

Revised: 8/2025

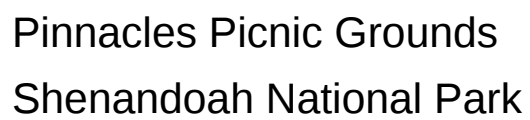


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Introduction

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:	Pinnacles Picnic Grounds
Resource Classification:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	300121
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:

The Pinnacles Picnic Grounds are located on a ridge west of Skyline Drive at mile 36.7. The area was designed and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935-1936. It is open for use year round, and features a square shelter, whose central chimney has four fireplaces facing out. There is a rustic comfort station with stone retaining wall open in season, and a pit toilet available after the season. A loop road with diagonal pull-in parking allows easy access. The Appalachian Trail skirts the western side of the site.

The picnic grounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Skyline Drive Historic District. This district is significant under Criteria A, properties significant for their association with events, and Criterion C, properties significant as representatives of the manmade expression of culture or technology. The period of significance for the picnic grounds is 1932-1952, which is the period of early development for the park and the construction of the Pinnacles picnic area. The site has high integrity because relatively few changes have occurred in the landscape since it was created. The picnic grounds are also in good condition, with no immediate corrective action required to maintain its current condition.

The Analysis and Evaluation Section of this report examines the site's landscape characteristics. The natural systems, spatial organization, and land use are all the same as when the picnic grounds were first built. This section of the report also identifies contributing features, and includes many features created by the CCC: the road, paths, plantings, picnic shelter, comfort station, retaining walls, reservoir, and views to the Shenandoah Valley.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Pinnacles is a component landscape of the Skyline Drive landscape.

SHEN includes the following landscapes and component landscapes:

- general park landscape with component landscapes: Corbin Cabin, Mt. Vernon Iron Furnace, Snead Farmstead
- Appalachian Trail Segment in SHEN (landscape)
- 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

The park is located in the Chesapeake Cluster of the Northeast Region of the National Park Service.

Landscape Type:

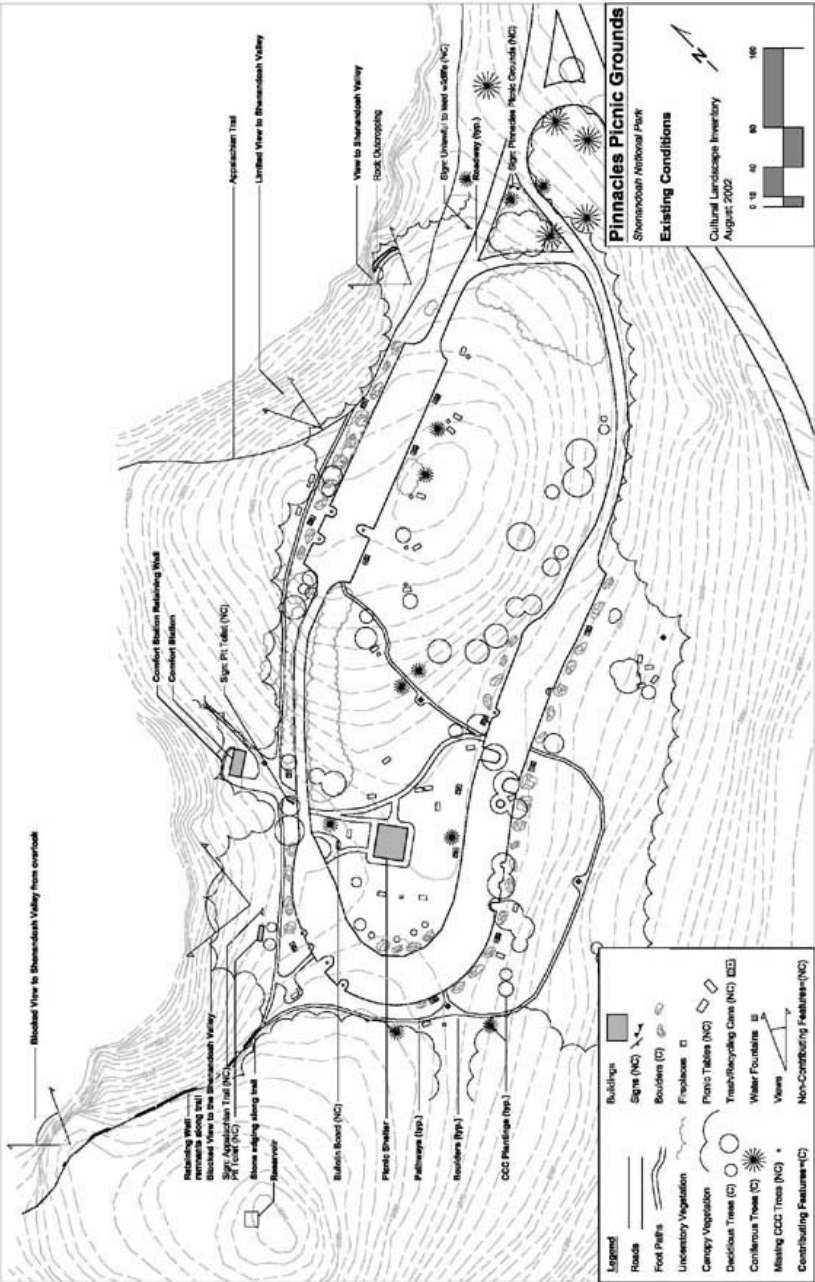
Historic Designed Landscape

Other Names:

Other Name:	Pinnacles Picnic Grounds	Other Name Type:	Current
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Other Name:	Sexton Knoll Picnic Grounds	Other Name Type:	Historic
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Site Plan



Existing Conditions: Overview (See Addendum for enlargement).

Hierarchy Description Graphic:

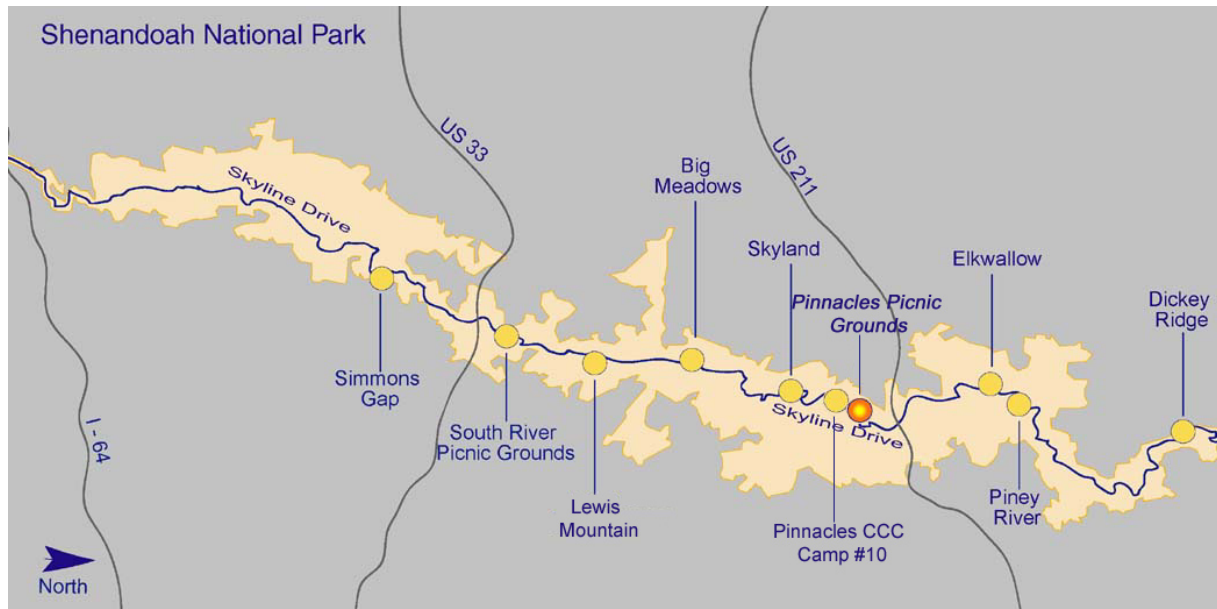


Illustration of the Skyline Drive component landscapes (PHSO 2002).

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	08/16/2002

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Landscape architectural intern Jeanie Hau and CLI Coordinator Nancy J. Brown conducted the field survey work, Brown wrote the report, and interns Matthew Witters and Joshua Shields created the basemap.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources concurred with the findings of this report on 11/14/2002.

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

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2878

AUG 20 2002

H22(PHSO/S&P/CR

Ms. Kathleen Kilpatrick, SHPO
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Ms. Kilpatrick:

Enclosed you will find two copies of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for the Pinnacles Picnic Grounds in Shenandoah National Park. We request a consensus determination of this CLI within thirty days that confirms our findings of significance of the property, and which landscape characteristics contribute to the significance, including the associated list of contributing and non-contributing features. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the National Park Service (NPS) efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all culturally and historically significant landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further research to be answered.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties, districts, and sites, they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly document other characteristics such as Vegetation, Spatial Organization, and Views and Vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort. For example, the NPS List of Classified Structures (LCS) inventory includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more comprehensive approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground resources in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

In summary, the report on Shenandoah Pinnacles Picnic Grounds makes the following recommendations regarding the site's significance:

SHPO concurrence letter, November 11, 2003 (3 pages).

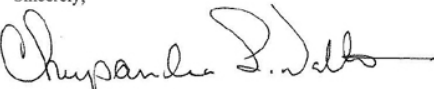
Pinnacles Picnic Grounds
Shenandoah National Park

2

- that the overall landscape is significant at the national level, under Criteria A and C
- that the period of significance be 1932-1952
- that certain associated landscape characteristics contribute to the significance of the property (see enclosed list)
- that certain associated features be considered contributing (see enclosed list).

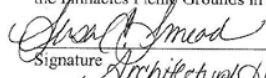
If you concur with our evaluation of the Pinnacles Picnic Grounds landscape resources, please sign on the space provided below, and return this letter to this office within thirty days. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Nancy J. Brown, CLI Coordinator for the Chesapeake and Allegheny Clusters of the Northeast Region, at (215) 597-8863 if you have questions. Thank you for your attention to this report.

Sincerely,

for 
Marie Rust
Regional Director
Northeast Region

Enclosures

I concur with the above-stated evaluation and contributing and non-contributing landscape resources of the Pinnacles Picnic Grounds in Shenandoah National Park.

 *For*
Signature _____ SHPO _____ Date *11/14/12*
Architectural Historian /
Historian and Preservationist III
cc:
Douglas K. Morris, Shenandoah National Park Superintendent
Reed Engle, Shenandoah National Park Cultural Resource Specialist
Nancy J. Brown, NPS Northeast Region CLI Coordinator, Chesapeake and Allegheny Clusters

While response is beyond 30-day review period we provide it for your files. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this report.

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Pinnacles Picnic Grounds
Shenandoah National Park

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory
List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Associated Features
Pinnacles Picnic Grounds, Shenandoah National Park
August 2002

Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Associated Features

Spatial Organization

Land Use

Vegetation

CCC Plantings

Circulation

Pathways

Road

Buildings and Structures

Picnic shelter (LCS #83109)

Comfort station (LCS #83112)

Comfort station retaining wall (LCS #83113)

Stone retaining wall and stone edging along path to overlook

Views and Vistas

View to Shenandoah Valley from entry drive

View to Shenandoah Valley from rock outcropping

Blocked view to Shenandoah Valley from picnic shelter

Blocked view to Shenandoah Valley from overlook

Constructed Water Features

Reservoir

Small Scale Features

Boulders

Fireplaces - CCC

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Associated Features

Buildings and Structures

Pit toilet

Small Scale Features

Bulletin board

Fireplaces - NPS

Picnic tables

Signage

Trash and recycling cans

Cultural Landscapes Inventories

Shenandoah National Park:
Pinnacles Picnic Grounds – Level II
Pinnacles CCC Camp #10 – Level I

Shenandoah National Park concurs with the findings of the Level II inventory for the Pinnacles Picnic Grounds and Level I for the Pinnacles CCC Camp #10 including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY:

Pinnacles Picnic Grounds – Must be preserved and maintained
Pinnacles CCC Camp #10 – Not specified

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

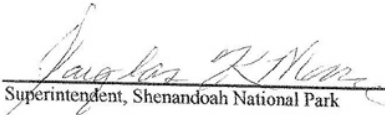
Pinnacles Picnic Grounds – Good
Pinnacles CCC Camp #10 – Fair

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 Inventories for the Pinnacles Picnic Grounds and Pinnacles CCC Camp #10 in Shenandoah National Park are hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park

8.16.02

Date

Park concurrence form, August 16, 2002.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2008**

Shenandoah National Park:
Pinnacles Picnic Grounds

Shenandoah National Park concurs with the condition reassessment for Pinnacles Picnic Grounds, including:

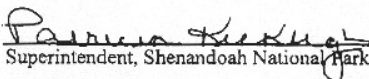
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Pinnacles Picnic Grounds

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 Pinnacles Picnic Grounds is hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park

8-27-08
Date

Park condition reassessment form, August 27, 2008.

**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	08/27/2008	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 Pinnacles Picnic Grounds 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	Madison County
Virginia	Page County

Size (Acres): 14

Land Tract Number(s)

Boundary Description:

The picnic area begins at the entrance drive from Skyline Drive at mile 36.7 and extends approximately 1440' southwest to the overlook along the connector trail to the Appalachian Trail. Along the northwest side the site ends about 50' beyond the loop road where the mountain begins to drop off steeply. From the overlook the boundary turns southeast for about 1000', ending at Skyline Drive. This includes the reservoir. The boundary then heads northeast and north along Skyline Drive to the entry drive.

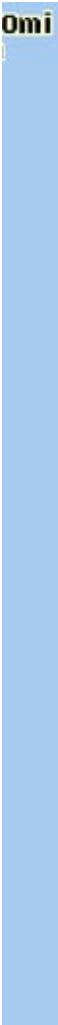
Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.3415221410133	38.624012718786	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.3407803982403	38.6254374441601	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.3441638728309	38.6224509625208	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.3456797909744	38.623386383717	

Location Map:



Shenandoah National Park is located in Virginia.



Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Within the park, recreation is the primary cultural use. In the surrounding region, tourism is a significant industry. Agriculture, particularly chicken production, is the primary industry to the west, with easy north-south access via Interstate 81. Suburban development from Washington D.C. dominates the east, with east-west access via Routes 7 and 66.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Pinnacles Picnic Grounds is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains on a high ridge, at an elevation of about 3350'.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Pinnacles Picnic Grounds is located in Madison County, in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/16/2002

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Management Agreements:

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 play a role from the Pinnacles picnic grounds and Appalachian Trail. Views to the Shenandoah Valley in the west are important, and future development of these adjacent lands could negatively impact the visitor experience through new industry, housing, roadways, or telephone towers. The secondary effects of development - increased air and light pollution - would 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 Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

The Pinnacles Picnic Grounds are included in the National Register nomination for the Skyline Drive Historic District. It provides some baseline information on the landscape, but further documentation is needed to complete the landscape documentation.

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 11/14/2002

Concurrence Narrative:

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources concurred with the findings of this report on 11/14/2002.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

To have historical significance, a landscape must be associated with at least one of four criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places. The four criteria are:

- Criterion A: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- Criterion B: Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- Criterion C: Embodies distinct characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- Criterion D: has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

These criteria can be judged to be significant at the national, state or local level.

The Pinnacles area is listed on the National Register as part of the Skyline Drive Historic District. The Drive's significance is based on both 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 period of significance, 1932-1952, represents the early period of development of the park and of the Pinnacles area. The park is significant in part as one of the first eastern national parks, and the most visited national park in the period just before World War II. It is also the site of the Skyline Drive. It is an example of governmental efforts to restore a developed area to a more natural state. It illustrates the accomplishments of the Depression-era programs, in particular the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The park's design is characteristic of the best of the National Park Service's landscape design and master planning efforts, and includes buildings designed in the rustic style. Resources that have previously been noted as illustrating the initial park-related development include the Pinnacles shelter, landscaping, comfort stations, and site furnishings (Robinson & Associates, Inc. 1997, 93).

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. Future 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

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

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Politics - Government

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Entertainment - Recreation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

National Register Criteria Consideration:

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

Time Period: CE 1932 - CE 1952

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Recreation	General Recreation	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Rustic Architecture	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works	
Shaping the Political Landscape	Political and Military Affairs 1865-1939	The Great Depression And The New Deal, 1929-1941	

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name: Skyline Drive Historic District

NRIS ID: 97000375

Primary Certification Date: 04/28/1997

Other Certifications and Date: MM/dd/yyyy

State Register Documentation:

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:

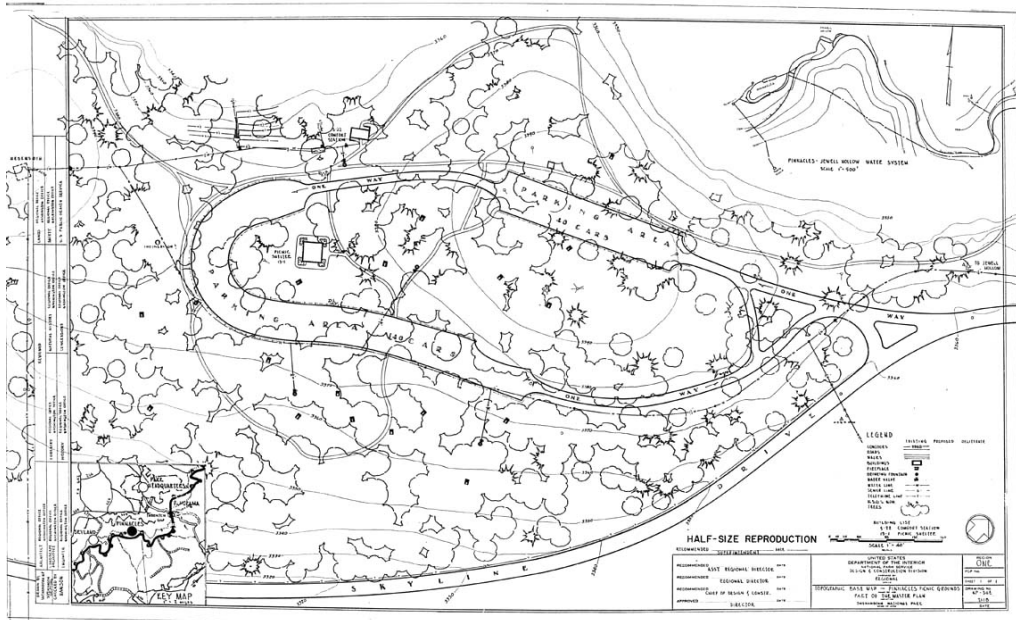
Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
BCE 9000 - 1600	Established	First human habitation in Blue Ridge Mountains took place about 11,000 years ago as seasonal encampments.
CE 1000	Established	Native American use of the mountains focussed on game hunting (Resource Management Plan 1998, 23). The Manocan and Manahoac tribes used the area.
CE 1669	Explored	Dr. John Lederer, first European to record exploration in this area of Blue Ridge Mountains, described a forest full of game and large open area believed to be Big Meadows.
CE 1700 - 1799	Settled	Immigrants from Tidewater area came 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	Established	Recreational use of the mountains began circa 1830 with the opening of Black Rock Springs Hotel, south of current Route 33. The first recreational summer outing at Skyland was led by George F. Pollock, Jr. in 1888.
CE 1926	Established	Congress first authorized Shenandoah National Park (SNP), but without funds for land purchase.
CE 1927	Built	In 1927 Potomac Appalachian Trail Club was organized, and construction of Appalachian Trail begun in SNP.
CE 1930	Built	First permanent shelter on the Appalachian Trail was built at Pinnacles (Robinson & Associates, Inc. 1997, 41).
CE 1931 - 1942	Engineered	Private contractors constructed Skyline Drive; CCC provided assistance after May, 1933 (McClelland 1998, 181-182).
CE 1934	Established	October 12: CCC Camp NP-10 officially established (Engle 1999, 30). CCC built park infrastructure, provided labor for Skyline Drive, relocated Appalachian Trail, cleared gooseberries and dead chestnut trees, and planted trees/shrubs to revegetate area.
CE 1935	Established	Congress officially established Shenandoah National Park from land purchased through private donations and by Commonwealth of Virginia (RMP 1998, 23).
CE 1935 - 1936	Built	CCC labor built the Pinnacles picnic grounds, parking lots, fire grates, tables, water fountains, comfort station, and utility systems (Robinson & Associates, Inc. 1997, 63).
CE 1936	Established	July 3: President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated SNP.
CE 1942	Removed	January 9: CCC Camp NP-10 closed (Engle 1999, 30).
CE 1942 - 1946	Established	Civilian Public Service camp established at CCC camp NP-10. Projects included fire and erosion control; revegetation; construction of trails, roads, utilities, park structures; mapping; razing prepark structures (Robinson & Associates, Inc. 1997, 100).

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1960 - 1965	Built	Around this time NPS added pit toilets to the picnic area for winter hikers and cross-country skiers to use after the comfort stations are closed for the season.
CE 1995	Restored	1995 NPS restored the picnic shelter.
CE 1996	Rehabilitated	1996 NPS replaced the roof on the picnic area comfort station.
CE 1998 - 1999	Rehabilitated	NPS replaced trees at sites where stumps existed from the original CCC plantings.

Physical History:

11,000 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 taking place about 11,000 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 focussed on game hunting (Resource Management Plan 1998, 23). The Manocan and Manahoac tribes used the area.



"Topographic Base Map – Pinnacles Picnic Grounds, Part of the Master Plan". This undated basemap for the picnic grounds was probably created at the time the CCC developed the area (NPS NP-SHE/2118, ND).

1669 to 1926: European Settlement

The first recorded European exploration of this area of the Blue Ridge 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. The crossing place was probably Swift Run Gap or the Big Meadows area (Lambert 1989, 32-33). Next came the English, Scots-Irish and Germans, who immigrated to the area (Maddex et al. 1992, 7:2). Settlers moved from the Tidewater area to the Piedmont, and from Pennsylvania to the Shenandoah Valley. Even before European settlement started here, local Native Americans were dying of introduced diseases (Lambert 1989, 21-22), and by 1800 they had disappeared completely or moved away (Resource Management Plan/RMP 1998, 23). As the better farming land was taken, settlers moved into the mountain hollows. Here 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 furthered by the introduction of chestnut blight in the early part of the century, 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, industrial use also developed in the 1800s. Examples include the Mt. Vernon iron furnace and the Stony Man Mountain Tract, where copper was mined and charcoal produced for smelting from 1845 to 1850 (Engle 1994, 1). Little is known about the early use of the Pinnacles site.

1926-1952: Initial Park Development

Beyond Pinnacles, plans were underway for the area. In 1926 Congress authorized the Shenandoah National Park (SNP) 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 for the park. Until the park was officially established in 1935, lands were acquired through private donations and funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Resource Management Plan 1998, 23). This led to changes in how the land was used, and to the removal of existing homesteads and farms (McClelland 1998, 290). President Franklin Roosevelt officially dedicated the park on July 3, 1936.

During that period, other developments continued. In 1927 the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) was organized, and construction of the Appalachian Trail began at Shenandoah (Lambert 1979, 159). In 1930 the first permanent shelter on the Appalachian Trail was built at Pinnacles (Robinson & Associates, Inc. 1997, 41). The initial trail route was later relocated to accommodate the construction of the Skyline Drive along the ridge. Road construction began in 1931, financed initially from relief monies to employ Virginia farmers and apple-pickers impacted by the 1930 drought (Maddex et al. 1992, 7:5). The original PATC shelter, Sexton Shelter, was also taken down when the Drive came through, and was not rebuilt.

In 1935 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established Camp NP-10 Sexton Knoll, or Pinnacles as it became known (Engle 1999, 30). As the first CCC camp developed in Shenandoah after national design standards for the camps were established, the Pinnacles camp did not have the typical U shape configuration of previous CCC camps. Although it did retain the central company street, the long axis of most buildings faced that common area. The Pinnacles area was linear and followed the contours of the mountain. There were over twenty buildings at the camp, including barracks, a mess hall, a gym, recreation hall, education building, garages and shops, and bath and latrine facilities (NPS map ND). The two CCC buildings that have survived the sixty-plus years since they were first built at their original location are the technical quarters (now the laboratory/residence), and the garage (now the garage /storage shed). Besides the former Pinnacles CCC camp, Piney River is the only other site in Shenandoah where CCC buildings remain at their original location (Hooper 1997, 8: 52).

Beginning with the creation of Shenandoah National Park in 1935, the National Park Service oversaw the early development of the park by the CCC. CCC labor built much of the infrastructure for the park. Contractors building Skyline Drive supervised some CCC enrollees on that project, and the CCC did the landscaping following construction. The CCC also cleared the “ghost forests” of dead chestnut trees resulting from the chestnut blight in order to reduce the danger of fires. The CCC used the chestnut wood for construction, including shingles. They cleared gooseberries and planted thousands of trees and shrubs to revegetate the area (Engle 1999, 27, 67, 71-74, 80-87). CCC workers built the Sexton Knoll Picnic Grounds in 1935-36, which later was renamed Pinnacles Picnic Grounds. Their work included building the parking lots and comfort station, and installing fire grates, tables, water fountains, landscaping, and utility systems (Robinson & Associates, Inc. 1997, 63). Utility work included building reservoirs and septic systems at the CCC camp and picnic area.

Pinnacles picnic grounds was part of the history of integration in Shenandoah National Park. In 1936 NPS policies regarding segregation stated: “The program of development of facilities... for the accommodation and convenience of the visiting public contemplates... separate facilities for white and colored people to the extent only as is necessary to conform with the generally accepted customs long established in Virginia... To render the most satisfactory service to white and colored visitors it is generally recognized that separate rest rooms, cabin colonies and picnic ground facilities should be provided” (Engle 1998, 34). Although Lewis Mountain was being developed as a separate facility for African-American visitors to the park, concerns of NPS national leadership led to the decision in 1939 that one large picnic area should be integrated and all signs indicating race segregation of the picnic area and restrooms removed. Pinnacles was selected as that site of early efforts to integrate the park’s facilities. Superintendent J. Ralph Lassiter reported in August, 1939: “The joint use of Pinnacles Picnic Ground [formerly Sexton Knoll]... by both white and colored persons has elicited several verbal complaints from white users of this area. However, no fights have

resulted as yet!" (Lambert 1979, 274-276).

The entry of the United States into World War II (WWII) ended most development in the park until after the war. CCC Camp NP-10 at the Pinnacles area was closed on January 9, 1942, and all other CCC camps closed by March, 1942 (Engle 1999, 30). In August 1942 the Civilian Public Service (CPS) established the only camp for conscientious objectors in Shenandoah at former CCC camp NP-10. The men from CPS camp 45 took over fire and erosion control projects previously done by the CCC, continued the revegetation efforts, installed utilities, and built trails, roads, and park structures. There were also assigned to raze prepark structures. The camp was closed in June 1946 (Robinson & Associates, Inc. 1997, 100). After the CPS departure, the technical building began to be used for ranger housing and the camp area used as a maintenance facility to stockpile construction materials.

With the decline of visitation to the park due to WWII, all concession facilities closed, reopening in 1946. After several park-wide attempts to limit or end segregation, both blacks and whites were using Lewis Mountain by Oct. 1947. In 1950 a park planner from Washington reported the park was integrated (Lambert 1979, 271-284, 305).

1952 – Present: Later Development / National Park Service Era

By the 1950s, the National Park Service (NPS) was planning the Mission 66 construction that would help parks deal with the massive influx of visitors following WWII. NPS gained Congressional funding for the work in 1956. While this work had a major impact on the park as a whole, its effect on Pinnacles was limited. In the early 1960s, NPS added pit toilets to the picnic area for winter hikers and cross-country skiers to use after the comfort stations are closed for the season.

Little changed at the picnic area in the years following Mission 66 until the 1990s, when restoration work was done to the picnic area. NPS restored the picnic shelter, replaced the roof on the comfort station, and replaced numerous trees where stumps still existed from the original CCC plantings. In 2001, NPS replaced the 3-hole pit toilet with a handicapped accessible toilet and renewed the septic field.

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Transportation	Pedestrian-Related	Hiking Trail	Yes	Yes	No
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family Dwelling-Other	Yes	No	Yes
Industrial/Processing/Extraction	Water Works	Water Storage Facility	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Wayside Exhibit	No	Yes	Yes

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 National Park, 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 the CLI was unable to ascertain any specific information about such use, and recommends this as an area for further study.

Later the Pinnacles picnic grounds were the site of an experiment in integration of African-Americans at a time when segregation was the norm in Virginia. This chapter of ethnographic history within the park also merits further research.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Pinnacles picnic grounds, located on a ridge west of Skyline Drive at mile 36.7, were designed and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935-1936. The entrance drive creates a loop road with pull-off parking. Various sized boulders are randomly spaced along the road at several places. The rustic, picnic shelter with four fireplaces is located in the middle of the picnic grounds loop. Outside of the loop there is a comfort station with a stone retaining wall. Paths connect various destinations within the site, and lead to the overlook to the southeast. The picnic grounds have a high tree canopy and around the area there is a dense understory. The planted vegetation within the picnic grounds dates to the CCC plantings or was replanted in kind where trees from that era had died. Some grills and the ashlar pedestal water fountains probably date to the CCC period. The features that do not date to the CCC era are pit toilet and small-scale features such as picnic tables, newer grills, trash and recycling cans, and signage. One picnic table and grill southwest of the loop are handicapped accessible, along with an adjacent parking space.

The site maintains its historic integrity in terms of six of the seven criteria: location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The location of the site within Shenandoah National Park has remained, unaffected by any adjacent land uses other than pollution that limits all views within the park. The design is the same as when built, and subsequent repairs and replantings have used the same types of materials, vegetation, and workmanship. Because the picnic grounds have changed little since construction, the feeling and association have integrity. The only exception is that the area around the picnic grounds is more densely forested. It was also oak-hickory forest originally, but due to the chestnut blight, the CCC removed many dead trees. They may have done other clearing, such as for the ski slope, which is now forested. The increase in vegetation density has led to some historic views being diminished or blocked, and impacted the setting, and to a lesser degree the feeling, of the site.

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

This section identifies archeological resources that are part of the cultural landscape such as ruins, traces, or artifacts evidenced by the presence of surface and subsurface features. No archeological features are currently listed as contributing by the National Register of Historic Places nomination or the List of Classified Structures and the CLI team did not observe any in the field. This section will be updated upon completion of more comprehensive archeological work at the site, such as an Archeological Overview and Assessment.

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
	92753	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



This 1934 photograph shows CCC workers pulling out tree stumps at the proposed picnic grounds. While wooded, the high canopy created the relatively open nature of the site (SHEN Archives 1934, ANCS 11433).



This is a typical CCC fireplace with a wood rack nearby. In the background there is also a water fountain (SHEN Archives 1936, ANCS 09640).



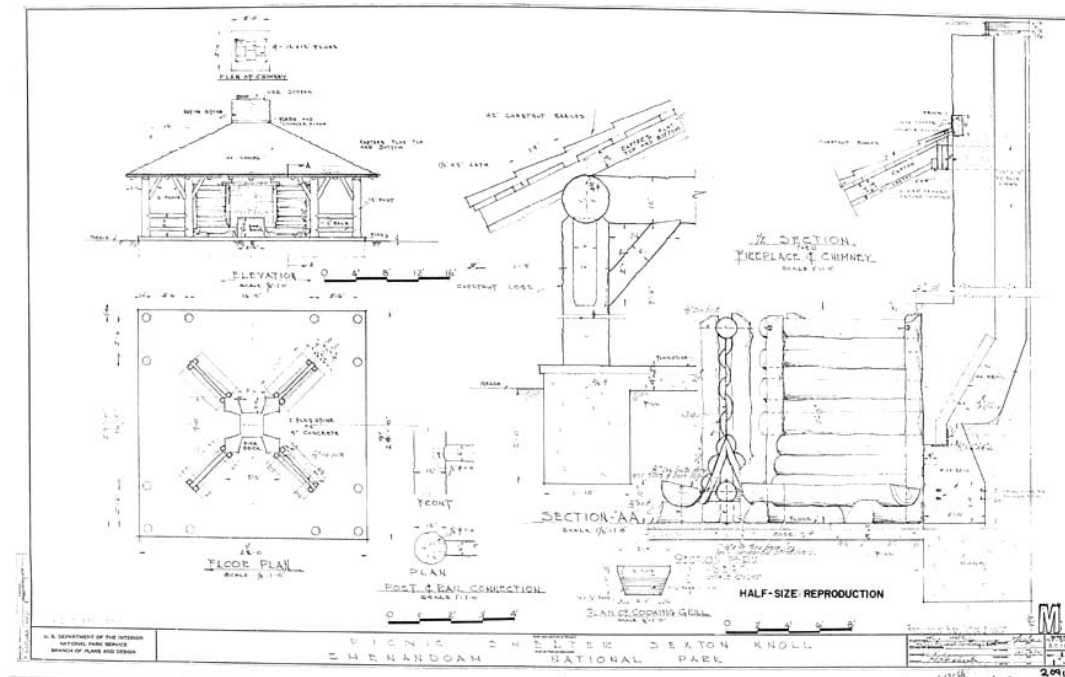
The Pinnacles site has been used as a picnic grounds since its construction in 1935-1936 (PHSO 1999).



This 1936 photograph shows the Pinnacles Reservoir under construction (SHEN Archives 1936, ANCS 10415).



This 1938 photograph shows paths laid out and constructed by the CCC (SHEN Archives 1983, ANCS 10631).



This design drawing for the picnic pavilion shows post and beam construction, chestnut shakes, and two-sided benches (Denver Service Center TIC Files 1940, NPS/SHE dwg. 2091).



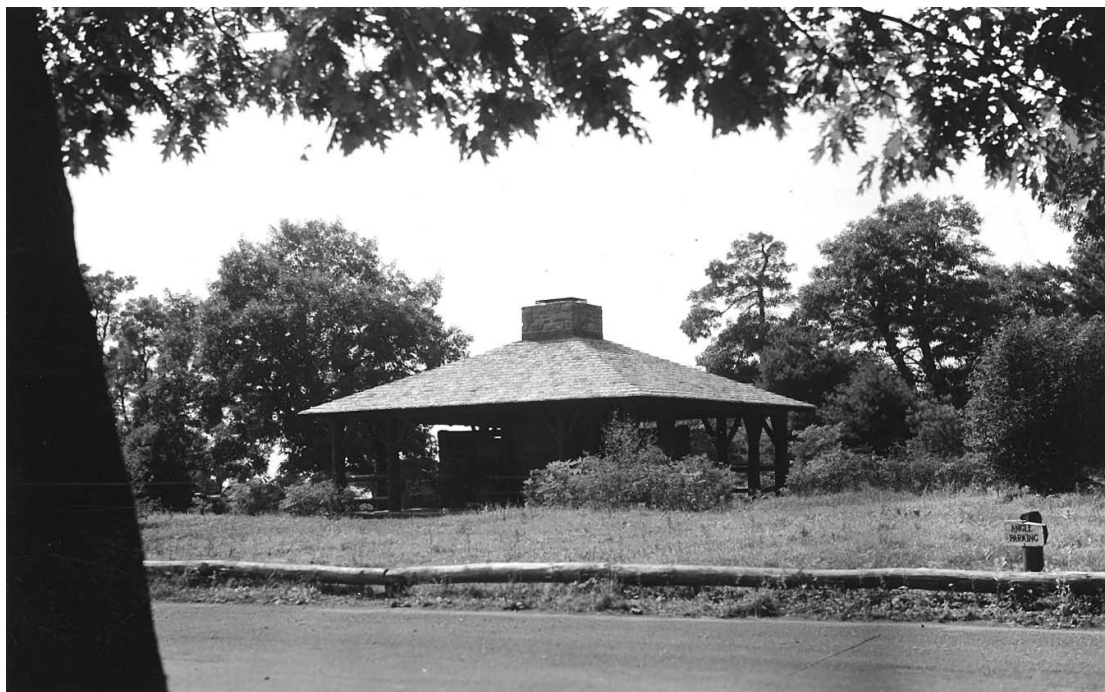
The mountainside at Pinnacles picnic ground served as a ski area at one time (SHEN Archives 1947, ANCS 04408).



Boulders were added along some parking areas by 1948, when this photograph was taken (SHEN Archives 1948, ANCS 04329).



This tree, balled-and-burlapped by a crew from NP-10 and being moved by a bulldozer, gives an indication of the extent to which the CCC went to create a natural looking landscape (Engle 1999, 85).



This photograph shows the Pinnacles picnic shelter in 1941, with a log railing along the road (SHEN Archives 1941, ANCS 10744).



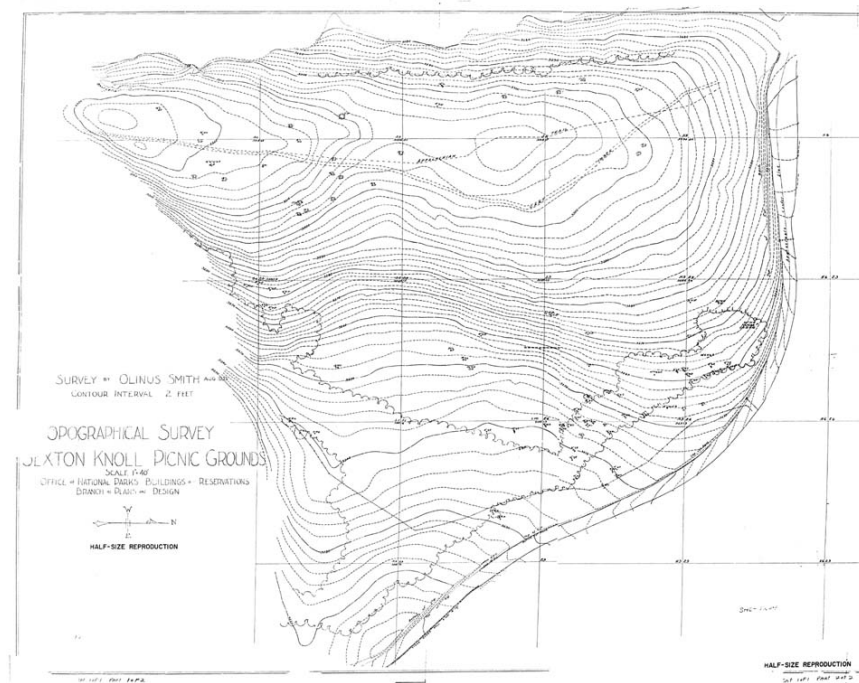
The log comfort station was built by the CCC and still retains its original character (PHSO 1999).



The pit toilet building was replaced in 2001 with one that is accessible. Historically the view to the valley behind the building was open. (PHSO 2002).



View to Shenandoah Valley from rock outcropping northeast of picnic grounds entry drive and west parking area (PHSO 1999).



1933 plan shows how clear the site was before construction of the picnic grounds, including the east side almost down to Skyline Drive. It also indicates the treeline west of the picnic area at the 3300' elevation or lower (NPS plan 1933, SHE 134/1204).



The view from the trail overlook southwest of the picnic grounds has disappeared due to vegetative growth (PHSO 2002).



This sign at the picnic grounds, photographed in 1952, illustrates that there was a scenic view from the overlook to the southwest. Note use of boulders. (SHEN Archives 1952, ANCS 11826)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

There are historic structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) located at the picnic grounds. The most prominent structure is the picnic shelter that was constructed in 1935. It was built as a 30' square open pavilion with a central stone chimney and stone fireplaces opening in four directions. There were two-sided benches between the fireplaces and the corners, creating some privacy for each group. It had a pyramidal roof covered with chestnut shakes and a mortared flagstone floor. Just beyond the dripline, a walk circled the shelter (NPS drawing 1940, NPS-SHE 2091). Today the pavilion is essentially the same as when it was built, except that the diagonal benches are no longer present (LCS 1998, 83109). In 1995-1996 NPS replaced the roof with new concrete shakes to replace the originals, and repointed the stonework. In 1996 four wooden support posts and 50% of the railings were replaced in kind. Today the walk circling the shelter is asphalt and gravel.

Another important CCC building is the comfort station. It was constructed as a 16' x 30' chestnut log building with V-notched corners and concrete chinking. It had a stone foundation and board and batten gables. There were two entrances with a privacy wall at the women's entrance (LCS 1998, 83112). At the men's entrance the CCC constructed a curving stone retaining wall approximately 40' long, 8' high, and 2' wide to provide a barrier and prevent erosion (LCS 1998, 83113). Today the comfort station and retaining wall retain their original character. In 1996 NPS removed the original concrete shingles, replacing them with new concrete shakes. A free-standing wood sight barrier was installed at the women's door and the stone retaining wall at the men's door was repointed.

The Shenandoah National Park "Sexton Knoll Picnic Grounds" plan dated 1935 and 1938 shows a rectangle south of the comfort station that appears to be pit toilets, as it is connected to the septic field. This was installed to provide facilities for hikers and skiers after the comfort station was shut down for the season. In 1999 that was a 3 bay wood building painted dark brown with a Plexiglas roof and signage indicating it was open only out of season when the comfort station was closed. NPS replaced this structure in 2001 with another brown wooden structure with Plexiglas roof that has one handicapped accessible toilet and a storage room. Additional clearing to the west took place at the time this was installed and the septic field was renewed.

A short stone retaining wall lines the downhill edge of the path leading to the overlook and stone edging is visible along the uphill edge. They are constructed in a style common to other CCC projects, and probably date to the original construction of the picnic grounds.

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
Picnic shelter PN-1301	92756	Contributing	083109		Location	00002237	Yes
Comfort station PN-0504	92754	Contributing	083112		Location	00002230	Yes
Comfort station retaining wall	92755	Contributing	083113		Location	00002230	Yes
Stone retaining wall and stone edging along path to overlook	92758	Contributing					No
Pit toilet	92757	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

The earliest circulation patterns known at what became Pinnacles picnic grounds are illustrated on the 1933 plan called "Topographical Survey Sexton Knoll Picnic Grounds." This shows a cart track skirting the knoll that became the west parking lot and crossing the knoll south of the picnic grounds that became the CCC reservoir site. It is possible that this was the route used for the entry road to the picnic grounds. It also shows the Appalachian Trail crossing the first knoll before joining the cart track to cross the second (NPS plan 1933, SHE 134/1204). (See the section on Views for a reproduction of this plan.)

The circulation patterns introduced by the CCC at Pinnacles picnic grounds are essentially the same as those that exist today, and include both a road and a path system. The CCC constructed a Y-shaped entry road at milepost 36.7 of Skyline Drive, with one section of the entry drive for use when coming from the north and one from the south. These join to become a one-way loop drive that may have followed the Appalachian Trail over the first knoll before looping back to the east. There are sections of double loaded parking on each side of the loop and at the end of the loop, all approximately 45' wide. Trees grew in islands that extended into all three parking areas (SNP plan 1935 and 1938).

Today the entry road and loop are essentially the same. The parking areas have painted lines for diagonal pull-in parking. At the end of the loop the asphalt remains about 45' wide, but there is no parking along the inner side of the loop road and the leading corner that originally created that parking has been tapered to obscure it. In the southwest corner of the loop there is now one handicapped accessible parking space. Islands with living trees in the paved parking only exist along the east side of the loop. Other islands are empty or contain tree stumps.

The CCC pedestrian circulation system at the picnic grounds consists of several types of path. There are paths connecting the parking, picnic pavilion, restrooms, and tables, and a semicircular path to the southeast outside the loop drive (LCS 1998, 83111). The Appalachian Trail enters the picnic area from the north near the entry drive. It ran parallel to the road until the middle of the first parking area, before dropping down the slope to the southwest. It follows the 3370' contour back to the comfort station, then ran parallel to the road for about 150' before heading southwest past the overlook. The section of the trail to the overlook appears to have had a short retaining wall on the downhill side and to have been edged with stones on the uphill side. This would have been typical of the work of the CCC. (See the section on Buildings and Structures.)

Today the pedestrian circulation system is essentially the same. Additional paved paths have been added to make the pavilion more accessible. Most of the paths, including the semicircular path southeast of the drive are paved, and 2-3' wide. The trail to the overlook is dirt, and evidence of stone edging is still visible. This connects to the Appalachian Trail, which is 1½' wide, dirt and rock path marked with a white blaze. (The Appalachian Trail segment within Shenandoah National Park will be covered in a separate CLI.)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Pathways	92759	Contributing					No
Road	92760	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Constructed Water Features

The CCC built an underground reservoir on the hilltop southwest of the picnic grounds to provide water for the comfort station and water fountains. A 1966 plan entitled "Layout of Water System: Pinnacles" indicates the original connection through the pump house east of Skyline Drive was replaced with a pipe directly connecting it to the reservoir at the laboratory/former CCC camp. The plan is hand-labeled "Work done 1976" (SHEN Archives dwg. NP-SHE/2674, 1966). Repair work was done on the system in 2001.

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
Reservoir	92761	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

It is possible that this site was used by Native Americans, or by European settlers for agricultural or industrial activities, but the CLI team found no visible or recorded evidence of this. The Appalachian Trail was started in the park in 1927, making this the first known recreational use of the Pinnacles area. The CCC developed the Pinnacles picnic grounds, which has been used since then for recreation. For a time in the 1930s-1940s the slopes near the picnic grounds were used for skiing. Today the area continues the historic land use from the period of significance - picnicking and hiking.

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
	92762	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

The park is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, part of the larger chain of the Appalachians. These ancient mountains are composed of three types of rock: billion-year-old gneiss and granite, 570-million-year-old volcanic basalt, and 530-million-year-old sandstones and quartzites (Badger 1999, 1). The Pinnacles picnic area is located southwest of The Pinnacles (3730'), on a ridge at approximately 3350'.

The Blue Ridge is located at the top of the regional Chesapeake Bay watershed system. The Pinnacles area drains to both the east and west, with run-off flowing east into the Hughes River, and eventually into the Chesapeake Bay. To the west it drains into Tutweiler Hollow and Shaver Hollow, then into the North Fork of Dry Run, the Shenandoah River, the Potomac River and into the Chesapeake.

Shenandoah National Park is also located within the Chesapeake Bay airshed. The park is recognized among those parks most impaired by human-caused air pollution, and park resources are impacted by the increasing emissions in the airshed (Resource Management Plan 1998, 21-22).

The Pinnacles area is within a mature second-growth forest ecosystem that extends throughout much of the surrounding Shenandoah National Park. The forest is home to both abundant and rare wildlife and plant species, which includes deer, black bear and wild orchids.

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
	92763	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Many of the small-scale features originally installed at the Pinnacles picnic grounds have been replaced over time. The CCC installed stone fireplaces with metal grills that are located around the site. Some of these still exist. NPS has also added metal grills mounted on 3' x 4' concrete slabs.

The CCC installed low log barriers along the parking areas. This is visible in the 1941 photograph of the pavilion (see Buildings and Structures) and seems to be drawn in on the 1938 Sexton Knoll Picnic Grounds plan (NPS plan 1935/1938, "Sexton Knoll Picnic Grounds"). This feature is currently missing from the site. A 1948 photograph of the area shows boulders along the edge of the parking (SHEN Archives 1948, ANCS 04329). It is not clear where exactly these were located at the time or when they were added, but they exist along some of the parking areas today.

The CCC installed water fountains at the site. They can be seen on several historic photographs as sections of logs with a drinking fountain at the top and a spigot on the side. They also have stepping stones next to them (SHEN Archives 1936, ANCS 09640 and 10808; 1938, ANCS 10631). Today all the water fountains are mortared, ashlar stone with a drinking fountain on top and a stone step on one side (LCS 83223, undocumented). On another side there is a spigot and a stone splash area with drop inlet. More research is needed to determine when these were installed. They resemble CCC drinking fountains seen at other Shenandoah sites, and may have been installed by the CCC.

The CCC installed picnic tables at the site, but it seems unlikely any have survived. Today a few picnic tables are made entirely of wood; most have wood tops and curving metal supports. They are located under the pavilion and around the site. One, at the southwest corner near the handicapped parking space, is located on an asphalt pad and is accessible.

Other non-historic features include trash and recycling cans with bear-proof tops. The cans are placed individually, or in groups of 2 or 3, and many are located on the site. They are all painted dark brown, except the tops of the recycling cans which are silver and have a green recycling symbol on side. The recycling cans are used for aluminum only.

There are two types of signs at the picnic grounds. One type is the brown wood sign with routed letters painted white, modeled after the style of signs placed by the CCC. These identify the Appalachian Trail and pit toilet, explain CCC history and that it is unlawful to feed wildlife, and give directions and distances on Skyline Drive. The other type of signage is the metal sign that designates the handicapped parking space.

An NPS addition to the site is a wooden bulletin board near the pavilion. It has a peaked, shingled roof, and is double-sided with two glass windows on each side.

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
Ashlar pedestal water fountains	92764	Undetermined					No
Boulders	92765	Contributing					No
Bulletin board	92766	Noncontributing					No
Fireplaces - CCC	92767	Contributing					No
Fireplaces - NPS	92768	Noncontributing					No
Picnic Tables	92769	Noncontributing					No
Signage	92770	Noncontributing					No
Trash and recycling cans	92771	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of the Pinnacles picnic grounds is the same today as it was when it was first built. The picnic grounds are high on a ridge west of Skyline Drive. The entry road heads southwest from Skyline Drive and makes one-way loop around area. The loop has double loaded parking on the west side, and restrooms on the outside the loop on the west-facing slope. The only later addition to the site is the pit toilet, also on the outside of the loop near the restrooms, which may have been added as late as the 1960s. The loop road has more parking on the outside at the southwest end, which becomes double loaded before the road narrows and rejoins the entrance, or circles back to the loop. Inside the southwest end of the loop there is a square pavilion with four central fireplaces facing the cardinal points. Picnic tables, independent fireplaces, and water fountains are located inside and outside the loop road. The Appalachian Trail skirts the picnic area to the west.

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
	92772	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historically the site was wooded, and was second growth oak-hickory [*Quercus* – *Carya*] forest at the time the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) developed the area. The CCC did clearing at the site, including some chestnuts [*Aesculus*] that were probably dead from the blight. The CCC report for the period October 1, 1934-March 31, 1935, indicates 40 acres were cleared at Pinnacles (Engle 1999, 81). A 1934 photograph indicates they also cleared east of the picnic grounds, perhaps to create the ski area seen in the skiing photograph in the Land Use section of this report (SHEN 1934, ANCS 07384; SHEN 1947, ANCS 04408). A plan dated 1935 and 1938 shows the locations, sizes and types of trees that existed on the site. Clusters of mountain laurel [*Kalmia latifolia*] at the ends of parking areas and laurel and trees behind the sign indicate that the CCC also planted shrubs and trees at the site, although no planting plan from the time exists.

Today there is evidence of historic plantings at the picnic area. At the picnic grounds there is mature vegetation near the entrance, including spruce [*Picea abies*], red oak [*Quercus rubra*], pine [*Pinus*], mountain laurel, and one apple tree [*Malus*]. Inside the loop road the tree canopy is predominantly high with limited areas of understory and shrub layer. The mixture includes mature oaks, pines, spruce, and some locust [*Robinia pseudoacacia*], and it is probable that all of these were planted by the CCC or existed at the time of the development and were chosen to remain. In the late 1990s NPS planted some new trees within the loop road where stumps of former trees existed. Outside the loop road there are oak trees and some young pines, and a denser understory of lowbush blueberries [*Vaccinium* sp.], rhododendron [*Rhododendron* sp.], and mountain laurel that forms the edge of the developed area. There are also new plantings east of the loop road. The cleared slope for skiing no longer exists.

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
CCC Plantings	92774	Contributing					No
	92773	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

The Pinnacles picnic grounds probably had good views to the east and west when it was first constructed. A 1933 "Topographical Survey Sexton Knoll Picnic Grounds" shows the treeline to the west of the picnic grounds at 3300' or lower (NPS plan 1933, SHE 134/1204). The 1935/1938 plan shows the septic field cleared to an elevation of about 3342' (NPS plan 1938, "Sexton Knoll Picnic Grounds"). Since the pavilion stands at an elevation of 3376', there would have been views west to the Shenandoah Valley and mountains beyond. The undated "Topographic Base Map-Pinnacles Picnic Grounds" shows a clear view west from the picnic shelter (NPS NP-SHE/2118, ND). (See map in History Section: 1926-1952 Initial Park Development). The treeline on both plans west of the entry drive and west parking lot appears to be low enough to allow at least some good views, if not a consistently open view, west from there. There is a natural rock outcropping northeast of the west parking lot, which would have also had a good view west. The Appalachian Trail shared those views west as it skirted the picnic area, before dropping down the mountain. The overlook to the southwest of the picnic area clearly had a good view. The 1933 plan illustrates that the area east of the picnic grounds was cleared except for a buffer strip partially concealing the Skyline Drive, which would have provided a good view to the east. The skiing photograph in the Land Use section shows that this view was open at least as late as 1947.

Today there is a view west to the Shenandoah Valley from the entry drive north of the west parking area. There is also a view from the natural rock outcropping at the edge of the mountain northeast of the parking lot, with a grassy area for viewing. This was cleared sometime before the initial 1999 field survey, as there is evidence that the felled trees were simply pushed off the edge of the outcropping. There is a limited view west from the Appalachian Trail below the west parking area. The view from the pavilion southwest to the valley is blocked today. The historic view to the valley from the overlook on the trail southwest of the picnic area is now blocked by vegetation. There are no longer any views east from the picnic grounds.

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
Blocked view to Shenandoah Valley from overlook	92775	Contributing					No
Blocked view to Shenandoah Valley from picnic shelter	92776	Contributing					No
View to Shenandoah Valley from entry drive	92777	Contributing					No
View to Shenandoah Valley from rock outcropping	92778	Contributing					No

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 3

Next Assessment Due Date: 08/28/2028

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/28/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

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

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/21/2021

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed as part of a comprehensive update of the entire CLI. Planning and scheduling this update will occur in FY 2022.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/27/2008

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Superintendent, in consultation with Ann Kain, Cultural Resources Manager, agreed with this reassessment. A "good" evaluation 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.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 01/02/2002

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Impacts

Type of Impact: Release To Succession

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: The views to the Shenandoah Valley are part of the historic siting of the picnic grounds, and they are threatened by vegetative growth, including one historic overlook where the view is currently blocked. The encroachment of vegetation needs to be monitored and further loss of views prevented.

Date Identified: 07/29/2005

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
Lambert, Darwin	Administrative History, Shenandoah National Park, 1924-1976	1979				010882
McClelland, Linda Flint	Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction	1998		Both Graphic And Narrative	PHSO Library	
Engle, Reed L.	Everything Was Wonderful: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Shenandoah National Park	1999		Both Graphic And Narrative	PHSO Library	
Lambert, Darwin	The Undying Past of Shenandoah National Park	1989		Both Graphic And Narrative	PHSO Library	
	List of Classified Structures(LCS)			Both Graphic And Narrative	WASO	
Sanders, Debbie, Editor	Shenandoah National Park Resource Management Newsletter	1999		Both Graphic And Narrative	Specific article referenced: Badger, Robert, "Shenandoah's Geology: An Intriguing Story"	
Engle, Reed, L., Guest Editor	CRM Shenandoah: Managing Cultural Resources in a Natural Park	1998		Both Graphic And Narrative	PHSO Library	
Maddex, McClung and Peyton	National Register Nomination: Skyline Drive Historic District	1992		Both Graphic And Narrative	PHSO historian Files	

Pinnacles Picnic Grounds
Shenandoah National Park

Hooper, Carol, of Robinson & Associates, Inc.	National Register Nomination: Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase)	1997		Both Graphic And Narrative	PHSO historian files	
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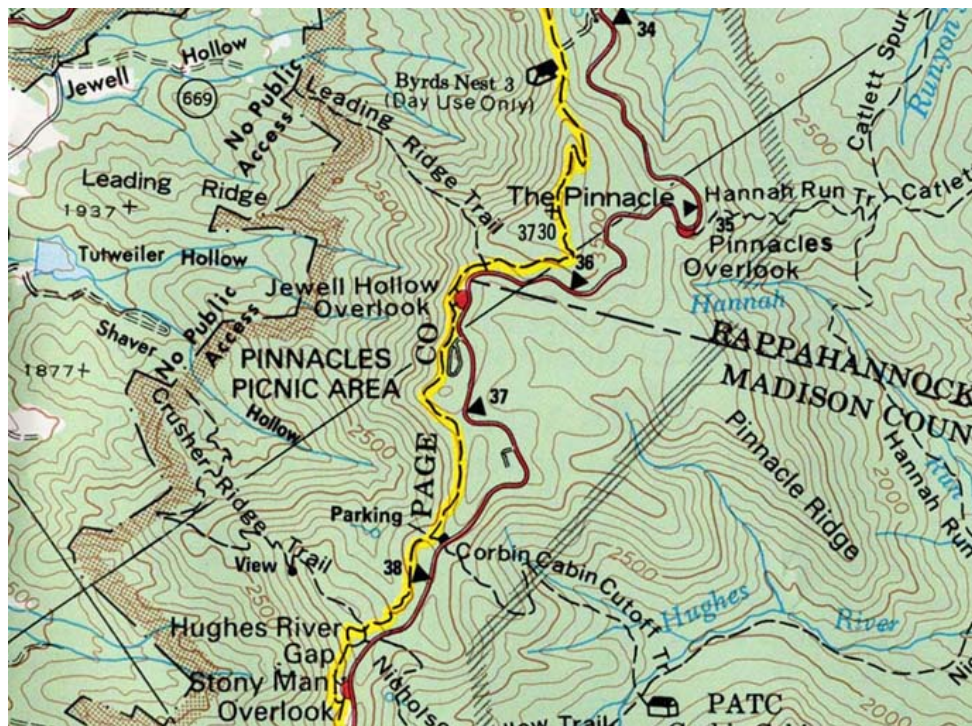
Supplemental Information:

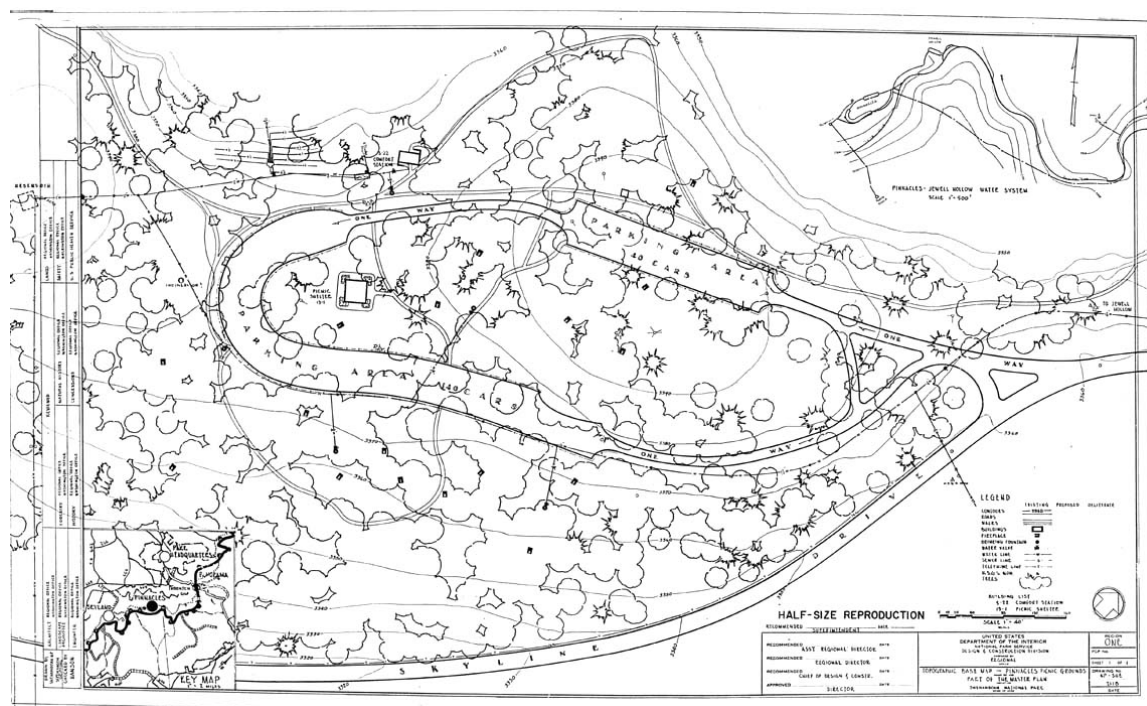
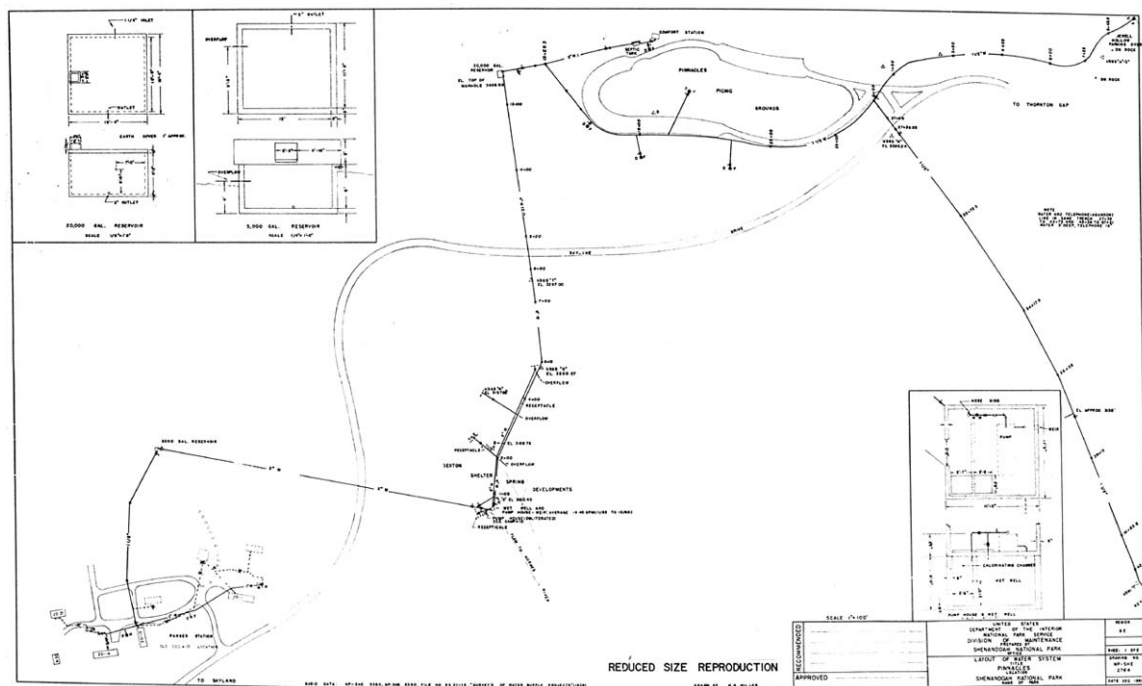
Supplemental Information Title: Map - "Layout of Water System: Pinnacles"

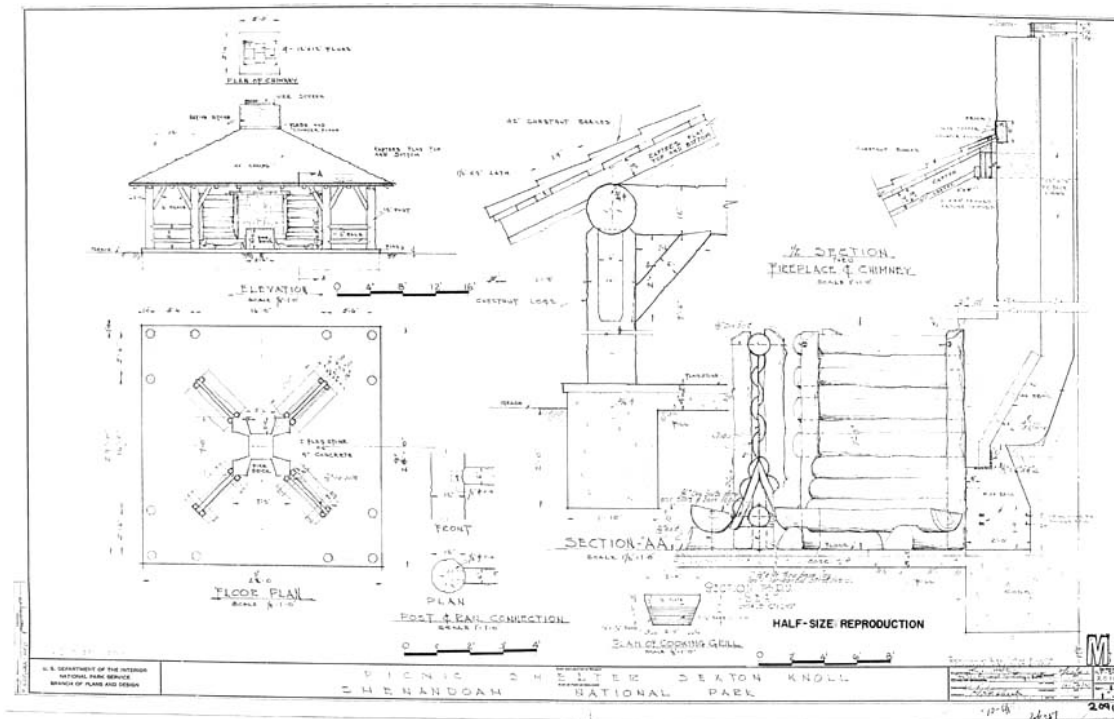
Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS, Dwg. No. NP-SHE/2764, Sheet 1 of 2, 1966

Supplemental Information File:







Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map - "Picnic Shelter Sexton Knoll"

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS, Dwg. No. NP-SHE/2091, Revised 1940

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map - "Topographic Base Map (Pinnacles Picnic Grounds)"

Supplemental Information Narrative:

NPS Design and Construction Division, Regional Office, Dwg. No. NP-SHE/2118, no date.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map 10: Appalachian Trail and other trails in Shenandoah National Park, Central District

Supplemental Information Narrative:
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc., 1997

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Numerous oral conversations and email messages with Reed Engle, NPS Cultural Resource Specialist for the park

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Landscape Documents:

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

Source