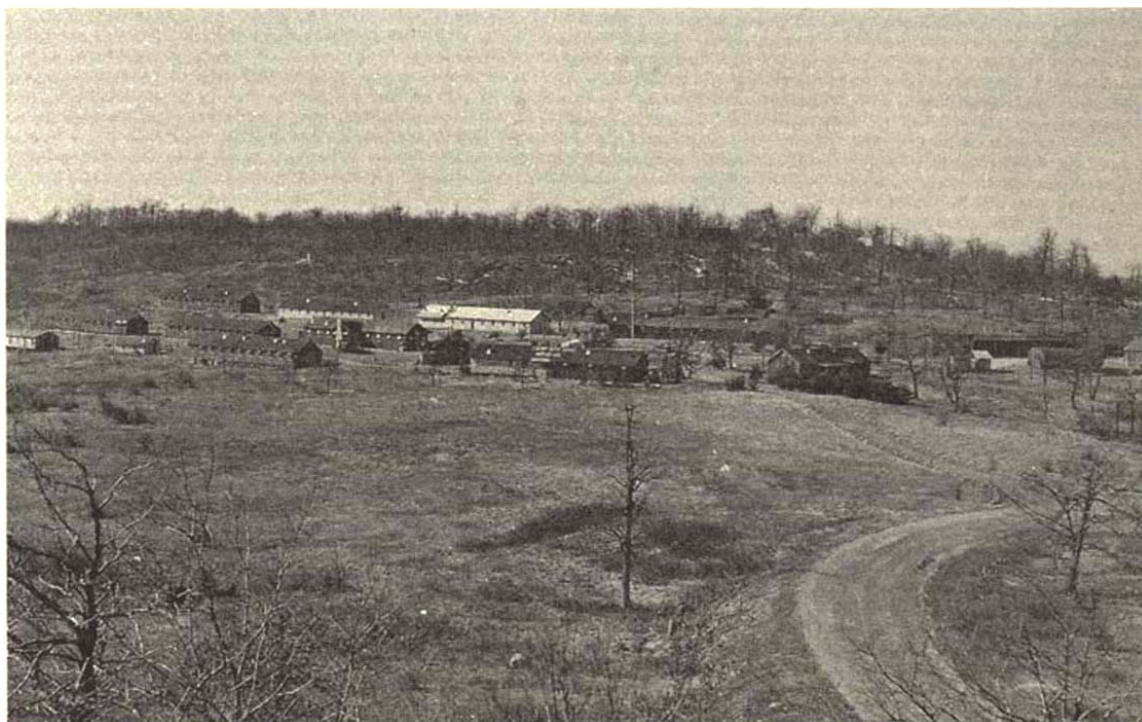

National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2006

Revised: 8/2025



Piney River
Shenandoah National Park

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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:	Piney River
Resource Classification:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	300119
Parent Landscape:	300115
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:

Piney River is a National Park Service (NPS) maintenance and trail crew facility in Shenandoah National Park (NP), located at milepost 22.1 on Skyline Drive in Rappahannock County. Piney River can also be reached by foot via the Appalachian Trail (AT) and Piney Branch Trail. The site sits on the northeast side of the peak of Piney Ridge and is part of the chain of mountains that form the Blue Ridge Mountains. At an average elevation of 3000 feet, the developed area is mostly level with a gradual slope to the southeast and rock ridges that rise to the highpoint on the west.

Physical Description

Piney River is the location of a former Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp that was important to the development of Shenandoah NP and Skyline Drive. As one of the last CCC camps built in Shenandoah, Piney River was unique in that it did not have the typical U-shaped configuration of other camps in the park. (Engle, 1999:38) Rather, its development was shaped by the topography of the mountain.

The historic road into the camp from Skyline Drive, the Access Road, is still used. It historically terminated as an oval drive that surrounded a flagpole and from which other roads radiated. Today, this area – or Hub – continues to function as the central core of the facility, although it has been reconfigured over time and is paved, and the flagpole is no longer present. Other contributing circulation features are the Piney Branch Trail and the Fire Road that leads to the Range View Cabin, operated by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC). On the northwest side of the Hub is the historic Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. It and another CCC building to the north, the Naturalist's Office, have survived the seventy plus years since they were first built and are still at their original locations. Most of the other CCC buildings occupied the gently sloped areas south of the Hub, where today a maintenance building, support structures, and large asphalt paved areas for storage and parking are located. There is also an employee residence, and at the top of Piney Ridge to the west is a water tank located near the former CCC reservoir. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC)

The spaces surrounding the buildings are mostly open except for a few mature oaks and pines around the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. These areas are bounded by a secondary growth forest of oak, cherry,

hickory, locust, and pine that also edges Skyline Drive, much of the former oval drive and CCC barracks areas, and the NPS residence. Large boulders as well as several sinkholes, believed to be the location of the CCC camp latrine, can be found in these woods. To the south there are several apple trees that likely date to the CCC or early park period. At the top of the Piney Ridge, a canopy story of large oak and cherry trees is scattered across a rocky ground.

Period of Significance Summary

On September 19, 1997, Piney River was one of five developed areas in Shenandoah NP to be included within a boundary addition to the Skyline Drive National Historic District, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Register Nomination Form:

"The park -- and thus the boundary addition's -- significance falls under both National Register Criterion A (properties significant for their association with events) and Criterion C (properties significant as representatives of the manmade expression of culture or technology). The area is significant in the areas of Politics/Government, Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation, and Landscape Architecture for the period of 1931-1952. The park's historical significance relates in part to the fact that it was one of the first eastern national parks and as such, the nation's most visited national park in the years immediately prior to World War II. In addition, it is significant as the site of the Skyline Drive and as a primary example of artificial efforts to return a developed area to its natural state. The park, while initiated during the administration of Herbert Hoover, is an example of the many accomplishments of Franklin Roosevelt's Depression-era programs, in particular the Civilian Conservation Corps."

The Nomination Form goes on to state that the boundary addition area also conveys significance relating to the specific areas within the addition. A statement regarding Piney River aligns with Criterion A: "[It] is one of two areas within the park that were the site of CCC camps and that still retain CCC buildings." (Hooper, 1997:8-37,38) This statement most closely relates to the politics and government theme under Criterion A for its association with Depression-era work programs that resulted in the construction of large public works throughout the country. There is no specific reference to Piney River for significance under Criterion C in the Nomination Form.

Analysis and Evaluation Summary

The Nomination Form cites specific resources that contribute to the significance of the historic district, all of which are associated with the CCC's use of the site. The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office and the Naturalist's Office are listed as contributing buildings. (Hooper, 1997:7-35) The Maintenance/Equipment Shed, a CCC structure also on list, was recently removed due to its demolition. The Access Road and its spurs (that lead to contributing resources) are listed as contributing structures. (Hooper, 1997:7-4; 7-35; and 10-109)

The integrity of the boundary addition areas was evaluated as generally high in the 1997 Nomination Form. (Hooper, 1997:7-5) However, the analysis in this report concludes that the Piney River landscape does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered a contributing (countable) site according to National Register guidelines. This is primarily due to the removal of most of the historic buildings and structures in the 1940s, the recent loss of one of three historic buildings that were retained, and the growth and spread of woodlands in and around the site. Additionally, one of the site's two remaining historic buildings is in threatened condition. Nonetheless, a variety of characteristics and features that contribute to the character of the historic district have been identified at Piney River. Contributing characteristics are natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, small scale features, and archeology. Contributing features include the Piney Branch Trail, mature trees near the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office and on top of the Piney Ridge, views to the mountains, a Stone Fireplace, a wood Loading Ramp, numerous large Boulders, and several Sinkholes that are remnants of latrine pits.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Shenandoah NP includes the following landscapes and component landscapes:

- General park landscape with component landscapes: Appalachian Trail (segment in Shenandoah NP), Corbin Cabin, Mt. Vernon Iron Furnace, Snead Farmstead
 - Skyline Drive landscape with component landscapes: Big Meadows, Dickey Ridge, Elkwallow, Lewis Mountain, Piney River, Pinnacles, Skyland, Simmons Gap, South River Picnic Grounds
 - Rapidan Camp landscape
 - Headquarters landscape
- [see Fig. 1]

Landscape Type:

Historic Designed Landscape

Other Names:

Other Name:	Camp 'Red Bird'	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Camp Byrd	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Civilian Conservation Corps Camp NP-12	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Piney River	Other Name Type:	Current

Site Plan

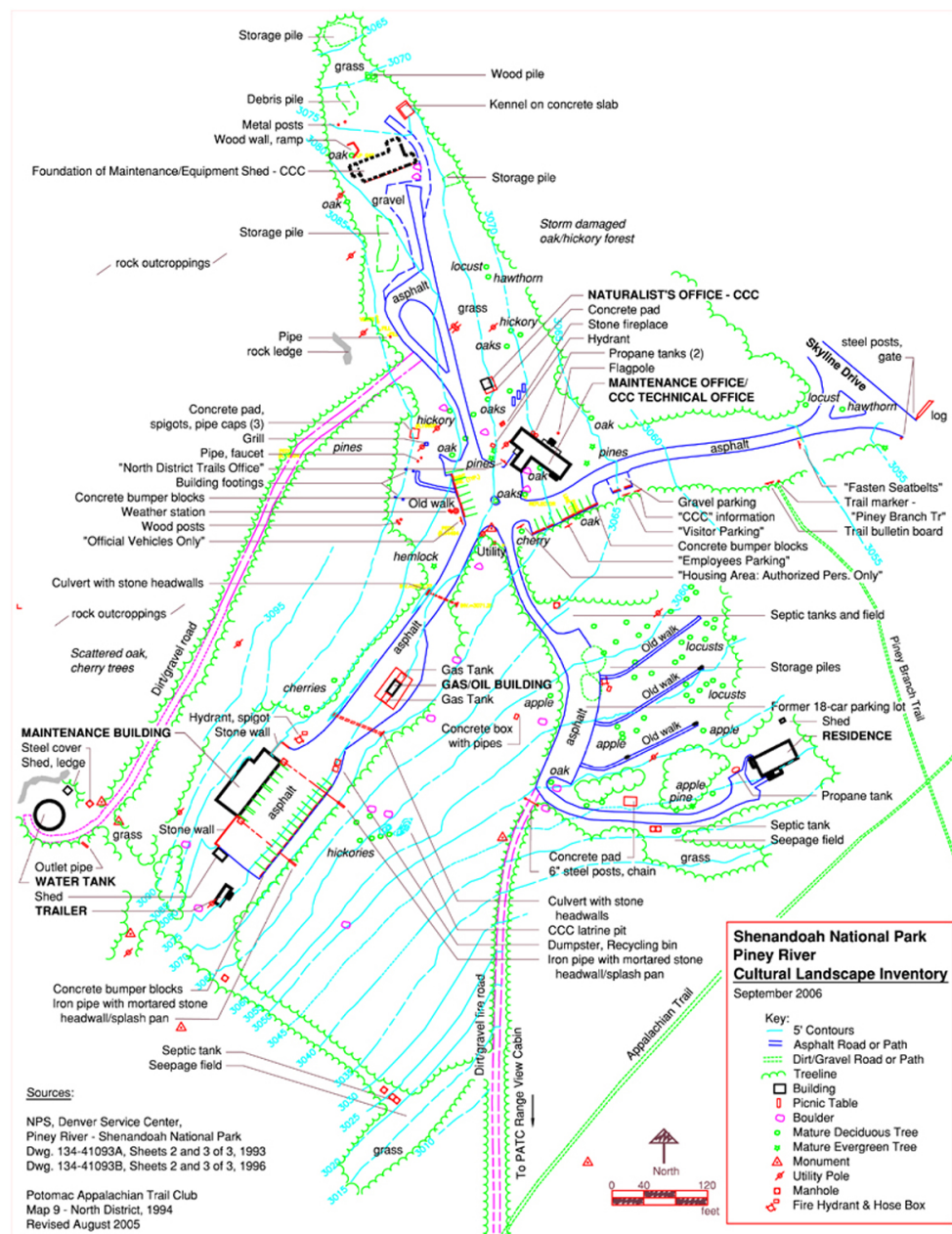


Fig. 2: Existing conditions map for Piney River. (OCLP 2006)

Hierarchy Description Graphic:



Fig 1: Illustration of the Skyline Drive component landscapes. (PHSO 2001)

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	06/01/2006

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Nancy J. Brown, CLI Coordinator, and Jeanie Hau, Landscape Architectural Intern, completed field survey work, written reports, and basemaps for Level 0 and Level 1 inventories on 12/8/1999 and 4/23/2001, respectively.

Historical Landscape Architects Jeffrey Killion and Nancy J. Brown completed the field survey work for this report. The written report and basemap updates were completed by Jeffrey Killion.

The park contact for the Cultural Landscapes Inventory is Reed Engle, NPS Cultural Resource Specialist. He can be contacted at (540) 999-3495.

Attachment File Path

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Piney River
Shenandoah National Park

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

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

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 Landscapes Inventory for Piney River is hereby approved and accepted.

Chas Cantoright 6-1-2006
Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park Date

Park concurrence form, June 1, 2006.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2012**

Shenandoah National Park
Piney River

Shenandoah National Park concurs with the condition reassessment for Piney River, including:

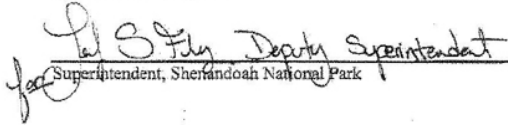
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

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 reassessment for Piney River at Shenandoah National Park is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park

8/24/12

Date

Condition reassessment form, August 24, 2012.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2025**

Shenandoah National Park

Big Meadows
Headquarters
Piney River
Pinnacles Picnic Grounds
Rapidan Camp
Skyland

Shenandoah National Park certifies the CLI updates for Big Meadows, Headquarters, Piney River, Pinnacles Picnic Grounds, Rapidan Camp, and Skyland, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Big Meadows
 Good – Headquarters
 Fair – Piney River
 Good – Pinnacles Picnic Grounds
 Good – Rapidan Camp
 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 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: 2025.08.28 10:01:21 -04'00'

Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park

Date

Park concurrence form, August 28, 2025.

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion	Change in Condition	08/24/2012	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	08/28/2025	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 2025 update to the Piney River 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
Virginia	Rappahannock County
Virginia	Page County

Size (Acres): 26

Land Tract Number(s)

Boundary Description:

The 1997 Boundary Increase to the Skyline Drive Historic District National Register Nomination defines the boundary as 125 feet on either side of the centerline of all roads and parking areas that the National Park Service had constructed or was using by 1950. (Hooper, 1997:7-2) At Piney River, this includes the Access Road off of Skyline Drive and the spurs that leads to contributing resources. (Hooper, 1997:7-3 and 10-109) The developed area is roughly bounded on the north by the storage piles behind the recently removed CCC-era Maintenance/Equipment Shed, on the east by woods along Skyline Drive, on the south by a septic field, and on the west by the hilltop of Piney Ridge. The size of this area has not changed considerably since the end of the period of significance.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.2964356737017	38.7509181532401	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.2921552838053	38.7515397756538	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.292925921365	38.7524586117829	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.295201185096	38.7531420046176	

Location Map:



Fig. 3: Map of Shenandoah National Park. Piney River is just south of the Mathews Arm campground. (SHEN, 2004)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The site is part of Shenandoah NP, where recreation is the primary cultural use. In the surrounding region, tourism is a significant industry. Agriculture, particularly chicken production, is the main industry to the west, with easy north-south access via Interstate 81 and Route 340. Suburban development from Washington D.C. dominates the east, with east-west access via Interstate 66 and Routes 7, 50, and 211.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Piney River is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains on the Piney Ridge, at an elevation of about 3100'. To the east, about 800' lower, is the river that shares the name Piney River.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Piney River is located in Rappahannock County, in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 06/01/2006

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The park's 1983 General Management Plan recommended removal of the CCC-period buildings at Piney River due to modifications and their deteriorated condition. (GMP, 1983:72-73) However, on September 19, 1997, Piney River was listed in the National Register of Historic Places through a boundary expansion of the Skyline Drive Historic District. According to the National Register Nomination Form, the park – and the boundary addition's – significance falls under both National Register Criterion A and C for the themes of social history, politics and government, and landscape architecture for the period 1931-1952, representing the early period of development of Shenandoah NP, Skyline Drive, and Piney River and ending when construction activity in the park essentially stopped. (Hooper, 1997:7-1) The Nomination Form specifically states that Piney River is significant because it retains CCC buildings on their original sites. (Hooper, 1997:8-37,38) This statement would thus fall under National Register Criterion A.

According to the management category definitions, Piney River meets several criteria listed for "Must Be Preserved and Maintained": the inventory unit is related to the park's legislative significance; the inventory unit serves as the setting for a nationally significant structure or object; the inventory unit is less than nationally significant but contributes to the park's national significance.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 01/01/2016

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Interpretive demonstration, waystation, primitive cabins at Shenandoah NP, renewal in five years

Type of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 01/01/2016

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Potomac PATC, Appalachian Trail Conference, Appalachian Trail Park Office and Shenandoah NP, 5 year MOU of Appalachian Trail

Type of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Park ranger activities with PATC ridge runners and trail patrol

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Weddings, religious services, amateur radio, Isaac Walton League literature distribution on clean air, 100-mile endurance ride (6 mi. in SNP), military training/testing of optical equipment, hang gliding – each activity has own expiration date

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Permits with varying expiration dates for filming, such as by TV stations and news photographers (duration 1 day), for documentaries (1-2 days), and commercials (1-2 days)

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

75-80 long-term special use permits in park with varying expiration dates for pipelines, gas and other utilities, mainly to support park operations, and approx. 40 for road access to private property that existed before the park

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 continue to play a role at Piney River in terms of views, although in a diminished capacity. The potential panoramic views, which are likely historic, are mainly toward the east and south and extend beyond park lands. If at some point the park chooses to open up viewsheds from within the former CCC camp – from the Hub and from what is now the maintenance building area – or from the residence area, Piney Branch Trail, the AT, or Skyline Drive, then development of adjacent lands could negatively impact the visitor experience through new industry, housing, roadways, or cellular telephone towers. The secondary effects of development, increased air and light pollution, also impact visitors' ability to enjoy the views both during the day and night.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Skyline Drive was added to the National Register as part of the Skyline Drive Historic District on April 28, 1997. That same year, on September 19, 1997, Piney River, among other developed areas along the road, was added to the historic district through a Boundary Addition. The nomination was completed by Carol Hooper of Robinson & Associates, Inc. It provides basic baseline information on buildings, structures (circulation features), and landscape features. This CLI provides additional documentation of those resources.

Eligibility: Eligible -- Keeper

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 09/19/1997

Concurrence Narrative:

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

As one of the first national parks established in the eastern United States, Shenandoah NP raised national and regional awareness of the importance of the government's role in returning a developed area to its natural state and preserving large portions of the natural environment for public recreation and enjoyment. From the park's earliest history, a key feature has been Skyline Drive, which traces the mountaintop ridges and affords panoramic views of the Piedmont Plain to the east and the Shenandoah Valley to the west. Instrumental in the development of the park and construction of the scenic road was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Numerous CCC camps were established along Skyline Drive, one of which was located at Piney River and operated from 1935 to 1942. (Engle, 1999:30)

According to the National Register Nomination Form for the Skyline Drive Historic District Boundary Addition:

"The park -- and thus the boundary addition's -- significance falls under both National Register Criterion A (properties significant for their association with events) and Criterion C (properties significant as representatives of the manmade expression of culture or technology). The area is significant in the areas of Politics/Government, Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation, and Landscape Architecture for the period of 1931-1952. The park's historical significance relates in part to the fact that it was one of the first eastern national parks and as such, the nation's most visited national park in the years immediately prior to World War II. In addition, it is significant as the site of the Skyline Drive and as a primary example of artificial efforts to return a developed area to its natural state. The park, while initiated during the administration of Herbert Hoover, is an example of the many accomplishments of Franklin Roosevelt's Depression-era programs, in particular the Civilian Conservation Corps."

The Nomination Form states that the specific developed areas in the boundary addition also convey significance. Regarding Piney River: "[It] is one of two areas within the park that were the site of CCC camps and that still retain CCC buildings." (Hooper, 1997:8-37,38). This statement relates to the politics and government theme under Criterion A for its association with Depression-era work programs that resulted in the construction of large public works throughout the country. There is no specific reference to Piney River for significance under Criterion C in the Nomination Form.

Contributing resources to the historic district listed in the Nomination Form are associated with the CCC's use of the site: the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, the Naturalist's Office, and the Access Road and spurs (a third historic feature, the Maintenance/Equipment Shed, was also listed but is no longer extant). Piney River as a whole, however, is not specifically listed as contributing site in the historic district. (Hooper, 1997:7-35).

Criterion D, properties that have yielded or are likely to yield information important in prehistory or history, is not currently listed in the National Register nomination but may be applicable. The limited archeological work that has taken place indicates that CCC artifacts are present. Ongoing research will clarify whether Criterion D is applicable.

National Register Significance Criteria:

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

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Politics - Government

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

National Register Criteria Consideration:

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

Time Period: CE 1931 - CE 1952

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	Political and Military Affairs 1865-1939	The Great Depression And The New Deal, 1929-1941	

NRIS Information:

NRIS ID: 97000375

Primary Certification Date: 04/28/1997

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number: 069-0234

Name: Skyline Drive Historic District (Multiple Counties)
(Boundary Increase)

Listed Date: 07/02/1997

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
BCE 8000 - 1600	Settled	First human habitation in Blue Ridge Mountains as seasonal encampments.
CE 1000	Farmed/Harvested	Farming developed in the valleys
CE 1669	Explored	Dr. John Lederer, first European to record exploration in this area of Blue Ridge Mountains, describes a forest full of game and large open area believed to be Big Meadows.
CE 1700 - 1799	Settled	Immigrants from Tidewater area come to Piedmont region and from Pennsylvania to Shenandoah Valley, leading to disappearance or departure of Native Americans from the area.
CE 1750 - 1830	Settled	Settlers moved from lower elevations into mountain hollows, where they pursued farming, grazing, timbering and hunting game.
CE 1830	Built	Recreational use of the mountains begins around 1830 with the opening of Black Rock Springs Hotel, south of current Route 33. The first recreational summer outing, at Skyland, is led by George F. Pollock in 1888.
CE 1926	Established	Congress first authorized Shenandoah National Park (NP), but without funds for land purchase.
CE 1927	Built	Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) organized, and construction of AT in Shenandoah NP begins.
CE 1931 - 1942	Engineered	Private contractors construct Skyline Drive; CCC provides assistance after May 1933. (McClelland, 1998:181-182)
CE 1935	Built	June 28: Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp NP-9 officially moves from Sperryville to Piney River as NP-12, Camp Byrd; recruits travel from Sperryville to Piney River during construction. (Engle, 1999:36)
CE 1935	Established	July 4: CCC Camp NP-12 is officially established.
CE 1935	Established	December 26: Secretary of the Interior accepts deeds for park lands from the Commonwealth of Virginia.
CE 1935 - 1942	Built	CCC constructs Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly Technical Office and Quarters) and Naturalist's Office (used for gas and oil storage) in 1935; CCC provides labor for Skyline Drive; relocates portions of AT; clears dead/dying chestnut trees; plants trees/shrubs to revegetate areas.
CE 1936	Established	July 3: President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicates Shenandoah NP.
CE 1937	Built	CCC completes Maintenance/Equipment Shed.
CE 1942	Removed	March 15: CCC Camp NP-12 is closed (Engle, 1999: 30)
CE 1943 - 1944	Altered	Civilian Public Service (CPS) workers remove most of the CCC camp buildings and renovate the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office for use as the North District Ranger Station. (Hooper, 1997: 8-85)

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1948	Altered	National Register Nomination notes, "Ranger Office completed in 1948," possibly a reference to renovation of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office to a ranger station. (Hooper, 1997:8-102)
CE 1950 - 1959	Altered	Naturalist's Office used for coal storage in 1950s; has since been used as a storage shed and a naturalist's office. (LCS, 2006:081802)
CE 1960	Built	NPS constructs old gas/oil building. (Hooper, 1997:7-35)
CE 1966	Built	Crom Corporation constructs water tank and adjacent shed for NPS, as noted on tower plaque; replaces wood tank installed at an unknown earlier date.
CE 1980 - 1989	Altered	Federal Highways uses the site for temporary field office while working on the north section of Skyline Drive. (Interview, 2001:Brown-Engle)
CE 1982 - 1996	Removed	Existing features identified in the 1983 GMP include six trailers for NPS employee housing south of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office and a set of trailers west of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. The trailers were removed by the mid-1990s. (GMP, 1983; NPS plan, 1983:134-20072A; NPS plan, 1983:134-40044; NPS plan, 1993:134-41093A; NPS plan, 1996:134-41094B)
CE 1984	Built	NPS constructs five-bay maintenance building. (Hooper, 1997:7-35)
CE 1987	Built	NPS constructs prefabricated ranch-style residence. (Hooper, 1997:7-35)
CE 1993	Built	NPS builds the modern gas/oil building near the maintenance building. (Hooper, 1997:7-35)
CE 2001 - 2006	Removed	NPS removes old gas/oil building between 2001 and 2006.
CE 2004	Stabilized	Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office stabilized. (LCS, 2006:081801)
CE 2004	Preserved	Naturalist's Office preserved and ell on Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office stabilized. (LCS, 2006:081801)
CE 2006	Removed	NPS removes Maintenance/Equipment Shed.

Physical History:

1. 9000-10,000 years Ago to 17th Century: Native American Use

This area of the Blue Ridge Mountains was known and used by Paleo-Indians for many centuries, with the first human habitation beginning about 9000-10,000 years ago, sometime after the last Ice-Age. The Paleo-Indians were hunters and gatherers who used the mountains for seasonal camps. With the development of farming in the valleys by 1000 AD, Native American use of the mountains focused on game hunting. (Resource Management Plan-hereafter called RMP-,1998:23) The Manocan and Manahoac tribes used the area.

2. 1669 to 1926: European Settlement

The first recorded European exploration of this area of the Blue Ridge Mountains took place in 1669. Dr. John Lederer, who led the party, described the woods as wild and full of game. In 1716 Alexander Spotswood, Governor of Virginia, led an expedition across the Blue Ridge to encourage settlement in the area, likely crossing at Swift Run Gap or Big Meadows. (Lambert, 1989:32-33) English, Scots-Irish, and Germans then immigrated to the area from the Tidewater to the Piedmont, and from Pennsylvania to the Shenandoah Valley. (Maddux et al., 1992:7-2) Throughout this time, the local Native Americans were dying of introduced diseases, and by 1800 they had disappeared completely or had moved away. (Lambert, 1989:21-22; RMP, 1998:23)

As the better farm lands were taken, the new settlers moved into the mountain hollows where they developed a life reliant on hunting, farming, grazing, and timbering that led to extensive clearing of the land. (RMP, 1998:23) This clearing was later advanced by the introduction of chestnut blight in the early part of the 1900s, which killed the chestnut trees local people had previously relied upon for rot-resistant wood that was suitable for construction. (Engle, 1999:67)

At some sites in the 1800s, industrial use also developed. Examples include the Mt. Vernon iron furnace and the Stony Man Mountain Tract, where from 1845 to 1850 copper was mined and charcoal was produced for smelting. (Engle, 1994:1) Recreational use of the mountains began around 1830 with the opening of Black Rock Springs Hotel, south of current Route 33. The first recreational summer outing was held in 1888 at Skyland.

3. 1926-1952: Initial Park Development

In 1926 Congress authorized the Shenandoah NP in Virginia's Blue Ridge area to provide a large, western-type park accessible from the population centers of the East Coast. However, the Act did not provide federal funding to acquire land. Until it was officially established in 1935, park lands were acquired through private donations and funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia. (RMP, 1998:23) This was followed by the removal of homesteads, farms, and previous uses from those lands. (McClelland, 1998:290)

President Franklin Roosevelt officially dedicated the park on July 3, 1936, but many developments were already well underway. In 1927 the PATC was organized, and construction of the AT began at Shenandoah. (Lambert, 1979:159) The trail's initial route was later relocated to accommodate what early on was envisioned as the park's most important asset in the Report of the Southern Appalachian National Park Committee from June 30, 1931, "the greatest single feature, however, is a possible skyline drive along the mountaintop, following a continuous ridge and looking down westerly on the Shenandoah Valley... and commanding a view [to the east] of the Piedmont Plan... Few scenic drives in the world could surpass it. (Engle, 1999:15)

Construction of Skyline Drive began in 1931 and was Depression-era programs designed to spur employment. The first portion of the road was completed by 1934, a 34-mile stretch between Thornton Gap and Swift Run Gap called the Central District. The 32-mile North District section opened to the public in October 1936 and the South District section opened in August 1939. (Maddux, 1995:8-9,10,11)

Perhaps the most instrumental force in the development of Shenandoah NP was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC program was created as an economic stimulus during the Depression and was aimed at, among other goals, improving and supporting national parks and forests. (Engle, 1999:24) CCC projects at Shenandoah included the construction of fire roads, trails, and comfort stations, removal of dead chestnut trees, and cultivation of native vegetation for replanting. Work also included installation of utilities, eradication of white pine blister rust, and improvements to streams. (Engle, 2001)

Once the park was established and adjacent lands were acquired, it was up to the park's landscape architects and the CCC crews to address post-construction design issues along Skyline Drive and create a picturesque scene. Horizontal and vertical curves were adjusted; cut and fill slopes were flattened; overlooks, picnic areas, guardrails, guard walls, and stone gutters were built; and disturbed areas were landscaped with trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plantings. Most significantly, the CCC created framed views to the east and west through the removal, planting, and transplanting of vegetation. (Engle, 1999:66-67) [see Figs. 6, 7]

CCC enrollees were housed in ten camps at Shenandoah. [see Fig. 8] On July 4, 1935, Camp Byrd, NP-12, was established at Piney River in the North District of Skyline Drive. Named after Senator Harry F. Byrd, "Camp Red Bird" as it became known, was the relocation of Camp NP-9 from Sperryville, where the recruits continued to be housed from June 28 until July 4 while constructing the new camp. (Engle, 1999:36,38) As the last CCC camp built at Shenandoah NP, Piney River did not have the typical U-shape building arrangement of previous CCC camps and instead was more linear because of the mountain topography. [see Fig. 9] Roads spurred at various lengths from a Hub, an oval drive surrounding a flagpole in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (historically named the Technical Quarters and Office), which housed the CCC architects and landscape architects. (Engle, 1999:38) There were over twenty buildings at the camp, including barracks, a mess hall, a gym, an education building, army quarters, bath and latrine facilities, various storage and supply buildings, a garage, and a workshop. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) Most of the major buildings were located to the south and west of the Hub, while garages and storage buildings were to the north. Two of the structures still survive at their original locations: the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office and the Naturalist's Office (historically an Oil and Gas Storage Shed). Besides Piney River, Pinnacles is the only other site in Shenandoah where CCC camp buildings remain at their original location. (Hooper, 1997:8-59) [see Figs. 10, 11]

The entry of the United States into World War II ended most development in the park until the NPS Mission 66 program. Piney River was closed on March 15, 1942. (Engle, 1999:30) The loss of CCC labor was eased by the establishment of Civilian Public Service (CPS) Camp 45 at Pinnacles staffed by conscientious objectors required to render alternative service. (Hooper, 1997:8-86) In 1943, the CPS removed most of the CCC camp buildings at Piney River. One exception was the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, which was renovated for use as the North District Ranger Station. According to the CPS report,

"The building was given to us by the Army when the camp was demolished. It lends itself well to alteration for use as a ranger station, very much needed in this district, until the permanent facilities are made available. The proposed station is located strategically for fire protection as well as general administration. It is only a mile from the Hogback fire tower and two miles from the Elkwallow tavern [wayside] and picnic ground. Facilities are available for storage of road maintenance, as well as ranger, equipment . . . We wish to stress the fact that this is purely a temporary expedient and the work undertaken will involve only that necessary to make the building livable." (Hooper, 1997:8-102)

More frequent use of Piney River as a park maintenance presumably developed around this time. Such use was not noted on the park's master plans, probably because there were adequate existing facilities at the site. (Hooper, 1997:8-71)



Fig. 6: The park's landscape architects and CCC crews worked to create beauty from construction scars like this along Skyline Drive. (Engle 1999, 68)



Fig. 7: CCC crew transplanting a pine tree. (Engle 1999, 85)

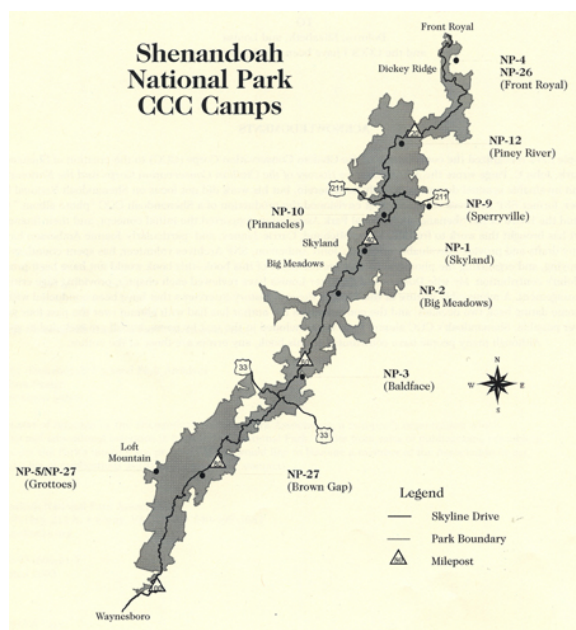


Fig. 8: Map of CCC camps at Shenandoah NP. (Engle 1999, 4)

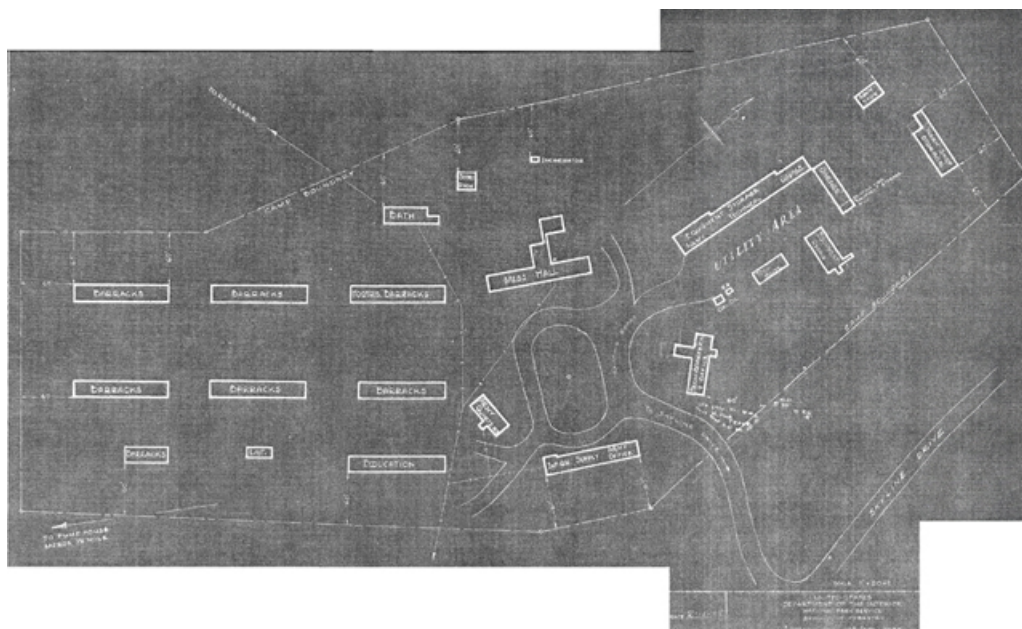


Fig. 9: Plan of Camp NP-12 at Piney River, from 1942. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC)

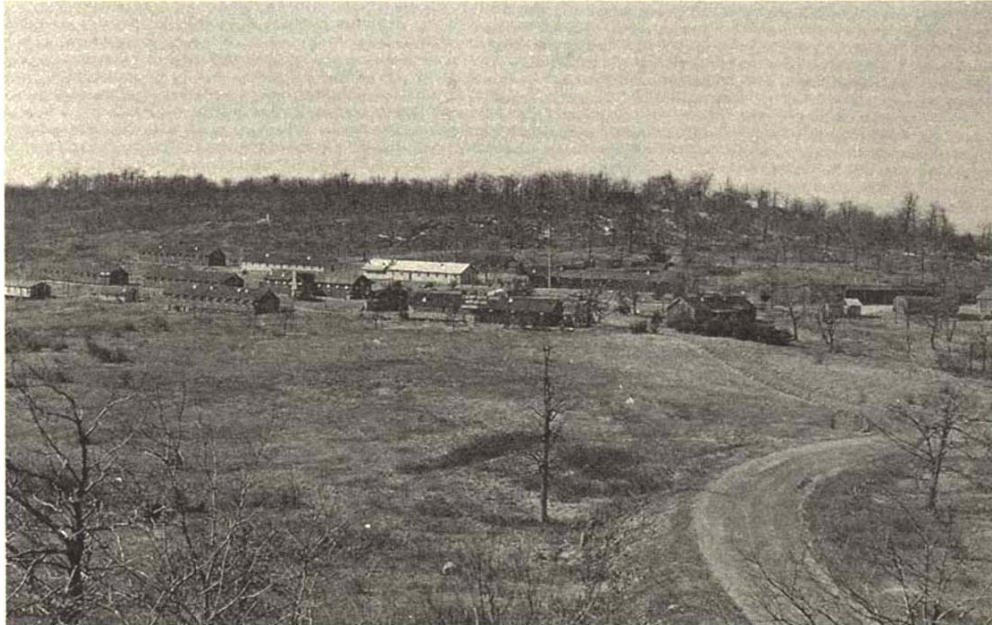


Fig. 10: View looking west at Camp NP-12 in 1935. The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office is at right center. Note flagpole at center. The absence of vegetation to the south and east allowed panoramic mountain views. (Engle 1999, 37)



Fig. 11: Undated view looking northeast at the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, which housed the CCC's architects' and landscape architects' offices. The building is extant today. (Engle 1999, 38)

4. 1952 – Present: Later Development / National Park Service Era

By the 1950s, the NPS was planning Mission 66 construction projects that would help parks address the massive influx of visitors following World War II. Congressional funding for the work was secured in 1956, and the park expanded facilities at Piney River, adding the old gas/oil building around 1960, and the water tank and shed in 1966 on the atop Piney Ridge. The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office may have been used for ranger housing in the 1950s-60s, as this was done at other sites.

New facilities have been developed and improvements made in the years since the Mission 66 projects. In the 1980s the Federal Highway Administration used the site for a temporary field office while working on the North District of Skyline Drive; a set of office trailers west of the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC may have been part of that activity. In 1984 the park built a five-bay maintenance building in the former barracks area and the modern gas/oil building in 1993. An area just east of the former CCC camp was developed as employee housing: sometime prior to 1982 six trailers were installed but were removed by 1996, and in 1987 the prefabricated single-family residence was built. Currently, Piney River is used as a maintenance facility, a trail crew office, and a storage facility for vehicles, fire equipment, trail supplies, and stockpiled construction materials. Park visitors primarily use the area as a trailhead. Regrettably, one of the three CCC structures retained after the camp closed – the Maintenance/Equipment Shed – was razed in 2006 due to its poor condition.

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Domestic (Residential)	Camp	Camp	Yes	No	Yes
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling		No	Yes	No
General Storage	Equipment/Vehicle Storage		Yes	Yes	No
General Storage	Fuel Storage Site		Yes	Yes	No
General Storage	Storage Yard (Open Area Used)		Yes	Yes	No
Government	Government Office		Yes	Yes	No
Government	Government Office	Maintenance Facility	No	Yes	Yes
Industrial/Processing/Extraction	Water Works		Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)		No	Yes	No
Transportation	Pedestrian-Related		Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

As with most areas of Shenandoah NP, it is quite possible that either the Native American Manocan and Manahoac tribes or later settlers to the area used this site at one time. However, to date, there are no known prehistoric sites or historic settlements in the camp area likely because there was no water.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The physical integrity of the landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1931-1952) with current conditions. Significant landscape characteristics identified for Piney River are Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Land Use, Topography, Vegetation, Circulation, Buildings and Structures, Views and Vistas, Small-Scale Features, and Archeology. All of these characteristics have associated with them features that contribute to the site's overall historic significance, and many include features that do not contribute.

Historic integrity, as defined in National Register Bulletin 15, is the ability of a property to convey its significance, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The analysis in this report concludes that the Piney River landscape does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered a contributing (countable) site according to National Register guidelines. This is primarily due to the removal of most of the historic buildings and structures in the 1940s, the recent loss of one of three historic buildings that were retained, and the growth and spread of woodlands in and around the site. Additionally, one of the site's two remaining historic buildings is in threatened condition. Nonetheless, a variety of characteristics and features that contribute to the character of the historic district have been identified at Piney River.

Of the seven aspects of integrity, Piney River retains integrity in three aspects – location, workmanship, and association – mainly because of the extant CCC buildings, primary circulation features and functions, and the site's response to natural and topographic conditions. Piney River no longer retains integrity in design, setting, materials, and feeling due to the loss of most of the camp's historic buildings and structures and the growth of woodlands in and around the site.

Location

Although only two of Piney River's primary historic buildings remain, the influence of natural features, topographic conditions, and proximity to Skyline Drive on the establishment of Camp NP-12 in this location are still evident. Therefore, the site retains integrity of location.

Design

Piney River no longer retains integrity of design. The physical factors that influenced where land uses, roadways, and buildings and structures were located in response to natural features and to each other are still evident, but the growth of woodland vegetation to the south and east and gradual encroachment of vegetation into the former camp area has made these relationships more challenging to read. The biggest change, however, is that most of the camp's prefabricated buildings and structures were removed by the CPS during the period of significance. While this fact actually reflects a unique quality of the camp's history and the temporary design of the typical CCC camp, it was the arrangement of these features as a whole that reflected the form, plan, and spatial organization of the camp. Today, only two of the twenty-four historic buildings and structures are extant. The historic Access Road and spurs are still used, but they have been paved and partially reconfigured, and a non-historic spur has been added. The employee residence has been added in an area where the camp did not exist historically, but its prefabricated design is consistent with the type of temporary nature of structures erected during the historic period.

Setting

The close relationship of the site to Skyline Drive, the AT, and Piney Branch Trail, and its place within the greater Shenandoah NP, has not changed. Large-scale features such as the gently sloped land of the former camp and the forested ridge to the west contribute to the setting as they clearly influenced the location, design, and layout of the CCC camp. However, the overall setting at Piney River has diminished integrity primarily because of the growth of vegetation and the absence of most of the historic buildings. The spread of woodland trees and shrubs has changed the character of the site and now covers much of the former camp and especially areas that were once open to the south and east, which has diminished panoramic views to the distant mountains. The subsequent decline in the amount of open space and the absence of most of the camp's buildings has changed the arrangement between open spaces and buildings. Several large trees, boulders, a stone fireplace, and a loading ramp remain, but other character-defining features are gone such as the wood posts and a semicircular path in front of the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC, the flagpole, and

boulders lining the Access Road.

Materials

The larger pines, hemlocks, oaks, hawthorn, apples, and coralberry scattered throughout the site are original materials, but the secondary growth hardwood forest of oak, cherry, hickory, locust, and pines that covers many of the formerly open spaces in the camp and the areas to the south and east is not. Road surfaces have changed and are now a mix of asphalt and gravel that vary in condition. Board and batten siding is used on the post-historic maintenance building and modern gas/oil building to make those buildings look historic, but neither building is a historic resource. Most of the exterior materials present on the two remaining CCC buildings are original; the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC, in particular, has likely persevered because it is not a prefabricated construction. However, as a whole, the majority of historic materials is no longer present because so many of the camp's buildings and structures have been removed, which has diminished the integrity of materials at Piney River.

Workmanship

The two remaining CCC buildings exhibit different types of construction used at the CCC camp: the Naturalist's Office, a prefabricated frame building, which was typical in Shenandoah's CCC camps; and the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC, a permanent frame building, which was not typical. (Engle, 1999:32) That these structures still remain at the site, and represent some of the last camp buildings from the CCC period, makes workmanship one of Piney River's most important contributions. The recently removed Maintenance/Equipment Shed illustrated a third type of construction – a non-prefabricated open bay frame shed, which also was not typical. Its loss, and the threatened condition of the west wing of the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC, demonstrates that this aspect of integrity is in jeopardy.

Feeling

The feeling at Piney River is diminished because of the loss of most CCC buildings and structures and the preponderance of secondary growth woodland vegetation. Most of the camp's buildings were removed during the historic period, in 1943, and most of these areas have reverted to a woodland environment. Through the end of the historic period (1952) and up until the present time, the area has been used primarily for park-related maintenance and ranger and trail crew functions, and for limited employee housing. The scale of these functions is drastically different when compared to when the camp was open and housed hundreds of men. From 1935-1942, the entire site was a bustle of activity, but since that time activities have been only occasional and concentrated to specific areas.

Association

Piney River's historic associations are best revealed through the remaining CCC buildings, circulation features, and the overall design and layout of the site in relation to topographic conditions, natural features, and Skyline Drive. Although the locations and scales have changed, the site continues to support park operations and housing.

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Historic Period and Existing Conditions

No archeological features are currently listed as contributing resources on the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form or on the List of Classified Structures. Field investigations revealed subsidence east of the maintenance building parking area that corresponds to the latrine location noted on the 1942 CCC map. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) The Sinkholes are likely the remains of the stone-lined pits that functioned as septic tanks, and were later filled when the existing septic system was installed ca. 1988. (Engle, 2001) A linear, level area tracking north-south along the slope of Piney Ridge between the maintenance building and the water tank creates a distinct narrow terrace that may have been a road trace used by the CCC.

No other potential archeological sites were observed, but archeological explorations at both Big Meadows and Pinnacles indicate that sites of CCC camps retain significant subsurface resources. As the camp's buildings were pole buildings, the postmold evidence of the original buildings remains in situ. An Archeological Overview and Assessment is currently underway. [see Figs. 35, 36]

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Sinkholes	97674	Undetermined					No
Linear corridor behind maint. bldg.	97675	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 35: View south at a possible road trace along the ridge. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 36: View of one of the stone-lined sinkholes at Piney River. (OCLP 2005)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Period

Although it had no “company street,” Camp NP-12 shared the same basic building components as the other CCC camps in the park: barracks, mess hall and kitchen, latrines, and a bathhouse. (Engle, 1999:34) Additional structures included offices, garages, workshops, storage buildings, and an incinerator. Of the 24 structures shown on the 1942 CCC plan, only two remain today. These buildings, and some at Pinnacles, are the only locations in Shenandoah NP where CCC camp buildings remain at their original sites. (Hooper, 1997:8-59)

By the time Camp NP-12 was built, the Army had developed a standardized design for CCC structures, which consisted of prefabricated modular panels that were easily constructed, shipped, erected and bolted together on site, and then disassembled when needed. (Engle, 1999:32) The notable exceptions to this were the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly Technical Quarters and Office) and some of the open equipment sheds which were built on site. (Engle, 1999:32,38)

As drawn on the 1942 CCC plan, eight camp buildings – five barracks, a headquarters barracks, an education building, and the Infirmary Supply and Army Office – were approximately the same size, measuring 100 feet by 20 feet, with some variations. The Mess Hall and the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office were also rectangular, but included projecting sections that formed a T-shape. The camp’s other structures varied in size and shape. All of the camp’s buildings and structures were single story, and most featured gabled roofs except for slanted roofs on some of the sheds and garages. Curiously, the sides and roof of the headquarters barracks, as well as the sides of some of the other barracks and office structures, appear to have been white in color. A photograph from 1935 shows what appears to be painted letters – probably identifying the camp’s name and number – on the roof of the Infirmary Supply and Army Office building facing Skyline Drive. (Engle, 1999:37)

Soon after the camp closed in 1942, the CPS removed most of the prefabricated buildings. The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office was renovated as a ranger station. The Naturalist’s Office (formerly a gas and oil structure) and the Maintenance/Equipment Shed were also retained.

Existing Conditions

Since the CCC period, the maintenance building, the gas/oil building, the residence, a water tank, and several small outbuildings have been added at Piney River. The Range View Cabin on the AT is accessible from Piney River and will be included in the CLI on the AT segment in Shenandoah NP.

The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (PR-0712) was constructed in 1935 as the Technical Quarters and Office and housed CCC architects and landscape architects. It is a single story building measuring 77x21-42; with a large stone fireplace in the center. The wood frame of the structure sits on wooden piers with tar paper, asphalt, and board and batten exterior siding and a cross-gabled asphalt roof. (Hooper, 1997:7-31; LCS, 2006:81801) A 21x15-42; section projects from the front (southwest) side of the building and a 7x4’ wooden porch with decorative posts is on the northeast façade. The T-plan, the stone fireplace, and the porch were unique features to otherwise non-descript CCC buildings. Today, the building is used as a meeting room and storage area but is no longer functions as a ranger station. The structure is presently in poor condition. The front ell section in particular is in threatened condition and was stabilized in November 2004. (LCS, 2006:81801; PMIS, 109307:http://165.83.198.10/pmis_search/search_projectdetail.cfm)

The Naturalist’s Office (PR-0439) was built in 1935 for oil and gas storage. (Hooper, 1997:7-31,32) It was used as a coal storage shed in the 1950s, and then for a naturalist’s office and for storage. The 12x10-42; wood structure sits on a concrete pad with an asphalt gabled roof and exterior walls of tar paper and board and batten. The building is in poor condition and is used for storage. (LCS, 2006:81802) The historic Maintenance/Equipment Shed (PR-0437), constructed in 1937 as a

workshop and storage area, was recently removed and only the foundation slab and a few piers remain today.

Other buildings and structures at Piney River post-date the historic period. The NPS built the five-bay wood frame maintenance building (PR-4101) in 1984. (Hooper, 1997:7-35) It was purposely sited to be sheltered by the prevailing winter winds by the landscape. (GMP, 1984:140) The 84x34-42; concrete block structure has a metal gable roof and the walls are covered with board and batten siding. (Hooper, 1997:7-32) Mortared stone retaining walls, 3-4' high with concrete caps, extend from each end of the building. A 12x12' portable wooden shed is situated south of the building, next to which is a portable trailer. In 1993, the park built a modern gas/oil building (PR-4108) northeast of the maintenance building. The 8x8-42; concrete block structure has a gable roof and board and batten siding. (Hooper, 1997:7-32)

In 1987 the NPS built the prefabricated wood frame, ranch-style residence (PR-0264) for employee housing. The three-bedroom house stands out from the other structures at Piney River with its white vinyl siding and modern look. Although it was located with respect to a possible view, it is currently blocked by the forest. (GMP, 1984:141) Behind the house is a small shed.

Two culverts can be found on the road to the maintenance building. Both feature corrugated metal pipes, mortared stone drop-inlets, and mortared stone headwalls at the outlets. It is unlikely that the culverts are historic as their outlets would have directed water into the barracks just down the slope. At the maintenance building, floor drains and roof down spouts connect to two cast iron pipes under the parking area that drain into the wooded field. Their outlets feature mortared stone headwalls and splashpans.

Several non-historic structures have been removed or replaced. In the mid-1990s the set of trailers west of the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC and the six employee trailers were removed. West of the maintenance building and on top of Piney Ridge is a 40-42; diameter concrete water tank and an 8x8-42; concrete block shed. The tank replaced a wooden tank installed at an unknown date. A sign on the tank notes the date (1966) and builders (Crom Corp.). Recently, the park removed the c.1960 old gas/oil building. [see Figs. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27]

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
gas/oil building (PR-4108)	97676	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
maintenance building (PR-4101)	97677	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Building PR-0712	97678	Contributing	081801		Location	00001934	Yes
shed and trailer (maintenance building)	97679	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
culverts with drop-inlets	97680	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Naturalist's Office (PR-0439)	97681	Contributing					No
drain pipes with splash pans	97682	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
residence (PR-0264)	97683	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
shed (at residence)	97684	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
stone retaining walls	97685	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
water tank and shed	97686	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 23: Looking southeast at the Maintenance Office-CCC Technical Office. (OCLP 2006)



Fig. 24: View of the Maintenance Office-CCC Technical Office.CCC, looking northwest. (OCLP 2006)



Fig. 25: Looking north at the Naturalist's Office-CCC. (OCLP 2006)



Fig. 26: Looking west at the water tank and shed on the Piney Ridge. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 27: Looking southwest at the stone culvert inlet along the road to the Maintenance Building. (OCLP 2005)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Period

By the late 1920s, construction of the AT had begun, and in 1932 two side trails were developed off of it near the site to provide access into the Piney River valley to the south and east. These trails connected to the Fire Road and to the Range View Cabin to the south, which was completed in August 1933. (<http://www.patc.net>) The trailhead for one of the side trails – the Piney Branch Trail – was just southeast of the future CCC camp; it and the nearby AT were likely visible from it. In 1935, the AT was relocated by the CCC.

In addition to the topographic characteristics described earlier, the siting of Camp NP-12 below Piney Ridge in 1935 was also likely influenced by the close proximity to Skyline Drive, which was under construction at the time and provided access to other work sites in the park. Historic photographs and the 1942 CCC plan show the Access Road beginning as a triangle configuration at Skyline Drive and ending at the Hub as a broad oval driveway surrounding a flagpole, from which the other roads extended to the north, south, and west. (NPS plan, 1942: CCC) A label on the plan notes that the north leg of the oval and the road leading north were existing, which would suggest that the Access Road also existed earlier in some form, possibly to allow hikers access to the general area. The road heading south from the Hub likely provided access to a pump house shown on the plan as one-half mile away to the south, which would be near the Range View Cabin, and likely connected with the current Fire Road. The road heading west from the Hub probably tracked up to Piney Ridge and to a reservoir that is labeled on the plan as located west of the camp. Although the Northern District portion of Skyline Drive had a chip seal surface by the end of 1936, the camp's roads were likely earthen and gravel surfaced. (Maddux, 1995:8-9,10)

A historic photograph shows an earthen or gravel semicircular path in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. (Engle, 1999:38) There were likely other connecting paths associated with the barracks, mess hall, latrine, and other buildings, but their locations are not known. The CPS removed most of the camp's buildings in 1943 and whatever paths existed probably faded to grass

and weeds.

Existing Conditions

The Access Road to Piney River from Skyline Drive continues to be used and retains a triangular configuration at the east end, which separates the northbound and southbound traffic entering and exiting the site. On the List of Classified Structures, the road is evaluated as in fair condition. The road is 15 feet wide, 400 feet in length, and has no curb. Visitors using the Piney Branch Trail, which connects with the AT east of the residence, can park in the broad grass area on the south side of the road. There are grass/gravel and paved parking areas further up and adjacent to this road for eleven cars.

The Access Road connects with the paved Hub in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. Another paved parking area for six vehicles is located across from the building, beyond which is a two-foot wide remnant asphalt path that accessed a former NPS building. The semicircular pedestrian path fronting the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office was removed and the area was paved sometime after 1962, which consequently left one of the oak trees surrounded with asphalt. (NPS plan, 1962:2558) The Hub is now a much smaller area than the former CCC oval driveway and is located farther north. Nonetheless, it continues to function as a departure point to other areas of the site. Three asphalt roads now branch from the Hub.

The 12-foot wide road tracking north from the Hub follows the CCC configuration, but today turns into a loop. This asphalt/gravel road continues north from the loop and then ends as a two-track gravel lane behind the foundation of the former Maintenance/Equipment Shed. A two-track gravel road extends west from the south end of the loop and leads to the water tank, rocky plateaus, and the peak of Piney Ridge. According to the Nomination Form, both roads would be considered contributing resources as a spur from the Access Road.

The 10-foot wide asphalt road heading south from the Hub also generally follows the alignment of an old CCC road. As it curves to the southwest it widens into an abandoned parking area, from which three remnant asphalt pathways branch to the northeast where trailer homes once stood. Further on another road echoes the orientation of the pathways and leads to the employee residence, ending as a turnaround. The gravel Fire Road leads straight south from the parking area and connects with the AT before terminating at the Range View Cabin. (The AT segment within Shenandoah NP will be covered in a separate CLI.) This road is also a contributing resource as a spur from the Access Road.

The widest of the three roads is not historic and heads southwest to the new maintenance building where ambulance and fire vehicles are stored. A pull-off area for the modern gas/oil building is to the immediate left and the road ends as large paved parking area. This parking area, and the others described above, is bounded by concrete bumpers. [see Figs. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22]

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Road south from Hub (spur to Fire Road)	111658	Contributing	081878		Location	48611	Yes
Road north from Hub (spur to Nat. Ofc)	111660	Contributing	081878		Location	48611	Yes
Hub	112170	Contributing	081878		Location	48611	Yes
asphalt paths	97687	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Access Road	97688	Contributing	081878		Location	48611	Yes
Fire Road (to AT and Range View Cabin)	97689	Contributing					No
paved parking areas	97690	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Piney Branch Trail	97691	Contributing					No
Road west from Hub (spur to water tank)	97692	Contributing	081878		Location	48611	Yes
road southwest from Hub	97693	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 22: Looking northeast at a remnant asphalt path built for trailer housing. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 18: View looking west at the access road from Skyline Drive. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 19: View looking south at the road leading to the Residence and fire road. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 20: View south at the fire road which leads to the Range View Cabin and connects with the Appalachian Trail. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 21: View looking southwest at the road leading to the water tank and the ridge. (OCLP 2005)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historic Period

Land uses at Piney River by Native Americans and early European settlers have not been determined, but it is likely that the absence of water precluded any organized settlements. In the years prior to construction of the CCC camp, the CCC built the Range View Cabin, making this area well known to hikers. From 1935 to 1942, the site served as Camp NP-12, which featured over twenty buildings constructed to house and supply the men with everything they needed to live and work at Shenandoah NP. The southern half of the camp was primarily devoted to bunking and supplying the camp's enrollees, while the northern half was a utility and maintenance area comprised of workshops, storage buildings, and garages. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) The site also served as a design center; the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly Technical Quarters and Office) housed the CCC architects and landscape architects. (Engle, 1999:38) Additionally, the rocky plateaus on the top of Piney Ridge were used by the CCC as a reservoir area and possibly for recreation or as a lookout for foul weather or fires.

Camp NP-12 closed in 1942, briefly taking with it the site's domestic land uses. In 1943, enrollees in the CPS program removed most of the camp's buildings but renovated the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office for temporary use as the North District Ranger Station. (Hooper, 1997:8-89) The site was chosen in part because the location was strategic for fire protection and general administration, and had facilities available for storage of road maintenance and ranger equipment. (Hooper, 1997:8-102) The site also saw its role as a park maintenance facility develop at this time.

Existing Conditions

Piney River continues to function as a trail crew office and maintenance facility. The site is also used for general storage, as well as a fire cache and rescue storage. In the 1980s, Piney River was used as a temporary field office by the Federal Highway Administration while work was done on the Northern District of Skyline Drive. The historic land use of domestic housing has also resumed, although at a much smaller scale and in a different location. Over the years, various types of park employee housing have been located south and east of the former camp area. For this use there have been temporary trailers and now there is a single-family residence. The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office may also have also been used for ranger housing.

Recreational use of the area is limited. Hikers can access a trailhead for the Piney Branch Trail at the entrance of the site and connect with the AT, which tracks southeast of the site. Both the AT and the Fire Road continue south to where the PATC Range View Cabin is located. The PATC also stores trail supplies in the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office and in the maintenance building. [see Figs. 12, 13, 14]

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Domestic uses (housing)	111602	Contributing					No
Ranger station	111604	Contributing					No
Maintenance uses	111606	Contributing					No
Recreational uses	111608	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 12: View looking southwest at the Maintenance Building area. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 14: View looking east at the Residence. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 13: View looking southwest at part of the storage area in front of the former Maintenance/ Equipment Shed-CCC. (OCLP 2006)

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic Period and Existing Conditions

Natural systems and features at Piney River are evident in the mountains, valleys, watersheds, and rock outcrops. Shenandoah NP and Skyline Drive lie astride the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia, part of the Appalachian Mountains that stretch from Georgia to Pennsylvania. The mountains separate the Shenandoah Valley on the west and the rolling hills of the Piedmont Plain on the east. Piney River is situated on one of the many mountain ridges, the Piney Ridge. Most of the land at the site tilts southeasterly toward the river for which the site is named, some 800 feet lower in elevation. The far western and northern portions slope northwesterly and are part of the Jeremy's Run watershed. Both streams eventually flow into the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The site's rock material, gneiss and granite, is among the oldest in the park. These rocks are over one billion years old and are found in the northern one-third of Shenandoah NP. (Badger, 1999:1) Soils at Piney River are thin and rocky, especially at the top of the ridge where natural outcroppings form ledges and the forest of oak and cherry is open and scattered. In contrast, the forest surrounding the developed area of Piney River is in a secondary growth stage of oak, cherry, hickory, locust, and pine with a dense shrub layer.

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Period

The 1942 CCC plan and historic photographs reveal a few small-scale features at Camp NP-12. Arguably the most important was the flagpole, which was a staple of all CCC camps in the park and

was typically located in front of the mess hall. (Engle, 1999:34) Such was the case at Piney River, where the flagpole was in the Hub, the center space defined by the oval driveway. Another character-defining feature was the placement of Boulders along the Access Road and around the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly the Technical Quarters and Office). Large Boulders found throughout the park, typical of the CCC and early park periods, were used as guides along roads, at points of intersection or interest, or to make buildings recede into the environment. Additionally, the driveway in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office was bounded by wood posts about 2½' high and set approximately ten feet apart.

Existing Conditions

Of the features described above, only the Boulders in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office remain. Several other small-scale features, however, likely date to the CCC or early park period. Several other large Boulders are found under the brush where the latrine and barracks were located at the CCC camp. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) In the lawn area between the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Building and the Naturalist's Office is a 3½'-high Stone Fireplace with a metal grill and brick lining. It is similar in design to those constructed by the CCC throughout the park. Behind the foundation of the Maintenance/Equipment Shed is a Loading Ramp constructed of stacked logs that was probably used for loading trucks. On the woodland floor east of the gas/oil building is a Concrete Box with Pipes that generally aligns with the junction of two sewer or water lines from former camp's buildings. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC)

Other small-scale features present at the site are not historic. Before entering Piney River from Skyline Drive, metal gates for winter road closure mark the approach to the area from the north. Also located here are a metal "Road Closed" sign and a tree trunk positioned horizontally on the ground, but there are currently no signs along Skyline Drive that identify Piney River. At the first paved parking area on the Access Road, a typical brown wood sign with white engraved lettering provides basic information on the CCC history at the site. This sign design is repeated on a sign for the "North District Trails Office" at the Hub and on signs in other locations, while metal signs identify parking areas and provide various traffic regulatory information throughout the site. A typical wooden two-paneled bulletin board with a gabled roof is located at the entrance to the Piney Branch Trail, which is marked by a squared concrete aggregate post with a metal name band; a similar square concrete post is located at the trail's junction with the AT. A rusted metal flagpole stands behind the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, but it is not in the same position as when Piney River was a CCC camp. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) To the north are typical wood picnic tables with metal bases and a rusted four-legged metal trough grill.

Traces of former park uses are evident throughout Piney River. An abandoned kennel with chain-link fencing and metal dividers sits on a concrete slab behind the former Maintenance/Equipment Shed. On the west side of the Hub is a grass area that was once the location of an NPS building that has since been removed. Concrete footings can be found where a portion of it once stood. (NPS plan, 1982:134-40044) This area also features an abandoned concrete pad formerly for a gas tank, a rectangular grill with a concrete base, and two metal weather devices, and three wooden posts near the tree line that once protected a third weather device. Just west of the residence is a propane tank, and west of there is another abandoned concrete pad used for a gas tank that once served the trailers. Across the road from the pad are steel posts and a chain that restrict vehicular access to the Fire Road.

For fire protection, there are three hydrants: a short red hydrant near one of the paths where employee trailer housing once stood, a narrow and tall red hydrant just north of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, and a red fire hose box and newer fire hydrant at the maintenance building. For septic services, there are tanks and seepage fields south of the Hub for the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office; west of the Fire Road for the maintenance building; and southwest of the residence. NPS benchmarks, four-sided concrete aggregate posts with round iron tops, are found at Piney River as well as other areas of Shenandoah NP. A trash dumpster and recycling bin are located at the maintenance building and throughout the site are various storage piles of materials "C primarily mulch, stone, gravel, and debris "Cas well as storage areas of trash cans, logs, and the like. [see Figs. 30, 31, 32, 33, 34]

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Concrete Box with Pipes	111750	Contributing					No
Piney Branch Trail sign post	111754	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
steel grill	111758	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
new septic tanks and seepage fields	111762	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
propane tank (at residence)	111770	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
old pads for gas tanks	111774	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Appalachian Trail sign post	97696	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Boulders	97697	Contributing					No
wood bulletin board	97698	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
concrete footings	97699	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
fire hydrants	97700	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
flagpole	97701	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
rectangular grill	97702	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
dog kennels	97703	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Loading Ramp	97704	Contributing					No
chain gate (at Fire Road)	97705	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
NPS bench marks	97706	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
picnic tables	97707	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
metal signs	97708	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Stone Fireplace	97709	Contributing					No
material storage piles	97710	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
trash dumpster and recycling bin	97711	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
weather station devices	97712	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

wood signs	97713	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
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Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 30: The grill likely dates to the CCC period. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 31: The wood loading ramp behind the Maintenance/Equipment Shed-CCC is likely historic. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 32: Abandoned dog kennels are located behind the Maintenance/Equipment Shed-CCC. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 33: The two-side bulletin board and trail marker are located just south of the access road. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 34: View south at some of the storage piles at Piney River. (OCLP 2005)

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Period

Piney River was developed as a CCC camp in 1935 at Mile 22.1 along Skyline Drive. Unlike most of the CCC camps at Shenandoah, Camp NP-12 did not feature a rectangular U-shape configuration of buildings that faced a central opening, and there was no central axis defined by a main or “company” street. (Engle, 1999:34,38) Rather, the camp’s layout featured three distinct ‘blocks’ that together formed a broad arc corresponding to the site’s topography.

The entrance to the camp from Skyline Drive was by the curved Access Road that terminated as an oval driveway in the middle block, which together with a flagpole roughly marked the camp’s geographic center. This block functioned like the spoke of a wheel from which roads radiated to other areas of the camp to the west, north, and south. Facing this central space, or Hub, were two buildings aligned along the east and west ends of the oval’s long axis – the “Mess Hall” and the “Infirmary Supply and Army Office”. On the north side of the Hub was the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly the Technical Quarters and Office), which was generally oriented to the buildings occupying the southern half of the camp. Another building, the “Army Quarters,” was located on the south side of the Hub and was generally aligned with the structures occupying the northern half of the camp.

The bulk of the camp’s buildings were located south of the Hub and consisted of two rows of three barracks buildings and a third row comprised of barracks, a latrine, and an education building. This block of buildings – along with a bathhouse, storeroom, and an incinerator situated to the north and west – was oriented in a slightly different direction than the buildings in the Hub. A collection of structures in the northern half of the camp was also skewed differently when contrasted to the Hub. This “Utility Area” featured the Naturalist’s Office (formerly a gas and oil structure) and a variety of other workshops, garages, and equipment storage buildings, most of which were centered around an open area. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC)

Historic photographs show the camp as bounded by the wooded Piney Ridge to the west and north and generally clear to the south and east, suggesting that panoramic views existed, especially from the barracks area and the Hub.

Existing Conditions

Piney River is still accessed from Skyline Drive by the Access Road, which is bounded on both sides by an open grass area and woodlands and terminates in front of the historic Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office as a large paved area. This space, or Hub, continues to function as a spoke in the wheel with other roads branching off to other areas of the site. The configuration of the Hub is considerably smaller than it was historically and has shifted north, roughly occupying the northern side of the former oval driveway.

From the Hub, an asphalt road heads southwest to the area formerly occupied by the barracks. This broad corridor includes the maintenance building, modern gas/oil shed, a small temporary building and a trailer, and a large parking area. It is bounded by secondary growth trees and shrubs and the slope of Piney Ridge. Like the former barracks buildings, these structures are oriented with the topography.

Two other roads radiate from the Hub in the same general directions as during the historic period. The road extending to the north passes the historic Naturalist’s Office and ends prior to the recently removed Maintenance/Equipment Shed. This area is also bounded by woodland vegetation, but the space itself is mostly open as it is still an active maintenance and storage area. A gravel road rises from here west to a ledge near the top of Piney Ridge where the water tank and a small storage shed are located. Above this ledge are trees dominated by mature oaks and cherries scattered across the rocky ridge top. Below the ledge is the maintenance building area described above.

The slightly curving asphalt road heading south from the Hub leads to land that was not known to have been developed by the CCC. Secondary growth trees and shrubs have begun to fill in this space that was once cleared by the NPS for trailer homes. The road accesses the residence and connects with the Fire Road, which leads to the Range View Cabin along the AT.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Skewed blocks of buildings oriented with	111596	Contributing					No
Access Road	111598	Contributing	081878		Location	48611	Yes
Hub	111600	Contributing	081878		Location	48611	Yes

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Historic Period and Existing Conditions

The Piney River area is perched on the northeast corner of the high peak of Piney Ridge at an elevation of 3100 feet. The peak is higher than Knob Mountain to the west, Pignut Mountain and Fork Mountain to the east, and Neighbor Mountain to the south. At 3400 feet, Hogback Mountain, less than a mile to the north, has a higher elevation than Piney River. (PATC map, 2005)

The site itself features the high ridge to the west called Piney Ridge, a rocky plateau with mature trees. A higher plateau is above this with rock outcroppings all around. This landscape character extends to the north end of the site and as far west as can be seen. To the east, the land drops down to another level that gently slopes primarily to the east and southeast – about fifty feet of elevation change across the whole. The exception is the far northern end, which slopes down to the north and west. The site drains into both the Piney River and Jeremy's Run watersheds.

Topography played an important role in locating Camp NP-12. The camp was developed on the gently sloped lands below Piney Ridge, with the arrangement of buildings as a whole aligned in blocks along the contours. The locations of a water supply and related domestic features were consistent with topographic conditions; a reservoir was located on the upper slopes of Piney Ridge and connected to the bathhouse on the slope of the ridge, while sewer lines from that building and the mess hall connected to disposal fields farther down the hill to the south and east of the camp. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) Additionally, the location of the camp east of, or behind, the ridge may have offered some relief from the summer's winds and the late day sun. [see Fig. 15]

The NPS maintenance building is also built along the contours but cuts into the slope of Piney Ridge; two stone retaining walls hold the earth back at the ends. The presence of culverts along the road that leads to the building indicates that some fill was likely added to create level surfaces for the road, the parking area in front of the building, and the modern gas/oil building,. About twenty feet behind the maintenance building, the slope quickly increases as it rises to the ridge. In the NPS housing area, the residence and the walkways that fronted the former trailers also follow the contours.

All of the roads at Piney River have gentle slopes with the exception of the historic gravel road leading to the water tank. This road rises, levels, rises again, and then proceeds level around the water tank where a rock ledge separates the two surfaces.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Cut/fill areas in former barracks area	111628	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Gentle slopes in developed area	97715	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 15: View looking northeast from the slope of the ridge to the gently sloped area where the CCC barracks were located. (OCLP 2005)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Period

Photographs of Camp NP-12 from the 1930s show Piney Ridge as wooded but that the camp itself, the Access Road, and a broad area to the south and east of the camp was mostly devoid of large trees. (Engle, 1999:37) There appears to have been little vegetation around the barracks, but some plantings are evident in the Hub – a mature hemlock [*Tsuga canadensis*] that now marks the road to the NPS maintenance area would have been in front of the Mess Hall. An oak [*Quercus*] along the front foundation of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly Technical Quarters and Office) is visible in an undated historic photograph. (Engle, 1999:38) One of the other two massive oaks in front of the building is also partially visible in the same photograph. Behind the building, two pines [*Pinus*] and an oak along the woodland edge are likely those evident in the 1935 photograph and among those called out on the 1942 CCC plan. (Engle, 1999:37; NPS plan, 1942: CCC) The CCC may also have planted the original coralberry [*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*] in this area. Other oak and pine trees probably dating from the CCC remain in the yard around the building. The CCC likely planted the hawthorn [*Crataegus*] tree in the triangle configuration at the entrance, and there are at least three apple trees [*Malus*] remaining that may date to the CCC or early park period.

Existing Conditions

Today, the character of vegetation has changed as a secondary growth hardwood forest of oak, cherry [*Prunus serotina*], hickory [*Carya*], locust [*Robinia pseudoacacia*], and pine has closed in on much of the open areas of the former camp. Along the edges of this young forest is a dense shrub layer of coralberry and other plants. All of these species are typical of those found in abandoned fields. These woodlands also edge Skyline Drive, the Access Road, and occupy the areas to the south and east. Many of the canopy trees have their tops broken-off and are hanging down due to Hurricane Fran in 1997 and an ice storm in early 1998. From the post-war period, many locust trees remain amongst the paving remnants where trailers were once located.

On the top of Piney Ridge there is a scattering of large oak and cherry trees across the rocky surface. The shrub layer is thin to non-existent and rocky ridges persist. There is a very large contorted oak tree and a very old cherry tree marking the highest point. The age of the stand appears to be approximately the same as trees planted by the CCC at picnic and campground sites throughout Shenandoah. [see Figs. 16, 17]

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Hemlock (along road to Maintenance Bldg)	111646	Contributing					No
Hawthorn (east end of Access Road)	111648	Contributing					No
secondary growth hardwood forest	112172	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Apples	97716	Contributing					No
Coralberry	97717	Contributing					No
Large Oaks and Pines (Maintenance Office)	97718	Contributing					No
locusts (along trailer paths)	98170	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Large Oaks and Cherries (Piney Ridge)	99613	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 16: View looking west at the two historic pines and oak behind the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 17: View looking northeast at the three historic oaks in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. (OCLP 2006)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Period

Camp NP-12 was situated on a gently sloped area between the crest of Piney Ridge to the west and the Piney River valley to the south and east. The historic photograph from 1935 shows that much of the camp and the lands just south and east of the camp were generally absent of tall trees. These conditions indicate that during the historic period, there was a clear view of Skyline Drive to the east and long panoramic views to the south and east from the camp. Additionally, the popularity of the Range View Cabin south of the camp, not to mention its name, supports this notion. The camp and the later ranger station likely took advantage of the views from the top of the hill for fire prevention or in other ways.

Existing Conditions

The view east toward Skyline Drive is still present from the Hub but less so from other areas of the former camp due to the presence of the secondary growth woodlands. The spectacular views to the south and east remain intact from the higher slopes of Piney Ridge, but are essentially blocked from the lower slopes from what is now the maintenance building area, also because of the woodlands. In 1984, a proposed employee housing area southeast of the Hub, which was to consist of seven apartment units and three family units, was sited for its potential views to the surrounding environment. (GMP, 1984:141) Views from the employee residence, constructed in this area in 1987, are blocked because of the encroaching woodlands. [see Figs. 28, 29]

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
View east to Skyline Drive (from Hub)	111714	Contributing					No
view south and east (from maint. bldg.)	111720	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
View south and east (from Piney Ridge)	99614	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 29: Looking east from the Hub toward Skyline Drive. The Maintenance Office/Technical Office is on the left. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 28: Looking southeast from the water tank atop Piney Ridge to the distant mountains. CCC barracks filled the gently sloping land now occupied by the Maintenance Building and parking area. (OCLP 2005)

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 3

Next Assessment Due Date: 08/28/2028

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/28/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The continued growth and spread of woodlands, the site's overgrown and abandoned appearance, and the loss of most camp buildings warrants another evaluation of Fair.

Condition Assessment: Fair

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: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/24/2012

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In consultation with Anne Kain, Cultural Resource Manager, and with concurrence from the Superintendent, the Piney River landscape is currently in "fair" condition. The secondary forest growth has not expanded appreciably throughout the site since 2006. Additionally, the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office has been stabilized and funding has been requested to rehabilitate it for use as an education and research facility.

Therefore, the landscape remains in "fair" condition, which means that the site "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."

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 06/01/2006

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Site visits were conducted on April 2005 and again in May 2006. Minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and man-made forces are evident, and unless preventative action is taken in the next three to five years, many of the landscape characteristics will degrade to a poor condition. The subsequent growth of secondary growth woodland vegetation in and around the former CCC barracks and Hub areas have filled in formerly open areas which has contributed to the site's diminished integrity. Of more immediate concern is the projecting ell of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, which has major structural problems due in part to years of stormwater runoff from the adjacent paved Hub area. The ell has been stabilized and the adjacent paving was removed in 2004. One of the three CCC buildings retained after the camp closed – the Maintenance/Equipment Shed, which has long been in threatened condition with a collapsed roof – was razed by the park in 2006 (the slab and piers remain).

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Narrative: Growth of woodland vegetation to south and east

Date Identified: 09/20/2006

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Maintenance/Equipment Shed razed

Date Identified: 09/20/2006

Type of Impact: Exposure to Elements

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Maintenance/Equipment Shed razed

Date Identified: 09/20/2006

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Preservation
Treatment Completed: No
Document Type: Other Document
Document Date: 2005-04-25

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

Memo from Superintendent states that all structures listed on the National Register will be classified as "Must Be Preserved." (LCS, 2006: 081801, 081802, 081878)

Approved Treatment Costs

Estimated Cost Date: 04/25/2005
Estimate Level: Preliminary Plans/HSR-CLR
Estimator: Park

Cost Narrative:

According to PMIS 98000, the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office will be stabilized, rehabilitated, and restored for adaptive use as either offices or as seasonal housing.. The work will include the replacement of rotted floor sills, joists, and structural support posts, the removal of interior lead paint and asbestos-containing wall and ceiling coverings, the replacement of the non-accessible bathroom, the installation of a new standing-seam roof, the repair and replacement of the exterior tar paper and wood batten finishes, the installation of a new electrical system and fire suppression, and repair/replacement of the historic windows and doors. The Maintenance /Equipment Shed will be documented by HABS/HAER to mitigate its pending loss. (PMIS 98000, http://165.83.198.10/pmis_search/search_projectdetail.cfm)

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
McClelland, Linda Flint	Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction	1998		Both Graphic And Narrative		
Engle, Reed L.	Everything Was Wonderful: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Shenandoah National Park	1999	Shenandoah National Park Association	Both Graphic And Narrative		
Lambert, Darwin	The Undying Past of Shenandoah National Park	1989		Both Graphic And Narrative		
Cohen, Stan	The Tree Army: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942	1999	Pictorial Histories Publishing Company	Both Graphic And Narrative		
Denver Service Center	General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan: Shenandoah National Park	1983		Both Graphic And Narrative		
National Park Service	National Register Bulletin #30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes	1997		Both Graphic And Narrative		
Denver Service Center	Resource Management Plan	1998		Narrative		

Piney River
Shenandoah National Park

Sanders, Debbie, editor	Shenandoah National Park Resource Management Newsletter	1999	Park Publication	Both Graphic And Narrative	Specific article referenced: Badger, Robert, "Shenandoah's Geology: An Intriguing Story"	
Maddux, McClung and Peyton	National Register Nomination: Skyline Drive Historic District	1995		Narrative		
Hooper, Carol of Robinson & Associates, Inc.	National Register Nomination: Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase)	1997		Narrative		

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map - "Topographic Sheets, Piney River"

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS, Denver Service Center, Shenandoah National Park, Dwg. 134-41093B, Sheets 2 and 3 of 3, 1996

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map - "Piney River Developed Area"

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS, Field Office, Shenandoah National Park, Dwg. 2558, 1962

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map - "Existing Facilities and Topo for JCC Camp 335 - Piney Riv."

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS, Field Office, Shenandoah National Park, Dwg. 2590, 1964.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map - "Developed Area Layout"

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS, Denver Service Center, Shenandoah National Park, Dwg. 134-60066, Sheets 2 and 5 of 5, 1982

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Supplemental Information Title: Map - "Piney River"

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NPS, Denver Service Center, Shenandoah National Park, Dwg. 134-40044, 1982

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map - "Topographic Sheets, Piney River"

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS, Denver Service Center, Shenandoah National Park, Dwg. 134-41093A, Sheets 2 and 3 of 3, 1993

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map - "Map 9: Appalachian Trail and other Trails in Shenandoah National Park, North District"

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc., Revised August 2005

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map - (title illegible, but clearly map of Piney River CCC Camp)

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS, Shenandoah National Park, Packet 6 Folder 2, 1942

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Oral Interview with Reed L. Engle

Supplemental Information Narrative:

1/11/2001; additional information from comments on draft CLI 3/6/2001

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map - "USGS Map of Shenandoah National Park, VA.: Northern Section"

Supplemental Information Narrative:

United States Geological Survey, 1969

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
SHEN_BigM-HQ-Piney-Pinnacles-Rapidan-Skyland_CLI Updates Notes_2025.pdf		

Source