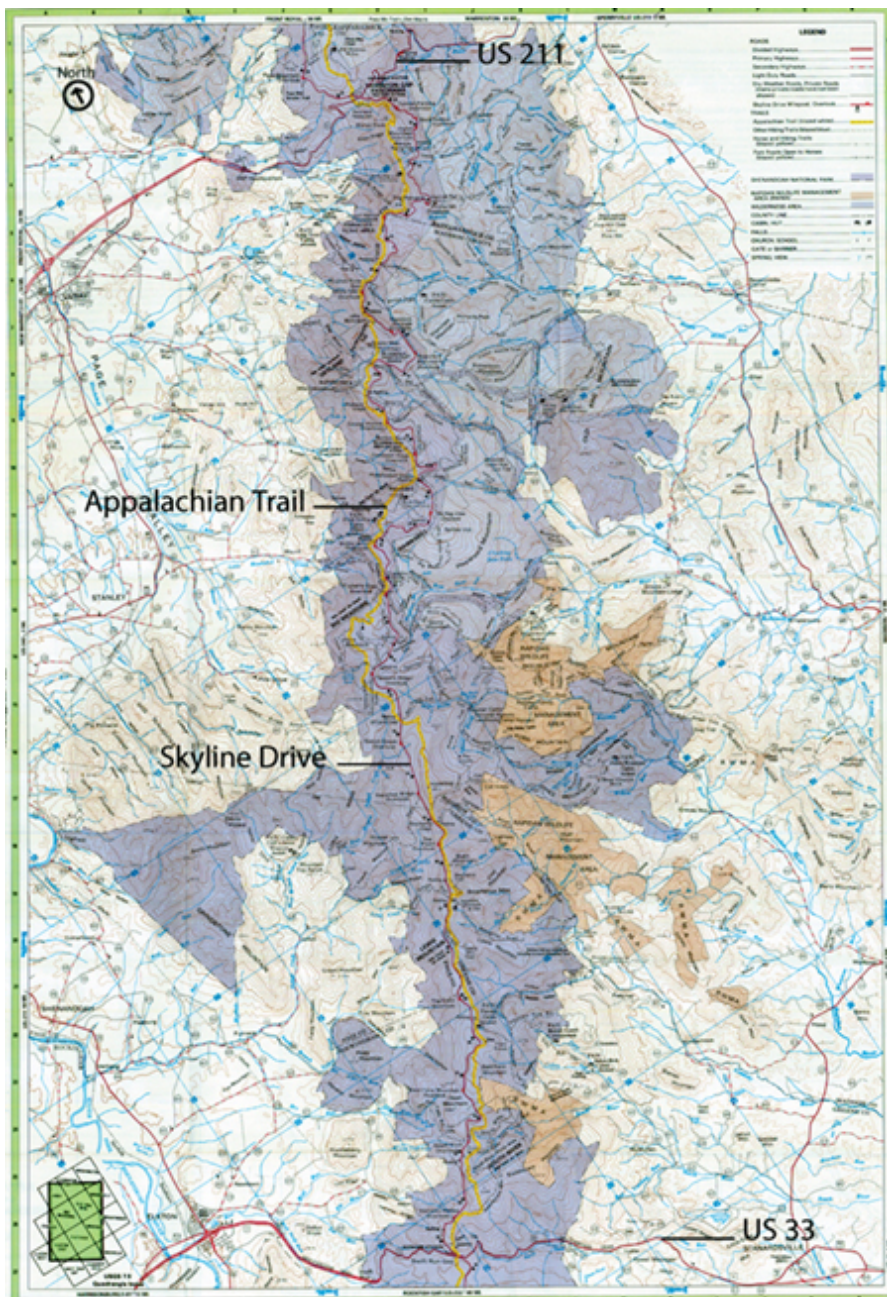
Landscape Type:

Historic Designed Landscape

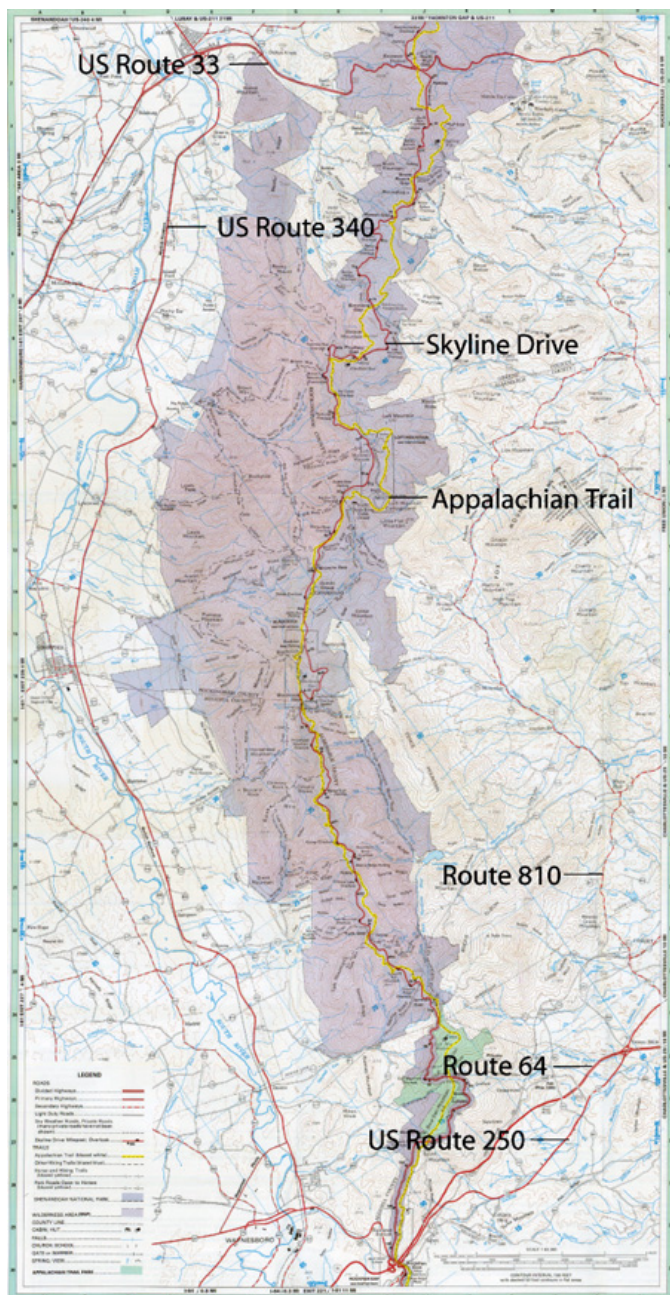
Other Names:

Other Name:	Appalachian Trail	Other Name Type:	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	App. National Scenic Trail	Other Name Type:	Current

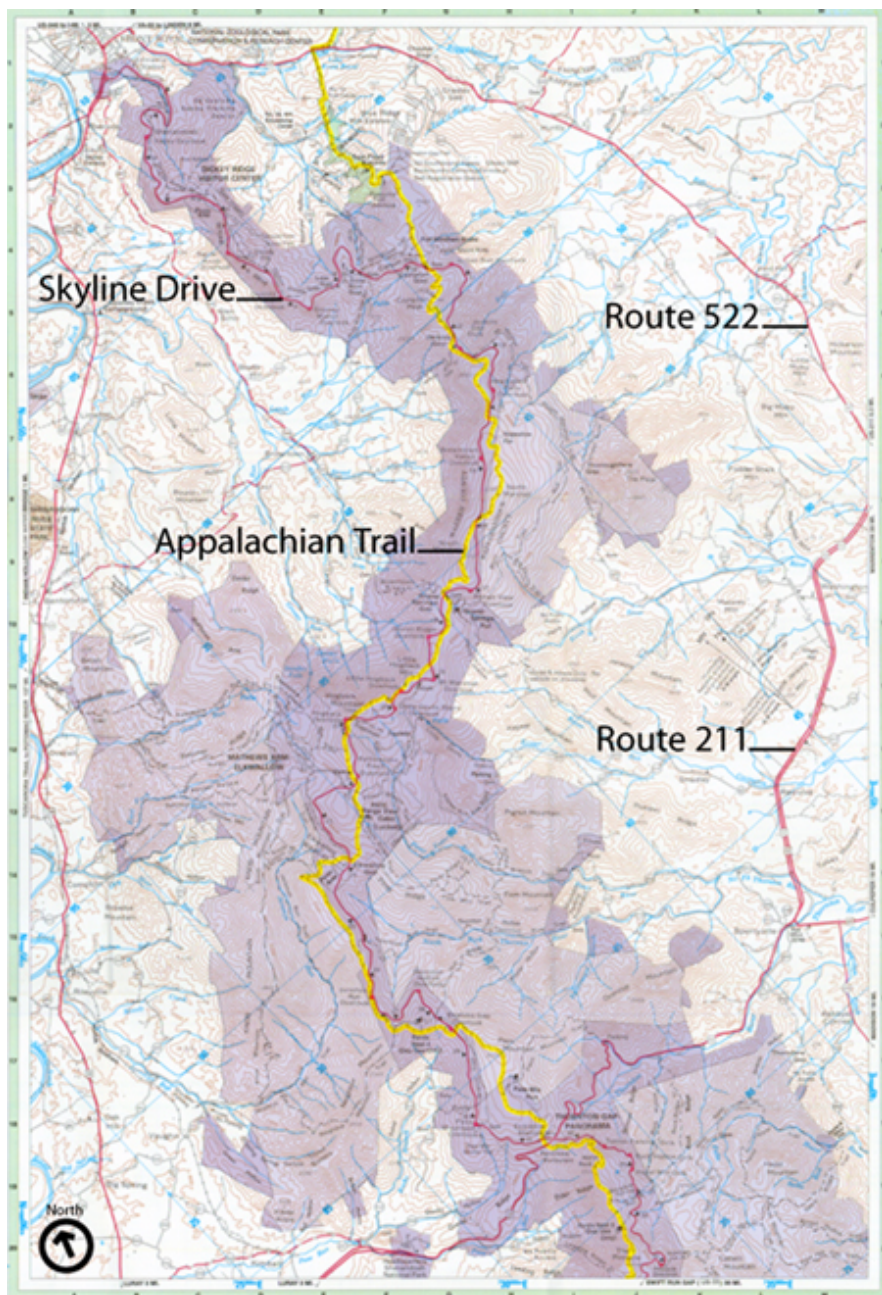
Site Plan



Overall site map for Appalachian Trail-Central District. For more detailed site maps, see the CLI for the Appalachian Trail-Central District.



Overall site map for Appalachian Trail-South District. For more detailed site maps, see the CLI for the Appalachian Trail-South District.



Overall site map for Appalachian Trail-North District. For more detailed site maps, see the CLI for the Appalachian Trail North District.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 08/27/2007

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The park contact for the Cultural Landscape Inventory is Ann Kain, NPS Cultural Resource Specialist. She can be contacted at (540) 999-3495.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

3045366270

Line 1ATPD

02:21:49 p.m. 08-28-2007

1/4

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Appalachian Trail Landscape
Shenandoah National Park

The Appalachian Trail Park Office concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Appalachian Trail Landscape, Shenandoah National Park, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

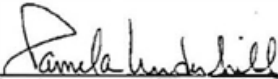
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Appalachian Trail Landscape is hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, Appalachian Trail Park Office

8/28/07
Date

Appalachian Trail Park Office concurrence form (Landscape), August 28, 2007.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2013**

Shenandoah National Park
Appalachian Trail Landscape
Appalachian Trail–North District
Appalachian Trail–Central District
Appalachian Trail–South District
Skyland

Shenandoah National Park concurs with the condition reassessments for the Appalachian Trail Landscape, Appalachian Trail–North District, Appalachian Trail–Central District, Appalachian Trail–South District, and Skyland, including:

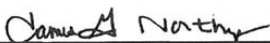
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Appalachian Trail Landscape
 Good – Appalachian Trail – North District
 Good – Appalachian Trail – Central District
 Good – Appalachian Trail – South District
 Good – Skyland

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The condition reassessments for the Appalachian Trail Landscape, Appalachian Trail–North District, Appalachian Trail–Central District, Appalachian Trail–South District, and Skyland at Shenandoah National Park are hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park



Date

Condition reassessment form, August 1, 2013.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Appalachian Trail Landscape
Shenandoah National Park

Shenandoah National Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Appalachian Trail Landscape including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Appalachian Trail Landscape is hereby approved and accepted.

Chas Cartwright
Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park

8-27-2007
Date

Shenandoah NP concurrence form (Landscape), August 27, 2007.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Appalachian Trail-North District
Shenandoah National Park

Shenandoah National Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Appalachian Trail – North District including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Appalachian Trail-North District is hereby approved and accepted.

Chas Cartwright 8-27-2007
Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park Date

Shenandoah NP concurrence form (North District), August 27, 2007.

08/27/2007 12:08 FAX 5409993693

NATL/CULT RES. _____

203

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Appalachian Trail-Central District
Shenandoah National Park

Shenandoah National Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Appalachian Trail – Central District including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Appalachian Trail-Central District is hereby approved and accepted.

Chas Cartwright 8-27-2007
Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park Date

Shenandoah NP concurrence form (Central District), August 27, 2007.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Appalachian Trail-South District
Shenandoah National Park

Shenandoah National Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Appalachian Trail – South District including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Appalachian Trail-South District is hereby approved and accepted.

Chas Cortwright 8-27-2007
Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park Date

Shenandoah NP concurrence form (South District), August 27, 2007.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Appalachian Trail-South District
Shenandoah National Park

The Appalachian Trail Park Office concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Appalachian Trail – South District, Shenandoah National Park, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

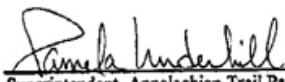
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Appalachian Trail-South District is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Appalachian Trail Park Office

8/28/07

Date

Appalachian Trail Park Office concurrence form (South District), August 28, 2007.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Appalachian Trail-North District
Shenandoah National Park

The Appalachian Trail Park Office concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Appalachian Trail – North District, Shenandoah National Park, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

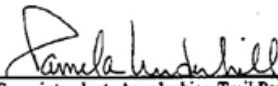
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Appalachian Trail-North District is hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, Appalachian Trail Park Office

8/28/07
Date

Appalachian Trail Park Office concurrence form (North District), August 28, 2007.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Appalachian Trail-Central District
Shenandoah National Park

The Appalachian Trail Park Office concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Appalachian Trail – Central District, Shenandoah National Park, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

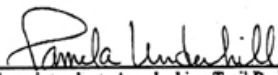
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Appalachian Trail-Central District is hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, Appalachian Trail Park Office

8/28/07
Date

Appalachian Trail Park Office concurrence form (Central District), August 28, 2007.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2026**

Shenandoah National Park
Appalachian Trail Landscape
Appalachian Trail – North District
Appalachian Trail – Central District
Appalachian Trail – South District

Shenandoah National Park certifies the CLI updates for the Appalachian Trail Landscape, Appalachian Trail-North District, Appalachian Trail-Central District, and Appalachian Trail-South District, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Appalachian Trail Landscape
 Good – Appalachian Trail–North District
 Good – Appalachian Trail–Central District
 Good – Appalachian Trail–South District

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI updates for the sites listed above at Shenandoah National Park are hereby approved and accepted.

JAMES STAKELY  Digitally signed by JAMES STAKELY
Date: 2026.01.22 11:15:57 -05'00'

Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park

Date

Park concurrence form, January 22, 2026

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion	Change in Condition	08/01/2013	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	01/22/2026	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2026 update to the Appalachian Trail Landscape CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State

County

Size (Acres): 250

Land Tract Number(s)

Boundary Description:

The inventory boundary of the Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park (NP) is defined by a twenty-foot wide corridor, ten-feet to either side of the trail's centerline. This arbitrary distance was selected because it generally encompasses a majority of the constructed features associated with the Appalachian Trail (AT) such as retaining walls and signs. The boundary occasionally expands outward from the twenty-foot wide corridor to include features that were associated with the construction of the AT, were easily viewed from the trail, or were part of the hiking experience, such as a shelter or view.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
USGS Map 1:24,000	Line	-78.087182597804	40.6459021233948	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Line	-78.3233037221845	38.6602392391202	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Line	-78.3233037221845	38.6602392391202	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Line	-78.5451932564247	38.3602842836322	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Line	-78.5451831311142	38.3575358904974	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Line	-78.8580812137768	38.0310818323426	

Location Map:



Map showing the location of Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/27/2007

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Appalachian Trail (AT) in Shenandoah National Park (NP) is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of regional planning and recreation, and under Criterion C for its design and construction and its association with National Park Service (NPS) Rustic style. According to the management category definitions, the AT–North District meets several criteria listed for “Must Be Preserved and Maintained”: the inventory unit is related to the park’s legislated significance and the inventory unit serves as the setting for a nationally significant structure or object.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO-NPS), Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), and Shenandoah National Park "4-way" (#MU-2490-99-008).

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 02/01/2012

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

"General Agreement Between Shenandoah National Park and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club for Maintaining Certain Trails, Huts, and Maintenance Buildings" (#G4840070001).

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 08/01/2012

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

"General Agreement Between Shenandoah National Park and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club for Trail Patrol and Ridgerunner Programs" (#G4840070002).

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 03/01/2011

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

"Cooperative Agreement Between Shenandoah National Park and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club: Interpretive Demonstration Way Station, Primitive Cabins at Shenandoah NP" (#4840060004).

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands contribute to the significance of the AT in Shenandoah NP as they are a key part of the viewsheds from the trail. Along the AT–North District, vegetation limits many views. There are broad views from North Marshall Mountain and a view to the west and to the valley below from the trail just below Little Hogback Overlook. Currently, there is a non-contributing southwestern view into the park from the AT's northern entry at Possums Rest. Over time, hikers have created short spur trails that lead to openings in the canopy or to rock outcrops.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Undocumented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Portions of the Appalachian Trail (AT) within the North, Central, and South Districts of Shenandoah National Park (NP) are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Skyline Drive Historic District. Included in the original National Register listing are seventeen of the twenty-nine crossings where the AT and Skyline Drive intersect, counted as one contributing site, which span the 125-foot-wide district right-of-way to either side of the drive (250-feet-wide overall). Additional segments of the AT were included in subsequent boundary increases of the Skyline Drive Historic District made in 1997 and 2003 that incorporated park facilities adjoining the Skyline Drive corridor. In these areas, the AT passes through approximately 300-feet of the Simmons Gap ranger station and park maintenance facilities cluster, through approximately one mile at the Skyland resort, and provides the eastern boundary of the Loft Mountain campground and picnic area. Within these boundary expansions, the AT is not listed as a contributing resource. At Skyland, however, the AT follows approximately 2,500 feet of the Stony Man Nature Trail, which is listed as a contributing resource.

The Statement of Significance for the original Skyline Drive Historic District listing describes the significance of the AT in the area of regional planning. However, the AT is minimally addressed and treated primarily as a precursor to the development of Skyline Drive. As noted above, only a portion of the AT crossings with Skyline Drive are identified in National Register documentation. Since these crossings represent only a very small fraction of the many contributing resources that have now been identified, this cultural landscape inventory has recorded the current National Register documentation as “undocumented.”

Eligibility: Eligible - SHPO/THPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 09/19/2007

Concurrence Narrative:

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Office of Review and Compliance concurred that the Appalachian Trail is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and with the categorization of the Appalachian Trail landscape features at Shenandoah National Park, as contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined. Three reports, one for each district, were submitted concurrently for review.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Within all three districts of Shenandoah NP, the AT is significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of

landscape architecture, architecture, community planning and development, politics/government, and entertainment/recreation. It is significant under Criterion A for its association with the early regional planning effort to establish a connected pedestrian greenway and recreational corridor on the East Coast. The AT also derives significance under Criterion A for its association with the twentieth century movement to develop national parks for public enjoyment, to conserve natural features and scenic areas as public parks, and develop natural areas, including sub-marginal lands for public recreational use. The planning and building of the AT was significant in the history of the park's development, creating a pedestrian spine that paralleled, both conceptually and geographically, the vehicular spine of the Skyline Drive. The AT is also significant under Criterion C as an example of trail design and method of construction intended to harmonize with the natural environment and enable the visitor to experience scenic features and views. The initial AT established by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) was built by club volunteers who used their own tools. They followed the trail line scouted and set by Myron H. Avery, the club's president, and cut away brush and tree limbs and marked the trail with painted blazes on trees to create a narrow footpath through the wilderness. In the portions of the AT that were relocated and reconstructed by the National Park Service (NPS), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) implemented authorized trail construction guidelines that were developed in the west coast national parks and adapted to the specifics of the east coast landscape. They included a four-foot-wide trail bed and followed principles and practices of NPS design, now characterized as NPS Rustic style.

The period of significance for the AT in Shenandoah NP is 1928-1942. It begins in 1928 with the PATC's initial development of the trail that extended through 1930, as is still evident in sections along the high ridges. The period continues when almost immediately upon initial completion, the PATC began relocating and reconstructing portions of the AT because of the construction of Skyline Drive. While it is not known for certain how much of the trail remains intact from the 1928-1930 period, the overall location of the trail and its connection to the larger AT remains from this time. In 1933, the PATC's work on the trail was assisted by the CCC who arrived to work on the AT, Skyline Drive, side trails, cabins, and shelters, and to plant vegetation. By 1938, the majority of the relocations and reconstructions of portions of the AT were finished. The period of significance extends to 1942 when the last of the CCC trail refinements, including side trails, cabins and shelters, and plantings, were completed and the CCC at Shenandoah NP was disbanded because of World War II. By this time, the AT within the park was well-established and connected north and south to the rest of the AT as a regional and recreational trail that stretched 2,175 miles from Georgia to Maine, which was hiked by thousands. Today, the AT in Shenandoah NP retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance during the fourteen-year period of significance.

Sections of the AT in Shenandoah NP, primarily its crossings along Skyline Drive, are listed in the National Register as a contributing resource in association with Skyline Drive, but the trail itself is not separately listed. The entire Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah NP is eligible for the National Register and may be considered as a separate historic district, as part of the Skyline Drive Historic District, or as a district under the multiple listing, "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks (1993)." Other areas contemporary to the AT in Shenandoah NP have been listed in the National Register such as Skyland, Big Meadows, Park Headquarters, Piney River, Simmons Gap, and Lewis Mountain.

The 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail, in its entirety, has not been formally evaluated for its eligibility to be listed in the National Register. However, outside of Shenandoah NP, several other sections of the AT have been determined to be eligible or are listed in the National Register. The entire AT corridor in New Jersey, including sections in Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties, was determined eligible for the National Register in 1978. A section of the AT in Massachusetts was listed as part of the Mount Greylock National Historic District in 1998, which recognizes and preserves the work of the CCC. A section of the original trail in Vermont that crosses the Pico/Killington range was determined eligible for the National Register by the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer. Similarly, the section of trail through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Pennsylvania was determined eligible for the National Register by the NPS.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION A

The AT in Shenandoah NP is significant under Criterion A for its association with early regional planning to establish a connected greenway corridor on the East Coast. In October 1921, the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects* published Benton MacKaye's article "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning." MacKaye called for the creation of a continuous wilderness footpath along the

Appalachian Range from Maine to Georgia to provide respite from encroaching civilization. MacKaye envisioned the trail as the backbone of an entire wilderness system of wild reservations and parks, which linked together by side trails, would be a reservoir for maintaining the primeval and rural environment of the Appalachians. In 1928, MacKaye, who had become a highly respected member of the American Regional Planning Association of America founded in 1923, published *The New Exploration: A Philosophy of Regional Planning*. The text expanded his theory of controlling the growth of metropolitan areas in the eastern United States and drew attention to the critical importance of preserving the Appalachians as an “indigenous” environment (Maddux, 1997).

MacKaye inspired the growing number of hiking and outdoor recreational enthusiasts throughout the eastern United States. They seized upon his idea of the connected trail and started to develop the trail through previously-established and new trail clubs. The trail’s supporters instantly recognized the scenic and recreational value of Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains, and thus the area became an early focus of trail planning. In March 1925, the first Appalachian Trail Conference was held in Washington, D.C., and a committee formed that represented the numerous geographical regions crossed by the proposed trail. William A. Welch, manager of the Palisades Interstate Park in New York and New Jersey and a member of the Southern Appalachian National Park Commission, was appointed chairman of the committee (Maddux, 1997:96).

In November of 1927, the PATC was organized in Washington, D.C. by Myron H. Avery, who was elected PATC president and held the position until 1940 when the former naval officer, an expert of maritime and admiralty law, was called again to war. It was during his tenure that work on the AT in Shenandoah NP began in 1928. Avery was also chairman of the Appalachian Trail Conference from 1931 to 1952. The hard-driving Avery was devoted completely to the development of the AT in Shenandoah NP and rallied AT hikers and volunteer trail-builders to work on establishing the trail and its side trails starting in 1928. Using their own axes and pruning tools, the PATC began to clear the trail and build numerous side trails which provided access to other peaks and hollows. The alignment of the AT, generally along the ridgeline in a north-south direction, was completed in Shenandoah NP in 1930. The PATC’s early construction of the AT founded a tradition of volunteer management and maintenance of the entire AT that continues today.

In 1931, when construction of the Skyline Drive along the park’s ridgeline began, Avery chose to work with the NPS to align and improve portions of the trail where the trail and Drive conflicted. Others, such as George Pollock Jr., founder and manager of Skyland and a founder of the PATC, hosted meetings at the resort to participate in laying out the new road and revised portions of the trail and also to promote the interests of the resort. MacKaye, however, never could reconcile his vision of a “footpath through the wilderness” with the proximity of the Skyline Drive motorway and developed areas in Shenandoah NP, and he had a permanent falling out with Avery because of it (Schaeffer, 1999). MacKaye left the ATC and went on to found the Wilderness Society.

The AT in Shenandoah NP is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of Shenandoah NP, one of the first and largest national parks established in the eastern United States. By the 1920s, most of the national parks had been established in the West, but were largely inaccessible to the large population centers of the East. In annual reports of 1919 and 1923, NPS Director Stephen P. Mather pointed out the need for eastern national parks. A growing concern among private citizens, planners, politicians, and conservationists raised interest in developing a national park in the Southern Appalachians close to the nearby metropolitan areas. In February 1925, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to determine park boundaries in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Great Smoky Mountains, and Mammoth Cave region of Kentucky, and to accept offers of land donations to create such parks. By April 1926, the volunteer Shenandoah Appalachian National Park Committee had reported pledges of more than one million dollars to purchase lands for the proposed park (Engle, 2006:17). In May 1926, Congress and President Calvin Coolidge authorized the establishment of Shenandoah NP, although no funds were allocated for land purchases. Private citizens and the Commonwealth of Virginia were charged with acquiring the land (Maddux, 1997). In December 1935, Congress formally established the park when Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes accepted 176,430 acres from the state (Schaeffer, 1999). On July 3, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated Shenandoah NP in a ceremony held in Big Meadows.

From its beginning as a collection of privately-owned and state lands within the proposed national park boundaries, a key feature of Shenandoah NP was the AT, which formed the pedestrian spine of the park. The AT took advantage of the park's spectacular natural setting, following the crest line of the Blue Ridge and providing panoramic views of the Piedmont Plain to the east and the Shenandoah Valley to the west. Almost as soon as it was done, the trail and the PATC had to contend with the growth of the new park, and in particular with the development of what would become the park's vehicular spine, Skyline Drive. The first section of Skyline Drive was originally envisioned to connect President Herbert Hoover's Rapidan Camp to Skyland but later evolved to extend over 100-miles from Waynesboro to Front Royal. Like the AT, the route of Skyline Drive followed the ridgeline. The PATC had to negotiate to keep the trail where it was already established, but in the places where the trail and drive overlapped, the PATC was required to shift the AT away from the road (Schaeffer,1999).

By 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs brought an unprecedented infusion of professionals and laborers to generate improvements in state and national parks. Federal programs provided economic relief in the form of employment for both skilled and unskilled laborers. The AT within Shenandoah NP was just one focus of the New Deal labor that improved the park's circulation systems, which gestured to the characteristics of nineteenth-century urban parks as developed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. The motorway, Skyline Drive, was developed along the ridgeline and served as the park's main "spine." The AT also traced the linear ridgeline in the park and was multi-use, forming the primary pedestrian and equestrian-way. A far-reaching network of side trails were blazed to link with the AT and Skyline Drive and became secondary pedestrian routes for hiking to waterfalls, springs, ridge-tops, and rock formations. Some of the pre-existing roads were upgraded into a system of "truck trails" and used for fire and service roads, also connected to the AT and Skyline Drive (McClelland, 1998:181). The development of roads and trails benefited from the teams of NPS landscape architects, architects, and engineers, as well as the craftsmanship of the CCC, all of which contributed to the construction of Skyline Drive and the relocation and reconstruction of considerable portions of the AT.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION C

The AT in Shenandoah NP is significant under Criterion C for illustrating American park design and in particular for reflecting the NPS Rustic style (1916-1942) that had been developed and refined in national parks in the West and implemented by the CCC. The historical underpinnings of the NPS Rustic style have their origins in the American landscape design profession's principles and practices, which derived from the nineteenth-century ideas about landscape preservation and harmonization of built features. The origin of these tenets reach back to Andrew Jackson Downing's writings in the *Horticulturist* magazine and his seminal *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (1841), which were influential in establishing the concept of the pleasure ground and urban park. According to Downing, a visitor, while moving along a walk, path, or trail, experienced a carefully designed sequence. The pathway or trail was not merely a conduit, but integral to the created structure of the landscape. Scenic views, topographic changes, and natural features such as vegetation, streams, and rock outcroppings were revealed, modified, or enhanced to inspire an awe and reverence for nature and a rejuvenation of the visitor's spirit. This philosophy carried through to the design details for using native construction materials, naturalistic plantings, and incorporating vernacular forms of construction derived from traditions of pioneer settlers. On an immense scale, the national parks were very large pleasure grounds created for the American public to experience wilderness and restore their connection to nature. Downing's concept was codified in the March 1, 1872, law that established Yellowstone NP, the nation's first "public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" (McClelland, 1998:34).

One of Downing's most avid twentieth century followers, Frank A. Waugh, landscape architect with the U.S. Forest Service and author of *The Natural Style in Landscape Gardening* (1917), also was important to the NPS's design of parks, particularly with the use of native vegetation, and road and trail development (McClelland, 1998:184). Waugh appreciated Downing's verve for native plants and encouraged the American public to celebrate indigenous plants, not only for the beauty of their flowers and foliage, but also for their character-enhancing abilities when applied to a rustic style landscape. Waugh used Downing's plant theory as a base for his own and expanded it to the larger context. Waugh saw trails (and roads) as providing the framework for the entire design of the recreational area within national parks. By 1915, trail-building methods had been established in western national parks such as Yosemite. However, with site conditions varying greatly between different national parks, additional techniques were developed in order

to implement the latest design ideas across the country. In the next fifteen years, improvements were made and in 1934 the NPS published the first standards in trail construction, which were employed in constructing the AT in Shenandoah NP. NPS landscape architects located trails, revealed scenic features and views, and preserved significant vegetation, rockwork, and other natural features (McClelland, 1998:242). They were concerned with camouflaging the trail's structure and erasing signs of construction for an overall harmonious effect. Engineers worked to maintain a grade not exceeding eight percent and used switchbacks only when necessary. Their standard was a refined four-foot-wide trail bed built on a gravel base, with tree stumps, rocks, and roots removed (USDI, 1937).

PATC and NPS trail construction exhibited distinct techniques. In the late 1920s, the PATC worked to cut and mark the trail, and created a footpath by clearing brush and branches to allow for easy passage (PATC, 1929:1-2). The two-foot-wide tread way was not graded or surfaced. The NPS development of the AT within Shenandoah through the 1930s reflects the NPS principles and practices of park landscape design implemented in state and national parks through federal work-relief programs of the 1930s, primarily the CCC. Designed through the NPS Branch of Plans and Design, the development of the trail according to the NPS Rustic style offered the hiker and recreational enthusiast an experience of nature that was both romantic and wild. The CCC protected and preserved the natural scenery and features by routing the AT around large rock outcrops and ancient trees, and by prohibiting use of exotic plants. Along the trail, the CCC revealed scenic vistas at key intervals and developed overlooks. They avoided right angles and straight lines in the trail and created a sinuous line that provided a sense of mystery and surprise. The CCC used native plant materials, such as oak, mountain laurel, witchhazel, and Virginia creeper. The CCC also transplanted existing and planted new native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers to erase the scars of construction and earlier land uses such as grazing and farming. Buildings and structures, such as retaining walls and trailside shelters and huts, were constructed of local materials such as chestnut and stone, and were designed in a romantic evocation of pioneering building techniques through the use of dry-laid masonry and log construction. At the same time, trail markers were created in a modern, stylized design using concrete and stamped metal that was readily recognizable within the natural setting (McClelland, 1998:242).

The NPS Rustic style is still evident in the AT's landscape features, including twelve cabins and shelters that date from the historic period. Skilled stonework can be seen in the more than 15,000 linear feet of retaining walls that still support the trail and integrate it into the rocky landscape. So too is the graceful alignment of the trail that sweeps around the shoulders of mountains and highlights such natural features as looming rock outcrops or the sound of nearby splashing stream.

National Register Significance Criteria:

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

Significance Criterion C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

National Register Criteria Consideration:

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

Time Period: CE 1928 - CE 1942

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Recreation	General Recreation	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	Regional Planning	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works	
Shaping the Political Landscape	Political and Military Affairs 1865-1939	The Great Depression And The New Deal, 1929-1941	
Transforming the Environment	Conservation of Natural Resources	Origin And Development Of The National Park Service	
Transforming the Environment	Conservation of Natural Resources	Range And Forest Protection	
Transforming the Environment	Conservation of Natural Resources	Scenic Preservation	
Transforming the Environment	Conservation of Natural Resources	The Conservation Movement Matures 1908-1941	
Transforming the Environment	Conservation of Natural Resources	The Great Depression And Conservation	
Transforming the Environment	Conservation of Natural Resources	Wilderness System	
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	The Federal Government Enters The Movement	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Community Planning and Development

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Entertainment - Recreation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Politics - Government

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Social History

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS ID:	97000375
Primary Certification Date:	04/28/1997
NRIS ID:	97001112
Primary Certification Date:	09/19/1997
NRIS ID:	03001251
Primary Certification Date:	12/05/2003

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	DHE 069-00234-0019
Name:	Skyline Drive Historic District
Listed Date:	07/03/1997

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1928 - 1942	Built	Construction on the Appalachian Trail in Sheandoah National Park begins in 1928. Civilian Conservation Corps camps close in 1942. For a comprehensive chronology, see the CLIs for the Appalachian Trail North District, Central District, and South District.

Physical History:

For a comprehensive physical history, see the CLIs for the Appalachian Trail North District, Central District, and South District.

Uses

Functions and Uses:

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

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative:

Reservations are required at the cabins.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status:

Ethnographic Narrative:

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

For an analysis of integrity, see the CLIs for the Appalachian Trail North District, Central District, and South District.

Landscape Characteristic:

For a comprehensive analysis of landscape characteristics and features, see the CLIs for the Appalachian Trail North District, Central District, and South District.

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 6

Next Assessment Due Date: 01/22/2032

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 01/22/2026

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall landscape is well-maintained and in good condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/25/2023

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to the effects of Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed. Planning and scheduling for this update will occur in FYs 2023-2024.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/01/2013

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In consultation with Ann Kain, Cultural Resource Manager, and with concurrence from the Superintendent, the Appalachian Trail landscapes are currently in "good" condition. They show no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, their cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions, and no immediate corrective action is required to maintain their current condition.

According to project statements in PMIS for the AT, the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) has annually accomplished trail tread maintenance, construction and rehabilitation of waterbars, check-dams, and drainage ditches, re-grading trail surfaces, vegetation removal, and re-routing/construction of new trail (146690 et al.), and there are future PMIS statements to continue this important work. There is also a project statement for a Cultural Landscape Report for the portion of the AT in the park (147447).

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/27/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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. Some trail sections are subject to erosion and improper drainage problems, but typically are diligently addressed by the NPS and PATC.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Narrative: Incompatible development beyond the trail corridor and park boundaries may negatively affect views and vistas and the hiking experience.

Date Identified: 09/25/2008

Type of Impact: Erosion

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Erosion of the treadway is potentially the biggest impact on the AT as it can damage the treadway and effect the integrity of stone edging and retaining walls.

Date Identified: 09/25/2008

Type of Impact: Improper Drainage

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: This impact can also affect the condition of the treadway and associated stone structures.

Date Identified: 09/25/2008

Type of Impact: Other

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Addition of incompatible features within the park can affect the character of the resource.

Date Identified: 09/25/2008

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Preservation

Treatment Completed: Yes

Document Type: General Management Plan

Document Date: 1983-01-23

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

Regarding the Appalachian Trail (AT) within Shenandoah National Park, the 1983 General Management Plan states that “efforts will be continued to protect and to minimize possible intrusions.” The AT is also categorized as a “permitted development” of the park’s “Natural Zone” management area (General Management Plan, 1983:77,101).

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
See below.	For a full bibliography, see the CLIs for the Appalachian Trail North District, Central District, and South District.					

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
SHEN_AT Landscape-AT North-AT Central-AT South_CLI Updates Notes_2026.pdf		

Source