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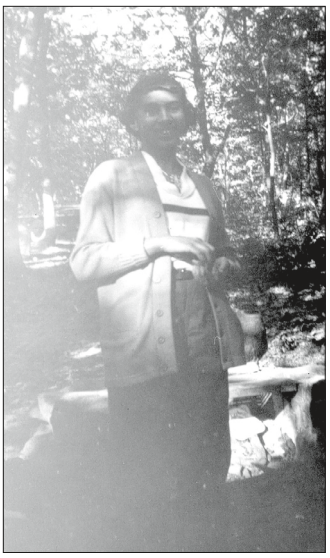
Cultural Landscape Report for Lewis Mountain Shenandoah National Park



"Lewis Mountain had lots of memories. ... Mr. Tutt really had that lodge swinging. He really did. And everybody had such a good time."

Elaine Taylor Blakey, in conversation with authors, August 30, 2022

Cultural Landscape Report for Lewis Mountain

Shenandoah National Park

Page and Greene Counties, Virginia

Site History

Analysis and Evaluation

Treatment

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Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
National Park Service, Boston, Massachusetts, 2023

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Title Page: Lois Taylor Tutt at Lewis Mountain, sister of Elaine Taylor Blakey who is quoted. (SHEN 29415 Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

Cover Photo: Mr. Lloyd Tutt, the then-manager of Lewis Mountain, and others lean on the railing of a cabin at Lewis Mountain during his first year as manager in 1941. (Scudder Griffing, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide #04557)

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SITE HISTORY

Figure 1.1. This diagram shows geological features such as the Fall Line, Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and the location of Indigenous peoples prior to European contact. Note: All boundaries are approximate. (Torkelson 2023. Map based on data from Egloff and Woodward 1992 and Native Land Digital, native-land.ca, accessed March 20, 2023).

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Figure 1.14. Mr. Lloyd Tutt, the then-manager of Lewis Mountain, and others lean on the railing of a cabin at Lewis Mountain during his first year as manager in 1941. (Scudder Griffing, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide #04557)

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Figure 1.16. Donald Banks leans against a bus at Lewis Mountain (SHEN 29415 Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

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Figure 1.19. Gilda Wright in the lodge at Lewis Mountain. (SHEN 29415 Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

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Figure 1.31. In 1996, the Historic American Engineering Record documented Skyline Drive. During this process, staff recorded the buildings and structures at Lewis Mountain. (William A. Faust II, HAER VA 119, Library of Congress)

Figure 1.32. Lloyd Tutt, shown here, was the manager of Lewis Mountain from 1941 to 1953. Dorothy Noble Smith interviewed him in 1978, during one of the first efforts to tell the story of Lewis Mountain. (*Page News and Courier*, February 9, 1978: 13)

Figure 1.33. The 2007 exhibit in the Shenandoah National Park visitor center focused on the experience of visitors to Lewis Mountain during Jim Crow. It features a reconstructed entrance sign, lodge dining room counter, and photos from historic user groups. (ETIC SHEN_134_124200, Sheet 42 available via https://pubs.nps.gov/)

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Figure 2.1. Example of a rock outcropping at the south end of the campground. This outcropping was included on early plans for the campground and was retained as part of the cultural landscape's design. (Torkelson 2022)

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Figure 2.4. Trailer campers continue to use the campground facilities at Lewis Mountain today. (Boone, North Carolina State University, 2022)

Figure 2.5. Churchgoers were among the many groups that frequented Lewis Mountain. In this undated picture, several people sang spirituals at the Lewis Mountain picnic grounds. Such functions are no longer held at Lewis Mountain. (SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.04230/M-4 Neg. No. 825-33)

Figure 2.6. The gently sloping mountaintop topography of Lewis Mountain is a character-defining feature of the picnic grounds, and the cultural landscape as a whole. (Nasta 2022)

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Figure 2.8. Since its construction, Skyline Drive has served as the demarcating line that separated Lewis Mountain from the rest of the park. Historically, Skyline Drive also spatially segregated Lewis Mountain from the rest of the park. (Photo by T. W. Kines, Aug. 2, 1950, National Archives and Records Administration NAID 205741626/ Local ID: 30-N-50-4747)

Figure 2.9. Footpaths like these adjacent to the cabins display characteristics of the Rustic Style, employing curved routing and preserving existing vegetation or incorporating new plantings. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.10. View of a representative parking spur. This design was pioneered by E.P Meinecke and employed at campgrounds across the country. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.11. View of a representative Meinecke-type loop for a camper trailer. (Nasta 2022)

Figure 2.12. This excerpt from the 1938 Lewis Mountain Master Plan shows a vista designed by park landscape architects at the lodge. The southwesterly vista likely highlighted views of Skyline Drive and the Shenandoah Valley beyond. (Excerpt from SHEN 47218, Shelf 4, Box 8)

Figure 2.13. This 1963 aerial photograph of Lewis Mountain shows the lodge (center) and its designed vista, including a triangular clearing facing Skyline Drive to the west (green). Maintenance of this vista waned in the ensuing decades. The vista is now blocked by vegetation except along the electric transmission right-of-way. (USGS EROS 1963)

Figure 2.14. The original 1938 master plan for Lewis Mountain called for the creation of a westward vista from the lodge (A). This vista was constructed and maintained into the 1960s. It may have featured views to the west of the farms in Allen Hollow (F) and Field Hollow (H), as well as the watershed of South Naked Creek (G). It may have also featured more immediate views of Skyline Drive (D) and the utility clearing that serviced Lewis Mountain (E). (USGS EROS 1963, annotated by Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.15. The picnic grounds feature clear sightlines between each picnic site, as well as filtered views in areas where mid-story and understory plantings create degrees of privacy within landscape rooms. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.16. The comfort station at the campground sits on a small rise, allowing it to be viewed centrally from all campsites. Mature trees also direct views to and from it along circulation features. (Nasta 2022)

Figure 2.17. Mature trees like these direct reciprocal views along circulation features between each cabin. However, there are no young trees in the understory or midstory, so once these mature trees are lost, the historic viewsheds will be significantly altered. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.18. Mature trees direct views along circulation features, visually linking various parts of the cultural landscape. (Nasta 2022)

Figure 2.19. In his bulletin *Landscape Conservation*, Frank Waugh advocated for a zonal approach to restorative plantings between developed areas or clearings (to the right of "D") and fully-forested or natural zones (left, "A"). His manual was standard issue to all Civilian Conservation Corps companies employed on National Park Service lands. (Waugh 29)

Figure 2.20. This tree well, added just after the Mission 66 campaign between 1967 and 1968, illustrates the continuity of interventions at Lewis Mountain that employ the principles of the Rustic Style to the cultural landscape. This tree well preserved the existing trees during the campground rehabilitation, demonstrating the designers' reverence for existing landscape features. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.21. View to the south of the Lewis Mountain campground comfort station, showing a Civilian Conservation Corps-planted or -preserved oak tree that was historically incorporated into the circulation patterns of the campground. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.22. Planted islands and ornamental plantings along buildings were important features of the landscape at Lewis Mountain, as designed by National Park Service and planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Note the large stump near the entrance to the Lewis Mountain lodge, where a large character-defining oak tree once stood. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.23. This undated historic photo shows some of the ornamental species that were planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps adjacent to the Lewis Mountain Cabins. (Boone, North Carolina State University, 2022)

Figure 2.24. View to the south of the campground cluster at Lewis Mountain. (Boone, North Carolina State University, 2022)

Figure 2.25. View to the southeast of a portion of the cabin cluster at Lewis Mountain. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.26. This sketch by Charles I. Barber of Barber and McMurry Architects was drawn days after a meeting of the National Park Service Regional Office Branch of Plans and Design in which participants critiqued Marcellus Wright Jr.'s initial plans for the lodge. Following the meeting any revised designs completed by

Wright were to be brought to Barber for endorsement. (Map Case 12, Folder 66, Charles I. Barber Papers, MS-2006, Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives, University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

Figure 2.27. The lodge at Lewis Mountain was sited to take advantage of the existing topography. (Excerpt from SHEN Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 7. Used with permission, © Marcellus Wright Cox Architects, All Rights Reserved.)

Figure 2.28. Marcellus Wright, Jr. completed a revised set of drawings for the Lewis Mountain lodge in early May of 1939. (SHEN Maps and Plans Office. Used with permission, © Marcellus Wright Cox Architects, All Rights Reserved.)

Figure 2.29. Wright drew up construction plans for the Lewis Mountain lodge in June of 1939. (SHEN Map Case 9 Drawer 5 Folder 7. Used with permission, © Marcellus Wright Cox Architects, All Rights Reserved.)

Figure 2.30. Wright drew up the elevations for the Lewis Mountain lodge in June of 1939. (SHEN Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 7, Used with permission, © Marcellus Wright Cox Architects, All Rights Reserved.)

Figure 2.31. Wright produced the elevations, details, and sections for the Lewis Mountain lodge in June of 1939. (SHEN Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 7. Used with permission, © Marcellus Wright Cox Architects, All Rights Reserved.)

Figure 2.32. The Lewis Mountain lodge remains little changed from the period of significance. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.33. Cabin 1 was used by Lewis Mountain employees during the period of significance. This 1961 photo shows the cabin, including a small sign that reads “EMPLOYEES.” (SHEN 22055, Box 2, 0-276)

Figure 2.34. Cabin 2 was built in 1940. It features two bedrooms with separate entrances, flanked by a central, shared bathroom. (Nasta 2022)

Figure 2.35. Cabins 4 and 5 were designed by the architecture firm Ballou and Justice, in keeping with the previous designs of Marcellus Wright, Jr. However, in plan, each bedroom had its own closet and bathroom. (SHEN Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 7. Used with permission, © Ballou Justice Upton Architects, All Rights Reserved.)

Figure 2.36. Cabins 4 and 5 were designed by architects Ballou and Justice and constructed by the Virginia Skyline Company in 1948. Cabin 4, shown here, remains little changed from when it was built, apart from its porch restoration. (Nasta 2022)

Figure 2.37. From left to right, Chestnut Cottage F, Spruce Cottage G, and Cabin 15. Outdoor dining shelters are located between the buildings. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.38. Cabin 15 may have been constructed as a tent platform, predating Lewis Mountain's development as a recreational landscape. (Nasta 2022)

Figure 2.39. The picnic grounds comfort station retains the integrity of its design, as constructed during the period of significance. (Nasta 2022)

Figure 2.40. The comfort station at the Lewis Mountain campground was of a standard design employed across the park. It featured stone walls up to the roofline, where board-and-batten siding continued into the gables. (SHEN Map Case 11, Drawer 5, Folder 7)

Figure 2.41. The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the campground comfort station in 1942; it has not been significantly changed since that time. The Civilian Conservation Corps also built a stone retaining wall to the west of the comfort station, shown here to the right of the asphalt path. It is a contributing structure to the cultural landscape. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.42. The campground office was constructed between 1939 and 1940, to serve as a check-in station for campers at Lewis Mountain. (Nasta 2022)

Figure 2.43. A 1938 drawing of the Lewis Mountain pump house. (SHEN Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 4)

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Figure 2.46. The original campground registration kiosk at Lewis Mountain, shown in this 1967 photo, did not include a masonry wall or tree well. (SHEN Maps and Plans Office)

Figure 2.47. This self-registration map board design from the Blue Ridge Parkway is similar to one that was installed at Lewis Mountain. It was published in the *Park Practice Program*, a widely circulated publication of National Park Service designs for recreational landscapes. (National Park Service, Park Practice Program, Index A-1804, Control S-1152-A)

Figure 2.48. The stone retaining wall and tree well at the campground entrance were constructed according to Rustic Style design principles, similar to those employed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service in earlier eras. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.49. The campground registration kiosk is no longer used by after-hours campers. Rather, it remains a vestige of past registration systems. Both it and its associated retaining wall (not visible in this photograph) are contributing, features to the landscape. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 2.50. The KIT-38 Microwave utility building at Lewis Mountain is a non-contributing structure to the cultural landscape. (Torkelson 2022)

2.51. The roof of the power plant building has largely been lost. (Nasta 2022)

2.52. The Lewis Mountain power plant structure is in critical condition, which has resulted in a significant loss in integrity. As a result, it is considered a non-contributing feature in this report. (Nasta 2022)

2.53. After the suspension of food service at the lodge in the late 1960s, architects Baughan & Baukhages designed the dining shelters at Lewis Mountain. (SHEN Map Case 9 Drawer 5 Folder 6. © Baughan & Baukhages, PLLC. All Rights Reserved.)

2.54. This dining pavilion located south of Cabin 5 was built circa 1968, once dining operations ceased at the lodge. (Torkelson 2022)

2.55. These two dining pavilions attached to Cabin 4 were added in 1968, according to two schemes by architects Baughan & Baukhages of Luray, Virginia. (Nasta 2022)

2.56. The boulder drinking fountains at Lewis Mountain were part of a standardized series of drinking fountains employed throughout the park. (OCLP 2005)

2.57. This boulder drinking fountain at the south end of the campground remains in operation today. (Torkelson 2022)

2.58. Boulders like these were intentionally placed to prevent vehicles from entering the picnic grounds. They were placed according to principles outlined by Meinecke and others. Some of the boulders may have replaced rotten log guardrails. (Nasta 2022)

2.59. This USGS benchmark is a contributing feature of the cultural landscape. (Torkelson 2022)

2.60. An example of a dusk-to-dawn light at Lewis Mountain. (Torkelson 2022)

2.61. Shenandoah National Park employed two standard types of picnic tables at Lewis Mountain during the period of significance. One was wooden and moveable, while the other was concrete and fixed. (NPS ETIC SHEN_134_2251)

2.62. Between 1967 and 1968, most picnic tables at Lewis Mountain were replaced with Modern alternatives. This design was widely circulated in the National Park Service under the Park Practice Program. (National Park Service, Park Practice Program Index R-4258, Control S-0146-R)

2.63. Undated photo of the first entrance sign for Lewis Mountain, built along Skyline Drive. This sign and its successor were tangible expressions of Jim Crow policies. Numerous complaints were filed by the public, including by the NAACP, in response to this sign and its replacements. (Unknown photographer, SHEN 22060/4001.009.01.04533/Negative No. P 766L)

2.64. The 1940 entrance sign to Lewis Mountain employed the use of the Rustic Style while enforcing segregated use. (NPS ETIC SHEN_134_2189)

2.65. After legal desegregation in 1945 and 1946, the National Park Service simply scraped off the words "Negro Area" and replaced them with "Lodge." Such a move did nothing to encourage Black visitors to use other spaces in the park, but rather left a tangible reminder of policies that were still socially enforced. (Lennart. Y. Berg, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.11802/Negative No. 663-16B)

2.66. This sign was located at the entrance to Lewis Mountain during the Mission 66 era. (Donald M. Black, National Park Service, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide #04635)

2.67. View to the west along Skyline Drive at the entrance to Lewis Mountain. Note the extant entrance sign, as well as the remnants of plantings within its traffic island. (Nasta 2022)

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Figure 3.1. Diagram showing the landscape management zones within the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape. (OCLP 2023; modified by authors)

Figure 3.2. An example of a non-historic pavilion that is appropriately rustic in character, but distinct from the historic features within the associated park landscape. Pictured is the Telegraph Picnic Pavilion at Prince William Forest Park. (National Park Service Claire Hassler, PRWI)

Figure 3.3. Another example of a rustic yet modern pavilion in the nearby George Washington Memorial Forest. This pavilion is located at the Camp Roosevelt Campground, northwest of Luray, VA. (Dave Kiel, Outdoor Project)

Figure 3.4 Signage throughout Lewis Mountain should use the historic font shown here in 1947. (NPS ETIC SHEN_134_2037)

Figure 3.5. Some areas of the picnic grounds already demonstrate the desired character, including native understory vegetation, limited turf, and mature canopy trees. This photo also shows the clear views throughout the picnic grounds that were intended by the designers. (Boone, North Carolina State University, 2022)

Figure 3.6. This diagram shows the forested area to be thinned (noted with hatching) surrounding the boulder field and adjacent parking lot. It also highlights the missing circulation feature (in red) to be re-established. (OCLP 2023, modified by authors)

Figure 3.7. The area of mown turf within the picnic grounds should be reduced in favor of native plantings and a successional canopy. As it exists, the picnic grounds feature many mature canopy trees and minimal ground cover or understory species. Specific picnic sites, such as this one, should remain turf; however, the surrounding areas should be converted to native ground covers; young trees should be planted to establish a successional canopy. (Nasta 2023)

Figure 3.8. Planted tree islands in the picnic grounds should be preserved. When damaged or lost, these trees should be replaced in-kind. (Nasta 2022)

Figure 3.9. Many historic boulder drinking fountains are no longer operational. All should be restored to working order. (Boone, North Carolina State University, 2022)

Figure 3.10. An example of a historic sign at Lewis Mountain that no longer exists. Such a sign should be used as a precedent for a cohesive campaign of signage improvements across Lewis Mountain. (Norris December 1949, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.11760/neg. 663-76)

Figure 3.11. Excerpt from a historic photo showing the types of picnic tables that were in the Lewis Mountain campground originally. (Excerpt SHEN 29415 Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

Figure 3.12. Detail diagram of the lodge area treatment tasks. (OCLP 2023; modified and annotated by authors)

Figure 3.13. The vista from the lodge picture window (left center) is currently obscured by forest. It should be restored in conjunction with the lodge rehabilitation and terrace construction. (Torkelson 2023)

Figure 3.14. Gilda Wright sits on the “photo log” across from the lodge in the late 1940s or early 1950s. (SHEN 29415 Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

Figure 3.15. During oral histories conducted for the report, descendants regularly referenced the photo log as among their favorite features at Lewis Mountain. The “photo log” was a log guardrail located in a planted island between the lodge and cabin area. This photo collage shows where the photo log was located and what a restored log might look like. (Torkelson 2023; adapted from SHEN 29415 Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

Figure 3.16. The Lewis Mountain lodge hosted many distinguished guests, including Ada and Chester Franklin of the *Kansas City Call* newspaper. Pictured are two unidentified individuals. (SHEN 29415 Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

Figure 3.17. The current use of the lodge is inappropriate given the cultural and historical importance of the building. Camp store functions should be scaled

down and ultimately relocated, and the space should be converted to a gathering and interpretive space detailing life at Lewis Mountain. (Torkelson 2023)

Figure 3.18. The Lewis Mountain lodge historically featured seating along the window facing the vista. The lodge served as the cultural and logistical center of life at Lewis Mountain. Pictured are Lloyd Tutt (left) and Theodore Fisher (right). (SHEN 29415 Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

Figure 3.19. The vista behind the lodge should be restored, and the rear window should be cleared of any obstruction in order to highlight this vista. This should be done in conjunction with a Historic Structure Report (HSR) and a Historic Furnishings Report. (Mason 2022)

Figure 3.20. The original plans for the Lewis Mountain lodge called for a "future terrace" at the rear of the lodge. Consideration should be given to constructing this planned-but-unbuilt feature. (SHEN Maps and Plans Office)

Figure 3.21. Existing porch furnishings are incompatible with the historic design of the lodge and should be replaced with more rustic alternatives based on historic photos. The large storage closet and vending machine should also be removed to make more room for seating. (Torkelson 2023)

Figure 3.22. The lodge porch should be restored, and modern additions to the porch should be removed, including the storage enclosure at left and the latticework. The lodge did not historically feature decorative diagonal latticework. Marcellus Wright did include it in his initial sketch of the lodge, but it was not installed until sometime after the 1990s. (Torkelson 2023)

Figure 3.23. The flagstone paving at the Lewis Mountain lodge is in poor condition and should be restored in-kind. (Torkelson 2023)

Figure 3.24. In order to restore and interpret the lodge, the camp store function should be relocated to a new structure. (Torkelson 2023)

Figure 3.25. This area off the kitchen was historically enclosed with a wooden fence. The fence should be rebuilt, and service equipment should be screened inside. (Torkelson 2023)

Figure 3.26. The service area attached to the Lewis Mountain lodge was historically screened. This fence should be reconstructed. (Excerpt from W Drew Chick, 1942, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide No. 04556)

Figure 3.27. The reconstructed fence should be large enough to screen incompatible landscape features such as dumpsters, UTVs, and satellite dishes. This will likely result in the relocation of the dumpsters to the utility area. (Torkelson 2023)

Figure 3.28. Historically, each cabin featured timber railings on each entrance porch. Vertical supports were placed at a 45-degree angle and connected with

horizontal sawn planks. These have since been replaced with dimensional lumber. (SHEN 22055 Box 3 Bldg #0-278; Nasta 2023)

Figure 3.29. Dead trees, such as these two oaks along the entrance road, should be preserved as snags when they are not a danger to the public or to historic landscape features. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.30. Preserve and enhance the historic planted islands throughout the cultural landscape. This island, located between the lodge parking lot and cabins, features mountain laurels, pines, and oaks. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.31. Character-defining rustic vegetation should be replaced in-kind after removal. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.32. Retain and enhance Civilian Conservation Corps-planted vegetation adjacent to cabins. As specimens die, replace them with appropriately similar historic species. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.33. In recent years, a large character-defining oak was removed from the Lewis Mountain lodge. It should be replaced in-kind. (HABS VA-119-71; Boone 2022)

Figure 3.34. Examples of furniture that is out of character with the rustic design of the cabin camps. Non-historic furnishings should be replaced with wooden versions, relying on historical precedents for guidance. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.35. Early in its tenure, the Lewis Mountain Lodge featured rustic booth-style seating, Adirondack-style chairs, and an unknown material chair with a checkered back. Similar seating was located at the comparable Dickey Ridge dining room. (Excerpts from JEH, July 1944, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.08501/ Neg. No. 911-11; Undated, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.01836//Neg No. SNP3; Undated, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.01846/Neg no. H-011 SNP13)

Figure 3.36. These examples show the original design and style of signage at Lewis Mountain. Signs were painted brown with yellow routed letters, often featuring routed arrows or pointed sides that indicated a direction. (Excerpts from T. W. Kines, National Archives and Records Administration 205741626; Scudder Griffing, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide #04557; Dale Hoak (attributed), SHEN Maps and Plans Office)

Figure 3.37. Housekeeping vehicles cause damage to the historic landscape, trampling turf, enhancing erosion, and harming the visitor experience. All UTVs should be kept on paved roads, and the cabins should be serviced by foot or cart. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.38. These photos show the historically dense canopy of the Lewis Mountain campground in October 1967, as compared to 2022. Today's campground is significantly less forested, and restorative measures should

be taken to establish a successional canopy. ((Top images) Dale Hoak, 1967 (attributed), SHEN Maps and Plans Office; (Bottom images) Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.39. Encourage the cultivation of a successional canopy by establishing no-mow zones with understory plantings and young trees. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.40. Similar vegetative conditions should be encouraged throughout the site in place of large turf areas. Mowing should continue along the edges of circulation features, but is unnecessary in areas not used by visitors. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.41. Replace turf between campsites with vegetation like the cluster of plantings on the left of this photo. Vegetation like this increases campsite privacy, reduces camper noise, and enhances the rustic character of the campground. Cultivating plantings like this would also reduce long-term mowing costs. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.42. This social trail has caused significant erosion and runoff onto the paved path below. Such a trail indicates the direction campers need to go to use the comfort station; this trail should be formalized and paved to prevent further erosion issues. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.43. Use plantings to discourage using and creating social trails. The trail shown here that empties directly into a campsite is a good candidate for shrubs and other barriers that could prevent its use, in favor of the existing paved trail at right. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.44. The camp office features a wide range of permanent and temporary signage and literature. Existing camp office signs and literature should be replaced with consistent site-wide signage; temporary literature should be limited to a designated area . (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.45. Preserve and stabilize historic masonry walls in the campground. Appropriate treatment should replace mortars in-kind and remove biogrowth. (Torkelson 2022)

Figure 3.46. Waste receptacles at the focal point of the campground detract from the rustic setting. They should be moved to a less conspicuous location or screened. (Torkelson 2023)

DRAWINGS

Drawing 1. 1940 Historic Period Plan, Lewis Mountain

Drawing 2. 1954 Historic Period Plan, Lewis Mountain

Drawing 3. 1968 Historic Period Plan, Lewis Mountain

Drawing 4. 1999 Historic Period Plan, Lewis Mountain

Drawing 5. 2023 Existing Conditions, Lewis Mountain

Drawing 6. 2023 Treatment Tasks, Lewis Mountain

Superintendent's Note

Shenandoah National Park was established in 1935 as an "eastern park in the western tradition." National Park Service supporters wanted to establish large natural parks near East Coast population centers to strengthen support for the National Park idea. Pre-establishment, park lands had long been populated by and their resources used by humans. Early park managers saw natural landscape restoration as their mandate. Their early visions have been realized, and Shenandoah National Park now supports robust natural forest and wildlife populations. While park natural resources flourished, cultural resources did not receive as much attention from park managers.

Lewis Mountain is a key feature of the Skyline Drive National Historic Landmark District, and its rich and complicated legacy holds local, regional, and national significance. Lewis Mountain was designed as a segregated space and was originally the sole overnight accommodation for Black visitors to Shenandoah National Park. As such, it was a valued recreational and social asset while simultaneously an embodiment of the systemic racism and oppression experienced by Black Americans during the Jim Crow Era. Lewis Mountain's story is complicated and sometimes difficult. That is why protecting Lewis Mountain's legacy is so important; by hearing and telling *all* stories, we learn from history, avoid repeating past mistakes, and better our future.

This cultural landscape report will be a key component in guiding Shenandoah National Park's efforts to showcase and protect Lewis Mountain's rich cultural legacy.

Patrick M. Kenney

Superintendent

Shenandoah National Park

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Foreword

The design, care, and stewardship of a modest landscape can bear enormous meaning. Lewis Mountain is one such place. It is a small but highly significant component of Shenandoah National Park and a true landmark in memorializing and sustaining the civil rights histories of our national parks.

The significance of Lewis Mountain is widely known - and has been for some time - yet the contributions of Black Americans to the development of our national parks often remain obscured. The urgency of this significance is newly felt in the current moment of reckoning more openly with the legacies of racial discrimination, particularly on public lands.

Between 1938 and 1942, Lewis Mountain was intentionally designed by the National Park Service and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps as a segregated landscape for Black campers. The *de jure* segregation of Lewis Mountain embodied the ugly politics and moral bankruptcy of federally sanctioned racial segregation; it also represents a public landscape that was at the forefront of desegregation efforts a full 18 years before the landmark 1964 *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, which barred discrimination in public spaces. But perhaps most importantly, Lewis Mountain is significant as one of the only places in Shenandoah National Park that was operated by and for Black campers, who created their own space of immense joy and relaxation. It was a place for gathering and celebration. In this way, Lewis Mountain represents both the best and worst legacies of the National Parks.

Shenandoah National Park continues to reckon with its legacy of segregation through scholarship and preservation. In 2021, Shenandoah National Park commissioned our team to create this cultural landscape report for Lewis Mountain as another meaningful step in the stewardship and interpretation of this important civil rights site. The documentation work in this report project adds to the record of Lewis Mountain's ongoing evolution. The analyses and proposals of our team mean to magnify the meaning of the place, continue its evolution as both a historic landscape and a contemporary recreational facility, and sustain all of the place's values for the long term.

This project was a privilege to work on. The participation of a descendant community of park users and workers (the New York-Virginia Club) was transformative in recognizing a fuller spectrum of the site's values. This aspect of the report signals the urgency of pursuing ethnographic work as a standard part of cultural landscape methods. The collaboration underpinning this report was very beneficial – colleagues in the park, the descendant community, and Penn's

team members and partners contributed energetically. Jake Torkelson, the project manager and lead researcher, carried the work from beginning to end; Monica Rhodes opened possibilities by guiding the consultation process; our colleague Kofi Boone and his landscape architecture studio from North Carolina State University creatively explored the meaning and shape of the landscape in ways that sharpened our understanding.

Preserving and interpreting places like Lewis Mountain addresses historical inequities and adds value to the rich histories of our national parks. As James Baldwin once wrote, "To accept one's past – one's history – is not the same thing as drowning in it; it is learning how to use it." We submit this report as one step towards a more inclusive and useful cultural landscape practice.

Randall Mason, PhD

Urban Heritage Project, Department of Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania

Center for the Preservation of Civil Right Sites, University of Pennsylvania

Acknowledgments

In the concluding chapter of his book *Black Landscapes Matter*, landscape architect and professor Walter Hood stressed the importance of understanding places—and people—through multiplicities. "All Americans can learn from people who have had to look at themselves with a two-ness. People should see that they themselves, and landscapes, have multiplicities . . . elements in the landscape are needed so all people can see reflections of themselves."[1] Uncovering the history and planning for the future of Lewis Mountain required a multiplicity of voices. We think Hood's characterization of landscapes is a fitting metaphor for how this project was conceived and how its recommendations will guide the future management of the site. The authors of this report are indebted to numerous individuals who helped (re)discover the history of Lewis Mountain, and we are thankful to each of them for their part in preserving it.

Perhaps most importantly, this project owes itself to the members of the New York-Virginia Club who agreed to be interviewed. The New York-Virginia Club stewards the rich legacy of Lewis Mountain and maintains cultural connections to the site. Monica Rhodes, who led engagement efforts for this report, was graciously invited to attend the group's annual homecoming celebration. She spoke with numerous individuals who lived, worked, and visited Lewis Mountain in the 1940s and 1950s. Audrey Tutt gave freely of her time, knowledge, and, most importantly, her photo collection. Audrey's vivid and joyful photos—many of which are included here for the first time—transport readers back to Lewis Mountain in its heyday. Francine Parks, Elaine Taylor Blakey, James Edward Parks, and Shirley Ann Tutt McCoy came together via Zoom to recount their memories of Lewis Mountain, including stories of crushes, honeymoons, and singing around the piano. This lively group also offered guidance on how Lewis Mountain should be interpreted and preserved. Their guidance is the foundation for this report.

This research would not be possible without the efforts of other scholars and interpreters. Notably, Claire Comer, Shenandoah National Park Interpretive Specialist, who, throughout her storied career, has advocated for, interpreted, and collected stories of Lewis Mountain. Her care and passion are reflected in a growing body of scholarship and interpretation that help the public understand the history of Lewis Mountain. Her colleague, Allysah Fox, was instrumental in assembling the historic photos and oral histories used in this report. This report relies on scholarship by Dr. Erin Krutko Devlin of the University of Mary Washington, Ruth M. Alexander and Ariel Schnee of Colorado State University, and the late Reed Engle of Shenandoah National Park.

We are grateful to numerous National Park Service staff. At Shenandoah National Park, Brinnen Carter, former Cultural Resources Manager, guided the initial project, including allowing for the report's non-traditional scope and reviewing drafts. Kandace Muller, Museum Specialist, as well as Norm Forder, Facility Services Assistant, doggedly tracked down archival materials in the park's collections and answered numerous research questions. Bob Page, Eliot Foulds, and Jennifer Hanna, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, offered their expertise on landscape treatments and guided the development of many treatment recommendations in this report. Jim Schaberl, Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources, enthusiastically directed this project through Part II and provided freely of his staff and time. Dave Sheehan, Cultural Resources Manager, reviewed the final report.

Several other park staff, including Patrick Kenney, Superintendent; Raquel Montez, Deputy Superintendent; Roy Wood, Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Youth Programs; Gary Zbel, Chief of Maintenance; Russ Griswold, Supervisor of Roads, Trails, and Grounds; and Mindy Bogue, Fee Program Manager, participated in treatment workshops and generously offered their expertise in their respective fields. George Kidd, Lewis Mountain campground host; Rolf Gubler, Biologist; Jake Hughes, Biologist; Wendy Cass, Botanist; John Mahoney, Chief of Commercial Services; Jim Von Haden, Integrated Resources Program Manager Appalachian National Scenic Trail; Bethany Serafine, Regional Historian, Interior Region 1; and Shaun Eyring, Chief Cultural Resources, Interior Region 1, all granted interviews and offered recommendations that were incorporated into the treatment section. The drawings were prepared by Ethan Berriault, Megan Cahill, and Kelsey Little at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation.

Part II of this report also relied on the assistance of park and regional partners. Monica Robinson and Robin Lyttle of the Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project detailed their work to interpret and tell the story of life at Lewis Mountain and offered recommendations for future management. John Hedrick from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club illuminated Lewis Mountain's many connections to the trail and its maintenance. Jessica Cocciolone and Julie Shuren of the Shenandoah National Park Trust offered their guidance on park partnerships and engagement. Michael Darrow, Dicky Baker, Christina Mauck, Ken Rees, and Katia Santiago of Delaware North described day-to-day operations of the Lewis Mountain lodge and cabins. This group of staffers also provided detailed information on needed improvements and provided access to buildings.

Part 1 of this report relied on historical and archival research provided by several partners. Kristie Kendall of the Piedmont Environment Council and Buddy Woodward of the Blue Ridge Heritage Project offered research that detailed life at Lewis Mountain prior to the creation of the park. Stephen Charla of the

National Archives at Philadelphia helped located records related to Mission 66 and the 1967-1968 rehabilitation. Professor Terence Young answered questions about his research on E.P. Meinecke, W. J. Trent, Jr., and desegregation efforts in the National Park Service. Molly Lester, Associate Director of the Urban Heritage Project, University of Pennsylvania generously reviewed all drafts of this report.

Lastly, this report benefitted from a collaboration with Professor Kofi Boone and his students at North Carolina State University. Kofi and his studio studied and documented existing conditions at Lewis Mountain. Collectively, the students' projects imagined a diverse array of futures for the cultural landscape. Some of the treatment recommendations that emerged from this studio were further refined and included in Part II of the report.

Jacob Torkelson

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ENDNOTES, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1 Walter Hood and Grace Mitchell Tada, *Black Landscapes Matter* (Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press, 2020), 175.

Introduction

> "I think it's very important that we don't lose the history, [visitors] need to know that Lewis Mountain Lodge was there, and why it was there. And who used it when it was there? What was the purpose of having it there? So, I think it's important that [visitors] hear the stories, and that they don't hear all the sad, bad stories, you know, that they hear . . . just what it meant to the people, how it connected, how it really connected the community together. And then they need to know why it left and then they can decide which is better. . . . What is that saying, if you don't know where you've been, you don't know where you're going?"—Shirley Ann Tutt McCoy[1]

> "It may sound just silly, but you never thought about [segregation]. There was so much going on. And Mr. Tutt really had that lodge swinging. He really did. And everybody had such a good time..."—Elaine Taylor Blakey[2]

As Mrs. Shirley Tutt McCoy and Elaine Taylor Blakey, former visitors to Lewis Mountain, recalled, Lewis Mountain's legacy is nuanced and complex. Lewis Mountain is a celebrated space containing joyful memories of dancing, cooking, crushes, honeymoons, and annual homecomings. Lewis Mountain was also designed and built by white park staff as a racially segregated space—the only area afforded to Black visitors for overnight accommodations under Jim Crow in Shenandoah National Park. Its construction was also intentionally delayed, and its design and siting were inferior to comparable white areas in the park. Yet, at the same time, Lewis Mountain was celebrated as among the few national destinations on public lands that afforded Black campers direct access to the outdoors. As Lloyd Tutt, the second manager of Lewis Mountain, noted, its geographic legacy includes visitors from across the country from Maine to Louisiana—many of whom visited annually and fostered intergenerational bonds with other campers.[3]



Figure 0.1. Lewis Mountain was the center of Black life at Shenandoah National Park during the 1940s and 1950s under Jim Crow. It was the only area that offered overnight accommodations to Black visitors and was the only area within the park run by and for Black campers, providing a safe space for recreation. (Personal collection of Reed Engle; used in Krutko Devlin 2010: 100)

Lewis Mountain serves as a physical reminder of the resilience of Black communities in the face of segregation, as they sought out and created their own opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and community-building. Lewis Mountain also served as an agent of change, having served as a public reminder of National Park Segregation and catalyzing desegregation efforts within the entire Department of the Interior by 1946—a full 18 years before other public spaces in the Commonwealth of Virginia would be racially desegregated.

Today, little at Lewis Mountain conveys the importance of the site to visitors. This report aims to provide the National Park Service with the documentation and planning necessary to preserve, adaptively reuse, and interpret the historic landscape of Lewis Mountain within Shenandoah National Park (Figure 0.2). This report also incorporates the guidance of historical users, including those who visited or worked at Lewis Mountain during the period of significance. It balances their guidance alongside other park partners and staff to create a more robust and informed report.

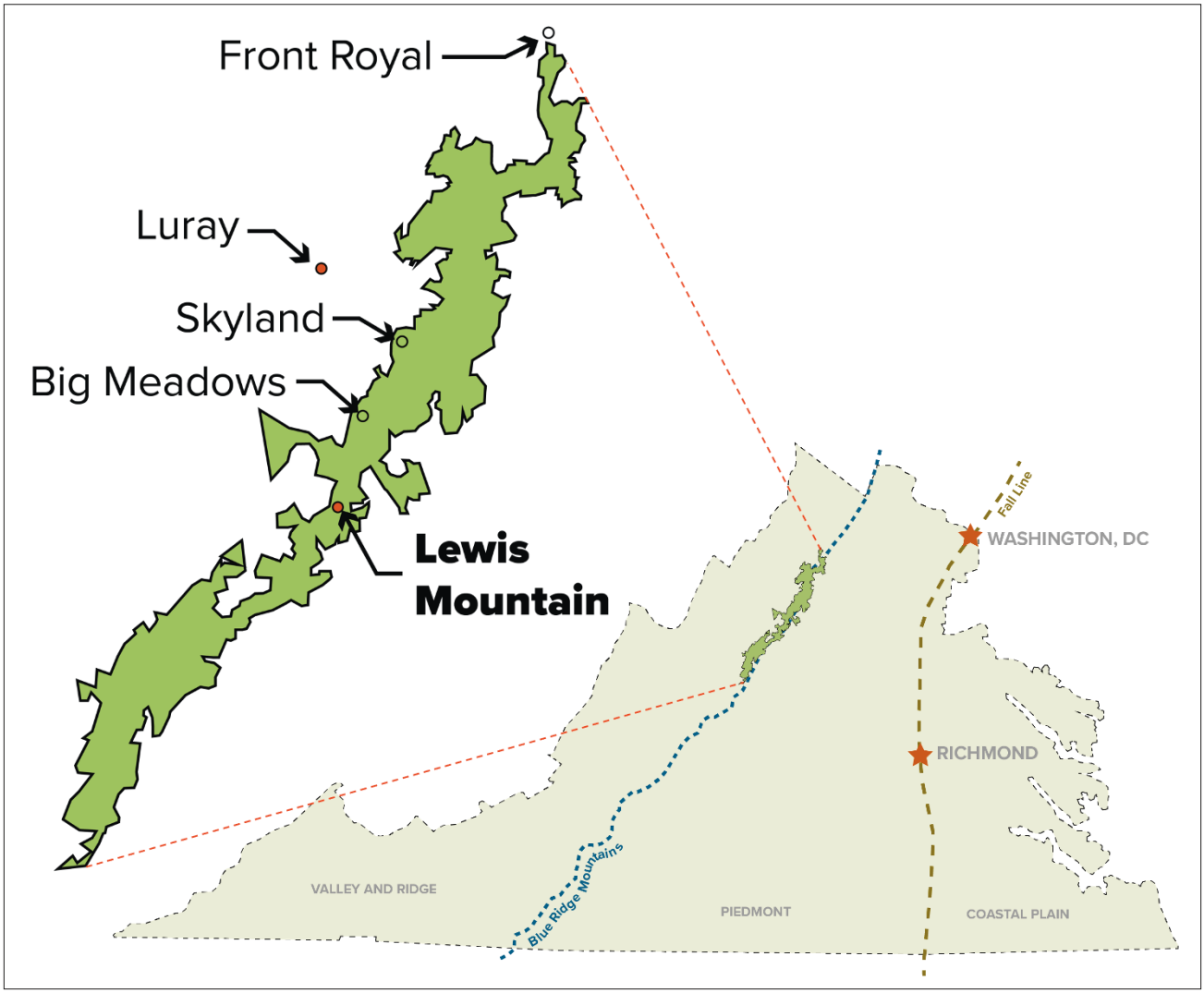


Figure 0.2. Regional location of Lewis Mountain and its relation to other component landscapes of Shenandoah National Park. (Torkelson 2023)

Lewis Mountain is located in both Page and Greene Counties, Virginia, at Mile 57.5 of Skyline Drive within Shenandoah National Park. The cultural landscape consists of three distinct parts: the picnic grounds to the north; the developed area, including a lodge and cabins in the central section; and the campground to the south. A system of roads and pedestrian pathways runs throughout the site, connecting the three parts. Skyline Drive bounds the site to the west, and the Appalachian Trail bounds the site to the east. Its north and south boundaries align with the furthest extents of the picnic area and the campground, respectively.

National Park Service cultural landscape reports are the primary tool to inform long-term management decisions regarding cultural landscapes. A cultural landscape report documents a landscape's history and existing conditions, evaluates its significance according to the National Register of Historic Places program standards, and provides design and management recommendations for the property. Cultural landscape reports are part of a park's planning process. They are a fundamental tool for integrating information and determining relationships between the cultural landscape and other resource types, in addition to historic district objectives.

A cultural landscape report's primary goal is to preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the historic character of a landscape while providing opportunities to enhance facility maintenance, resource management, and interpretive opportunities. A cultural landscape report is also the primary planning document for treating and managing a cultural landscape. It provides site managers with a comprehensive understanding of the physical evolution of the cultural landscape, its current condition, and guidance for future management.

The Lewis Mountain Cultural Landscape Report comprises Part I (Site History, Analysis, and Evaluation) and Part II (Treatment Recommendations). A selected bibliography and appendices are included at the end of the report.



Figure 0.3. The lodge served as the logistical and cultural center of Lewis Mountain during the period of significance. Visitors to Lewis Mountain in the 1940s and 1950s praised the food, music, and friendly atmosphere of the lodge. The lodge no longer serves food or hosts events, and instead serves as a camp store. (Torkelson 2023)



Figure 0.4. Prior to 1946, the cabins at Lewis Mountain were the only overnight accommodations in Shenandoah National Park available to Black campers. All historic cabins are still extant. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 0.5. The Lewis Mountain Picnic Grounds opened in 1938 as the only picnic area for Black visitors to the park. The picnic area was historically used by local and regional Black church groups, social organizations, and families that would make day trips to Lewis Mountain. It remains little changed from the period of significance. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 0.6. The Lewis Mountain campground is among the most popular tent camping sites in Shenandoah National Park. (Torkelson 2022)

The first chapter of this report, Site History, provides an illustrated narrative that includes a social context of Lewis Mountain and the National Park Service segregation policy and a record of the physical development of the landscape during five distinct periods of changes in landscape character. The sixth section details efforts to document and tell the story of Lewis Mountain. The middle four period narratives conclude with period plans, which are maps that provide summary documentation of changes in the landscape throughout each respective historical period.

The second chapter, Analysis and Evaluation, provides an overview of the existing landscape characteristics and assesses their historic significance and integrity. Each landscape characteristic is given its section. Landscape features within each section are evaluated as contributing or noncontributing according to the period of significance, 1938-1968. The report period of significance begins with the construction of Lewis Mountain by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1938. It includes early park desegregation efforts and the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, which banned *de jure* segregation in public spaces, including national parks. This period encapsulates both the eras of formal and informal segregation that defined the experience of Lewis Mountain. The period of significance terminates in 1968 with the rehabilitation of the Lewis Mountain campground, in keeping with the principles of Mission 66—a campground rehabilitation campaign which represents additional investment Lewis Mountain only after it was desegregated.

The final chapter, Treatment Recommendations, presents general goals, planning considerations, and specific treatment tasks for preserving and enhancing the historic character of Lewis Mountain. This chapter concludes with recommendations for policy changes that help steward the landscape for generations to come.

PROJECT SCOPE AND METHODS

The Lewis Mountain cultural landscape was thoroughly investigated and evaluated using the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, with *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* and the National Park Service *Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques*. Documentation of the landscape's historic significance and integrity serves as a framework for the treatment recommendations.

Using primary and secondary sources, the team researched Lewis Mountain to understand its physical and social history as a cultural landscape. This research relied on past documentation efforts, including the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation's cultural landscape inventory (updated in 2021), various reports by

Dr. Erin Krutko Devlin of the University of Mary Washington from 2009 to 2023, and a report drafted by a team from the Colorado State University in 2018.

The research process for this report also included new archival research. Key repositories and archives included the Shenandoah National Park museum collections; the National Park Service Electronic Technical Information Center (ETIC); existing documentation (including National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark nominations and cultural landscape inventories); several National Park Service and other scholarly reports; and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Philadelphia. Based on the research, the team prepared a site history to document the evolution of Lewis Mountain.

The team conducted fieldwork and site visits during the project. An initial site visit with park and regional staff took place in April 2022. Fieldwork to document existing conditions and locate extant features took place in August and September 2022, with additional site visits in October 2022 and July 2023. During this time, the team identified, photographed, and recorded characteristic landscape features that date to, or postdate, the period of significance at the historic site. Based on an understanding of the cultural landscape, compiled through research, fieldwork, and mapping, the project team evaluated these features' current conditions and integrity. This assessment, contextualized within a larger study of each applicable landscape characteristic, comprises the Analysis & Evaluation section of the report.

Maps and drawings for this report were produced by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation (OCLP) according to their internal GIS standards. The OCLP team relied on the University of Pennsylvania team to field-check and corroborate data from previous documentation efforts, including small-scale features, circulation features, and buildings/structures. This data was then edited by OCLP in ArcPro and exported for use in this report.

Engagement with historical and current users was an essential guiding element in the preparation of this report. Monica Rhodes guided initial outreach efforts to historical users. Rhodes and the project team convened members of the New York-Virginia Club, a group of former Luray citizens who moved away for education or employment that gather annually for a homecoming celebration. Many members of the New York-Virginia Club visited or worked at Lewis Mountain. Rhodes and the report authors asked interviewees how they wanted the story of Lewis Mountain told and sought any suggestions about the management and interpretation of the site. The authors also interviewed park partners, staff, and regional partners to understand more traditional landscape and management issues. Guidance from these conversations forms the basis for the treatment recommendations that conclude the report.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

SITE HISTORY

As part of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Lewis Mountain began forming 470 million to 270 million years ago when two landmasses started converging. The Blue Ridge Mountains have served as an important geographic landmark to Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Manahoac and Monacan people historically inhabited much of northern and central Virginia, including the Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah Valley, and the Piedmont. English colonizers displaced these peoples as they pushed westward in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Despite early 17th and 18th century colonial exploration, sustained colonization of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Piedmont did not occur until the 1750s. Topographic conditions to the north and east of Lewis Mountain's location delayed settlement in the area until the late-18th century. The Slaughter, Lamb, Breeden, and Taylor families inhabited the Lewis Mountain area for decades. These families formed vast interconnected networks of kinship among the other mountain families. Such strong cultural and community ties enriched the daily life of the homesteaders and fostered a deep connection to the land.

Meanwhile, an emerging social movement recognized the need for "rugged" recreation and outdoor opportunities apart from urban areas. As tourism rose in the Blue Ridge, its wilderness values directly conflicted with those of the mountain families. Historian William O'Brien points out that the emergence of a national park movement coincided with the rise of Jim Crow in the American South and the rise of land acquisition programs in poor and depressed areas. Concurrent with the push for a national park in the Blue Ridge, southern states were passing laws that restricted the free recreation of Black Americans and politicians nationwide were establishing submarginal land acquisition programs.

Between 1926 and 1935, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Shenandoah National Park Association, Inc. engaged in a period of land acquisition for the proposed national park. Once mapped, these agencies purchased or condemned (for the purpose of acquisition) most tracts within the authorized park. This resulted in the removal and resettlement of people who had been living on the land previously.

Under an unofficial agreement, the National Park Service agreed to abide state and local policy regarding segregation, meaning that Shenandoah National Park was designed as a segregated undertaking from its inception. Park master plans had called for overnight facilities and concessionaires for Black visitors since at least 1935. But none were established until 1938, when the picnic grounds at Lewis Mountain were constructed according to plans prepared by National Park

Service landscape architects. The Lewis Mountain picnic area was constructed to a lower standard than other picnic areas across the park. Under the guise of standardization, park planners were able to sidestep claims that the Lewis Mountain facilities were inferior to others found in the park. Planners could point to similar features found in both white and Black portions of the park, while ignoring the difference in the quantity of such facilities across the park.

Construction of the lodge and cabins at Lewis Mountain was intentionally delayed by the Virginia Skyline Company, the park's concessionaire, citing a lack of interest or demand by Black visitors. Meanwhile, the concessionaire proactively constructed facilities for white visitors, anticipating that such facilities would be needed. This discrepancy is evidence of the racist practices inherent in the creation of park facilities in the 1930s and 1940s.

During its heyday in the 1940s and 1950s, Lewis Mountain visitors recalled excellent food, music, and entertainment at the lodge. Church, youth, and professional groups held day trips, homecomings, and picnics at the picnic grounds.

Despite its status as a place of relaxation and recreation, Lewis Mountain continued to be a highly visible symbol of segregation within the larger movement to desegregate parks and public spaces across the country. During WWII, the park, as well as the regional and national offices of the National Park Service, received numerous complaints.[4] Such complaints often described the jarring entrance sign to the developed area. Indeed, Lewis Mountain and National Park facilities would not be desegregated as a whole until 1946.

Gradual changes to segregation policy in the National Park Service in the ensuing years did not necessarily equate to integration across park facilities. At Shenandoah, the discrepancy in official policies on race between government facilities and the concessionaire resulted in confusion over which facilities guests could and couldn't use. This meant that Lewis Mountain remained de facto segregated well into the 1950s, based on patterns of use and social pressures.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Lewis Mountain saw limited changes under Missions 66 and later improvement campaigns. No major projects were ever realized at Lewis Mountain during the decade-long Mission 66. However, in keeping with the design principles and goals of Mission 66, the Lewis Mountain campground was rehabilitated between 1967 and 1968—after the formal end of the Mission 66 program. After decades of downplaying the need for improvements when Lewis Mountain served Black visitors, the increased demand by white campers at Lewis Mountain following desegregation prompted improvements.

Lewis Mountain has seen few changes in recent decades, retaining its historical integrity. Minor changes to the cultural landscape of Lewis Mountain occurred in

the mid-1990s, following the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Lewis Mountain was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 and is part of the Skyline Drive National Historical Landmark District.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Based on the National Register framework, the Analysis and Evaluation chapter provides an evaluation of the historic cultural landscape of Lewis Mountain. The evaluation addresses changes in landscape character from the close of the historic period in 1968 to the present. Overall, the evaluation finds that natural systems and features, land use, cultural traditions, spatial organization, topography, circulation, views and vistas, vegetation, cluster arrangement, buildings and structures, and small-scale features all continue to contribute to the historic character of Lewis Mountain.

However, some loss of historic character has occurred within three of these elements: vegetation, views and vistas, and cultural traditions. Vegetative conditions at Lewis Mountain have changed since the period of significance, but the landscape has retained much of its design intent. Some loss of character-defining vegetation due to age, disease, and storm events has resulted in a modified landscape that is increasingly more open or areas that are no longer legible due to unmanaged vegetative growth. Similarly, Lewis Mountain does not retain its principal designed vista to the west of the lodge. However, careful treatment can reverse the damage to or loss of character-defining vegetation and views and vistas within the cultural landscape.

Most notably, the cultural landscape does not retain integrity with respect to the cultural traditions of sociability and celebration among the local and visiting Black communities. The robust community that was present and actively cultivated at Lewis Mountain during the period of significance no longer exists under current conditions. During a group interview conducted for this report, former Lewis Mountain workers and their families noted they felt that there was no reason for them to visit the site anymore. Elaine Taylor Blakey noted the beauty of the park but emphasized that “there’s nothing [at Lewis Mountain] that would draw me there now. Not really.”

This sentiment was shared among the participants, who frequently noted the lack of food service at the lodge and the lack of facilities for group gatherings. Instead, descendants continue to gather annually for Homecoming at other regional parks that offer amenities such as shelters, pools, and playgrounds. These alternations to physical features and their use, combined with current park policies around reservations and permits, deter group gatherings and the development (or continuation) of the community. Despite the existence of a strong descendant

community within the region, there is a complete loss of cultural traditions within the cultural landscape.

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The final chapter provides recommendations for enhancing the historic character and contemporary use of the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape, based on the findings of the first two chapters of this report, the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, prior park planning, and other framework documents. Recommendations include general treatment guidelines and planning considerations, as well as specific tasks intended to enhance the landscape's historic character and support adaptation for contemporary use.

The authors of this report recommend rehabilitation as the best treatment approach for Lewis Mountain. Rehabilitation, as defined in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Preservation of Historic Properties*, prescribes the preservation of "a cultural landscape's character-defining features and materials" while making possible "an efficient contemporary use through alterations and additions" such as adapting spatial organization, circulation, and building features to serve visitors.

Rehabilitation also affords opportunities for an equity-centered treatment approach. Equity-centered interventions not only tell the stories of Lewis Mountain but look to afford legacy groups opportunities to gather at the site through the construction of new and designed-but-unbuilt landscape features.

ENDNOTES, INTRODUCTION

1 Shirley Ann Tutt McCoy with Elaine Taylor Blakey, James Edward Parks, and Francine Parks, interviewed by Monica Rhodes, Jacob Torkelson, and Randall Mason, August 30, 2022, transcribed by Jane Nasta, 5-6.

2 Elaine Taylor Blakey with Shirley Ann Tutt McCoy, James Edward Parks, and Francine Parks, interviewed by Monica Rhodes, Jacob Torkelson, and Randall Mason, August 30, 2022, transcribed by Jane Nasta, 8.

3 Lloyd Tutt, interviewed by Dorothy Smith, January 5, 1978, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley, June 6, 1983, 5.

4 Erin Krutko Devlin and Maya Johnson, "Under the Sky All of Us Free: African American Travel, Visitation, and Segregation in Shenandoah National Park," (Williamsburg, VA: College of William And Mary, 2010) 4.

SITE HISTORY

This section details the physical evolution of the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape from its earliest indigenous occupation, through its colonization and agricultural development, its later design as a segregated recreational landscape for Black campers, to the present day. It is divided into periods of development that describe changes to the physical landscape or its historical use. Changes are detailed in narrative and graphic form. The information in this section is gleaned from archival research, oral histories, and site visits.

PRE-LEWIS MOUNTAIN PERIODS (PRE 1750 CE – 1938)

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION OF THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS AND EARLY INDIGENOUS HABITATION

As part of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Lewis Mountain began forming 470 million to 270 million years ago when two landmasses started converging. Around 270 million years ago, the two land masses fully collided, uplifting, and folding rock into the mountain range we know today as the Blue Ridge Mountains. This physiographic province extends from south-central Pennsylvania southward to northern Georgia. Over millions of years, the Blue Ridge province has been subject to significant erosion that has resulted in the broader and more rounded mountain profiles that can be seen today (as compared to their rockier, northeastern Appalachian counterparts). Eroded materials subsequently formed the rich soils that now compose and support the ecosystems of Shenandoah National Park.[1]

The Blue Ridge Mountains have served as an important geographic landmark to Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Current archeological evidence of Indigenous occupation in Virginia dates to as early as 9500 BCE.[2] These people, referred to as the Paleoindians by archeologists, and simply as ancestors by many Indigenous groups, were largely nomadic hunters and gatherers.

Changes in climate caused by melting ice sheets resulted in a significantly different landscape than what exists in the park today.[3] The higher elevations of the Shenandoah Valley would have consisted of more open conifer forests of pine and spruce, as well as large grasslands, with many of the mountaintops resembling tundra. The long winters and cool summers would have made long-term habitation at higher elevations difficult, including in the future Shenandoah National Park.[4]

By the Middle Archaic period (6000 BCE to 2500 BCE), the climate and landscape would have been similar to the Eastern woodlands of today. These early peoples adapted to the landscape of oak and chestnut forests, clearing large areas for both foraging and the hunting of game, likely by seasonal burning of undergrowth and fields. By the Late Archaic period, archeological evidence suggests that Indigenous groups had begun to coalesce into small units, living seasonally along riversides and ranging widely for resources. Mountainous areas, such as those in present-day Shenandoah National Park, were seasonally used—and traversed--by groups seeking raw materials, game, and seasonal plants.[5]

The Early and Middle Woodland periods (1200 BCE to 900 CE) saw the further coalescing of early Indigenous peoples into villages and hamlets in mountain valleys and along riverways, where resources were most abundant. Evidence of new technologies, such as pottery and the bow and arrow, suggest that Woodland-era peoples were part of a vast network of trade routes that exchanged materials and ideas. By the Late Woodland Period (900 CE to c. 1600 CE), Indigenous peoples in the Piedmont and Shenandoah Valley were farming corn and squash, relying more on seasonal transhumance and less on nomadic means of resource gathering. These tribes were the direct ancestors of the Manahoacs and Monacans first encountered by the British colonizer John Smith in 1608.[6]

The Manahoacs and the Monacans

Manahoac and Monacan people historically inhabited much of northern and central Virginia, including the Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah Valley, and the Piedmont.[7] The land that would become Shenandoah National Park remains unceded land, having historically belonged to the Manahoac and Monacan

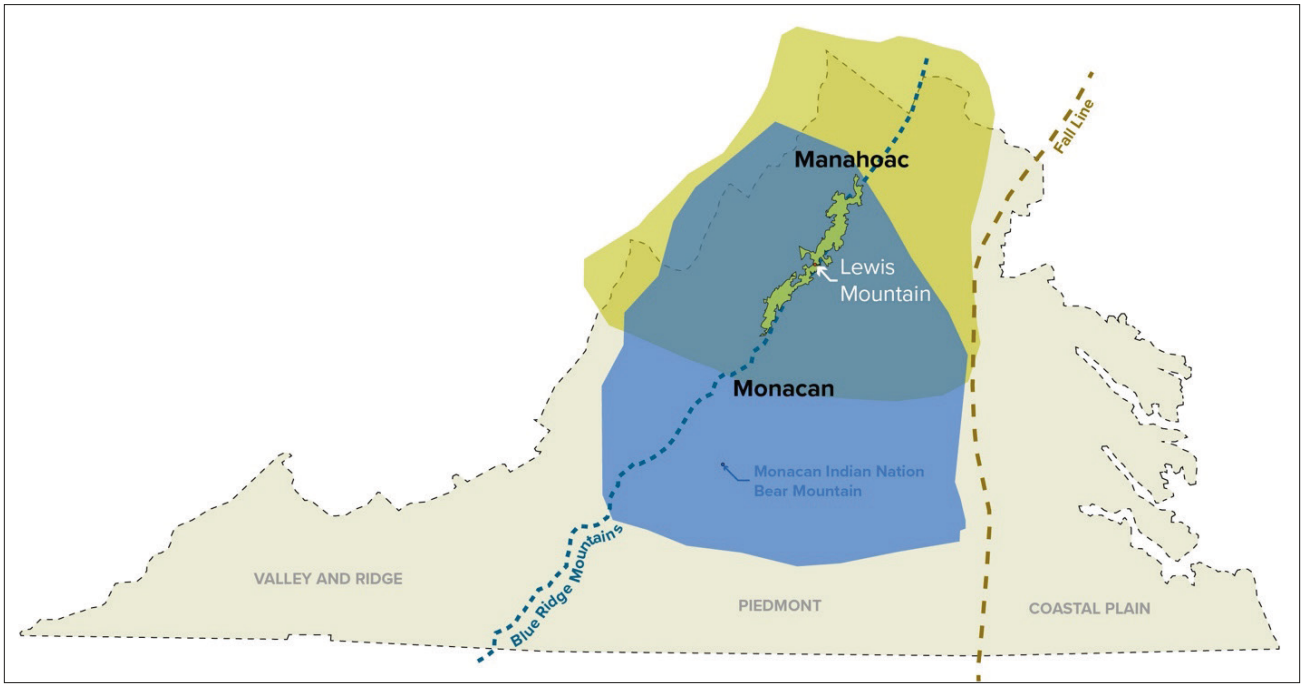


Figure 1.1. This diagram shows geological features such as the Fall Line, Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and the location of Indigenous peoples prior to European contact. Note: All boundaries are approximate. (Torkelson 2023. Map based on data from Egloff and Woodward 1992 and Native Land Digital, native-land.ca, accessed March 20, 2023).

peoples.[8] English colonizers displaced these peoples as they pushed westward in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Manahoac and Monacans are among the Siouan-speaking tribes that also include the Saponi and Totero. As recorded by John Smith and his Powhatan guides in the 1608 map of Virginia, the Manahoac and Monacan controlled much of the Piedmont region between the Fall Line and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Manahoac lands historically centered on the Rappahannock River, while Monacan lands centered on the James River (Figure 1.1).[9] Both groups were sworn enemies of the Powhatans, who occupied the coastal plain to the east. These groups lived largely as independent villages, while also trading, intermarrying, and gathering for foraging and hunting forays.[10]

John Smith documented the Rappahannock watershed in 1608, seeking out the lands of the Manahoac (Figure 1.2). Upon sailing up the river, Smith encountered 100 fisherman who fired upon his boat near present-day Fredericksburg, Virginia. In the ensuing skirmish, Smith and his guides shot and captured a Manahoac man named Amoroleck. During his interrogations of Amoroleck, Smith, who did not travel further beyond the Fall Line into Manahoac lands, gleaned only minimal information of the area's inhabitants. He recorded the names of five Manahoac villages, but was unable to learn of anything west of the Piedmont. Amoroleck is quoted as stating that Manahoac seldom lived in the mountains, as "the woods were not burnt," apparently referring to the practice of prescribed burns that created open hunting grounds.[11] Amoroleck is also quoted as saying that his people fired upon Smith because they had "heard that you were a people from under the world, to take our world from us."[12]

Amoroleck's words would prove to be prescient, as by the mid-18th century, the Manahoac people had vacated the lands in the future Shenandoah National Park. Instead of regular habitation, this area now served as the seasonal hunting grounds for the Shawnee, Iroquois, and Susquehannock.[13] The reasons for the absence of the Manahoac remains unknown. Contributing factors to their demise—or withdrawal from the area--are theorized to include disease, conflicts with neighboring tribes, and the incursion of white colonizers onto their lands amid westward expansion. Most remaining Manahoac are believed to have traveled south to join their close allies, the Monacans.[14]

Beyond Smith's brief encounter in 1608 at the edge of the Piedmont, written records of Native Americans living in the Blue Ridge Mountains are sparse. Some scholars attribute this lack of written records by early European colonizers to the closeness of the Powhatans and Virginians. The Powhatans, who were an enemy of the Monacans and Manahoacs, steered colonizers away from these areas, resulting in few expeditions that documented cultures west of the Fall Line. In effect, the close relationship between Powhatan and the Virginia colonists



Figure 1.2. This 1624 map of Eastern Virginia shows many of the Indigenous groups and landmarks encounter by colonizer John Smith during his voyages. The Mannahoac and Monacans resided in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Mountains to the west (top), while the Powhatans occupied the Tidewater region (bottom). (Excerpt from John Smith and William Hole, Library of Congress, G3880 1624 .S541)

skewed the written record away from the tribes of the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Mountains and toward those of the coastal areas.[15]

Between 1607 and 1720, incursions by white colonizers continued to drive the Monacans—and the absorbed Manahoacs who had joined the Monacans—out of their ancestral homes and towards other parts of the country. However, one group of Monacans stayed in Virginia, moving south to Fort Christanna, in Brunswick County, Virginia. Eventually, this group relocated to Pennsylvania and then to Canada, where it joined the Cayugas of the Iroquois Confederacy.[16]

Nonetheless, some Monacans, including descendants of other Siouan-speaking tribes, remained. In 1833, representatives of these groups purchased 400 acres of land in Amherst County, near Bear Mountain—south of the present-day national park.[17] Together with other Siouan-speaking tribes, including the Saponi, Occaneechis, and Tutelo, as well as some Tuscarora, the Monacans remained in their ancestral homelands of Virginia. In 1989, the Monacan Nation was recognized as one of the eight Indigenous tribes of the Commonwealth of Virginia, retaining a presence in their ancestral homelands of the Piedmont region.[18]

COLONIAL SETTLEMENT AND 19TH CENTURY INDUSTRIALIZATION

Despite early 17th and 18th century colonial exploration, sustained colonization of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Piedmont did not occur until the 1750s. (It should be noted that English ideas of land ownership contrasted greatly with Indigenous views of land ownership. The Indigenous idea that land was not owned but held in common was directly opposed by English concepts of private

property.)[19] Owing to a lack of detailed maps or surveys, the land west of the Fall Line was subject to early ownership disputes amid conflicting Royal patents held by English colonizers. The Fairfax grant, initially given by King Charles I in the mid-1600s, was among the most contested patents.

The Lord Fairfax grant and the Naming of Lewis Mountain

The Lord Fairfax grant, given to the Culpepper family and then by marriage to the Fairfax family, constituted all of Virginia's Northern Neck and the land between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers. However, no surveys to date located the headwaters of each river within the Blue Ridge Mountains. This meant that surveyors disagreed about which tributaries constituted the headwaters of each respective river. Indeed, the Culpepper and Fairfax families further held that their land extended to the head springs of each river—not just the waterways. Opposed to this idea was the Virginia Assembly, which wished to retain the land for its own purposes and profits. The debate remained unresolved for decades until both the Lord Fairfax and Governor of Virginia agreed to conduct independent surveys of the patent in 1736 and 1737 (and again in 1745).[20]

At issue was the southwestern boundary of the grant. Which fork of the Rappahannock River was considered its source? If it was the Rapidan River, then was the Conway River the Rapidan's source? One of Fairfax's surveyors, Thomas Lewis, followed this logic to the southernmost boundary possible, holding that the Devil's Ditch, a tributary of the Conway River, was the boundary of the patent—located immediately north of Lewis Mountain. Historian Darwin Lambert contended that Lewis Mountain's namesake was Thomas Lewis, who surveyed the Rappahannock River and believed its source to be the present-day Devil's Ditch.[21] Despite Lewis's fervor for the source near his namesake mountain, Lord Fairfax officially asserted that the Conway River's head spring was located near present day Booten's Gap—and not at Devil's Ditch. Today, this boundary is marked as the northernmost junction of Greene County with Madison County.[22]

Connecting the East and West Sides of the Blue Ridge

Despite the contested nature of lands west of the Blue Ridge, white settlers began arriving in the Shenandoah Valley as early as the 1720s and 1730s from Pennsylvania and Maryland. Early groups of white settlers did not cross the Blue Ridge Mountains, but rather travelled around them along the Great Wagon Road to the west. This road was an ancient indigenous foot path that connected the Philadelphia area with the rich valleys and waterways west of the mountains. Early 18th century settlement proceed on both the east and west sides of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. However, there was not yet an easy route to connect the profitable trade routes west of the Blue Ridge with the ports of Virginia. Instead,

the ports in Maryland and Pennsylvania profited off trade with settlers west of the Blue Ridge.[23]

Virginia Governor Alexander Spotswood sought to capitalize on trade in the Shenandoah Valley by establishing a route through the Blue Ridge that would connect eastern and western settlements. In 1716, Spotswood led an exploration party through the mountains. His group, dubbed "the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe," were among the first colonizers to cross the Blue Ridge Mountains. They likely did so at Swift Run or Milam Gap, north or south of the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape, following an Indigenous footpath previously documented by other English explorers.[24] Spotswood's exploration was driven by his vested commercial interests, namely his establishment of an iron mine and investment in land speculation. Members of the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe and their associates were subsequently granted large patents west of the mountains.[25]

Slavery in the Blue Ridge and Shenandoah Valley

By the 18th century, colonial settlement on both sides of the Blue Ridge had taken root. The fertile valleys to each side of the mountains afforded Swiss, German, and Scotch-Irish immigrants rich lands on which they could establish farms, plantations, and towns.[26] Cultivated crops included corn, wheat, tobacco, and hemp. The economic success of such crops mandated new roads and connections to the eastern coastal towns and waterways of Virginia. In 1740, the Page County Court ordered the construction of a road at Thornton's Gap, roughly following today's Route 211.[27] A second petition for a road over Swift Run Pass was submitted to the Orange County government in the 1740s and completed shortly afterwards.[28] These new trade routes brought commercial goods from the Blue Ridge and Shenandoah Valley to eastern markets, and in turn brought finished goods to the western frontier. Such routes also supported the trafficking of enslaved Africans and their descendants.[29]

Rapid commercial success in such settlements was possible because of slavery. While many scholars note that the Valley had significantly fewer enslaved people than coastal plantations, and that not all Virginians enslaved people, towns like Luray, Virginia (west of Lewis Mountain) nevertheless developed and profited from the industries necessary to support the institution, such as tanneries, mills, warehouses, and furnaces. The Blue Ridge served as the raw material source for these industries, owing to its vast forests and wealth of iron deposits. [30] Both enslaved and free Black workers tended to these industries, and their labor brought wealth and success to white Virginians. In this way, the white residents of the Shenandoah Valley benefitted from the economic system of slavery that used fear, violence, and racism to maintain this benefit.[31]

In the first half of the 19th century, the Blue Ridge mountains also served as a corridor for freedom seekers along the Underground Railroad. The landscape's rural environment, dense forests, and linear landforms made it a vital link along the route to the North. Once in the Blue Ridge, freedom seekers could travel north to Pennsylvania and beyond, where they would receive aid from Quakers, Amish, Mennonites, and other sympathizers.[32] Historical records of such endeavors are notably scarce, owing to the secretive and dangerous nature of the Underground Railroad. Future research should examine the relationship between Valley residents and the Underground Railroad through the Blue Ridge.

The Early Mountain Families

Most mid-18th century patents were issued to land speculators who did not reside on their properties. Among those patents was that of John Simpson of Spotsylvania County. Simpson patented 420 acres on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge at the western headwaters of the Pocosin. Francis Kirtley, Captain of the colonial militia and vestryman, made a similarly large, speculative claim. Like Simpson, Kirtley laid claim to the Pocosin watershed, but instead patented the eastern branch and much of the south side of Lewis Mountain.[33]

As slavery expanded to the valleys below the Blue Ridge, white families began staking claim to the mountains and valleys of the future park. These early families purchased large tracts from wealthy, absentee land speculators who had acquired vast swaths of land in the mid-to-late 18th century. To date, historians have not connected any of the early families within the Lewis Mountain area directly with slavery; however, it is likely that at least some of the families residing in the Lewis Mountain Area benefitted indirectly from the practice.[34]

Zachariah Taylor, William Taylor, and their families were among the first settlers to permanently reside in the vicinity of Lewis Mountain. Between 1797 and 1825, the Taylors purchased much of the Pocosin Creek watershed, immediately south of the cultural landscape. The Taylor family lands were likely purchased by Kirtley and Simpson, or from their descendants and assignees.[35]

Topographic conditions to the north and east of Lewis Mountain's location delayed settlement in the area until the late-18th century. Devil's Ditch derives its name from the steepness of its slopes and the fast-flowing waters that pass through its valley, making passage along and across the stream difficult. Among the first recorded settlers of this area were James Slaughter and his wife Comora Estes, who circa 1847 purchased a 193-acre tract, including much of the upper Devil's Ditch watershed. They built a house approximately one mile southeast of the present-day campground at Lewis Mountain.[36] In 1856, John Taylor patented a 644-acre land grant north of the Slaughter property, west of Devil's Ditch, and south of the ridgeline.[37] At an unknown location on this property,

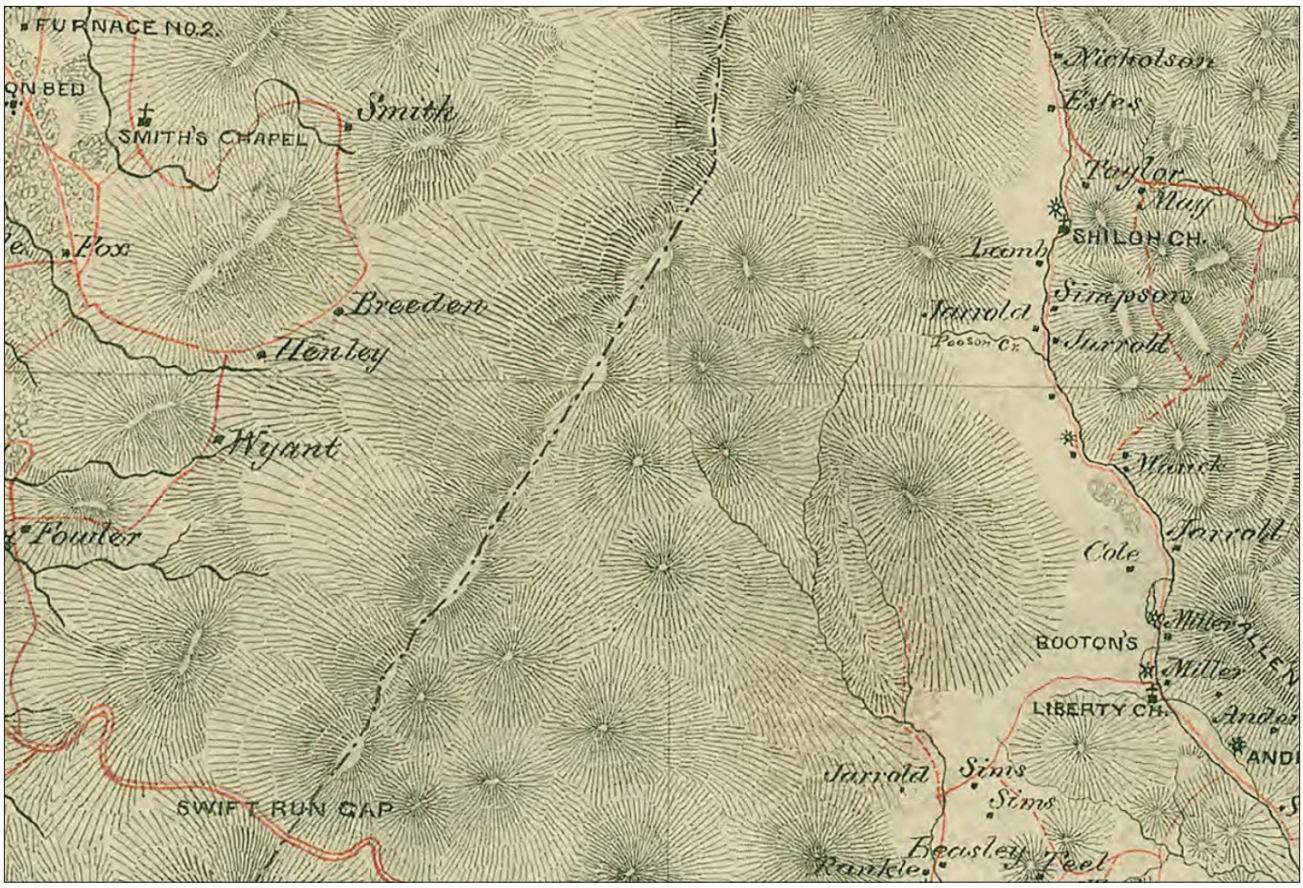


Figure 1.3. This 1864 map shows some of the earliest family names near the future Lewis Mountain developed area. Note the name Breeden to the west and the names Lamb and Taylor to the east. Interestingly, the map leaves off the Slaughter family name, using the Estes family name instead. (Robert Knox Sneden, Chief Engineer's Office, Confederate State of America, retrieved from the Library of Congress)

Taylor established a homestead. Circa 1877, Mary Susan Taylor and her husband William Lamb, Jr. purchased 250 acres, including much of the lower half of Lewis Mountain, and established a homestead.[38] All historical homestead buildings and structures were outside the boundaries of the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape, as defined in this report.

Together, the Slaughter/Estes, Lamb, and Taylor families inhabited the Lewis Mountain area for decades (Figure 1.3). To facilitate travel, these families built the first road in the vicinity of Lewis Mountain. The so-called Slaughter Road was in place by the mid-1850s, roughly following the present-day route of the Slaughter trail.[39] This road connected families on the east and west sides of the mountains via a winding route over the ridgeline. Slaughter Road began at the junction of a north-south road along the Conway River (present-day Middle River Road), ran northwest along Devil's Ditch to the ridgeline at Bear Fence Mountain, and then descended into the Shenandoah Valley to the west (approximately along the Meadows School Trail, now abandoned).

The Breeden family largely settled the western slopes opposite Lewis Mountain, centering around the head of South Naked Creek (Figure 1.4). In 1844, James A. Breeden purchased 1,500 acres of land from his father James and his mother Ann, who had acquired the property from a much larger patent granted to Richard S. Graves an unknown number of years earlier. Wesley S. Breeden acquired his tract immediately north in 1872. Wesley S. Breeden's tract also hosted tenants

of some relation: Vernon Breeden and Tallie Taylor. Upon his death in 1888, James A. Breeden willed the property to his son, James K. Breeden. This property contained most of the present-day Lewis Mountain developed area.[40]

James Slaughter died in 1897.[41] His property went into chancery to be split among his heirs and was sold to James Armentrout in 1908. Armentrout, in turn, sold the property in 1911 to John Scott Roach, whose family took up residence at the old Slaughter/Estes Homestead.[42] After this time, Lewis Mountain was colloquially known by two names: the upper half was referred to as Roaches/Roches Mountain, and the lower half was referred to as Lamb's Mountain.[43]

Families like the Roaches, Lambs, and Breedens cultivated rich farmsteads, as well as vast interconnected networks of kinship among the other mountain families. Such networks, as historian Kristie Kendall notes, "extended across family lines based on location, but relationships were not necessarily dependent on family connections. Kinship networks formed based on the needs of families to help with activities including butchering hogs and peeling tree bark and rely on each other in times of need."[44] Such strong cultural and community ties enriched the daily life of the homesteaders and fostered a deep connection to the land.

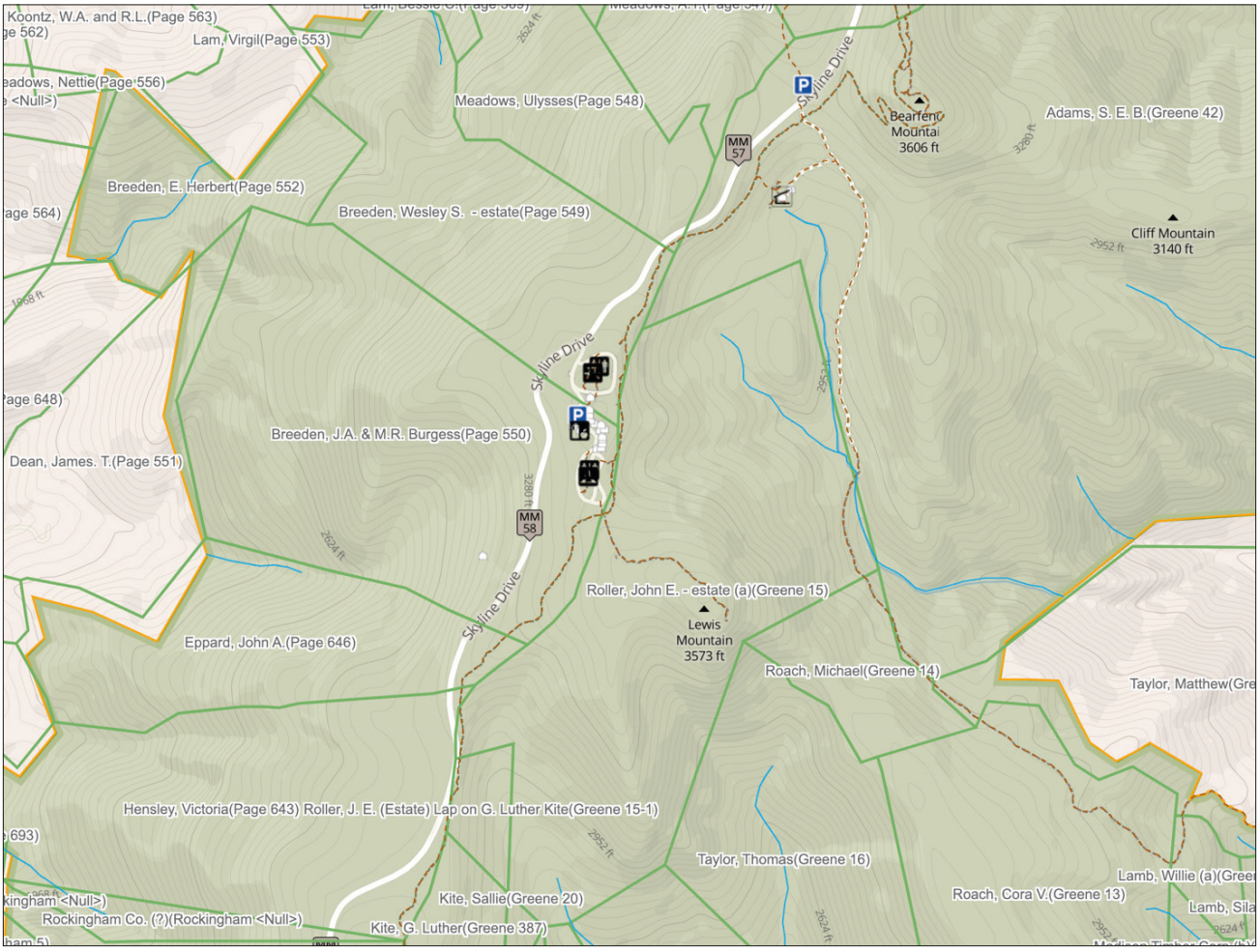


Figure 1.4. When Shenandoah National Park was created in the early 1930s, the land that would become the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape (center) belonged to three individuals: James A. Breeden, Wesley Breeden, and John Roller. The Breedens, like many of the other names on the map including Roach, Kite, and Lamb, had ancestral ties to the land since the at least the mid-to-late 19th century. (Excerpt from Quist et al., "Exploring Shenandoah National Park History," North Carolina State University for Shenandoah National Park – Visitor Services, https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=81acffc694a24f4692e704051526f61c.)

Typically, each family cultivated some acreage of cash crops such as wheat, corn, or tobacco, while also maintaining small fruit orchards and gardens near the house. Such plantings often included cabbage, beans, and squash, as well as other crops. Much of what couldn't be grown was foraged from the surrounding landscape. John W. Stoneberger, who grew up on the Roach tract below Lewis Mountain, recalls that in November and February of each year, his family would gather land cress, Polk greens, dandelion, plantain, and mushrooms.[45] In the summer months, they would gather strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, chinquapins, walnuts, hazelnuts, and hickory nuts. Meat came in the form of livestock such as mutton, cattle, or pigs, but was also supplemented with wild game such as rabbits, squirrels, raccoon, muskrat, groundhog, and quail. Families canned and pickled vegetables and fruits, preserved meats, and bottled moonshine, brandy, and wines.[46]

Mountain families adapted their activities with the seasons, allowing them to undertake and procure many different sources of income. Foraging occurred early in the spring, late in the fall, and during various berry seasons. In the summer months, once crops were planted, many families tended livestock on the open pastures high in the mountains. This was true of James Armentrout, whose family lived west of the ridgeline. Armentrout paid John Roach 50 cents per head of cattle in the 1910s to graze the open meadows of Lewis Mountain. This land use almost certainly occurred within the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape.[47]

Tanbarking, Charcoaling, and Timbering

After the passing of the initial generation of mountain settlers in the mid-to-late 19th century, many estates either adapted to or were purchased for extractive purposes. Chief among such industries was tanbarking, or the removal of the outer layer of tree bark for use in leather tanning (Figure 1.5). This industry, which emerged in region in the second half of the 19th century, used the natural tannins of chestnut, hickory, and chestnut oak trees, as well as other tree species, to turn animal skins into hides and leather. The tanbark industry was present in the Shenandoah Valley as early as 1800, but was not readily profitable until changing technologies emerged in the late 19th century. Tanneries in the Blue Ridge were generally located in the Valley floor, while raw materials were sourced from higher elevations, such as Lewis Mountain.[48]

Many mountain families supplemented their income with seasonal work. According to a 1932 investigation by park staff, in addition to tanbarking, day laboring, lumbering, trapping, stilling, hauling, carpentry, basketry, and orchard work were all popular among families in the mountain hollows. Similarly, many families earned additional income from crafting hand-split shakes and firewood, a practice done in concert with timbering and tanbarking.[49] After chestnut trees were barked, many were felled and turned into chestnut logs for use as telephone

poles or milled into railroad ties. The trees' straight trunk and resistance to rot made it an ideal material for these uses.[50]

Chestnut trees were also important to mountain families beyond their economic value. The relative knot-free character of the wood meant that mountain families could easily craft it into building materials for their homes or wagon wheels for farm work and transportation. Tree limbs were turned into fence posts and rails, while twigs and other brush were used as erosion barriers on steep hillsides. In this way, while tanbarking and other wood-based industries supplemented the income of many families, the forest held an even more important role in sustaining the lifeways of each mountain family.[51]

Some mountain families became involved with larger industries. As larger holdings were broken up, tanneries often purchased land they saw as able to produce large amounts of the raw materials they needed. After John Taylor's passing in the early 1900s, his estate went to chancery court to be settled among his heirs. Out of this case, the entire property was sold to Jesse P. and Mary Cover in 1902. Jesse Cover was the son of John Cover, who founded a tannery in Elkton, Virginia, in 1872. The younger Cover took over the tannery in 1877, and began purchasing forested lands to provide the raw tanbark material to sustain his growing tannery.[52] It is likely during this time that the cultural landscape saw an increase in extractive uses, including clear-cutting, timbering, and the extraction and stripping of tree bark. This land use shifted in 1910, when Cover sold the entire 644-acre tract to John Scott Roach, the owner of other lands immediately south and down the mountain. The next day, Roach sold the upper 434 acres to John Roller, an investor out of Staunton who hoped to profit from the tract's remaining timber. According to historian Kristie Kendall, Roller likely struck a deal with local men who would cut, strip, and haul bark to local tanneries, like Cover's.[53]



Figure 1.5. This circa 1852 print shows the process of tanbark harvesting. The outer layer of the tree was cut, peeled, and lain flat for transportation. Often the remaining timber was cut in lumber, split into firewood, or made into pulp for paper products. (R.H. Pease 1852 from Nahum Capen, Biography of Zadock Pratt, Plate 10)

Many workers in extractive industries lived on, but often did not own their land. Renters, squatters, and other tenants are seldom recorded in the official record. Within the future park, this may have included workers at Cover's tannery, who in addition to working in the industry, sought additional income through timbering, the sale of firewood, or working in other industries such as charcoaling and iron smelting practiced elsewhere in the Blue Ridge.[54]

Indeed, almost all families living on Lewis Mountain found additional income through the extractive industries of tanbarking. In his memoir on life at Lewis Mountain, John Stoneberger recounts that his grandfather, John Roach, employed 30 men each spring when the tree sap was running. These men would peel bark and load it into a mule-drawn wagon for transport to the tannery in Elkton. Twice a week, the mule team would travel over the ridge to Elkton, via windy mountain roads. The trip took two days and covered some 30 miles.[55] By the time the Commonwealth of Virginia began to survey lands for inclusion in a future national park, nearly all of Lewis Mountain had been timbered and/or barked to some degree.[56] Deeds from the 1920s, when the park acquired the Breeden tracts, indicate that land west of the ridgeline was also in use for tanbarking. Two hundred acres of Wesley Breeden's lands were inventoried as having been cut over, clear cut, or burned, indicating extractive use. While most clearances and large-scale cutting were related to industry, local residents also removed trees for construction materials and firewood. Only the steep valleys and ravines remained uncut.[57]

MOUNTAIN TOURISM IN THE LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES AND THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL PARK

Early Recreation in the Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge

Even as the tanbark and timbering industries stripped the rich forests of the Blue Ridge, tourists began flocking to this rural "wilderness" for its scenic and restorative properties. Driven by urban residents from cities like Washington, D.C., in search of a retreat from excessive heat, disease, and humidity, the tourism industry in the Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge picked up around the turn of the 20th century. The influx of tourists was made possible by the introduction of the railroad in mid-19th century.[58] The Shenandoah Valley Railroad connected many of the towns serving the early rural resorts.[59] Visitors then travelled by car or carriage to their destinations, often staying for the entire summer. However, access to the great vistas of the Blue Ridge for recreational use was limited, as the only roads available to tourists were those also used for extractive purposes such as tanbark harvesting or mining.

Meanwhile, an emerging social movement recognized the need for "rugged" recreation and outdoor opportunities apart from urban areas. The push for an Eastern national park emerged out of the back-to-nature trend that took root in America (and elsewhere) in the late 19th century, as a counter to the industrialization that had transformed the American landscape by that point. In contrast to the tolls of urban life—including poor air quality, excessive heat, overwork, frayed social fabric, etc.—the movement glorified the restorative effect that nature could have. Resorts in natural settings, such as those at hot springs in the Shenandoah Valley, became prevalent across the East Coast for much the same reason. This recreational trend included summer camps across New England, coastal beach retreats along the Atlantic Coast, and mountain resorts throughout the Blue Ridge, including the Virginia Hot Springs, Mountain Lake Lodge, and Fauquier Spring House.[60]

Camping became popular as a way to mimic, and in many cases fabricate, a wilderness experience. Over time, the concept of wilderness and camping came to include a "supposedly authentic encounter with folk life," as historian Abigail Van Slyck calls it. The definition of "folk life" varied, but often included a commodified version of Native American culture, including the use of Indigenous places names.[61]

As tourism rose in the Blue Ridge, its wilderness values directly conflicted with those of industry and extraction. Concurrent with this shift, the national economy went into recession—the financial panic of 1884 crippled industries and called in debts. Investors in the Stony Man Mining Company—which had purchased lands in Madison and Page Counties in 1858—realizing that their copper mine was no longer profitable, turned their attention to tourism as a substitute money-maker.

A rebranding ensued, and the group's leader, George F. Pollock, Jr., marketed the land as the Stony Man Camp, a part of the Blue Ridge Park Association. This group was a stock company created to sell lots at Skyland to the friends and family of Pollock and others, as well as for investors interested in creating an Eastern national park.[62] In 1888, Pollock led the first recreational summer outing in the future park, north of the cultural landscape at Skyland. The business was a mixed success but set the stage for the creation of a future national park in the Blue Ridge rooted in recreational tourism.[63]

Historian William O'Brien points out that the emergence of a national park movement coincided with the rise of Jim Crow in the American South. Concurrent with Pollock's push for a park in the Blue Ridge, southern states were passing laws that restricted the free recreation of Black Americans. In 1896, the Supreme Court's infamous decision *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruled that segregation was constitutional if facilities were "separate but equal." By the late 19th century, conservationists such as Madison Grant and Theodore Roosevelt were pushing to conserve natural wonders amid a belief that the loss of these places equaled a loss of white identity. Following this logic, the creation of an eastern national park was a means of furthering access to the outdoors for the privileged white leisure class at the expense of Black Americans.[64]

Largely putting aside race, historian Sarah Gregg further argues that the taking of private lands for public parks and conservation happened at the expense of poor, rural people. Reformers saw their efforts as a form of social uplift that addressed what they believed to be the root causes of poverty. Consequently, federal and state aid programs in the 1920s and 1930s focused on taking private lands unsuitable for agriculture or damaged by extractive uses, compensating the owners, and converting them to public purposes—including a future national park. However, Black Americans were seldom welcome on the new public lands, whether by social or legal pressures. Instead, as leisure increased among white Americans in the 1920s alongside government park-building efforts, the same opportunities were not necessarily granted to poor Black Americans.[65]

Although World War I dampened leisure travel, by the 1920s, the Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge were famous nationwide as a vacation destination for white city-dwellers—including the 31st President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, whose 1929 Rapidan Camp retreat was nearby. The railroad and the expanding automobile road network continued to make such trips possible. Between 1910 and 1920, American car purchases skyrocketed from 500,000 to 8,000,000.[66] With the rise of automobile tourism and the relatively short distance between Washington, D.C., the idea of a national park in the Blue Ridge attracted scores of backers. This included Pollock, who opportunistically saw fame and wealth in such an endeavor, as well as the opportunity to preserve his beloved Skyland and the scenery of the Blue Ridge Mountains.[67]

Pollock also saw the necessity of government intervention because of the chestnut blight that was devastating Skyland and the Blue Ridge. Beginning in 1910, the chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) population on the east side of the mountain began to decline. Widely considered "the redwood of the east," these massive trees dominated the forests of the future park. Chestnuts could grow to 100' in height and up to 10' in diameter. After several diseased Japanese Chestnut Trees imported to New York City in 1904, the pathogen rapidly spread to the American Chestnut trees across the east coast, including the future Shenandoah National Park lands. By the time park boosters were pushing for an eastern national park in the Blue Ridge, the landscape looked radically different. Ghost forests, large dead stands of trees, populated much of the landscape (Figure 1.6). The vast quantity of dead chestnuts presented aesthetic complications for park boosters, as well as practical ones, including the very real threat of fire. The menace of these trees to park development was so great that later Civilian Conservation Corps groups were employed to remove them or turn them into lumber for park projects, minimizing damage to the park's scenery and lessening fire danger.[68]

The chestnut blight hastened the shift within the local economy from industry and agriculture to leisure tourism. The blight's devastating consequences forced many landowners to quickly sell off timber, clearing portions of the future park, and spurring others to sell their land to park boosters. In this way, formerly industrial and agricultural landscapes began offering new recreational opportunities. Such rural retreats, including Stony Man Camp at Skyland, afforded visitors a rustic experience amid an ironically post-extractive landscape dubbed by outsiders to be authentic wilderness. But the impacts and windfalls of tourism were uneven: although the travel industry precipitated new construction throughout the Shenandoah Valley and its mountain resorts, it did not sustain all the existing communities, including those of many mountain families.[69]



Figure 1.6. By 1910, most chestnut trees in Shenandoah National Park were dead or dying. Large areas decimated by the chestnut blight, called ghost forests, dominated the landscape when the park was created and featured prominently in 1930s and 1940s photos. (F.W. Brueckmann, SHEN 22060/4001.009.01.00051/ Negative No. P-110a 6032; also HAER 119 VA-97, Library of Congress)

An Eastern National Park

These overlapping patterns of settlement resulted in a disparate population on Lewis Mountain by the 1920s and 1930s—although at the time, the state and federal governments did not necessarily recognize the range of residents. Lewis Mountain families included local businessmen who had made or augmented their fortunes in the tourism industry, as well as prosperous farmers, more modest subsistence farmers, and finally, some number of genuinely poor families and tenant farmers (a class that grew in number as the Great Depression hit). According to historians, it was this last class of residents who dominated government reports in the early years of the Great Depression, and perceptions of their poverty—and their depleted landscape—would shape the creation of Shenandoah National Park during the New Deal.[70]

Apparently enticed by the efforts of early park boosters like Pollock, Congress in 1925 authorized an unpaid Southern Appalachian National Park Committee to study proposed park sites for an eastern national park. The Shenandoah Valley, Inc., a regional Chamber of Commerce and park booster, formed shortly afterward. The group published widely about the area's scenic and historic resources and advocated for the creation of a national park in the Blue Ridge Mountains.[71]

Two years later, in 1926, Congress authorized the creation of Shenandoah National Park, owing to the boosterism of the Southern Appalachian National Park Committee. However, Congress did not allocate funds for land acquisition. Rather, Congress pushed the Commonwealth of Virginia to acquire the lands for a park through donation and purchase with the intent of bequest to the National Park Service.

The 1926 authorization of the national park corresponded with the passage of the Virginia Public Assemblages Act (also known as the Massenburg Bill), which legally required segregation in spaces of public assembly in Virginia, including any future national park. In this way, the nation's first eastern national park was designed from the very beginning as a segregated landscape.[72]

Between 1926 and 1935, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Shenandoah National Park Association, Inc. engaged in a period of land acquisition for the proposed park. This period included expansive mapping of proposed park borders and surveying of existing land tracts. Once mapped, these agencies purchased or condemned (for the purpose of acquisition) most tracts within the authorized park. This resulted in the removal and resettlement of people who had been living on the land previously.

The Appalachian Trail

Concurrent with the creation of an eastern national park, outdoor advocates experimented with the idea of a long trail that traversed the mountains of the eastern United States. In 1921, Benton MacKaye, building on previous trail building efforts in the Northeast, proposed a continuous trail through the Appalachian Mountains from Maine to Georgia. MacKaye first formally promoted this idea in the Journal of the American Institute of Architects.[73] Chief among his goals was to create a network of mountain camps linked by a continuous mountain trail. In 1925, his ideas were adopted and formalized by the newly formed NGO, the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC). This central group linked local trail building chapters into a cohesive network that would go on to construct the entirety of the Appalachian Trail.[74]

In 1927, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club formed with the goal of constructing the portion of the trail in the Washington, DC area—including within the fledgling park. Construction on the new Appalachian Trail began in the proposed park even as the National Park Service and the Commonwealth of Virginia were incrementally acquiring land from mountain families. In the years that followed, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed many of the trail shelters, while the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club provided furnishings. The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club also created a detailed survey of existing trail conditions in the park, which they updated annually and sold to members. The portion of the trail passing through Lewis Mountain would be completed circa 1937 and later rerouted for the creation of the developed area in 1938.[75]

The New Deal and the Construction of Shenandoah National Park

With the stock market crash in 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression, tourism declined in the Shenandoah Valley. Families across the country could no longer afford the same level of leisure spending, and the park's boosters felt the effects even as they continued to market the area to funders and future travelers. Hoover was a proponent of the future park, but his fiscal conservatism prevented him from spending vast federal monies on public works programs that would aid in its construction. Despite his beliefs, President Hoover, a seasonal resident of the park at Rapidan Camp, funded limited relief efforts in the Blue Ridge, including the construction of a local school. Such projects were confined to areas with clear ownership, including a 100' right-of-way along Skyline Drive; at Skyland and other lands owned by the Pollocks; and at lands purchased at Big Meadows by the Commonwealth of Virginia. This initial round of funding created 32 miles of Skyline Drive from Rapidan Camp to Thornton Gap.[76]

President Hoover's belief that the Depression should be solved through state, local, and private funding ultimately led to his ouster. Most Americans believed that the situation called for more dramatic intervention. In the presidential

election of 1932, the majority of voters cast their ballots for Franklin D. Roosevelt and his promised "new deal for the American people." Despite their greatly differing political values, there was continuity between the Hoover and Roosevelt administrations with respect to the future park. Roosevelt expanded on the Hoover administration's vision for the park by incorporating emergency federal funding and works programs under his "New Deal" initiative.[77]

Roosevelt took office in March 1933. Shortly after, his administration launched the "New Deal," a series of sweeping changes implemented in his first 100 days as president to address the devastating consequences of the Great Depression. Through relief, reform, and recovery efforts, the New Deal sought to create jobs, offer aid, and stabilize the economy and the nation's agriculture systems. The Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the first programs to be implemented, providing thousands of unemployed young men with jobs related to the conservation of the natural environment and historic sites. The first Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established in May 1933, near Luray, Virginia, in the George Washington National Forest. The Civilian Conservation Corps program itself was racially segregated and limited to men. All camps at Shenandoah National Park were composed of white laborers. The Civilian Conservation Corps workforce, which was generally unskilled, was supplemented with Works Progress Administration funding for local contractors and day labor employment of Local Experienced Men; both groups provided the necessary skillsets needed to implement National Park Service design and construction projects.[78]

The National Park Service, via its principal park architect Herbert Maier, hired architect Albert Good to consult on the overall design of service architecture and landscapes. Through their 1935 book, *Park Structures and Facilities*, Maier and Good became key resources in the design of the service-wide buildings and landscapes.[79] Around the same time, the principal pathologist of the U.S. Forest Service, E. P. Meinecke, also circulated a key text that contributed to the park's design, titled *Camp Planning and Camp Construction*.[80] All three men were critical voices in the design conversation that shaped campgrounds like the future Lewis Mountain campground. Among their principles on landscape design were considerations for the existing forested setting, and the careful regulation of vehicular and pedestrian movement within the park. All three designers promoted the idea that any modern intervention in the park scene must be of the "Rustic Style," blending with the natural landscape and not competing with its existing aesthetics.[81]

The forest scene was primary to the designers' vision for the park. With written guidance from Good and Meinecke, park planners surveyed developed areas of the future park and planned built features to take advantage of their natural settings. They aimed to preserve the natural setting where possible, arranging

vegetation, boulders, and other natural features to achieve both privacy and designed views. Writing of such planning, Meinecke noted:

> Generally, the breaking up of an area into sites will leave some unused or unusable spots, open spaces covered with a tangle of vegetation, small patches and groups of reproduction, or picturesque outcrops of rock with some green. They are the "pictures on the wall," the decorative element that tends to break the monotony and adds to the feeling of living in the woods, away from the restrictions of civilization.[82]

These considerations were addressed in a chapter called "Beauty in the Camp." Beyond scenic vistas, both Meinecke and Good thus argued for the creation of specific views within developed areas, including: clear sightlines between individual buildings and structures within cabin clusters; the framing of views along roads and paths by the careful preservation of existing vegetation and scenery; reciprocal views between buildings in each cabin cluster; views to and from the camp lodge along axial roads and paths within the camp; and screened views at the edges of roads, limiting views into and out of the developed areas. In this way, the fingerprints of the "Rustic Style" promoters—Good, Maier, and Meinecke—are evident in many parks, including at Shenandoah National Park's Lewis Mountain.

EARLY PARK PLANNING

Master Plans

The first master plan for Shenandoah National Park was developed in 1935. Master plans guided park development by presenting an idealized version of what the park could be. Indeed, many of the park facilities called for in master plans were never built. At Shenandoah National Park, the master plan was regularly revised from the creation of the park into the 1960s, reflecting shifting park priorities and policy changes.

Race was a consideration for park designs from the inception of the park master plan. Put differently, Shenandoah National Park was designed as a racially segregated undertaking from its inception. While the 1935 master plan did not designate areas as "for white use" it clearly delineated a single developed area, Bear Wallow Springs, "for colored use," while leaving all other racial designations off other areas in the plan.[83]

Under the guise of standardization, park planners adopted a policy of racial segregation that they believed would result in equivalent facilities for white and Black visitors. However, in practice this meant that the number of facilities planned for white visitors greatly outnumbered those planned for Black visitors. For white visitors, the 1935 master plan called for the creation of 3 cabin camps (Hogwollow Flats, Big Meadows Lodge, Loft Mountain), 5 picnic areas (Dickey

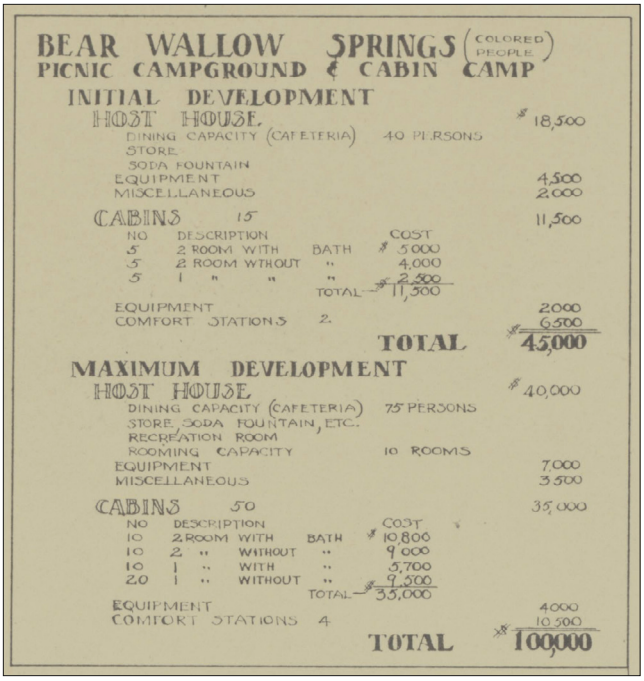
Ridge, Sexton Shelter, South River, Ivy Creek, Cavalry Rocks), 2 campgrounds (Gravel Springs, Comer's Deadening), and 4 lodges (Hogback Mountain Lodge, Skyland Lodge, Big Meadows Lodge, Black Rock Lodge). For Black visitors, there was only one area, Bear Wallow Springs, that would serve as cabin camp, picnic area, lodge, and campground.[84]

The Bear Wallow Springs area (Figures 1.7 and 1.8) was to be located on the west side of Skyline Drive north of the present-day Oaks Overlook and south of present-day Lewis Mountain. Text accompanying the master plan called for a lodge/host house with a store and dining room that accommodated 75 people, 50 cabins, 4 comfort stations, as well as a picnic area for 60 cars and a campground with 60 camp sites. In total, the maximum costs of the Bear Wallow Springs area totalled $100,000.[85]

Big Meadows, a comparable white developed area—and immediately adjacent to Bear Wallow Springs on the master plan drawing—featured a much higher investment of almost 3:1 (Figure 1.7). The total cost for the Big Meadows area was estimated at $300,000. This included a lodge/host house for 125 people, 200 cabins, and 6 comfort stations. Notably, this was only one of 13 other areas planned to accommodate white visitors. Such discrepancies in both funding and planning between Big Meadows and Bear Wallow Springs are clear indicators of the park and service-wide policies regarding race in the early years of park development.[86]

Unlike other developed areas in the park, detailed plans—beyond broad strokes in the master plan—never emerged for Bear Wallow Springs. By 1937, for unknown reasons the Bear Wallow Springs area was abandoned in favor of a new site on the east side of Skyline Drive at Lewis Mountain (Figure 1.8). Interestingly, the master plan for Bear Wallow Springs would likely have featured a westward vista of the Shenandoah Valley; however, as built, Lewis Mountain would feature a limited westward vista but from the eastern side Skyline Drive, achieving an entirely different effect.[87] It is not known why the site of Bear Wallow Springs was abandoned.

Lewis Mountain first appeared on park master plans in 1937 (Figure 1.9). As planned, the development was somewhat smaller than its predecessor at Bear Wallow Springs. Text accompanying the master plan called for a similar capacity at the lodge, with a dining room accommodating 75 people, a similar capacity of 50 campers cabins, and a comparable picnic area featuring 62 parking spaces. However, planners reduced the capacity in the camp grounds to 45 sites from 60. In plan, the cabin area featured an additional one-way loop road to access the 50 cabins across from the lodge. It also called for the construction of two comfort stations in the campgrounds, a rear lodge terrace, and a limited westward lodge vista.[88]



BEAR WALLOW SPRINGS (COLORED PEOPLE)
PICNIC CAMPGROUND & CABIN CAMP

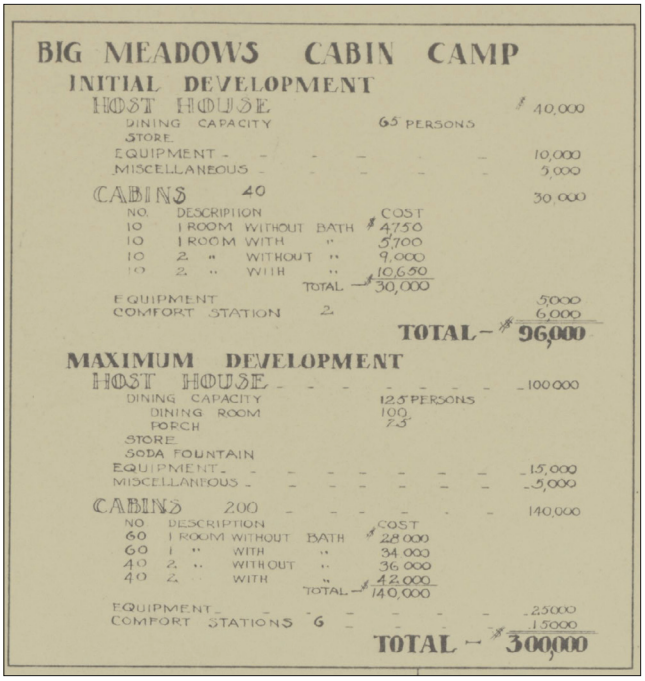
INITIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOST HOUSE			$ 18,500
DINING CAPACITY (CAFETERIA)	40 PERSONS		
STORE			
SODA FOUNTAIN			
EQUIPMENT			4,500
MISCELLANEOUS			2,000
CABINS	15		11,500
NO	DESCRIPTION	COST	
5	2 ROOM WITH BATH	$ 5,000	
5	2 ROOM WITHOUT "	4,000	
5	1 " " "	2,500	
	TOTAL	$ 11,500	
EQUIPMENT			2000
COMFORT STATIONS	2		6,500
		TOTAL	$ 45,000

MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT

HOST HOUSE			$ 40,000
DINING CAPACITY (CAFETERIA)	75 PERSONS		
STORE, SODA FOUNTAIN, ETC.			
RECREATION ROOM			
ROOMING CAPACITY	10 ROOMS		
EQUIPMENT			7,000
MISCELLANEOUS			3,500
CABINS	50		35,000
NO	DESCRIPTION	COST	
10	2 ROOM WITH BATH	$ 10,806	
10	2 " WITHOUT "	9,000	
10	1 " WITH "	5,700	
20	1 " WITHOUT "	9,500	
	TOTAL	$ 35,000	
EQUIPMENT			4000
COMFORT STATIONS	4		10,500
		TOTAL	$ 100,000

Figure 1.7. (Top) The original 1935 park master plan called for a 3:1 investment of comparable segregated facilities. Bear Wallow Springs, the area first designated (but never built) featured a $100,000 planned maximum investment, while Big Meadows featured a $300,000 planned maximum investment. (SHEN 1154 1935 06)



BIG MEADOWS CABIN CAMP

INITIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOST HOUSE			$ 40,000
DINING CAPACITY	65 PERSONS		
STORE			
EQUIPMENT			10,000
MISCELLANEOUS			5,000
CABINS	40		30,000
NO	DESCRIPTION	COST	
10	1 ROOM WITHOUT BATH	$ 4,750	
10	1 ROOM WITH "	5,700	
10	2 " WITHOUT "	9,000	
10	2 " WITH "	10,650	
	TOTAL	$ 30,000	
EQUIPMENT			5000
COMFORT STATION	2		6,000
		TOTAL	$ 96,000

MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT

HOST HOUSE			100,000
DINING CAPACITY	125 PERSONS		
DINING ROOM	100		
PORCH	25		
STORE			
SODA FOUNTAIN			
EQUIPMENT			15,000
MISCELLANEOUS			5,000
CABINS	200		140,000
NO	DESCRIPTION	COST	
60	1 ROOM WITHOUT BATH	28,000	
60	1 " WITH "	34,000	
40	2 " WITHOUT "	36,000	
40	2 " WITH "	42,000	
	TOTAL	140,000	
EQUIPMENT			25000
COMFORT STATIONS	6		15000
		TOTAL	$ 300,000

Figure 1.8. (Bottom) The 1935 park master plan featured a developed area for Black visitors, called Bear Wallow Springs, located south of the present-day Lewis Mountain (white oval) and north of present-day Oak Overlook (white square). (SHEN 1154 1935 06); annotated by authors)



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Figure 1.9. The 1938 Master Plan for Lewis Mountain featured a picnic area, central cabin core and lodge, and campground. The National Park Service closely followed the master plan when constructing the cultural landscape, but never completed construction of the 50 planned cabins, lodge porch, or additional campground comfort stations. (SHEN 47218, Shelf 4, Box 8)

However, despite plans for its creation as early as 1935, a developed area for Black visitors would not be completed until 1940; as completed, the Lewis Mountain area was smaller in capacity from its master plan and significantly less invested in that other areas of the park, indicating the discrepancy in funding for white and Black facilities in Shenandoah National Park.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEWIS MOUNTAIN (1938 – 1946 CE)

THE LANDSCAPE AT LEWIS MOUNTAIN PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT

Pre-park maps of Lewis Mountain offer much insight into the landscape at the time of the cultural landscape's construction as a developed area. The future campground's location was almost certainly chosen based on its composition as a series of ridgeline plateaus that afforded flatter terrain on which to build overnight accommodations. This is consistent with the other campground areas identified for development within Shenandoah National Park. Extant unpaved roads, likely for tanbarking or logging, crisscrossed the plateaus that would become the campground and picnic areas and provided workers access to the landscape. According to a 1937 forest cover study of the future parklands (Figure 1.10), the areas of the Devil's Ditch and the other Conway River branches, including much of the cultural landscape, contained few areas that had not been logged in the past 50 or 75 years (See Figure 1.11). Some more easily accessible areas showed evidence of even more recent logging and tanbarking. Residual species left in

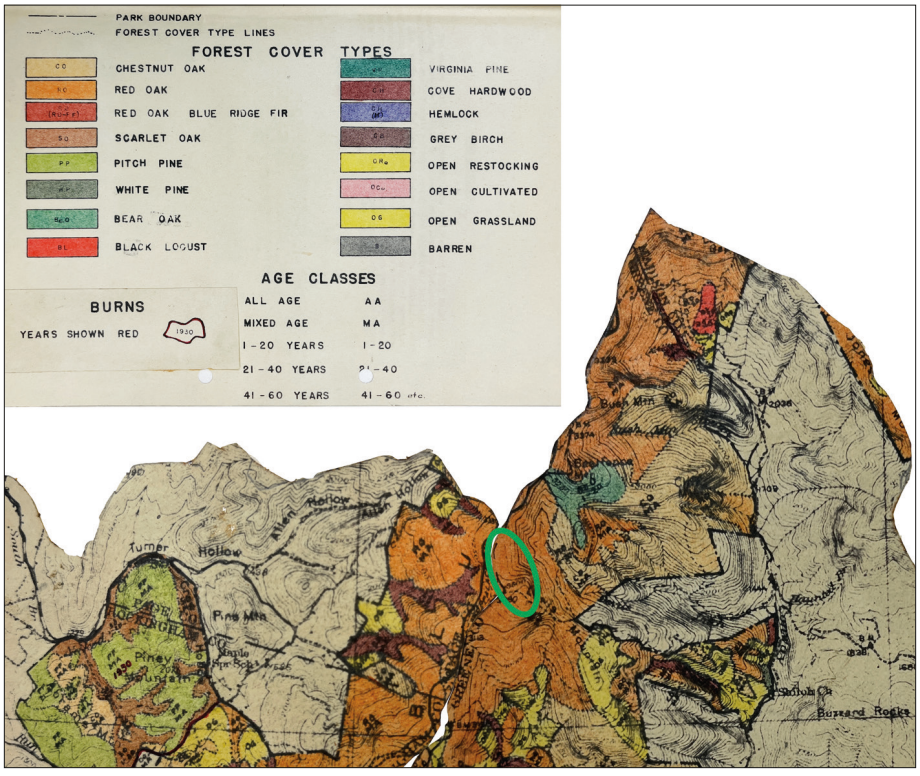

Figure 1.10. This 1937 forest cover map compiled for Shenandoah National Park shows Lewis Mountain, circled in green, was predominately a red oak forest (depicted in orange). Areas to the southwest and southeast, shown in yellow, were open areas. This may explain why designers established a viewshed to the southwest from the lodge. (Photo edited from SHEN 02403 Unprocessed Materials, Forest Cover)

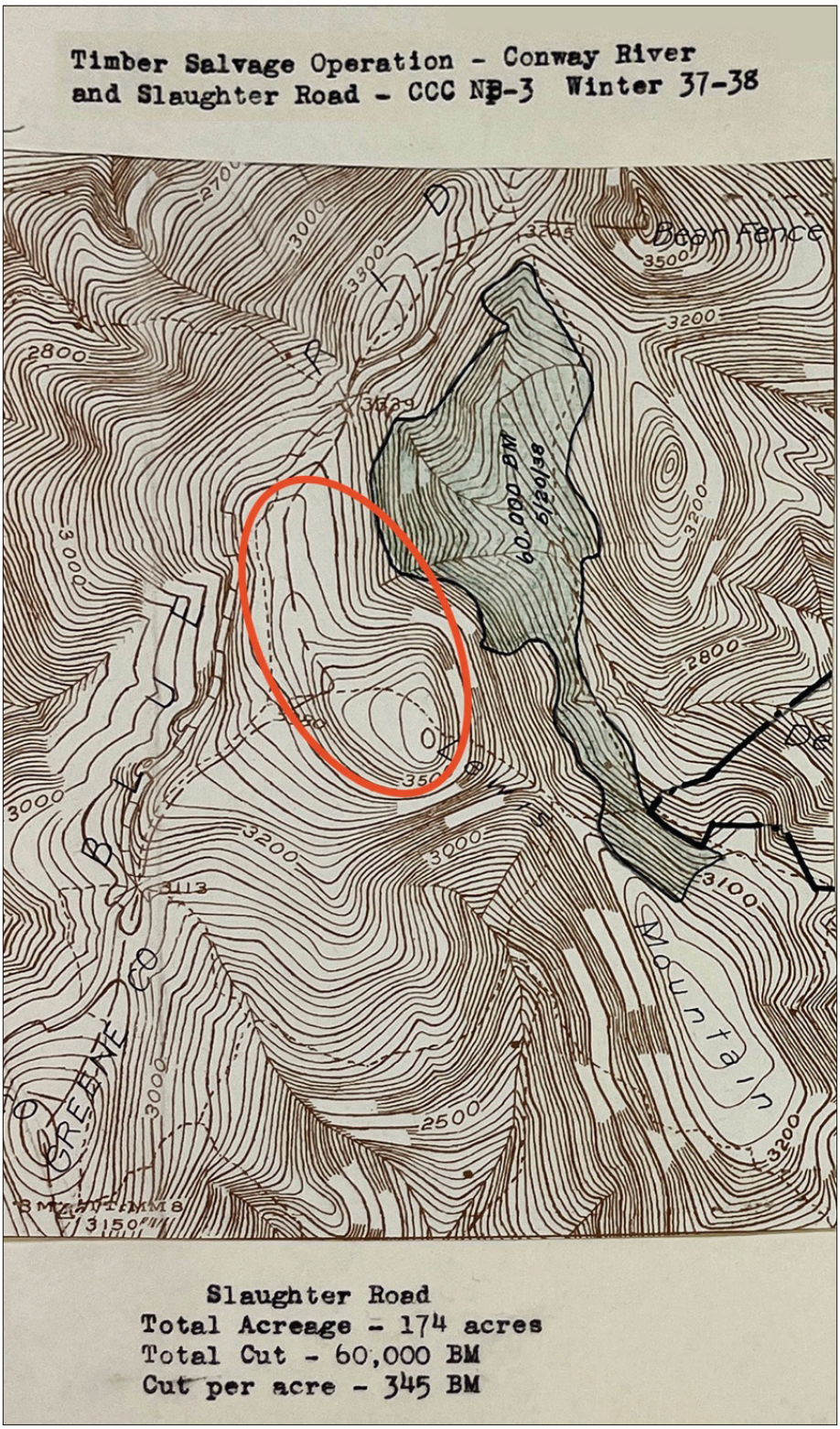

Figure 1.11. In the winter of 1937-1938, Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees logged the valley to the east of the future Lewis Mountain developed area (approximate location circled in red). Timber salvaged from this operation was then used to construct the buildings at Lewis Mountain and throughout the park. (SHEN 21206, Box 43, Folder 3)

the area consisted mostly of mixed oaks and dead stands of chestnuts. One such stand, located in the Devil's Ditch, was measured at over 100,000 board feet of sound salvageable timber.[89]

By 1937, the health of the forest at Lewis Mountain was apparently poor, as Civilian Conservation Corps workers were engaged in timber salvage operations.

A report from Civilian Conservation Corps camp NP-3 in the winter of 1937-1938 noted the reclamation of 60,000 board feet of dead chestnut trees for the Slaughter Road and Devil's Ditch valley immediately northeast of the future developed area. All lumber was subsequently transported to nearby sawmills for use in the construction of park buildings. Luther Kite, a local mountain resident and entrepreneur who lived south of John Roller's tract, operated his pre-existing sawmill on behalf of the Virginia Skyline Company. It is likely that some lumber cut from the area was then shipped to Kite's mill and used in the construction of the Lewis Mountain cabins, lodge, and comfort station. By July of 1938, Civilian Conservation Corps workers took all remaining lumber stockpiled along Slaughter Road to the sawmill at camp NP-2 for use throughout the park.[90]

THE CREATION OF THE LEWIS MOUNTAIN PICNIC GROUNDS

Construction of the picnic grounds at Lewis Mountain proceeded in 1938, according to plans prepared by National Park Service landscape architects in 1937. By the end of June 1938, the Civilian Conservation Corps had graded the picnic area, its parking lots, and roadways, and cleared the trails, including rerouting the Appalachian Trail. Workers also cut down dead chestnut trees, cleared undergrowth, replanted areas deforested by logging and farming, and constructed the ornamental boulder field.[91] Immediately following, the Civilian Conservation Corps installed standard stone fireplaces at each of the new picnic sites.

When the picnic area opened in 1938, it was the first and only facility in the park that served Black visitors. The lodge, cabins, and the campground remained unbuilt. Three years after the park's creation, Black visitors finally had a location in which they could recreate safely, yet it still had no picnic tables, overnight accommodations, or concessions facilities. The Lewis Mountain picnic area was constructed to a lower standard than other picnic areas across the park. Under the guise of standardization, park planners were able to sidestep claims that the Lewis Mountain facilities were inferior to others found in the park. Planners could point to similar features found in both white and Black portions of the park, while ignoring the difference in quantity of such facilities across the park.[92]

As an example, there was not a permanent comfort station at Lewis Mountain when the picnic area opened for its first season. Instead, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed a temporary pit toilet until the permanent version could be completed the following year once the water and sewer systems were finished. Similarly, plans for the facility did not feature a covered shelter or central gathering place like the white picnic area at Sexton Knoll (later Pinnacles). Conditions at the picnic area were remedied some in 1938, when the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed a permanent picnic grounds comfort station at Lewis Mountain using a standardized design (Figure 1.12). This simple log design, approved for

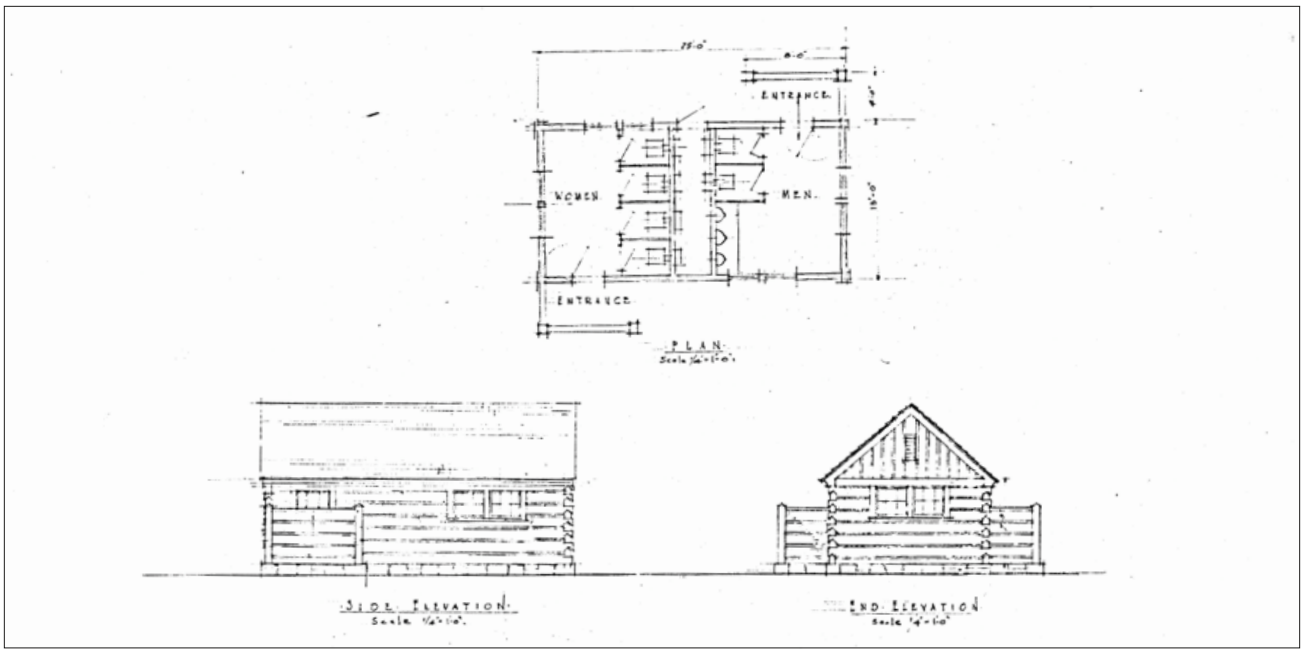

Figure 1.12. The comfort station installed in 1938 at the Lewis Mountain picnic area was of a standard design found throughout the park. It featured two sides for men and women, separated by a central storage and utility area. (Excerpt from NPS ETIC SHEN 134 2002)

parkwide use in 1936, employed a single log pen capped with a gable roof. In plan, the structure was divided into male and female bathrooms, separated by a central utility room. The entrances for each gender were located on opposite sides of the building, placed behind wooden screens.[93] The temporary pit toilet was likely demolished shortly after the permanent structure was built. However, no central shelter was ever built at Lewis Mountain.

Civilian Conservation Corps site preparation for the cabin area and campground began in 1939, and was completed in the same year for a total cost of $500.[94] A separate Civilian Conservation Corps job installed water and sewer lines throughout the site, including constructing boulder drinking fountains at the picnic grounds and campgrounds. A regional National Park Service memorandum from June 1939 questioned the park's approval of a standardized boulder drinking fountain. The regional architect noted that such drinking fountains would be difficult and costly to build. Each boulder could weight up to 4,000 pounds and would require significant skill and effort to drill through.[95] The advice of the Regional Architect seems to have been ignored by Shenandoah staff, as by the end of the 1939 season, Civilian Conservation Corps workers had completed construction of the water systems and drinking fountains throughout Lewis Mountain.[96]

In keeping with the rustic design principles of landscape architecture developed by Meinecke, Maier, and others, Civilian Conservation Corps workers carefully designed and curated the landscape of Lewis Mountain. Between 1938 and 1940, workers planted and preserved various trees, shrubs, and other plants around the site. Certain species were placed next to buildings to enhance their design, at the junctions of circulation features, or in planted islands at the camp entrance or its parking lots. The species planted include oak (*Quercus sp.*),

witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), pine (*Pinus sp.*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), azaleas (*Rhododendron sp.*), birch (*Betula sp.*), red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), and hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*).[97]

DESEGREGATION EXPERIMENTS

As the Civilian Conservation Corps continued to construct the facilities at the Lewis Mountain picnic grounds in 1939, numerous individuals lodged complaints with the National Park Service concerning the segregated nature of park facilities and their inferior construction. Under pressure to deliver on his promise to desegregate the national parks, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes began incrementally ordering small changes at Shenandoah National Park. Among these changes, Ickes pushed Superintendent James R. Lassiter to integrate one picnic area of his choosing for the 1939 season. Under protest, Lassiter chose Sexton Knoll Picnic Grounds, later renamed Pinnacles. Beginning in April of 1939, Pinnacles operated on an integrated basis until the abolition of segregation in the park during the mid-1940s.[98]

THE CREATION OF THE LEWIS MOUNTAIN LODGE AND CABINS

Even as high-level staff were testing desegregation within the park, the National Park Service and the Virginia Skyline Company continued to construct Lewis Mountain on a segregated basis. Park master plans had called for overnight facilities and concessionaires for Black visitors since at least 1935. Neither Lassiter nor the Virginia Skyline Company fully supported the creation of Lewis Mountain, complaining about any number of issues throughout its construction. The concessionaire and the park's repeated, intentional delays meant that by the time the 1939 season started, no plans had been approved for the campground, cabins, or lodges (Figure 1.13). Instead, Lewis Mountain included only a parking lot and fireplaces in the picnic grounds; it did not include picnic tables, campsites, or any permanent structure apart from a comfort station.[99]

In the same 1939 mandate, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, unsatisfied with the lack of progress on overnight facilities for Black visitors, ordered the construction of Lewis Mountain. Pressed by W.J. Trent, Secretary Ickes' Advisor on Negro Affairs, Ickes forced the completion of Lewis Mountain, against the wishes of Cammerer and Lassiter. Cammerer, who did not agree with Ickes, informed Superintendent Lassiter that the development at Lewis Mountain must be done for the coming 1940 season. Writing to representatives of the Virginia Skyline Company, Lassiter emphasized that they "had committed themselves to this development" to counter "the future excessive demands of Negroes." He further held that the lack of progress on the facility made for poor public relations for the National Park Service and the Virginia Skyline Company from

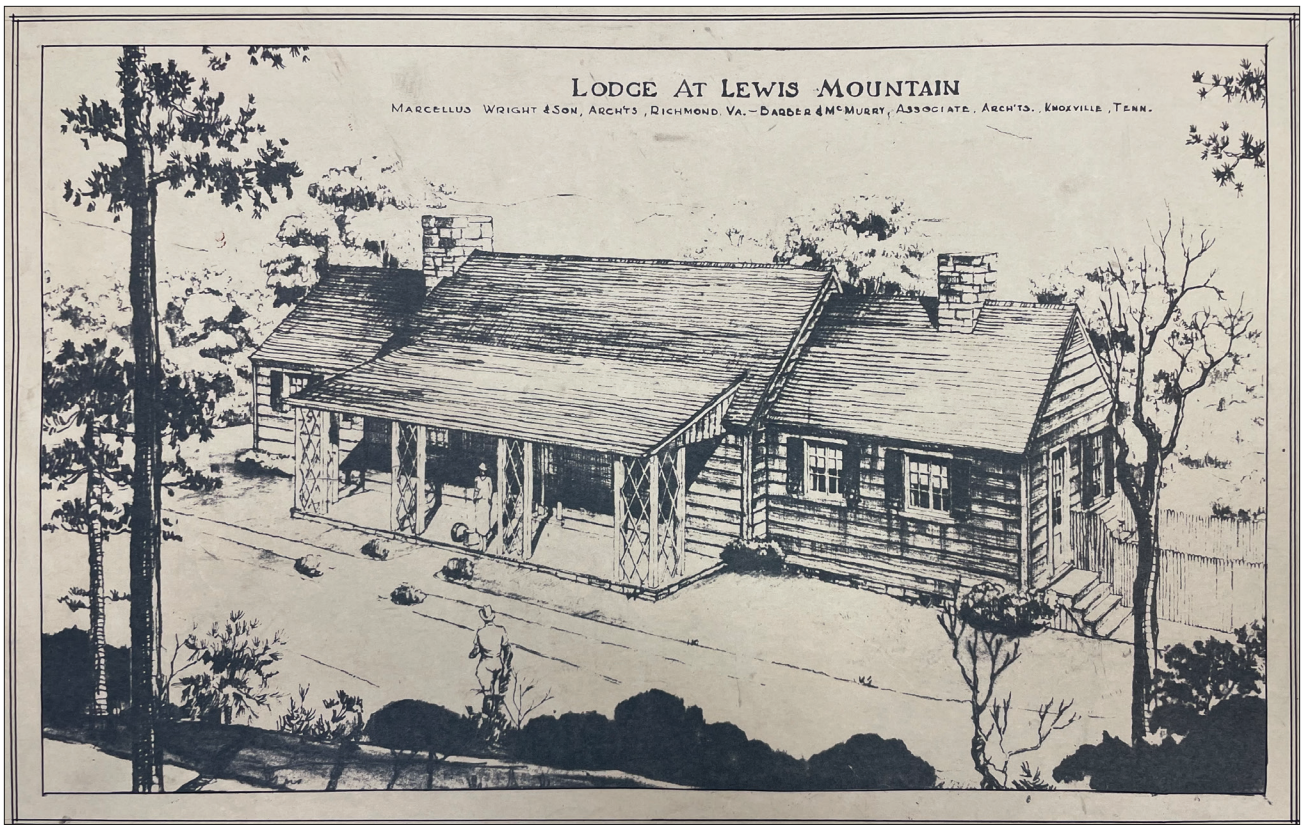

Figure 1.13. The lodge at Lewis Mountain was designed by architect Marcellus Wright, Jr. in the Rustic Style. It featured a central dining room and porch flanked by a kitchen and quarters for the camp manager. (SHEN Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 6, © Marcellus Wright Cox Architects. Used with Permission. All Rights Reserved.)

"the Negroes or their supporters."[100] Short of supporting the development at Lewis Mountain, Lassiter saw its construction as a necessary response to pressure from his superiors and from outside entities like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and other civil rights activists.[101]

In 1939, upon the advice of Trent, Ickes further ordered the removal of all racial designations within park literature to avoid calling attention to the continued practice of segregation in the park. Rather than solving problems, the memorandum caused confusion among white and Black visitors over which facilities were available to them. Members of the NAACP and civil rights' activists noted the continued practice by both National Park rangers and concessionaire staff of directing Black visitors explicitly to Lewis Mountain's picnic area and away from Pinnacles.[102]

THE LEWIS MOUNTAIN CABINS AND LODGE

Construction on the Lewis Mountain cabins proceeded in 1939, according to standardized park-wide plans previously prepared by architect Marcellus Wright, Jr. for other facilities within Shenandoah National Park. In plan these cabins each featured two bedrooms flanking a shared bathroom. Each bedroom had a separate exterior entrance. The initial four cabins were completed in time to accommodate Black guests for the 1940 season. Within a year of its construction, one of the cabins burned down and was not replaced.[103]

Unlike the Lewis Mountain cabins, the design for the Lewis Mountain lodge was unique to this site. Marcellus Wright, Jr. had by this time designed numerous facilities throughout the park, including at Elkwallow, Skyland, and Big Meadows. Wright served as the company architect for the Virginia Skyline Company and carried out the construction of buildings according to master plans created by the National Park Service. In an interview with architectural historian Carol Hooper in 1994 for the Skyline Drive Historic District Nomination, Wright remarked that "fitting [buildings] into the landscape was the main goal, and then using native materials to the greatest extent possible." Beyond these two criteria from the National Park Service, Wright was given a general program from the concessionaire. Pending these considerations, Wright had total control of the design process.[104]

During the first year of its operation, Lewis Mountain's concessions were managed by Mr. W. S. Schley of Roanoke, Virginia. Schley was a veteran hotel and resort manager and likely had close connections to the Virginia Skyline Company.[105]

The lodge at Lewis Mountain is an excellent example of the Rustic Style. Its stepped and segmented design straddles the steep hillside on which it sits. In plan, the building consists of three parts: a central dining room porch and terrace; a series of bathrooms to one side; and a bedroom, bathroom, storage, and kitchen to the other. In the central dining room, Wright called for the installation of a large picture window to take advantage of the vista originally called for in the master plan. The front of the lodge incorporated existing vegetation features, as well as native plantings, such as hemlock and mountain laurel, that blended the new building with the landscape. While generally rustic in style, the building has many of the hallmarks of the modern movement, which Wright would go on to champion in his later works.[106]

However, management of the Civilian Conservation Corps-planted landscapes appears to have been uneven across segregated park facilities. In 1941, famed plant pathologist and Civil Rights activist Thomas Wyatt Turner wrote to park management complaining of overgrown plantings surrounding the cabins and lodge. Turner was the first Black graduate of Cornell University to earn at PhD in botany. He was also a founding member of the NAACP and a professor at the Tuskegee Institute, Howard University, Cornell University, and the Hampton Institute.

Writing to park staff, Turner noted the disparity in maintenance of decorative plantings at white facilities with those at Lewis Mountain. "Where the landscaping has been done, and where beautiful rhododendrons, stately white pines, and other natural shrubbery have been arranged in pleasing clumps, the same care for the maintenance is not being exercised around the other cabins at Lewis Mountain." Turner's letter indicates that park staff were not maintaining the



Figure 1.14. Mr. Lloyd Tutt, the then-manager of Lewis Mountain, and others lean on the railing of a cabin at Lewis Mountain during his first year as manager in 1941. (Scudder Griffing, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide #04557)



Figure 1.15. The Lewis Mountain campground. (Personal collection of Reed Engle; used in Krutko Devlin 2010: 123)

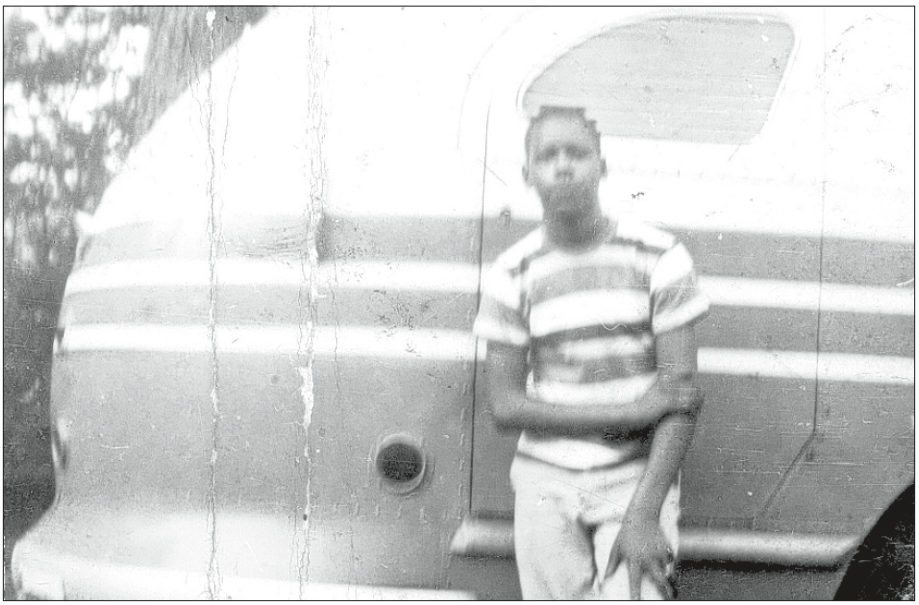

Figure 1.16. Donald Banks leans against a bus at Lewis Mountain (SHEN 29415, Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

designed landscape at Lewis Mountain to the same standards as in other areas of the park.[107]

THE EARLY YEARS OF LEWIS MOUNTAIN

Lewis Mountain operated at a loss during its first two seasons under W.S. Schley. According to the same letter by Dr. Thomas Wyatt Turner this was not because of Schley or his staff, which Turner noted "left nothing undone to make his guests comfortable."[108] Instead, scholars, including Dr. Erin Krutko Devlin, note that this was almost certainly because of a lack of advertising by the National Park Service and the Virginia Skyline Company. Neither group advertised the availability of overnight accommodations for Black visitors within the park. Instead, Schley relied on informal communication networks among Black travelers that noted the availability and quality of facilities at Lewis Mountain. However, Schley would die in 1941 before Lewis Mountain became increasingly popular.[109]

The height of Lewis Mountain's social history began in 1941 under the Management of Lloyd Tutt of Luray, Virginia (Figure 1.14). Mr. Lakey of the Virginia Skyline Company recruited Lloyd Tutt to replace W.S. Schley after his death. Tutt, who was familiar with the Lewis Mountain area, had previously worked as a mechanic and as a cook at Rapidan Camp, the nearby retreat of President Hoover.[110] In an interview with the *Page News and Courier* in 1978, Lloyd Tutt recalled:

> "Mr. Lakey gave me just a few instructions and then gave me total responsibility—be sure there was no integration at Lewis Mountain, keep control of the people, be responsible for all hiring and firing of the personnel."[111]

Tutt hired his staff from nearby Luray and other local communities. Many staffers were family members or friends. Tutt was assisted by Isabelle Wright, who served as head cook and assistant manager. In the off-season, Wright was a well-known pastry chef at Luray's Mimslynn Inn. When visitation was slow at Lewis Mountain, Wright also baked pies, cakes, bread, and pastries for other areas of the park, including Skyland. Wright's children Richard, Gilda, and Portia served as the first employees of Lewis Mountain (Figures 1.15-1.19).[112]

Staff lived and worked on the mountain all season from April to November. Staff were provided uniforms that were white with a pink pinafore and matching cap. Typically, the workday began as early as 6:30 a.m., with the dining room opening between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. Lewis Mountain staff cooked, waited tables, washed dishes, sold souvenirs, and attended to the cabins and walks. The Virginia Skyline Company mowed the grass, collected leaves, and trimmed plantings.[113] The dining room at Lewis Mountain accommodated 60 guests at tables on each side of the lodge and the fireplace. In an interview reflecting on his time at Lewis Mountain, LLoyd Tutt recalled the "wonderful food" that was served: "Mostly we would



Figure 1.17. Katie Thomas and friends, L to R. (SHEN 29415, Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)



Figure 1.18. Portia Wright, daughter of head chef Isabelle Wright, in the kitchen at Lewis Mountain lodge. (SHEN 29415, Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)



Figure 1.19. Gilda Wright, daughter of head chef Isabelle Wright, in the lodge at Lewis Mountain. (SHEN 29415, Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

have Virginia ham, sweet potatoes, and some kind of greens, some pie, of course … We fed people really good for only $3 or $6."[114] For other meals, staff served sandwiches for lunch and a variety of entrees for dinner, including fried chicken, steaks, country ham, meatloaf, greens, string beans, corn pudding, seasonal vegetables, scalloped potatoes, and homemade pies, breads, and cobblers.[115]

After an illness in the late 1940s, Amelia "Mittie" Tutt, the wife of Lloyd Tutt, gradually took over the operations of Lewis Mountain. Shortly after this, Isabelle Wright left Lewis Mountain and became a full-time pastry chef at Skyland and, later, head chef of the Mimslynn Inn. Amelia Tutt hired Reva Green and James Henderson as replacement cooks. After this time, staffing shifted more towards members of the Tutt's immediate friends and family and away from the Wrights.[116]

Recreation and Accommodation at Lewis Mountain

As scholar, Dr. Erin Krutko Devlin notes, "as African American travelers and locals became aware of the picnic grounds, lodge and dining room, and overnight accommodations at Lewis Mountain, the concession area began operating near full capacity and occasionally had to visitors turn away."[117] Indeed, during the 1940s and 1950s, Lewis Mountain was a popular vacation destination for wealthy and middle-class Black travelers. Visitor surveys and oral histories recall travelers from as far as California, Michigan, Louisiana, and Florida.[118]

Lewis Mountain was especially popular for local and regional Black travelers. Many of these groups may have been made aware of Lewis Mountain via *The Negro Motorist Green Book*. This travel guide listed Lewis Mountain among the safe and enjoyable destinations for Black travelers.[119] Day groups from Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Richmond, Atlantic City, and other parts of New Jersey frequented the facility. More locally, Black visitors came from Charlottesville and the Shenandoah Valley towns, including Luray and Elkton.[120]

Former staff members recalled several famous Black politicians, performers, and scholars who frequented Lewis Mountain. Ada and Chester Franklin, editors of the Black-owned and operated *Kansas City Call* newspaper, returned every summer to stay at Lewis Mountain for several weeks. The Franklins and staff at Lewis Mountain grew close. Such bonds also facilitated the visits of other notable individuals. In an oral history, manager Lloyd Tutt recalled helping Ada and Chester Franklin host two unofficial visits by President Harry S. Truman and Brigadier General Benjamin O. David, Jr., the U.S. Army's first African-American general.[121] Other famous visitors included Oliver Hill, a Black attorney who helped litigate Virginia school desegregation as part of the *Brown V. Board of Education* supreme court decision, whom waitress Eleanor Frye recalled meeting.[122]

Overnight visitors and staff gathered each night in the lodge after dinner for fellowship, song, and games. A piano, jukebox, radio, and later a TV all catered to

visitors after hours. Waitress Eleanor Frye recalled that Lloyd Tutt regularly made mint juleps from a garden of mint planted behind the lodge.[123] Shirley Ann Tutt McCoy, Lloyd Tutt's niece, recalls simply that "there was good food. There was great entertainment there, and it was welcome— In fact, I spent my honeymoon at Lewis Mountain Lodge, in one of the cabins there."[124] Tutt McCoy went on to recall that:

> All the good-looking boys in Luray worked on the mountain. So, most of us were dying to get up there, because they rarely got down to town, you know, because of the business. So, if you want to see them, you have to go up there. And he hired all of them up on the mountain. But I remember we always had this gathering inside the lodge with the piano. And Miss Alice Green played "Good night, Irene." And we would all sit around singing all that.[125]

Despite its isolated and segregated nature, Lewis Mountain staff and guests fondly recall their time there.

DAY TRIPS AND PICNICS

The Lewis Mountain picnic grounds were equally important to the history of Lewis Mountain, hosting day trips, homecoming, and other social events. One visitor recalled, "Lewis provided a welcome respite and a relaxing environment to visit with family and friends outside of the regular social whirl of the Valley."[126] Church groups, professional associations, and student groups frequently chartered buses to and from the picnic grounds.

Luray's Black community held an annual homecoming in August; as early as 1949, this homecoming was held at Lewis Mountain. The New York-Virginia Club, a large group of former Luray citizens that settled in New Jersey and New York (as well as other areas), formed the club and hosted the annual homecoming. (The group remains active but no longer holds the gathering at Lewis Mountain.) For some members of the New York-Virginia Club, returning to Lewis Mountain each year was a double homecoming; many also lived and worked there in their youth. The New York-Virginia Club held its annual homecoming picnic at Lewis Mountain, with other events in Luray and the Shenandoah Valley.[127]

Church groups also frequented Lewis Mountain. Groups of up to 300 people gathered for annual Sunday School picnics and luncheons, including St. John Baptist Church and Bethel Baptist Church of Luray. Elaine Taylor Blakey, a long-time visitor to Lewis Mountain, recalled that Sunday school groups usually visited in July, bringing whole meals shared among the participants on picnic tables.

> "Typically [there was] fried chicken, and always a country ham. Deviled eggs, potato salad, green beans, and corn on the cob. . . . they would make rolls and bake bread, and they'd have all kinds of pastries, even ice cream, that was in a freezer that they churned by hand."[128]

Such events were a memorable part of growing up at Lewis Mountain.

Lewis Mountain was also host to many other informal gatherings and visits. Former visitors and staff noted that young children often played baseball, tag, jumped rope, or competed in other games. At the lodge, older children faced off on the lodge porch playing ping-pong while others listened to the jukebox inside or purchased sweets. Parents visited with each other and walked the trails nearby, making lasting connections and friendships.[129]

The rich culture at Lewis Mountain thrived into the 1960s. However, as other public spaces closer to Luray became available to Black people following desegregation, Black visitation at Lewis Mountain began to taper off, replaced instead with an increasingly white audience. For more on desegregation, see the corresponding chapters.

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Utility corridor

To Swift Run

Skyline Drive

To Thornton Gap

Historic Appalachian Trail route

Retaining wall

View

Power plant

Lodge

Rock outcropping

Campground comfort station

Campground office

Cabin 15

Cabin 3

Cabin 1

Cabin 2

Boulder field

Picnic grounds comfort station

Fire foot trail to Lewis Mountain summit

Appalachian Trail

Cultural Landscape Report

Shenandoah National Park
Lewis Mountain Area
Virginia

1940 Historic Period Plan

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. NPS Lewis Mountain Development Plan, 1939
2. Proposed Lewis Mountain Renovation of Roads and Sites Sketch Map, 1967
3. Lewis Mountain Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2011
4. USGS Digital Elevation Model, 2021
5. NPS Landsnet Boundaries and Tracts
6. Field Review, April and August 2022

DRAWN BY

Ethan Berriault, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021
Megan Cahill, ArcGIS Pro 3.1, 2023

LEGEND

- Cultural Landscape Boundary
- Turf
- Woods
- Road
- Path
- Building
- Retaining Wall
- Boulder
- Boulder Fountain
- Grill
- Sign

NOTES

1. Projection: Virginia North State Plane NAD83
2. Contour Interval = 5'-0"
3. All features shown in approximate scale and location

0 43 85 170 Feet

Drawing 1



Figure 1.20. This 1944 photo shows the comfort station at the Lewis Mountain campground. While campgrounds and picnic areas remained open during WWII, they became overgrown due to a lack of maintenance and visitation. (JEH, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.10633/ Negative No. 623-6)

POST WWII CHANGES TO LEWIS MOUNTAIN (1946 CE – 1954 CE)

WORLD WAR II AND THE CLOSURE OF PARK FACILITIES

The 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and the resulting entry of the United States into World War II had dramatic effects on the national parks—including at Shenandoah National Park. As early as 1939, the Civilian Conservation Corps—the park's main labor force—began tapering off following Roosevelt's declaration of a Limited National Emergency in September of 1939 in response to the war in Europe. Following the U.S. involvement in WWII, resources such as building materials and labor provided by New Deal work programs were rapidly diverted to the war effort, essentially ending all park development.[130] By 1943, visitation dropped to its lowest point ever, with only 42,000 visitors entering Shenandoah National Park (the most dramatic drop of any national park).[131] This was in large part due to the enlistment of many young men and the rationing of gas and rubber for private citizens, who could no longer travel for leisure.[132]

Labor provided by the Civilian Conservation Corps ceased in 1942, when the Department of the Interior ordered the disbanding of all emergency work programs. Even before the official order, Civilian Conservation Corps workers assigned to the park were being called up for service. The 1942 disbanding halted all construction according to park master plans. When paired with the decline in park visitation and revenue, this meant that the Virginia Skyline Company would not construct any new lodging or concessions buildings. For Lewis Mountain, this meant that there would be no additional cabins constructed for the foreseeable future in the planned central section of the development.

That same year, Superintendent Edward D. Freeland succeeded James R. Lassiter, who had been transferred west by National Park Service leadership, under pressure from Secretary Ickes, over his role in the park's segregation. Freeland, faced with a labor and material shortage, expressed grave concern about his staff's ability to maintain park facilities and undertake promised improvements.[133] He appealed to National Park Service Director Newton B. Drury for the Civilian Conservation Corps laborers to be replaced with conscientious objectors under the U.S. Civil Public Service program (CPS). Drury agreed to this, but by mid-August 1942, Freeland noted that the park employed a mere 26 Civil Public Service workers at the old Civilian Conservation Corps camp at Pinnacles, located approximately 20 miles north of Lewis Mountain, which formerly housed up to 250 Civilian Conservation Corps workers. Civil Public Service workers conducted regular park maintenance, demolished pre-park structures, and conducted firefighting activities.[134] It is unknown if Civil Public Service workers conducted any improvements at Lewis Mountain.

Faced with a dearth of visitors, the Virginia Skyline Company petitioned the park in 1942 to begin closing concession and lodging areas that were no longer profitable. In July of that year, Freeland approved the order, and the company shuttered Big Meadows and Lewis Mountain.[135] By the end of the season, the



Figure 1.21. The highly visible entrance sign to Lewis Mountain along Skyline Drive was the focus of numerous letters by various activists to the National Park Service, urging it to end segregation. (W. Drew Chick, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.11801/Negative No. 663-16A)

Virginia Skyline Company closed all of the other park facilities that it operated. Worried that these closures would discourage all park visitation, Freeland made sure to note in local newspapers that all National Park Service-operated facilities such as picnic areas, campgrounds, foot and bridle paths, trailside shelters, and lean-tos would remain open to the public. He also noted that lodging and dining was available in town, immediately outside the park.[136] However, photographs of Lewis Mountain from the 1940s show a vastly overgrown landscape, indicating that even the open campground and picnic facilities likely saw little use or upkeep during wartime (Figure 1.20 and 1.22).[137]

The World War II period also saw the disuse of many park roads, foot trails, fire roads. Many of these roads were not intentionally abandoned; rather, the park lacked the resources during the war to keep vegetation from overtaking them. It is likely that the Lewis Mountain fire foot trail—which connected the campground with Lewis Mountain peak and the valley below —was abandoned during this period after it became overgrown.[138] This road first appeared on the 1935 master plan as a fire foot trail, and was likely a preexisting logging or tanbark road when the park was created. It last appears in the 1940-1949 Fire Atlas; but it is not represented on the master plan updates completed in 1943 or 1945, perhaps indicating its decline.[139]

DESEGREGATION EFFORTS DURING WORLD WAR II

Despite limited park visitation, Lewis Mountain continued to be a highly visible symbol of segregation within the larger movement to desegregate parks and public spaces across the country. During WWII, the park, as well as the regional and national offices of the National Park Service, received numerous complaints from visitors and civil rights organizations, and from within the government rank-and-file.[140] Such complaints often described the jarring entrance sign (Figure 1.21) to the developed area, which was installed in 1940 and read:

LEWIS MOUNTAIN

NEGRO AREA

COFFEE SHOP & CABINS

CAMPGROUND PICNICGROUND [*sic*]

ENTRANCE

In April of 1942, confidential desegregation efforts were introduced by Archibald MacLeish, director of the U.S. Government's Office of Facts and Figures. MacLeish, a member of the Committee on War Information, worried about "Negro morale" during the war effort and pushed cabinet secretaries to "alleviate existing [racial] tensions" as soon as possible. MacLeish went further to assert that "every effort should be made to advance as far as possible, under war conditions,



Figure 1.22. This June 1942 photo shows the Civilian Conservation Corps-era plantings and landscape outside the lodge, which became greatly overgrown during WWII when the Virginia Skyline Company closed the buildings at Lewis Mountain. (W.D Chick, SHEN-02322/ BVC Slide No. 04556)

the Negro's aspirations to be freed from discriminatory restrictions." He went further to request a list of actions for each department on how they could address the crisis.[141]

W.J. Trent, Secretary Ickes' Advisor on Negro Affairs, met with Assistant Secretary E. K. Berlew to generate ways in which the department could end racial discrimination. The resulting letter, drafted by Berlew and Trent, pushed Ickes to contribute to the war effort by removing racial barriers on all public lands. Trent reasoned that desegregation would boost "the morale of Negro citizens," and he assured Ickes that such an action would be well received by Black organizations. In his response to MacLeish, Ickes noted the success of the Pinnacles experiment, while also appearing favorable to the idea of ending discrimination within the National Park Service. "I expect to extend this non-discriminatory policy to other areas as rapidly as possible," Ickes offered. However, he did not establish a timeline for this policy.[142]

In 1942, Ickes extended the Pinnacles experiment, mandating racial integration at all picnic areas in the park. He, however, limited integration efforts to picnic areas, choosing instead to maintain racial segregation in dining rooms and at overnight facilities. Ickes worried integration would generate "jurisdictional islands" in the American South where segregation was practiced in all places except in the national parks. Trent continued to press the idea, prompting Ickes and his staff to solicit reports from each of the superintendents of the southern parks on how

such an action would be received. The submitted reports made clear that such an action would be neither welcome nor easily implemented.[143]

Despite this response, Secretary Ickes and National Park Service Director Newton B. Drury issued a policy in 1942 stating that all facilities owned and administered by the National Park Service were to be operated without consideration of race. At Shenandoah, as well as other parks, this was only a partial solution. In practice, this meant that all campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, waysides, and comfort stations owned and operated by the National Park Service were legally desegregated. However, all overnight or dining facilities operated by park concessionaires (at Shenandoah, this meant the Virginia Skyline Company) remained segregated. For Black visitors to Shenandoah, this meant that white-only facilities such as those at Skyland, Big Meadows, and Dickey Ridge continued to remain unavailable to them. Despite the *de jure* desegregation of campgrounds and picnic areas, *de facto* segregation held firm within the park via established patterns of use or at the direction of park staff.[144] In this way, desegregation did not necessarily mean that facilities were integrated (Figure 1.23).[145]

Likely prompted by the sudden death of President Roosevelt and the vagueness of his successor's stance on civil rights, Secretary Ickes pushed through a policy of full desegregation before resigning from President Harry S Truman's administration. The new policy took effect in December 1945, just two months after the Virginia Skyline Company reopened its facilities—including Lewis Mountain—after World War II. As written, the policy banned any discrimination in furnishing public accommodations based on race, creed, color, or national origin. In theory, this meant that all public and privately operated facilities in Shenandoah National Park were now desegregated.[146]



Figure 1.23. When Lewis Mountain reopened in 1946, in theory, it was no longer a segregated facility. Visitors entering Lewis Mountain would have been confronted with this modified entrance sign that replaced the words "Negro Area" with "Lodge." The former phrase remained faintly visible, however. (Lennart. Y. Berg, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.11802/ Negative No. 663-16B)

The Virginia Skyline Company was quick to challenge this new rule. Writing to Superintendent Freeland, the concessionaire's leadership noted that a verbal agreement between the company and the park, made in March of 1939, allowed for segregation at its facilities if it was to construct an area for Black visitors at Lewis Mountain. Such an agreement, the concessionaire stated, allowed it to operate profitable whites-only facilities at Big Meadows, Skyland, Dickey Ridge, and Elk Wallow in any way it saw fit, while taking a direct loss at Lewis Mountain, which it perceived to be unprofitable.[147] The company held that by creating and operating separate white and Black facilities, it was also complying with state and federal laws that prohibited integration in public spaces and required separate but equal accommodations. Ickes challenged the Virginia Skyline Company's view of the concessions agreement but resigned before any material change came of his views. Instead, Superintendent Freeland conceded to the Virginia Skyline Company's challenge and worked to implement a gradual approach to desegregation and integration alongside Ickes successor.[148]

POST-WAR DESEGREGATION EFFORTS AT SHENANDOAH

At Shenandoah, the discrepancy in official policies on race between government facilities and the concessionaire resulted in confusion over which facilities guests could and couldn't use. Black visitors returning to a reopened Lewis Mountain in 1946 were greeted with modified signage. Such signs, while still physically the same construction, simply removed the lettering of "Negro Area" and replaced it with "Lodge." In one 1946 photograph (Figure 1.21), the ghost of the old text remained clearly visible to park users. Such half-hearted efforts to erase segregation merely removed any mention of it in the park landscape, while not actually encouraging Black visitorship elsewhere in the park. In this way, the purpose-built segregated landscape of Lewis Mountain remained unchanged, serving only to reinforce socially established patterns of park-wide segregation and use.[149]

Debate over the segregation of public accommodations came to a climax in 1946, when the Virginia Skyline Company threatened to leave its contract with the park if its demands to uphold segregation weren't meant. Fearing such an action, Ickes' successor, Secretary Julius Krug, approved a new gradual plan to desegregate park facilities; the plan would leave the park segregated through the 1946 season. In response to the plan, T. McCall Frazier—the Vice President of the Virginia Skyline Company, and the mastermind behind the threat to cancel the concessionaire's contract over desegregation—resigned in 1947. After his resignation, park-wide desegregation happened incrementally. The manager at Lewis Mountain, Lloyd Tutt, recalled that as early as 1947, white visitors began coming to his lodge for the excellent food his staff cooked.[150]

In this way, white visitors slowly began to appropriate and subsume an otherwise safe space managed by and for Black visitors. The Virginia Skyline Company, while legally held to desegregation policies, continued to uphold unofficial segregationist practices at its other facilities based on historical racial designations. After 1947, such practices were usually ignored at Lewis Mountain by manager Lloyd Tutt, who served white diners and lodgers. Meanwhile, reciprocal actions by other lodge managers at historically white-only facilities were not guaranteed for Black visitors.[151] In this way, despite desegregation, Black visitors faced competition for the only space historically provided to them, while not gaining access to other, white spaces throughout the park.

Numerous complaints filed by both white and Black visitors noted instances in which they were denied service or accommodation by the Virginia Skyline Company based on race. The summer season of 1950 was the first season in which the official policy of desegregation was actively enforced in all national parks. President Truman's newly appointed Secretary of the Interior, Oscar Chapman, implemented the policy, as he was an ardent supporter of progressive policies on race.[152]

In 1950, a group of nuns from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., visited the Panorama Dining Room at Shenandoah National Park. The group's two Black drivers were refused dining service in the same room as the nuns, who promptly filed a complaint with the Secretary of the Interior. An investigation followed, wherein the Virginia Skyline Company chalked the issue up to a miscommunication over the accommodation of large groups—not an issue about the race of the drivers.

The investigation's official 1950 report noted that few Black visitors used the dining rooms or overnight accommodations in the park; rather, they opted for lunch counter service, such as snacks or soft drinks, at waysides and favored shorter day trips that avoided challenging the status of these previously white spaces. The report also noted that when Black visitors did choose to stay overnight, they chose to stay at Lewis Mountain out of historical use or comfort. Indeed, the memory of the highly-visible discriminatory practices of the Virginia Skyline Company continued to deter Black visitorship across the park. Even if the Virginia Skyline Company did not refuse them service, Black visitors still had to contend with the uncertain reactions of white visitors to their use of such accommodations. They likely were slow to begin using other facilities for this reason. [153]

Black visitor counts at Lewis Mountain began to decline in 1950. National Park Service officials recorded that up to a third of visitors annually at the facility were now white. At the same time, visitor counts at properties such as Skyland, Big Meadows, and Dickey Ridge continued to be almost exclusively white.[154] As Erin Krutko Devlin notes in her 2010 study, "for local African Americans, integration in

the park was primarily experienced as the appearance of white guests and visitors in the campground, picnic areas, and lodge at Lewis Mountain rather than an expanded field of recreational opportunities for themselves."[155]

ADDITIONAL CABINS AT LEWIS MOUNTAIN

The increasing use of Lewis Mountain by white visitors coincided with the improvement of its facilities. Meaning, the Virginia Skyline Company could no longer ignore calls for its improvement or expansion by citing low visitation of Black campers. When integration began after 1945, the total capacity of overnight facilities at Lewis Mountain was significantly lower than in other areas of the park. Skyland could accommodate 226 guests and Big Meadows, 112 guests. Meanwhile, Lewis Mountain could only accommodate 6 groups in three duplex cabins, with one additional tent cabin.[156]



Figure 1.24. After ending overnight lodging at Dickey Ridge, the Virginia Skyline Company relocated two cabins to Lewis Mountain. Chestnut (pictured) and Spruce Cottages were installed in 1954. (SHEN 22055, Box 3 Bldg #0-282)



Figure 1.25. Spruce (pictured) and Chestnut cottages featured a similar design to the existing cabins at Lewis Mountain. The relocated cabins were installed on concrete masonry unit (CMU) foundations. (SHEN 22055, Box 3 Bldg #0-283)

In 1948, the Virginia Skyline Company commissioned Virginia architects Louis W. Ballou and Charles C. Justice to design two additional cabins at Lewis Mountain (Cabins 4 and 5). Unable to find building plans for the original cabins, Ballou and Justice prepared measured drawings of the existing cabins to blend the new construction with the existing environment. As a result, the new cabins were similar to those designed by Marcellus Wright, Jr. between 1939 and 1940, and featured two bedrooms with two separate entrances into the cabin (Figures 1.24-1.25). However, unlike their shared-bathroom predecessors, the new cabins featured two bathrooms instead of one. This made them slightly larger, at 474 sq ft (as opposed to 363).[157] These new cottages also included the addition of new asphalt walks, utility hookups, and likely, limited small-scale features such as trash cans, picnic tables, or boulders.

Similar improvements occurred in 1954, when the Virginia Skyline Company moved two cabins to Lewis Mountain from Dickey Ridge. These two cabins, Chestnut Cottage and Spruce Cottage, were originally constructed between 1938-1939 according to plans by Marcellus Wright, Jr. Like the other Wright Jr. cottages originally built at Lewis Mountain, they featured two bedrooms and a shared bathroom.[158]

Circa 1951, the original sign at the entrance to Lewis Mountain was replaced. The previous sign was installed in 1941 when the site was segregated. The new sign was significantly simpler in design, consisting of dimensional lumber. The 1951 installation of a new sign at Lewis Mountain was part of a park-wide replacement program of all entrance signs at developed areas. (See Figure 2.66 in the "Small Scale Features" section.)[159]

The relocation of the cottages to Lewis Mountain was part of a 1950s plan in which the Virginia Skyline Company ceased concessions operations at Dickey Ridge. The lodge at Dickey Ridge was remodeled into a National Park Service visitor center in 1958, and all but three cottages reserved for "emergency use" were relocated to other developed areas, including Lewis Mountain.[160]

Speculation as to why Dickey Ridge was dismantled and shut down as a concession's facility ranges widely. In his 1979 administrative history, Darwin Lambert quotes a 1949 letter from Superintendent Freeland, in which Freeland cites the "weakness" of the facility's managers and its proximity to the city of Front Royal, which apparently attracted an "undesirable element . . . that frequent[ed] Dickey Ridge."[161] To what or to whom Freeland was referring when he wrote this is unclear. In an alternate explanation, the National Register and National Historic Landmark nominations cite a lack of profitability and visitation as the main reason for the concessionaire's closure of Dickey Ridge. In any case, plans to relocate the cabins began forming in late 1952 and continued throughout 1953.[162]

The Regional Landscape Architect and the Park Engineer, upon visiting the proposed sites for the relocated cottages at Lewis Mountain in October 1953, recommended that the concessionaire shift the proposed placement.[163] Representatives of the Virginia Skyline Company wanted to relocate the two Dickey Ridge cottages to the south of the picnic area parking lot. Such an organization was in keeping with the 1938 master plan for Lewis Mountain that called for a concentrically organized series of 50 cabins in the central third of the landscape, across from the lodge. However, by this time, use of the picnic area had expanded across the parking lot into the area behind the cabins, where the concessionaire hoped to place the relocated cottages. Accordingly, park staff recommended situating the two new cottages south of the five extant cottages, along the road to the campground.[164] Park staff were careful to orient the relocated Chestnut Cottage along the east-west axis and parallel with Cabin 5. Such an orientation preserved the possibility of additional cabins linked by a planned spur road, as originally outlined in the 1930s master plans for Lewis Mountain.[165] The cabins were removed from Dickey Ridge and installed sometime in the first few months of 1954.[166]

Utility corridor
To Swift Run
Skyline Drive
To Thornton Gap
Historic Appalachian Trail route
Retaining wall
Blocked view
Power plant
Amphitheater
Lodge
Rock outcropping
Campground comfort station
Campground office
Cabin 15
Chestnut cottage F
Spruce cottage G
Cabin 5
Cabin 4
Cabin 3
Cabin 2
Cabin 1
Boulder field
Picnic grounds comfort station
Fire foot trail to Lewis Mountain summit
Appalachian Trail

Cultural Landscape Report

Shenandoah National Park
Lewis Mountain Area
Virginia

1954 Historic Period Plan

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. NPS Existing Conditions Map, 1956
2. Proposed Lewis Mountain Renovation of Roads and Sites Sketch Map, 1967
3. Lewis Mountain Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2011
4. USGS Digital Elevation Model, 2021
5. NPS Landsnet Boundaries and Tracts
6. Field Review, April and August 2022

DRAWN BY

Ethan Berriault, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021
Megan Cahill, ArcGIS Pro 3.1, 2023

LEGEND

- Cultural Landscape Boundary
- Turf
- Woods
- Road
- Path
- Building
- Retaining Wall
- Boulder
- Boulder Fountain
- Grill
- Sign
- Dusk-to-Dawn Lights

NOTES

1. Projection: Virginia North State Plane NAD83
2. Contour Interval = 5'-0"
3. All features shown in approximate scale and location

0 43 85 170 Feet

Drawing 2

MISSION 66, DESEGREGATION, AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968 (1954 CE – 1968 CE)

MISSION 66 AT SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

Following World War II, the condition of national parks across the country languished. Piecemeal improvements at Lewis Mountain, such as the addition and relocation of cabins, were not enough to address the park's postwar needs. Meanwhile, record visitation (from Americans eager to recreate after the war) collided with reduced park budgets, limited staff, and the continued elimination of New Deal labor programs (such as the Civilian Conservation Corps). To address this crisis, National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth proposed to Congress a 10-year service-wide construction program, with funding that would begin immediately in 1956, and continue over the next decade. Named "Mission 66," the program was "intended to modernize, enlarge, and even reinvent the park system by 1966, the fiftieth anniversary of the National Park Service."[167] Mission 66 brought a new style to the parks as it broke with the traditional Rustic Style and introduced the International Style and Modernist design to National Parks. Mission 66 projects aimed to bring modern standards of comfort and efficiency to the National Park Service.[168]

Over the next decade, Shenandoah National Park used Mission 66 funding to renew buildings, resurface roads, upgrade utilities, rehabilitate and build trails, develop new picnic areas and campgrounds, install interpretive signage, and create a visitor center and new park headquarters, among other projects.[169]

MISSION 66 IMPROVEMENTS AT LEWIS MOUNTAIN

The Mission 66 prospectus for Shenandoah National Park was approved by the Regional Office Associate Director on February 8, 1957, pending a few key deletions and revisions. At Lewis Mountain, the park proposed constructing a shower house to serve overnight lodgers and campers. The Regional Office ordered the deletion of that line item with the explanation that such a facility should be constructed by the concessionaire and not with government funds. The Associate Director held that he had no objection to providing such facilities, only to the use of the government funds to do so. He also noted that providing showers at only some overnight facilities might cause disparity with other areas in the park.[170] As a result, no such freestanding facility was ever built at Lewis Mountain. (Showers were later installed by the concessionaire inside the lodge.)

Requested funding for Lewis Mountain under the approved Mission 66 prospectus totaled $145,000, which broke down into $50,000 for roads and trails and $95,000 for buildings and utilities:

- Roads and Trails
    - $50,000 - The expansion of the Lewis Mountain road and trail system
- Buildings and Utilities
    - Utilities
        - $7,500 – Expansion of [existing] water system to serve new comfort stations
        - $9,300 – Expansion of [existing] sewer system to serve new comfort stations
        - $8,200 – Expansion of [existing] electrical system to serve new comfort stations
    - Buildings
        - $30,000 – New comfort station
        - $20,000 – New shelter
- Miscellaneous
    - $20,000 – Expansion and site improvements at campground and picnic area, including 10 picnic sites and 25 campsites

The approved development schedule did not guarantee funding. Instead, it was used to estimate the cost of future park planning and construction efforts under the Mission 66 program. However, all proposed Lewis Mountain projects were categorized as second priority, subject to other larger, more pressing undertakings at the park. In this way, Mission 66 had only a small direct impact on the cultural



Figure 1.26. The campfire circle or amphitheater at Lewis Mountain was built early in the Mission 66 program and was in place by the time the 1957 prospectus was completed. It featured simple plank seating and a central screen, shown in this 1962 photo. The amphitheater was later removed in the 2000s. (E. Ray Schaeffer, SHEN 22060/4001.009.004.07023/Negative No. 6155)

landscape, including the addition of the amphitheater/campfire circle (not initially called for in the prospectus) and new small-scale features (Figure 1.26).

Even while the park's Mission 66 prospectus was being authored prior to 1957, small improvements were undertaken using Mission 66 funding at Lewis Mountain. This included the immediate construction of a temporary amphitheater at Lewis Mountain circa 1956. Earlier sketch plans placed the amphitheater immediately west of the existing comfort station. These in-process drawings show the thinking of park planners who were authoring the document that would guide the improvement of park facilities under the Mission 66 program. As built, the amphitheater was located between the picnic grounds and cabin area. Existing conditions plans in the park archives from 1956 show a hastily drawn pencil sketch of an amphitheater labeled as "existing," indicating that the structure was built by this time.[171] Interpretive program photos from 1959 and 1962 show a simple amphitheater design, featuring plank benches, a small screen at it its front, and a small storage room to the side.[172]

In addition to improved visitor's facilities and park infrastructure, Mission 66 guidelines stressed interpretation of park resources for visitors. A variety of interpretive elements were implemented and developed throughout the park during this time, including the first interpretive nature trail in the park at Stony Man, near Skyland.[173] Park naturalists also worked in developed areas, hosting more programming, including evening campfire and amphitheater talks, and creating self-guiding nature activities.[174] The park naturalist program proposed expanding the Lewis Mountain picnic area's existing 110-seat campfire circle and adding a new self-guided nature trail. The route of the proposed trail would begin at the picnic grounds and run along the Appalachian Trail to the edge of the picnic area, ending in a loop again at the campfire circle. However, no evidence indicates that either project was ever built.[175]

At Lewis Mountain, larger expansion plans stalled amid a lack of funding and shifting park priorities. In 1960, the Regional Director of Operations sent a memorandum to the Park Superintendent, noting the lack of improvements at Lewis Mountain and asking staff to resubmit for funding in 1961. In response, a new proposal for an expanded campground sought additional funding in the form of site preparation to "provide for well-designed layouts and pleasing individual camping spaces."[176] While Mission 66 organizers had decidedly modern concerns about campground development, Meinecke and Good's principles of scenic campground development still guided landscape design at Lewis Mountain.

Various master plans during Mission 66 offered competing visions for what a rehabilitated and expanded Lewis Mountain should look like (Figure 1.28). This included where additional camping spurs would be located and how circulation would travel at Lewis Mountain. Sketches in the park archives show proposed additional units, including the construction of an additional loop apart from the

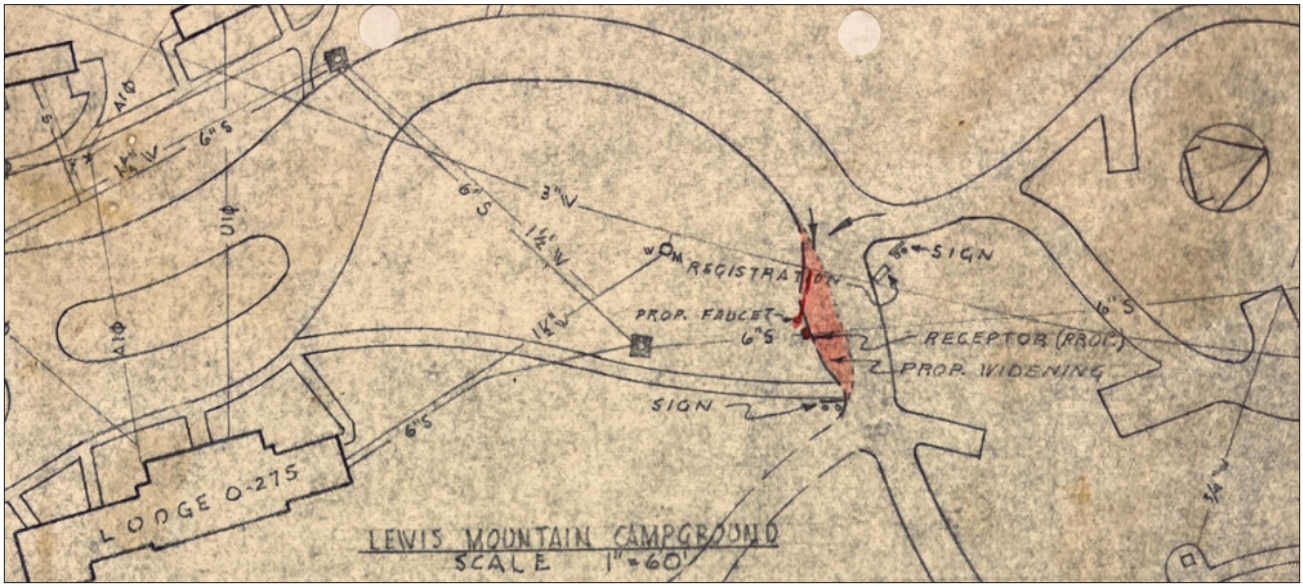


Figure 1.27. In 1961, to accommodate modern RVs with waste storage, the National Park Service proposed installing a sewage holding tank and waste disposal facility near the campground entrance. It was never constructed. (SHEN Map Case 11, Drawer 2, Folder 4)

existing campground near Lewis Mountain's summit, or the addition of a new road along the existing central footpath. Both options were replaced with a final version that added a loop to the northwest of the existing campground.[177] See Figure 1.27. In 1961, park staff sought to preempt the addition of modern trailer and RV-style camping spaces by proposing a waste storage and disposal tank near the entrance to the campground. This was never built.

Nearing the end of Mission 66, park staff began preparing a new master plan for Shenandoah National Park. Approved in 1963, the plan called for greatly expanded facilities. For the Lewis Mountain picnic area, the plan called for a new modern comfort station, increased picnic capacity to 48 sites, and the formalization and expansion of a campfire circle/amphitheater where rangers would conduct regular programs for campers and picnickers. In the campground, the plan called for the construction of an additional comfort station, an expanded camping capacity of 51 sites, and the creation of the previously-planned self-guided nature trail.[178]

No major projects, or indeed the simple nature trail, were ever realized at Lewis Mountain during the decade-long Mission 66. In the last few years of the program, Mission 66 funding remained nonexistent for any large-scale projects at Lewis Mountain. However, the National Park Service funded and implemented smaller rehabilitation efforts using Mission 66 funding. In the fall of 1964, the park contracted with Painter & Munday, Inc., a firm from Elkton, Virginia, to repave all existing roads and parking areas at Lewis Mountain and South River. The total cost of the project was $5,691.36; it included one previously unpaved parking spur on the western terminus of the picnic grounds.[179]



Figure 1.28. Various master plans during Mission 66 offered competing visions for what a rehabilitated and expanded Lewis Mountain should look like. (TOP) This 1960 plan calls for the expansion of the campground with new spurs, an additional loop, and second comfort station (all shown in red). It also proposed a new campfire circle in the picnic grounds. (BOTTOM) Alternate plans called for the creation of a new internal loop in place of the existing central sidewalk. Sketches also detailed a new "loop A" along the ridgeline toward Lewis Mountain summit. (SHEN Map Case 11, Drawer 2, Folder 4)

DESEGREGATION

Uncertainty around racial policies following the desegregation of public spaces at national parks resulted in the decline of Black visitors at Shenandoah. As historians from Colorado State University noted in their 2018 report on Lewis Mountain, "broad, sudden, and poorly-communicated changes to racial norms implanted from the top down made Black spaces outdoors more vulnerable, while failing to offer Black people equal access to white spaces."[180] In effect, Shenandoah National Park itself was desegregated since 1946, but public spaces in Virginia remained legally segregated until 1964. The official desegregation of Shenandoah National Park erased any dedicated safe space managed for and by Black people at Lewis Mountain. Instead, Black travelers to the park faced increased uncertainty and risk when trying to discern what spaces were available to them both within and outside the park's boundaries.[181]

Numerous legal challenges to Jim Crow policies of segregation in public parks were filed following the Supreme Court's ruling in Brown v. Board of Education in 1954. This ruling held that "separate educational institutions are inherently unequal."[182] The legal logic used in the case was subsequently applied by courts to parks across the South. Accordingly, park systems in Maryland, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Kentucky desegregated their facilities in 1955.[183] However, the state government of Virginia actively sought out and implemented ways to prevent the desegregation of its facilities. This included the outright closure of parks to the public or attempts to lease them to private companies that would uphold segregationist policies.[184] Legal challenges to Virginia's segregationist park policies were eventually superseded when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1963 in Watson v. City of Memphis that public parks should be immediately desegregated. Their ruling, however, was not enforced until the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which ostensibly ended the legal mechanisms of Jim Crow and mandated desegregation of public spaces.[185]

Desegregation efforts begun by the National Park Service in 1945 and expanded nationally in 1964, led to the decline of Black visitors to Lewis Mountain. The desegregation of state parks came almost twenty years after similar efforts occurred at Shenandoah National Park. The 1964 Civil Rights Act indirectly contributed to the decline in use of park facilities by local Black groups, including those in Luray. Several Black groups who historically used Lewis Mountain moved their Homecoming celebrations to public parks closer to their homes or to facilities that offered a wider range of recreational opportunities, such as those with swimming pools or playing fields.[186]

In keeping with the design principles and goals of Mission 66, the Lewis Mountain campground was rehabilitated between 1967 and 1968—after the formal end of the Mission 66 program (Figure 1.30). This included expanding parking spaces to accommodate car-trailer camping units and new tables, fireplaces, and garbage

cans. The total scope of work included: 14,840 square feet of additional pavement; 9 new fireplaces and 4 relocated; 12 new tables and 2 relocated; and 2 new trash cans and 5 relocated. The program also included addition of a camp-wide lighting system featuring dusk-to-dawn lights. [187]

Prior to rehabilitation, observed issues included significant soil erosion from foot and vehicle traffic, which removed topsoil and grass and exposed tree roots. Staff also noted the declining condition of small-scale features, and the lack of facilities for larger trailer and car campers. To accommodate this, National Park Service staff replaced some small-scale features in the campground, such as picnic tables and fire rings; fertilized, seeded with grass, and replenished the top 2" of soil; and enlarged or eliminated outdated camping spurs to accommodate modern trailer campers. Newly enlarged parking spurs could accommodate both a car and camper, where previously, campers had to resort to their ingenuity to accommodate both. These larger sites forced National Park Service staff to change the direction of traffic flow from counterclockwise to clockwise (see Figure 1.30) to accommodate the new parking spur arrangement and the longer length of cars and trailers. The total cost of the rehabilitation of Lewis Mountain was $27,985.[188]

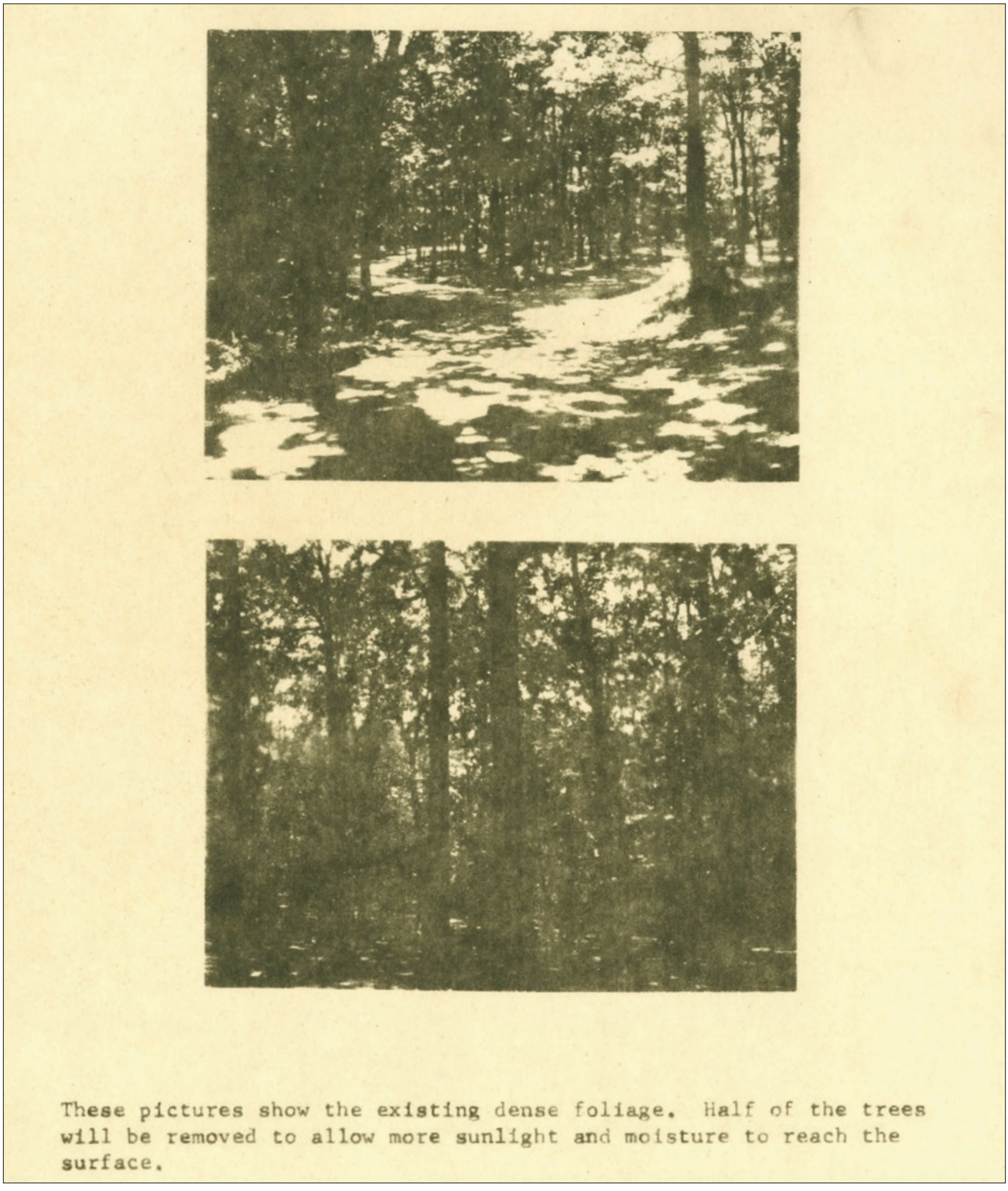
By this time, park staff felt that many campsites had become overgrown with vegetation. The 1967 proposal called for the thinning of vegetation between campsites to allow for more light and moisture to reach the soil surface. It is not known if the thinning was completed.[189] (See Figure 1.29)

In a series of photos attached to the rehabilitation proposal, National Park Service staff also proposed several other changes that were implemented later. These included the 1968-1969 replacement of the campground registration box with a new self-registration board that featured a wooden map of the campground with slots where campers could place a tag and self-select a campsite. This board was set into a paved area supported by a new stone retaining wall and tree well. It was installed at the campground entrance, which was both widened and featured a different one-way orientation.[190]

After decades of downplaying the need for improvements when Lewis Mountain served Black visitors, the increased demand by campers at Lewis Mountain following desegregation prompted park expansion plans. The 1969 Design Analysis, which followed the 1967-1968 campground rehabilitation, called for the expansion of the Lewis Mountain campground—an idea previously proposed under Mission 66. Such an expansion would include an additional loop adjacent to existing circulation features, adding 12 to 14 additional campsites for $30,000. The plan also maintained the Mission 66-era proposal for the creation of a self-guided nature trail through Lewis Mountain adjacent to campground and Appalachian Trail, with markers that would cost $5,000. The park never built the nature trail or the additional campground loop.

Figure 1.29. Existing conditions photos from 1967 indicate a heavily forested campground with dense vegetation between each camping spur. National Park Service staff proposed a thinning of vegetation during the rehabilitation. (SHEN 21206, Box 104, Folder 5)

The design analysis also called for the complete replacement of the picnic grounds' comfort station (a cost of $15,000) and a rehabilitation of the campground comfort station. Once the campground was expanded, the plan also proposed a new $15,000 comfort station in the campground and an associated sewage field. The proposed addition of the new comfort station also necessitated the eventual replacement of the water system at Lewis Mountain; it was 30 years



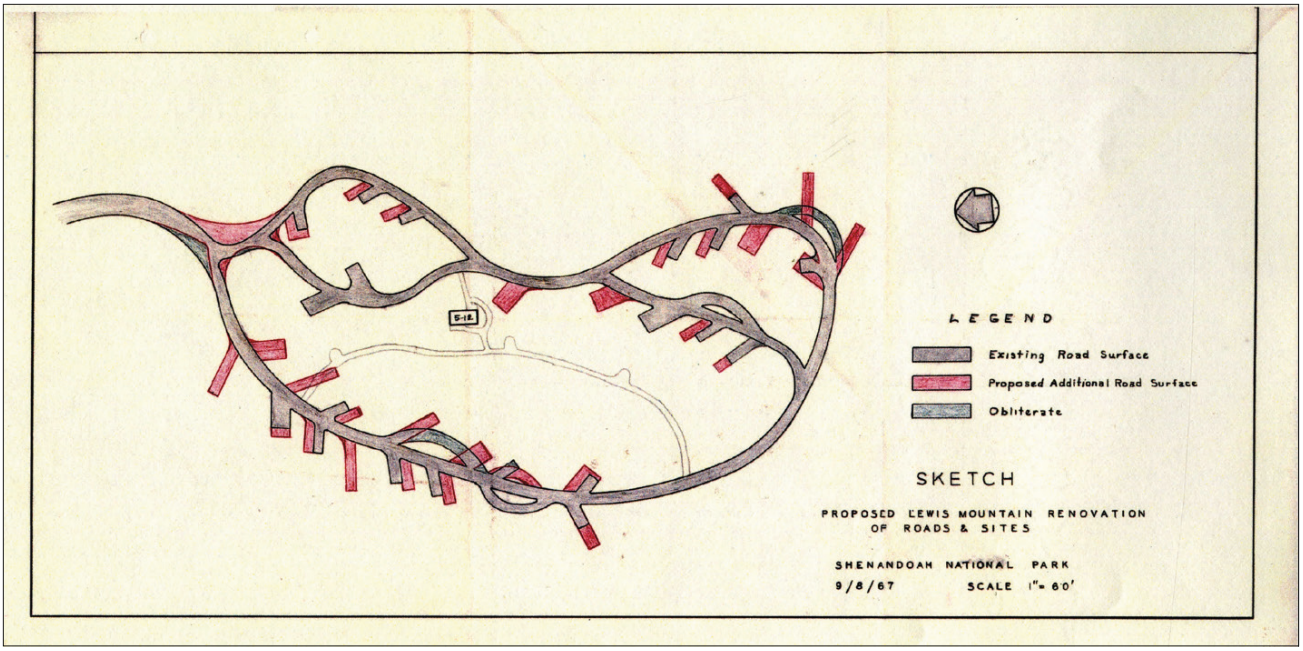


Figure 1.30. During the 1967-1968 Lewis Mountain campground rehabilitation, National Park Service staff modified the original Meinecke-type loops. They changed the direction of circulation, enlarged existing parking spurs, and added and removed spurs. (SHEN Map Case 22, Drawer 2, Folder 5)

old by this time, and consisted of the stone spring house that pumped water to an underground reservoir. The cost of this effort was $45,000 for the water system and $35,000 for the additional sewage fields. Electricity would be expanded to all new buildings for a total cost of $15,000. Lastly, the 1969 plan called for the razing of the Mission 66 temporary campfire circle and the complete elimination of campfire programs at Lewis Mountain. The estimated grand total for the proposed 1969 expansion was $218,000, although few of these plans were realized; only the water and electrical systems upgrades were constructed.

Concurrent with the 1969 design analysis for Lewis Mountain, the Virginia Skyline Company sought to experiment with a new indoor-outdoor camping model in the areas adjacent to the existing cabins. Such a model would afford campers cheaper accommodations than traditional cabins. The Virginia Skyline Company stated that should the Lewis Mountain indoor-outdoor experiment be successful, a similar model could be implemented at Loft Mountain in lieu of the costlier multi-unit building type used at Skyland.[191] The new area would be serviced by a two-way spur road from the main circulation route and would consist of 12 rental units and parking spaces for $16,000. The precise details of this plan are not known, and the proposal was likely not implemented.

By the late 1960s, the Lewis Mountain lodge no longer offered food service. This was likely due to the cessation of management operations by local Black families, such as the Tutts and Wrights. The lodge was converted into a check-in facility for lodgers and campers.[192] The park stated that there was no need for a concessionaire to provide a camp store or food service at Lewis Mountain due to the proximity of similar facilities at Big Meadows. The design analysis carefully noted, then crossed out, the former segregated status of the campground, noting

"originally this development was constructed for the use of negro visitors but is now open entirely to all visitors."

Responding to the lack of food service, the Virginia Skyline Company designed and built dining pavilions outside of each cabin in 1968. These pavilions allowed campers at Lewis Mountain to supply and cook their own food, in lieu of a communal dining experience at the lodge. The Virginia Skyline Company commissioned local architects Baughan & Baukhages of Luray to create these sympathetic, rustic dining shelters. Baughan & Baukhages came up with several schemes that respond to the topographic conditions and aesthetic consideration of each historic cabin. As built, these pavilions consisted of attached additions at the sides and rear of individual cabins, as well as free-standing versions.[193]



Cultural Landscape Report

Shenandoah National Park
Lewis Mountain Area
Virginia

1968 Historic Period Plan

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Lewis Mountain Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2011
2. Skyline Drive Land Use Map, Lewis Mountain, 1963
3. USGS Digital Elevation Model, 2021
4. NPS Landsnet Boundaries and Tracts
5. Field Review, April and August 2022

DRAWN BY

Ethan Berriault, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021
Megan Cahill, ArcGIS Pro 3.1, 2023

LEGEND

- Cultural Landscape Boundary
- Turf
- Woods
- Road
- Path
- Building
- Retaining Wall
- Boulder
- Boulder Fountain
- Grill
- Sign
- Dusk-to-Dawn Lights

NOTES

1. Projection: Virginia North State Plane NAD83
2. Contour Interval = 5'-0"
3. All features shown in approximate scale and location

0 43 85 170 Feet

Drawing 3

RECENT CHANGES TO LEWIS MOUNTAIN (1968 CE – 1999 CE)

Minor changes to the cultural landscape of Lewis Mountain occurred in the mid-1990s, following the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In 1995, Spruce Cottage G was designated an accessible cabin and retrofitted with a ramp, parking space, and accessible interior amenities. The following year, the entrance to the lodge/camp store was modified to increase accessibility. This included interior bathroom alterations and the addition of an exterior ramp to the bathrooms and laundry areas.[194]

Efforts to preserve Lewis Mountain continued in 1999 with the completion of a Cultural Landscape Inventory, completed by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. Concurrent with these efforts, National Park Service staff conducted maintenance treatments on Cabins 1, 2, 4, and 5, the structures most urgently in need of preservation. This included the installation of a new roof, porch restorations, and the repair and replacement of cabin siding. All changes were in keeping with original design intent and significance of the cultural landscape.[195]

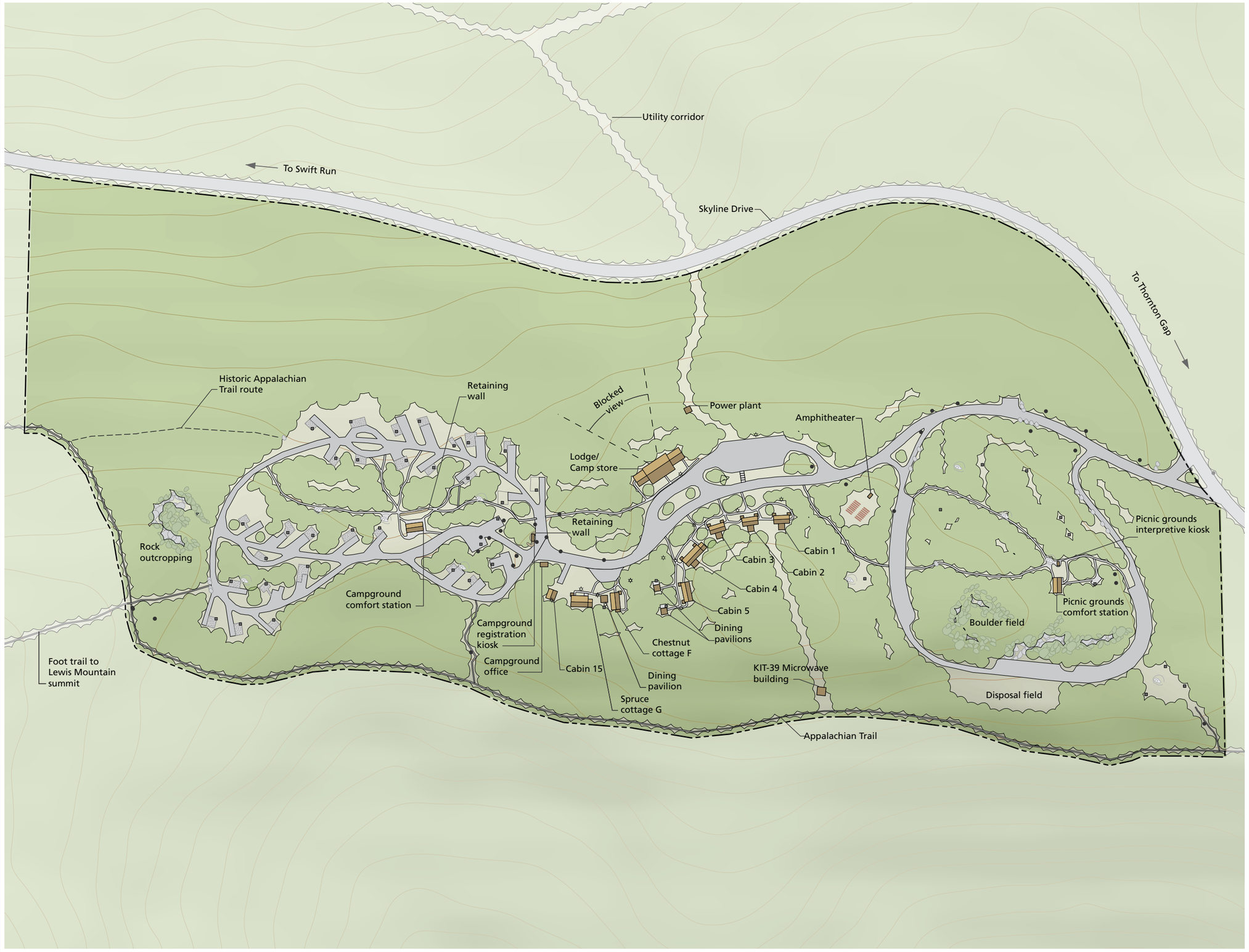
Between 1999 and 2000, National Park Service staff updated underground utility lines, resulting in the loss of large swaths of vegetation throughout the cultural landscape. Concurrent with the utility work, National Park Service staff widened and repaved roads throughout the developed area, including the pull-offs in front of each cabin.[196] In 2001, park staffed rehabilitated the picnic area, including repairing the historic log privacy screens and flagstone entrances at comfort station.[197] Park staff also removed the adjacent amphitheater for unknown reasons. It was eventually replaced with moveable wooden benches in the 2020s in the same place. These benches are in place today.[198]

In 2002 and 2003, park staff completed preservation maintenance treatments on the remaining buildings and structures. Staff removed rotten siding and modern roofing on Cabins G and F and replaced them with in-kind wooden elements. The concrete masonry unit (CMU) and pipe railings of these two cabins were replaced with wooden posts, in keeping with the original design of the porches prior to their relocation at Lewis Mountain. Lastly, park staff repaired and replaced the historic roof of the campground office.[199]

Almost immediately after finishing preservation treatment at Lewis Mountain, Hurricane Isabel significantly damaged the landscape. The 2003 storm downed thousands of trees in the park, including many at Lewis Mountain. Minor damage to buildings resulted from the storm, but the bulk of the damage occurred in the landscape, which saw the loss of numerous historic plantings dating to the Civilian Conservation Corps's efforts during the period of significance. In the following months, staff planted several replacement trees and shrubs of unknown species throughout the Lewis Mountain landscape. Their locations are unknown.[200] Between 2004 and 2005, landscape rehabilitation efforts continued. Asphalt

parking pull-offs in front of each cabin, installed in the 1960s, were removed and the areas reseeded. The notable exception was for cabins designated accessible, which retained their parking areas. Walkways throughout the cultural landscape were also repaired with asphalt.[201]

Lewis Mountain was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. It was part of a boundary increase that included many of the previously unlisted developed areas throughout the park.[202]



Cultural Landscape Report

Shenandoah National Park
Lewis Mountain Area
Virginia

1999 Historic Period Plan

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Lewis Mountain Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2011
2. USGS Digital Elevation Model, 2021
3. NPS Landsnet Boundaries and Tracts
4. Field Review, April and August 2022

DRAWN BY

Ethan Berriault, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021
Megan Cahill, ArcGIS Pro 3.1, 2023

LEGEND

- Cultural Landscape Boundary
- Turf
- Woods
- Road
- Gravel
- Path
- Building
- Retaining Wall
- Boulder
- Boulder Fountain
- Grill
- Sign
- Dusk-to-Dawn Lights

NOTES

1. Projection: Virginia North State Plane NAD83
2. Contour Interval = 5'-0"
3. All features shown in approximate scale and location
4. Canopy approximated from aerial imagery.

0 43 85 170 Feet

Drawing 4

TELLING THE STORY OF LEWIS MOUNTAIN—RECENT CHANGES (1975 CE – PRESENT)

TELLING THE STORY OF SEGREGATION AT SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

Efforts to research and interpret the story of Lewis Mountain began in 1975, when Shenandoah National Park's naturalist division started an oral history program, with the goal of producing historical materials for the interpretive program. By recording oral interviews, these efforts had the added benefit of preserving the memories and lived experiences of park staff, the displaced, visitors, and Civilian Conservation Corps workers. In the first year of the program, the naturalist division conducted over 30 interviews.[203]

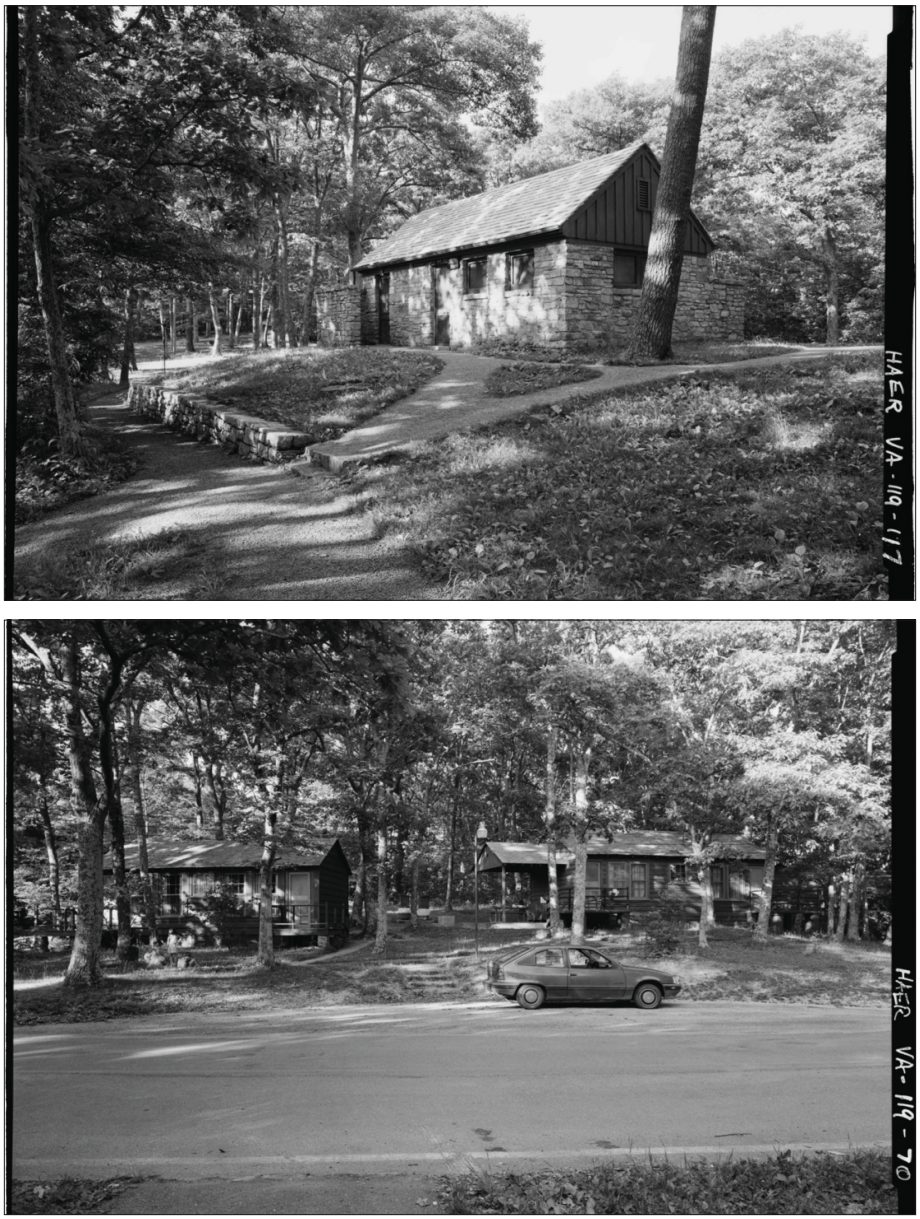


Figure 1.31. In 1996, the Historic American Engineering Record documented Skyline Drive. During this process, staff recorded the buildings and structures at Lewis Mountain. (William A. Faust II, HAER VA 119, Library of Congress)

In 1976 and 1978, Luray resident and *Page News and Courier* columnist Dorothy Noble Smith conducted the first oral histories that contended with the legacy of racial segregation. Smith began by interviewing Kathleen C. Lassiter (1899-1996), the wife of the late Superintendent James Ralph Lassiter, who died in 1956.[204] Superintendent Lassiter had presided over the park during its early commitment to and enforcement of a segregationist agenda. In 1978, Smith, on behalf of Shenandoah National Park, interviewed Lloyd Tutt, the manager of Lewis Mountain from 1941 to 1953.[205] A photograph of Tutt and portions of that interview were later published in a column in the *Page News and Courier* (Figure 1.32). The full interview became part of Shenandoah National Park's archival collection.

Building on the work of Dorothy Noble Smith, park historian Darwin Lambert penned an extensive chapter of his administrative history on segregation and desegregation in Shenandoah National Park.[206] This was the first comprehensive effort by the National Park Service to acknowledge and reckon with the history of racism at Shenandoah National Park.[207] However, Lambert's analysis of race in Shenandoah maintained that the park—and its segregationist superintendent Lassiter—did its best to help Black visitors and that criticism of its efforts were unfounded.[208] In 1989, Lambert's research on Lewis Mountain and Shenandoah's desegregation experiments, among other Shenandoah topics, was formalized into a published book entitled *The Undying Past of Shenandoah National Park*.

Figure 1.32. Lloyd Tutt, shown here, was the manager of Lewis Mountain from 1941 to 1953. Dorothy Noble Smith interviewed him in 1978, during one of the first efforts to tell the story of Lewis Mountain. (*Page News and Courier*, February 9, 1978: 13)



VALLEY TALKS

Lloyd Tutt shares memories of life, work

Interviews with people of Page County on topics of interest to our Valley.

By DOROTHY NOBLE SMITH

An interview with Lloyd Tutt takes us back in time as his memories and accomplishments encompass almost 80 years of living in our Valley.

His philosophy has always been that "everyone can do anything they want to do. As long as you like what you are doing, you will do it well and never get tired."

Mr. Tutt, what was your early life like?

"My father was half Indian and raised by a family in Crigersville. The Red Gate was the old trail from Crigersville to the Rapidan. My daddy used to take us over that road from Luray in a spring wagon to what they called a 'Three Day Association.' We'd go by Red Gate across the mountain. My kinfolk over there made the best soda biscuits I ever ate!

"They don't have clabber nowadays, but then they used to put the milk in the spring house and end up with clabber. So one day over there I said to my brother, 'Jim, let's take some soda biscuits and go get some clabber.' Well, we did and, oh my, did we have tummyaches. We had too much, you see.

"I was practically brought up with M. J. Menefee. We would go hunting and fishing together and had great

regular army in 1915. They gave me some basic training but didn't call me up until 1917 when they sent me to Arizona for real basic training. Then I was shipped back to, of all places, Fort Lee. About that time the draft came along and who should show up at Fort Lee but 16 of my friends from Luray! After there, I was sent to France.

"I was in the battle of Argonne Forest as first sergeant of the 351st Machine Gun Company. We were on the left flank of the 13th Infantry when I was hit with schrapnel. I knew I had been hit, but didn't realize anything was really wrong with me.

"Six years later my left side became numb and my right eye had the optic nerve severed. Doctors said the schrapnel had been gradually working into my body and cut the nerves. Though I've been to many good hospitals, there is nothing they can do to help me."

What did you do after the War?

"I came back to Luray and again worked as a mechanic until 1941. The next 12 years were some of my finest I've ever had. Mr. Lakey of the Shenandoah National Park concessions offered me the job of running the lodge and campground at Lewis Mountain.

"Mr. Lakey gave me just a few instructions and then gave me total responsibility—be sure there was no integration at Lewis Mountain, keep control of the people, be responsible

Lloyd H. Tutt relaxes at home

them and said, 'You came here to

one was ever asked to do another

In 1996, Reed Engle was appointed the first cultural resource specialist at Shenandoah National Park, kicking off 15 years of historic preservation efforts.[209] Engle, who had previously worked at Gettysburg National Military Park and as the first Regional Historical Landscape Architect, worked to shift the park's approach toward one that recognized both cultural and natural resources, rather than a primarily nature-based focus. Within his first year at Shenandoah National Park, Engle wrote an essay on Lewis Mountain entitled "Laboratory for Change." The article, which contended that Lewis Mountain was a national testing grounds for the Department of the Interior's race policies, was initially published in the January 1996 *Resource Management Newsletter* of Shenandoah National Park. In 1998, the article was edited and published in a larger special issue of the *Cultural Resource Management* journal published by the Department of the Interior.[210]

Engle's work coincided with a massive effort to preserve and nominate the park's cultural resources to the National Register of Historic Places. The initial historic district nomination was completed for Skyline Drive in 1997, but did not include Lewis Mountain. A year prior, the Historic American Engineering Record documented Skyline Drive, including several photographs of Lewis Mountain (Figure 1.31).[211]

INTERPRETING THE HISTORY OF LEWIS MOUNTAIN

Building on the past work of historians and resource managers, park staff in the early 2000s began to publicly interpret the story of Lewis Mountain. In the mid-2000s, Shenandoah National Park staff, through a task agreement, worked with Dr. Erin Krutko Devlin and the College of William and Mary to research the cultural history of Lewis Mountain, racial segregation, and Black visitation at Shenandoah National Park. Devlin and her team identified former employees and families who used Lewis Mountain during the period of significance and

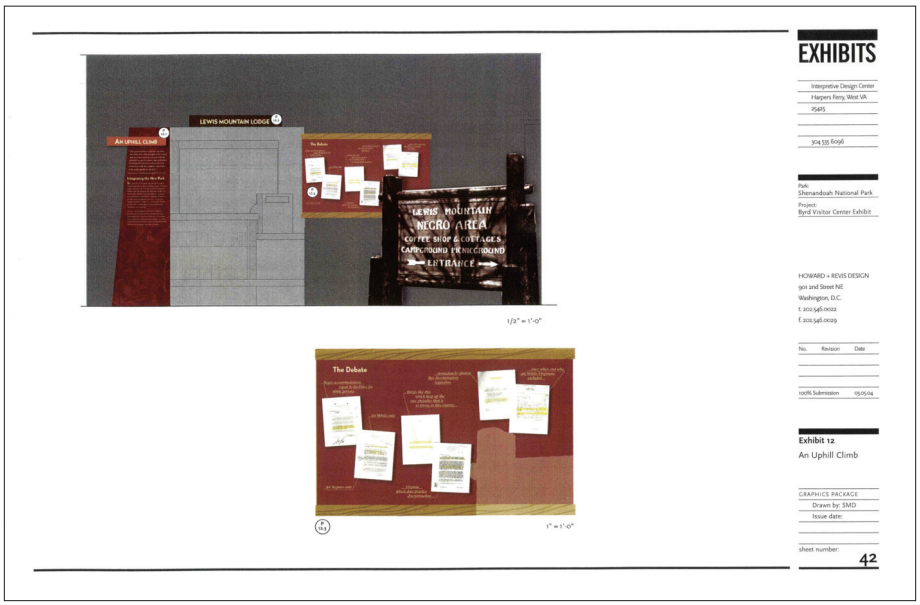


Figure 1.33. The 2007 exhibit in the Shenandoah National Park visitor center focused on the experience of visitors to Lewis Mountain during Jim Crow. It featured a reconstructed entrance sign, lodge dining room counter, and photos from historic user groups. (ETIC SHEN_134_124200, Sheet 42 available via https://pubs.nps.gov/)

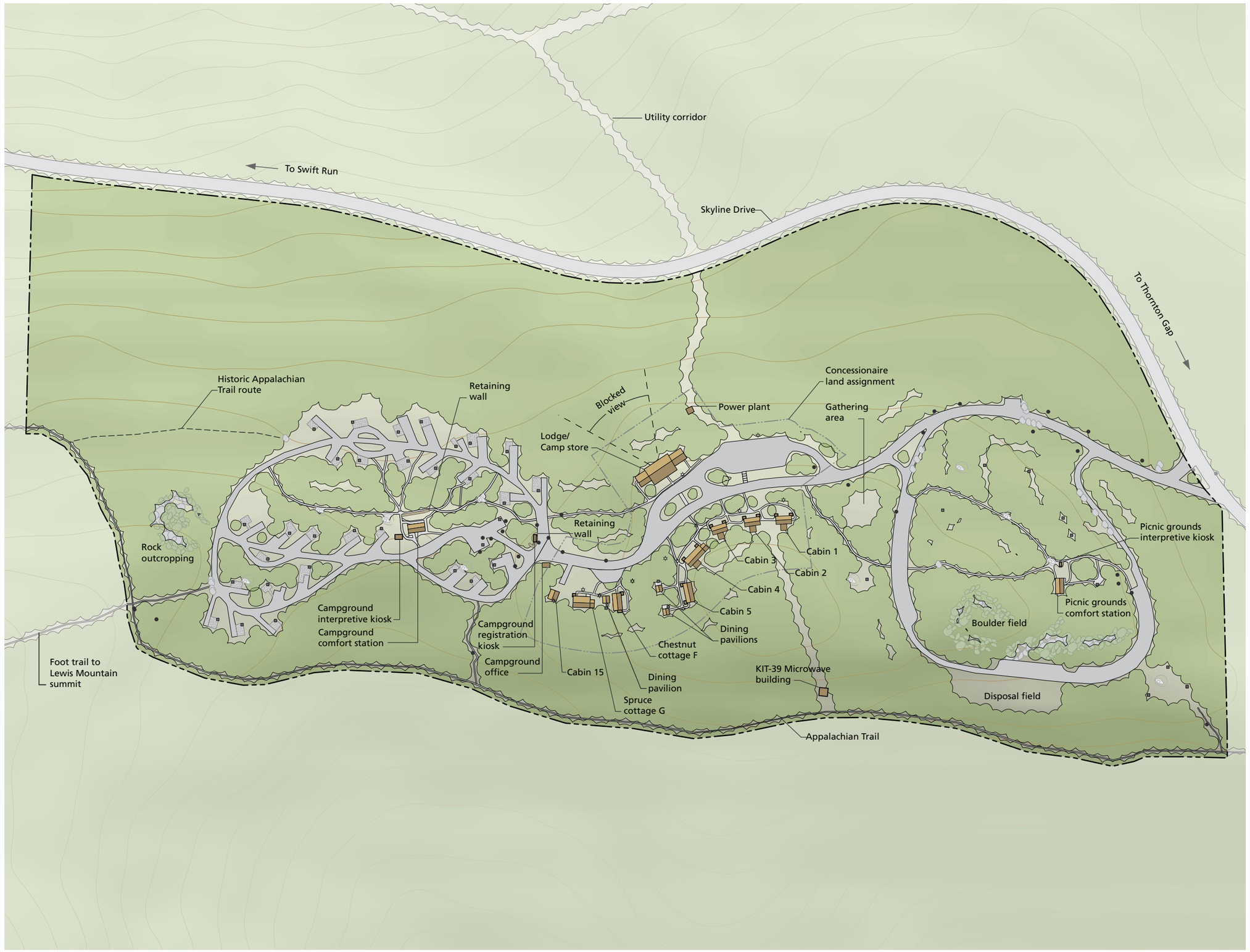
interviewed them. These oral histories were added to the park's archives and incorporated in the 2009 and 2010 studies.[212] Other group oral histories were completed by Reed Engle and his team in August of 2006.[213]

Devlin's research occurred concurrently with development of a new exhibit at the park's visitor center led by Interpretive Specialist Claire Comer and others. The new exhibit, entitled "Within a Day's Drive of Millions," opened in 2007 at the Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Visitor Center in Shenandoah National Park (Figure 1.33). Research by park interpretive and cultural resource staff resulted in the design and creation of a significant portion of the new exhibit that is devoted to the stories of Lewis Mountain that are forthright in interpreting segregation.[214]

In 2008, the Skyline Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark. Lewis Mountain is listed as a significant contributing site to the historic district.[215]

In 2012, the Interpretation and Education Division of Shenandoah National Park, under contract with the Harpers Ferry Center, designed and installed on-site interpretive exhibit panels at the Lewis Mountain campground. These panels, typical of National Park Service acrylic waysides, detail the segregated history of Lewis Mountain, its staff, and what life was like during the period of significance. They are housed under a wooden awning alongside other interpretive panels that highlight the park's natural history, campground regulations, and other important information.[216]

Between 2017 and 2022, further research efforts led by Claire Comer and her team have sought to expand on past work and to develop other means of interpretation, education, and preservation. In 2017, Comer commissioned Colorado State University to expand on Devlin's 2009 and 2010 studies. The center's report, published in 2018, contextualized Lewis Mountain within the larger setting of segregation and desegregation nationwide. In 2020, Venus Amadi, a park intern, completed further research as part of the National Park Service's Historically Black Colleges and Universities Internship Program. Beginning in 2021, park interpretive staff began creating an interactive educational curriculum about segregation and desegregation using Shenandoah as a case study.[217] This and other forthcoming efforts hope to tell the story of Lewis Mountain more broadly, and to preserve it for generations to come.



Cultural Landscape Report

Shenandoah National Park
Lewis Mountain Area
Virginia

2023 Existing Conditions

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Lewis Mountain Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2011
2. Lewis Mountain Site Plan Condition Assessment, 2019
3. USGS Orthoimagery, 2018
4. USGS Digital Elevation Model, 2021
5. NPS Landsnet Boundaries and Tracts
6. Field Review, April and August 2022

DRAWN BY

Ethan Berriault, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021
Megan Cahill, ArcGIS Pro 3.0, 2023

LEGEND

- Cultural Landscape Boundary
- Concessionaire Land Assignment
- Turf
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NOTES

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2. Contour Interval = 5'-0"
3. All features shown in approximate scale and location
4. Canopy approximated from aerial imagery.

0 43 85 170 Feet

Drawing 5

ENDNOTES, SITE HISTORY

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109 Krutko Devlin, *Under the Sky All of Us Free*, 55-56.

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124 Shirley Ann Tutt McCoy with Elaine Taylor Blakey, James Edward Parks, and Francine Parks, interviewed by Monica Rhodes, Jacob Torkelson, and Randall Mason, August 30, 2022, transcribed by Jane Nasta, 4-5.

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128 Elaine Taylor Blakey, interviewed by Maya Johnson, College of William and Mary, August 10, 2007, Lewis Mountain, Shenandoah National Park, VA.

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135 Robinson et al., "Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary)," National Register Nomination, 8-88.

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137 See various photographs of Lewis Mountain buildings and structures in Boxes 2, 3, 9, 13-14, SHEN 22055, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA.

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139 See various master plans created for Shenandoah National Park, including plans published in 1938, 1943, 1945. SHEN 47218, Shelf 4, Box 8; SHEN 47218, Shelf 4, Box 15; SHEN 50801, Shelf 4, Box 18.

140 Erin Krutko Devlin and Maya Johnson, "Under the Sky All of Us Free: African American Travel, Visitation, and Segregation in Shenandoah National Park," (Williamsburg, VA: College of William And Mary, 2010) 4.

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142 Quoted in Krutko Devlin and Johnson, "Under the Sky All of Us Free," 155; Young, Heading Out: A History of American Camping, 204-205.

143 *Ibid*., 159.

144 *Ibid*; As defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary, *de jure* segregation is that which takes place "based on [the] laws or actions of the state;" similarly, *de facto* segregation is that which results from "social factors rather than from laws or actions of the state."

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146 Krutko Devlin and Johnson, "Under the Sky All of Us Free," 161.

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148 *Ibid*.

149 Alexander et al., "The African American Visitor Experience at Shenandoah National Park," 33-34.

150 Krutko Devlin and Johnson, "Under the Sky All of Us Free," 163-164.

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152 *Ibid*., 164; Alexander et al., "The African American Visitor Experience at Shenandoah National Park," 33.

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157 Boxes 2, 3, 9, 13-14, SHEN 22055, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA; Map Case 9, Drawer 9, Folder 7, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA; Folder 2 [1948 correspondence, cottages], Box 49, SHEN 21206, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA.

158 Boxes 2, 3, 9, 13-14, SHEN 22055, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA

159 "[SE Regional Files]," Box 5, RG 79, The National Archives at Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

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163 "[Dicky Ridge Cottage Moves]," Folder 9, Box 48, SHEN 21206.

164 *Ibid*.

165 See "[1938 Master Plan]" in SHEN 47218, Shelf 4, Box 8 and compare with "[1956 Master Plan]" in Map Case 11, Drawer 2, Folder 4, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, Virginia.

166 SHEN 21206, Box 48, Folder 9.

167 Carol Hooper, "Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase)," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, National Park Service, 1997: 8-76.

168 Ethan Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma* (Amherst, Massachusetts: Library of American Landscape History, 2007): 11-15.

169 Folder "A98 – Mission 66 Shenandoah," Box 27, RG 79, The National Archives at Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

170 *Ibid*.

171 SHEN Map Case 11, Drawer 2, Folders 3-4, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA.

172 See SNP Slides 4001-009 Negatives 3490 and 6155, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA; Map Case 9 Drawer 5, Folder 4, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA.

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174 "[Interpretative Activities Reports-Statistical]" 4001-001-08_K1819 and "[Annual Reports on Information and Interpretive Services, 1955-1960]," Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, Virginia.

175 SHEN Map Case 11, Drawer 2, Folder 3, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, Virginia.

176 Superintendent Taylor Hoskins to H. Reese Smith, July 19, 1960, in Folder "A98 – Mission 66 Shenandoah," Box 27, RG 79, The National Archives at Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

177 Map Case 11, Drawer 2, Folder 4, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, Virginia

178 Folder "A98 – Mission 66 Shenandoah," Box 135, RG79, The National Archives at Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

179 Folder 2, Box 97, SHEN 21206, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA.

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182 Quoted in William O'Brien, *Landscapes of Exclusion*, 15.

183 *Ibid*.

184 Erin Krutko Devlin, *Segregation in Virginia's National Parks, 1916-1965: A Historic Resource Study* [DRAFT] (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Department of the Interior, October 2021), 238.

185 O'Brien, *Landscapes of Exclusion*, 15.

186 Devlin, *Segregation in Virginia's National Parks* [DRAFT], 239; Krutko Devlin and Johnson, "Under the Sky All of Us Free," 163-164.

187 "Rehabilitation of Lewis Mountain Campground," in Folder 25, Box 104, SHEN 21206, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, Virginia.

188 *Ibid*; Folder 5, Box 104, SHEN 21206, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, Virginia.

189 Folder 5, Box 104, SHEN 21206, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, Virginia.

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191 "Design Analysis Lewis Mountain," in Folder 5, Box 104, SHEN 21206, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, Virginia.

192 *Ibid*.

193 Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 6, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA; Folders 0-398, 0-399, 0-400, Box 3, SHEN 22055, Shenandoah National Park Archives, Luray, VA.

194 OCLP, "Lewis Mountain: Shenandoah National Park, Cultural Landscape Inventory," Part I:17, 2b:8.

195 CRIS-HS Single Record Reports, "[Lewis Mountain Cabins 1-5]," IDs# 083152-083156, accessed May 6, 2022.

196 OCLP, "Lewis Mountain: Shenandoah National Park, Cultural Landscape Inventory," 2b:8.

197 CRIS-HS Single Record Report, "Lewis Mountain Picnic Grounds Comfort Station," ID# 083163, accessed May 6, 2022.

198 OCLP, "Lewis Mountain: Shenandoah National Park, Cultural Landscape Inventory," 2b:8.

199 CRIS-HS Single Record Reports, "Lewis Mountain Cabin "G" (13/14)" and "Lewis Mountain Cabin "F" (11/12)," IDs# 083194-0831945, accessed May 6, 2022.

200 OCLP, "Lewis Mountain: Shenandoah National Park, Cultural Landscape Inventory," 3b:7.

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Analysis & Evaluation

This chapter provides a summary analysis of the historical significance of the Lewis Mountain landscape and an evaluation of its historic character. The analysis and evaluation has been developed according to the *National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Bulletin 15) and the National Park Service's *Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* (1998). This chapter is divided into two main sections. The first examines the historical significance of the landscape according to the National Register Criteria for the Evaluation of Historic Properties. Included within this is a summary of existing National Register documentation for Shenandoah National Park; a statement of significance for the Lewis Mountain landscape that includes the period of significance and areas of significance; and an evaluation of historical integrity according to the seven aspects defined by the National Register. The second section of the chapter evaluates the historic character of the Lewis Mountain landscape based on National Park Service cultural landscape methodology that organizes the landscape into landscape characteristics and associated features. Historic and existing conditions of extant features are compared to assess historic character and change over time. Each feature is evaluated to determine whether it contributes to the historic character of the landscape or not, with an inventory of contributing and non-contributing features listed in a concluding table.

NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The National Park Service evaluates the historical significance of properties through a process of identification and evaluation defined by the National Register of Historic Places program. According to the National Register, historic significance may be present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A property can be found to have significance on a national, state, or local level, and must meet one or more of the following criteria in order to be considered eligible for the National Register:

A. Association with the events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; or

B. Association with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high

artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. Has yielded, or may yield, information important to that study of history or prehistory.

EXISTING NATIONAL REGISTER DOCUMENTATION

Lewis Mountain was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 (NR #03001251) as a part of a boundary increase for the Skyline Drive Historic District, which was originally listed in 1997 (NR #97000375, NR #97001112). The Skyline Drive Historic District is significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of Landscape Architecture, Transportation, Social History, Entertainment/ Recreation, Politics/Government, Architecture, Engineering, Conservation, and Community Planning and Development. Its period of significance extends from 1931 to 1952. This period begins with the early efforts to establish and develop Shenandoah National Park in 1931. It extends to the National Register of Historic Places' 50-year threshold, based on when the nomination was written in 2002, concluding with a few significant changes to Skyline Drive in 1952.

The Skyline Drive Historic District was subsequently designated a National Historic Landmark in 2008 (NHL #069-0234). The nomination lists Skyline Drive as having national significance under Criteria 1 and 4 within the "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks" context. Its period of significance extends from 1931 to 1952, beginning with the earliest construction of Skyline Drive and ending with minor road changes and the relocation of several cabins throughout the park.

Lewis Mountain was also documented as part of the Lewis Mountain Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI), completed by the National Park Service in 1999 and updated in 2005, 2011, and 2021 (CLI #300118). Consistent with the Skyline Drive Historic District and National Historic Landmark nominations, the Cultural Landscape Inventory documents a period of significance from 1931 to 1952. The Lewis Mountain Cultural Landscape Inventory states that Lewis Mountain is significant under Criterion A for its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps and the development of Shenandoah National Park and its history as a racially segregated landscape. Further, the landscape is significant under Criterion C for its embodiment of the National Park Service Rustic Style, its association with Civilian Conservation Corps labor, and its architectural designs of Marcellus Wright, Jr.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This statement of significance is a summary written according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria. It presents a designation history for the cultural landscape and recommends its own period of significance, in keeping with the research findings presented in the following pages.

This Cultural Landscape Report proposes a refined and expanded **period of significance from 1938 to 1968**. This period more accurately reflects Lewis Mountain's period as a significant landscape due to its associations with New Deal programs, rustic design, and histories of racial segregation and desegregation. The period of significance begins with the construction of Lewis Mountain by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1938. This report adopts a later start date for the cultural landscape than previous documentation to reflect the simple fact that construction on Lewis Mountain did not begin until 1938. The period of significances includes early park desegregation efforts, as well as the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, which banned *de jure* segregation in public spaces including national parks. This period encapsulates both the eras of formal and informal segregation that defined the experience of Lewis Mountain. The proposed period of significance terminates in 1968 with the completion of a Mission 66-style campground rehabilitation. The period of significance includes:

- Lewis Mountain's construction by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the concessionaire Virginia Skyline Company from 1938 to 1942;
- Lewis Mountain's period of operations as a segregated facility for the use of Black visitors, both locally and nationally;
- The period in which Lewis Mountain was operated by and for local Black families;
- Lewis Mountain's extended process of desegregation from 1945 into the 1960s, in which informal segregation methods persisted despite laws and policies requiring integration in all national parks; and
- The passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, which formally outlawed segregation on a federal level in all public spaces, including recreational landscapes such as Lewis Mountain. This CLR acknowledges that segregation at Lewis Mountain continued in complex and informal ways that pose a challenge to declaring a definitive end date
- The rehabilitation of the Lewis Mountain campground in keeping with the principles of Rustic landscape design and Mission 66 efforts, after the formal end of the program.

CRITERION A

Areas of significance: Social History; Entertainment/Recreation; Ethnic Heritage: Black; Politics/Government

Level of significance: National

Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, Ethnic Heritage: Black, and Politics/Government for its role as a segregated recreational space developed by the National Park Service for Black visitors during the Jim Crow Era. Throughout the early 20th century, Black people were restricted and oppressed by segregation laws that were enforced both legally and socially. Segregationist laws, policies, and customs made it illegal, unsafe, and uncomfortable for Black people to travel in certain areas and use certain facilities. Legal means, such as Virginia's Massenburg Law, enforced segregation in public spaces and created a scarcity of adequate recreational opportunities for Black travelers across the country.

When the National Park Service began developing Shenandoah National Park in 1935, it chose to adopt a "separate but equal" approach, accommodating and enforcing segregationist legislation already codified in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Despite the park's Federal status, the National Park Service depended on private park boosters and the Commonwealth of Virginia for funds to acquire parklands. Accordingly, state and local politicians shaped park policies, including those regarding racial segregation in public spaces; this meant that Virginia's national parks were legally and socially segregated during the Jim Crow Era. In parallel, the park's concessionaire, the Virginia Skyline Company, had its own segregationist policies that management enforced in the lodging and dining facilities it built and operated.[1]

Lewis Mountain is an example of a campground designed, developed, and operated for the exclusive use of Black visitors during the Jim Crow Era. Despite calls for its construction as early as 1935, Lewis Mountain's initial construction was intentionally delayed when the broader park opened. The National Park Service and the concessionaire justified their delay by maintaining the flawed belief that such a facility would not be profitable, and that demand by Black campers did not justify its construction. National Park Service Director Arno B. Cammerer upheld this viewpoint at the expense of Black campers, while proactively constructing facilities for white campers throughout the park.[2] Unable to maintain his stance any longer, in July 1937, Cammerer embraced the construction of Lewis Mountain through a segregationist lens; the construction of Lewis Mountain would concentrate Black campers and prevent their use of white facilities in other parts of the park.[3]

Accordingly, Lewis Mountain was intentionally built to similar designs but at a lower standard than white facilities found in other parts of the park. By 1939, the Lewis Mountain picnic grounds featured only a parking lot and fireplaces. There were no campsites, picnic tables, concessions, or overnight accommodations.[4] Criticizing Cammerer's racist agenda, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes ordered the immediate construction of Lewis Mountain in April of 1939, noting that the National Park Service "must provide equal facilities proportionate to [current] travel and that Negro facilities must be increased as use increased."[5] Between 1940 and 1942, segregated overnight accommodations, including cabins, a campground, and a lodge, were completed by the park's concessionaire, the Virginia Skyline Company.

Lewis Mountain is also nationally significant as a recreational landscape that led the Department of the Interior and National Park Service's efforts to desegregate its facilities. Under Secretary Ickes, Shenandoah National Park served as a testing ground for his department's highly publicized desegregation experiments. In the same 1939 correspondence that mandated the completion of Lewis Mountain, Ickes instituted an experiment in integration at Sexton Knoll Picnic Area (later renamed Pinnacles). This experiment occurred even while other park elements were still being built according to segregated master plans—including Lewis Mountain. However, Ickes had promised to desegregate all properties in the National Park Service, including concessions and lodging. His slow implementation led Walter White, the Secretary of the NAACP, and William J. Trent, Jr., the Secretary of the Interior's Advisor on Negro Affairs, to rebuke Ickes over his continued development of separate and unequal facilities.[6]

In 1945, National Park Service officials ended *de jure* segregation at all park facilities nationwide, including Lewis Mountain. However, this policy was not actively enforced or affirmed until the 1950 camping season. Despite gradually implementing desegregation ahead of the rest of the country, the National Park Service did not encourage or even advertise the integrated nature of its many parks. Instead, historically Black campgrounds, such as Lewis Mountain, now permitted white campers into facilities that had previously afforded Black campers safe, dedicated recreational space. At the same time, park facilities that had been for whites-only still upheld *de facto* segregation at the direction of park concessionaires and staff, who defended their informally segregated spaces based on established patterns of use. In this way, desegregation all but eliminated Black space in the park, while failing to achieve integration as Ickes had hoped.

Despite the challenges of desegregation, Lewis Mountain was among the few national destinations on public lands that afforded Black campers direct access to the outdoors. It also served as the only destination in Shenandoah National Park with dedicated overnight facilities for Black visitors, offering lodging and dining. Along the same lines, it was the only national park facility in the Commonwealth

of Virginia to be listed in the *Negro Traveler's Green Book*.[7] During the period of significance, Lewis Mountain hosted Black visitors from all over the country, including (but not limited to) nearby cities such as Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. This segregated landscape was pivotal in making outdoor recreation more accessible for Black people, especially those on the East Coast. Lewis Mountain remains a tangible example of the legacy of segregationist policies and their social and recreational effects, both during and after the Jim Crow Era.

CRITERION A

Areas of significance: Social History; Entertainment/Recreation; Ethnic Heritage: Black

Level of significance: Local

The Lewis Mountain cultural landscape is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Ethnic Heritage: Black for its prominent role as a local Black community space. During the Jim Crow Era, towns across America were divided through physical and social means, in order to uphold segregation laws. Luray, Virginia, and other cities adjacent to Shenandoah National Park, were no different. By law, Black residents of Luray could not gather in any of the public parks in town. Lewis Mountain afforded local Black social groups, such as the New York-Virginia Club, and Black church groups such as the St. John Baptist Church a safe location to hold events. The cultural landscape hosted annual community events such as Sunday school picnics, homecomings, and family reunions. Luray's Black community forged a strong connection to the landscape at Lewis Mountain through its ongoing recreational, social, and cultural use.

Luray's Black community fostered strong intergenerational bonds at Lewis Mountain, as it was a space managed by-and-for local Black families. Its Luray-based managers created a dynamic environment for Black campers remembered by descendants as including rich food, excellent music, and comfortable lodging. For its first two decades of operation, the local families who staffed Lewis Mountain became a beloved presence on site. Two of these families were the Tutts and the Wrights. Lloyd and Isabelle Wright managed Lewis Mountain from 1941 to 1953. During this period, Isabelle Wright, who also worked at restaurants in Luray, served as head chef. Mr. Tutt's wife, Amelia "Mittie" Tutt would later take over management of the campground in the early-to-mid 1950s. Many members of the Tutt and Wright families lived and worked at the site and returned each summer, creating lasting connections with both fellow staff members and returning visitors.

Lewis Mountain serves as a physical reminder of the resilience of Black communities in the face of segregation, as they sought out and created their own opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and community-building. Oral histories with descendants of Lewis Mountain staff paint a vibrant picture composed of almost exclusively positive memories, despite the obvious discrimination and racism they faced. During the cultural landscape's period of significance, the management and operation of Lewis Mountain by local Black families created a memorable vacation destination that served as the seasonal center of Luray's Black community.

CRITERION A

Areas of significance: Politics/Government, Social History, Entertainment/ Recreation, Conservation

Level of significance: National

The Lewis Mountain cultural landscape is nationally significant under Criterion A, in Politics/Government for its development by the Civilian Conservation Corps, National Park Service, and Virginia Skyline Company.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a New Deal-era public works program that employed young men from around the country to construct and improve public lands, such as national parks. Workers would contribute to park construction or conservation projects in return for education, room and board, and wages to send home to their families. The first Civilian Conservation Corps camp in the country was located to the northwest of Lewis Mountain in the George Washington National Forest, near Luray, Virginia. The first Civilian Conservation Corps Camp in the National Park Service was located at NP-1 Camp George Dern at Skyland. Over the life of the Civilian Conservation Corps (the program was disbanded in 1942), Shenandoah National Park hosted 10 different camps—all of them notably segregated and consisting exclusively of white laborers.[8]

The Civilian Conservation Corps played a significant role in the development of Skyline Drive and its associated developed areas, such as Lewis Mountain. The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the landscape at Lewis Mountain from 1938-1942, according to plans and design principles developed by National Park Service staff. This project included building the system of roads and pathways, building retaining walls, clearing and grading the picnic and camping areas, installing the water system, constructing the stone drinking fountains, and planting vegetation. Civilian Conservation Corps laborers had a fundamental impact on the cultural landscape of Lewis Mountain, its history, and its ongoing use as a public recreation space.

The park's concessionaire, the Virginia Skyline Company, implemented park planners' designs at the building scale, constructing the recreational facilities throughout Shenandoah National Park—including at Lewis Mountain. Of the originally planned seven overnight lodging and six day-use areas in the park, Lewis Mountain was the only site designated for Black visitors. Justifying this lack of facilities, the National Park Service and the Virginia Skyline Company claimed that the limited number of Black visitors to the park required minimal accommodations. The Virginia Skyline Company maintained this flawed belief while proactively constructing facilities for white visitors. Despite the concessionaire's objections, Secretary Ickes forced the Virginia Skyline Company to comply, resulting in the construction of cabins and the lodge. Significantly, the park was open to the public for three years before any facilities for Black visitors were created. Indeed, it took an additional three years after this for the Virginia Skyline Company and the National Park Service to build overnight and dining accommodations for Black campers.

CRITERION C

Areas of significance: Architecture; Landscape Architecture; Community Development and Planning

Level of significance: National

Lewis Mountain is nationally significant under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Development and Planning for its association with early master planning, design, and construction activities initiated by the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps in the early 20th century. "Master plans" for each national park were developed by the landscape architecture division directed by Chief Architect Thomas C. Vint and Deputy Chief Architect Charles E. Peterson. Such documents employed the ideas of regional planning at a park-wide scale, outlining the design and construction of park circulation, developed areas, fire management, and land acquisition, among other concepts.

The master plan for Shenandoah National Park was the first to employ the ideas and models for master planning in large parks, developed in the western United States, to a distinctly eastern park. This new concept combined recreational automobile tourism with an appreciation of scenery, relaxing environments, fresh air and water, natural features, and recreational amenities. Development of the Shenandoah master plan included the application of segregation to park planning, such that Lewis Mountain would become the only facility designated for use by Black campers. National Park Service landscape architect Harvey P. Benson and his staff completed the first master plan for Shenandoah National Park in

1935, shortly before the park opened to the public. It called for the design and construction of the 105-mile-long scenic road known as Skyline Drive, including six picnic grounds and seven developed areas along its length. When the park opened in 1935, it recorded the highest visitation to date in a national park. Such high visitation numbers confirmed the success of master planning applied to eastern parks, supported the need for a park planning process, and necessitated the immediate construction of the planned facilities throughout the park.

Initially constructed between 1938 and 1942, the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape embodies the National Park Service's Rustic Style of architectural and landscape design—applied to a segregated landscape. This style was developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and adopted by the National Park Service in the 1930s. It draws on regional vernacular techniques of design and construction and prioritizes a site's natural environmental features. Rustic buildings typically demonstrate a sensitivity to the surrounding environment using native materials and vernacular design and construction methods. This style was fundamental to the National Park Service's identity in the first half of the 20th century. The Rustic Style features at Lewis Mountain are characteristic of this period of National Park Service development.[9]

Today, the buildings at Lewis Mountain continue to embody the Rustic Style and remain little changed from their original forms and details. These include cabins, a lodge, a campground office, and two comfort stations. The construction and siting of such buildings was generally outlined in master plans. However, under the concessionaire's agreement, the specifics of the features' actual designs and construction were undertaken by the Virginia Skyline Company and overseen by the National Park Service. As the architect for the park concessionaire, Richmond architect Marcellus Wright Jr. designed rustic buildings throughout Shenandoah National Park. At Lewis Mountain, Wright employed the Rustic Style using local, natural materials such as site-harvested chestnut logs, oak shingles, waney board siding, and stone masonry construction. Wright also adopted vernacular architectural construction methods such as frame and log construction, allowing the buildings to blend into the surrounding landscape.

In much the same vein, the Civilian Conservation Corps employed rustic design principles in its projects at Lewis Mountain. Such principles focused on a reverence for existing natural landscape features and a preference for construction that blended with the natural environment, avoided straight lines, and enhanced natural scenery. Rustic landscape design included the careful preservation of maturing vegetation, the creation of specifically framed views and vistas, the use of local, natural materials during construction (such as boulders and logs) and native plantings (including hemlock, mountain laurel, oak, and witch hazel). These plantings were grouped around cabins and roadways to highlight the natural environment further and create a pleasing visitor experience of immersion in

nature. The Civilian Conservation Corps also graded roadways and campsites, installed rustic boulder drinking fountains, and constructed native stone retaining walls throughout the campground.

EVALUATION OF LANDSCAPE INTEGRITY

This cultural landscape report also includes an assessment of the landscape's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical and intangible landscape characteristics that existed during the period of significance. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed in the National Register, a property not only must be shown to have significance under one or more criteria, but must also retain integrity to its period or periods of significance.

Location

The National Register defines location as the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. Lewis Mountain remains in the same location where park designers laid out, and Civilian Conservation Corps crews constructed the picnic area, campground, and lodge/cabin area. As a component landscape of Shenandoah National Park, Lewis Mountain remains in place, directly connected and adjacent to, and accessible from, Skyline Drive. Lewis Mountain retains overall integrity of location.

Design

The National Register defines design as the combination of elements that create a property's form, plan, space, structure, and style. Lewis Mountain's historic language of rustic architectural and landscape design has been rigorously maintained, and its character areas are very clearly intact. The overall design of Lewis Mountain—from its overall conception and layout to the realization of individual elements—remains remarkably faithful and authentic to the vision of its designers. Buildings remain in place, and are mostly repaired in keeping with the historic designs. Minor alterations to buildings (the lodge, for instance, for accessibility) and some loss of landscape elements such as paths or the lodge vista notwithstanding. Despite minor changes, the Lewis Mountain landscape possesses overall integrity of design.

Setting

Setting refers to the physical environment of a property and the general character of a place. Overall, Lewis Mountain retains its character as a rustic camping/picnic landscape tucked amid a forested site immediately adjacent to Skyline Drive. Although the composition of the contextual forest has shifted over many decades, the sense of enclosure within Lewis Mountain remains very strong. Within each of the cultural landscape's character areas, clear visual relationships between buildings and spaces reinforce the historic setting within the surrounding forest, a key landscape element established during the period of significance. Contained within the center of the broader park, the setting at Lewis Mountain has not been compromised by any encroaching development or other improvements. However, the loss of some views (in particular, the view from the Lodge southwest toward Skyline Drive and the valley beyond) and changes in understory vegetation have affected the integrity of Lewis Mountain's setting. However, these losses are reversible; Lewis Mountain, therefore, retains its overall integrity of setting.

Materials

Materials are the physical elements that give form and character to a historic property, and can contribute greatly to its authenticity. Lewis Mountain retains most of its historic architectural materials; where repairs and alterations have been, material choices are consistent with the period of significance. Some building elements (notably porches) have been replaced with more conventional, less rustic alternatives, including asphalt shingles and dimensional lumber. Plant materials have grown, aged, died, and been thinned to varied extents. However, the variety and distribution of natural landscape materials remain authentic to the period of significance. Overall, Lewis Mountain retains integrity of materials in its major resources.

Workmanship

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts and methods of construction used during the historic period. Lewis Mountain retains a high degree of integrity of workmanship from the period of significance, as evidenced by the cabins, comfort stations, and the lodge. The artistry and craftsmanship of these buildings clearly represent the Civilian Conservation Corps's skill in realistic, rustic camp design. Other landscape elements and small-scale features of Lewis Mountain also convey the Civilian Conservation Corps's devotion to craft, including the boulder fountains and the picnic ground's boulder field. Overall, Lewis Mountain retains a high degree of integrity of workmanship.

Feeling

Feeling is a property's expression of an aesthetic or historic sense particular to a period of time. Such feeling results from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character. While Lewis Mountain's feeling as a forest cabin camp is well represented in the current landscape, the feeling of the camp as a place of comfort, retreat, and joy for Black user groups has been compromised. Parkwide desegregation policies disrupted the cultural traditions of Black groups from Lewis Mountain's segregated period; the resulting feelings of relief, then loss—both of which contribute to the landscape's cultural significance—have been weakened, as stakeholders now feel a lack of connection, agency, or welcoming space to use at Lewis. These aspects of feeling related to racial discrimination (which, through interpretation, affects anyone's experience of the camp) have lost some integrity. Regarding more physical aspects of Lewis Mountain, the feeling of a rustic cabin camp enclosed by forest, accessed via Skyline Drive, and connected to the Appalachian Trail, retains integrity.

Association

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Lewis Mountain remains strongly associated with the experiences of park users, including the Black communities directly and intimately connected to the landscape as a place of recreation, Black joy, and family ties. These associations remain sustained through the memory work and personal commitment of users and descendants who have contributed their experiences through archival donations, oral histories, and participation in this report and other park work. The buildings, structure of the landscape, location, and other aspects of integrity retain these strong associations for Black users and visitors. Lewis Mountain, therefore, strongly retains its integrity of association—reinforced by the park's increasing attention to telling the stories of Black user groups and employees through exhibits and education programs]

SUMMARY EVALUATION OF INTEGRITY

Lewis Mountain in Shenandoah National Park retains substantial integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The significance of Lewis Mountain as a rustic cabin camp associated with racial segregation, as well as the world-making of Black campers and employees, is clearly conveyed. This overall level of integrity is somewhat diminished with regard to setting (due to the loss of vista and some vegetation) and feeling/association (as the cultural traditions of Black user groups have been diminished), but the landscape's integrity with regard to design, materials, and workmanship remains very strong.

ANALYSIS OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

This section provides a summary and analysis of existing landscape conditions at Lewis Mountain. It is divided into parts according to landscape characteristics. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its values. Each landscape characteristic contains a narrative description and evaluation of its historic and existing conditions, as well as photographs and diagrams that analyze its significance and integrity within the cultural landscape. This assessment provides a holistic understanding of the cultural landscape's historic character and the features and qualities that contribute to its period of significance from 1938 to 1968. Fieldwork for this assessment was conducted in April, August, and September 2022.

Lewis Mountain is documented and evaluated according to these landscape characteristics:

- Natural systems and features
- Land use
- Cultural Traditions
- Topography
- Spatial organization
- Cluster arrangement
- Circulation
- Views and vistas
- Vegetation
- Buildings and structures
- Small-scale features

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of a landscape.

HISTORIC

Geomorphology and Geology

Lewis Mountain is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, a section of the larger Appalachian Mountain range that stretches from Georgia to Maine. The Appalachian Mountains formed between 470 million and 270 million years ago when two continents collided. Geologically, some of the oldest rocks in Shenandoah National Park are much older, including some that date to 1.1 billion years ago. These rocks include Old Rag Granite and the Pedlar Formations. The park also contains rocks from the Catoctin Formation. The Catoctin Formation consists of cooled lava flow from eruptions that occurred around 570 million years ago, before the formation of the Appalachian Mountains. This formation contains the rock unakite as well as greenstone, a type of metabasalt. Together, these three formations comprise the majority of the rock outcroppings in the park, including within the study area (Figure 2.1).

Watersheds

Lewis Mountain is located on a north-south ridgeline that sheds water in two directions. Water from the eastern half of the study area flows into the Devil's Ditch, a creek that connects to the Conway River, which flows into the Rapidan River, then the Rappahannock River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. To the west, water flows into the South and East Branches of Naked Creek, which connects to the Shenandoah River, then the Potomac River, and finally to the Chesapeake Bay.

Soils

The area of the cultural landscape contains several different soil types. Because Lewis Mountain straddles both Page and Greene County, the site's soil information comes from two different soil surveys containing different alphanumeric labels. See Figure 2.3.

The dominant soil type is the Myersville-Catoctin Complex (34C, 34 D) containing slopes that range from 2%-35% and are very stony in character. This soil type is composed of approximately 45% Myersville soil and 30% Catoctin soil. Myersville soil is found on mountain slopes and is formed in material weathered from crystalline rocks, with a parent material of residuum weathered from greenstone. The soil is well-drained with medium runoff and consists of

0”-48” of silt loam, channery silt loam, and silty clay loam over bedrock. Catoctin soil, like its Myersville counterpart, forms on mountain slopes and is well-drained, with about 1.5% of the surface covered with stones. Its parent material is residuum, resulting from weathered greenstone. This soil has a very high runoff class and consists of 36” of silt loam, channery silty clay loam, and very channery silt loam over bedrock.

The cultural landscape also contains areas of Chester and Parker soil (CmC, CmD), as well as exclusively Parker soil (PrE). These areas contain about 50% Chester and 30% Parker soils with slopes that range from 7%-15%. Chester soil is located on mountain slopes that are well-drained with a medium runoff class. It has a parent material of residuum weathered from mica schist. The soil consists of 0”-62” of loam and clay loam, with approximately 9% of the surface covered by stones. Parker soil is similarly located on mountain slopes with about 9% surface cover from stones. Its parent material is residuum weathered from granite and gneiss. This soil is well drained with a high runoff class and contains 0”-60” of very gravelly loam and extremely cobbly sandy loam.

Ecology

Lewis Mountain is situated within a deciduous, mature second-growth forest that extends through most of the park area. The forest is dominated by oak (*Quercus rubra, Quercus montana*) and hickory (*Carya glabra, Carya cordiformis, Carya tomentosa*). This forest creates a shaded environment at Lewis Mountain. Most trees are no older than 60-80 years old, consistent with the conservation efforts of the landscape at the time of Lewis Mountain’s creation as a campground. The current composition of species reflects the loss of the American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) during the 1910s and 1920s due to blight.

Other plant species include the rare American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), and the invasive kudzu (*Pueraria montana*). For more on specific plant species within the cultural landscape, see the Vegetation section.

In addition to the dominant tree and plant species, the forest is home to various wildlife species, including black bears, salamanders, and bats. The most commonly seen mammals within Shenandoah National Park are the white-tailed deer and the gray squirrel.

Natural Features in the Lewis Mountain Scene

Other notable natural features at Lewis Mountain include the rock outcroppings throughout the picnic and campground areas. Park landscape architects noted one outcropping at the south end of the campground on their initial site plans (Figure 2.2). This and other similar outcroppings were incorporated into the landscape design. Although it cannot be confirmed, Civilian Conservation Corps

workers likely also moved large boulders, placing them intentionally to create scenic or naturalistic qualities throughout the study area. This placement was deliberate, and such a move would have been in keeping with the principles of rustic design described by E. P. Meinecke, Albert Good, and others.

EXISTING

The natural systems and features that define Lewis Mountain have changed little since the period of significance. The site still retains its location within the Blue Ridge Mountains, and therefore is still characterized by the unique geological formations of the region. Additionally, the landscape is still situated within a second-growth forest that is primarily dominated by oak trees. It also retains rock outcroppings and boulders throughout the study area.

EVALUATION

The rugged natural features of Lewis Mountain contribute to the character of the camp landscape. Park landscape architects took care not to damage such features, and they sited the buildings of the camp to take advantage of existing natural systems and features. The condition of Lewis Mountain reflects this historic reverence for natural systems and features. As a result, the camp retains integrity with respect to this landscape characteristic.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES, LEWIS MOUNTAIN – CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES	
Feature Description	**Feature Contribution**
Location in the Blue Ridge Mountains, part of the Appalachian Mountain Range	Contributing
Mature second growth forest dominated by oaks, surrounding areas developed as campground	Contributing



Figure 2.1. Example of a rock outcropping at the south end of the campground. This outcropping was included on early plans for the campground and was retained as part of the cultural landscape's design. (Torkelson 2022)

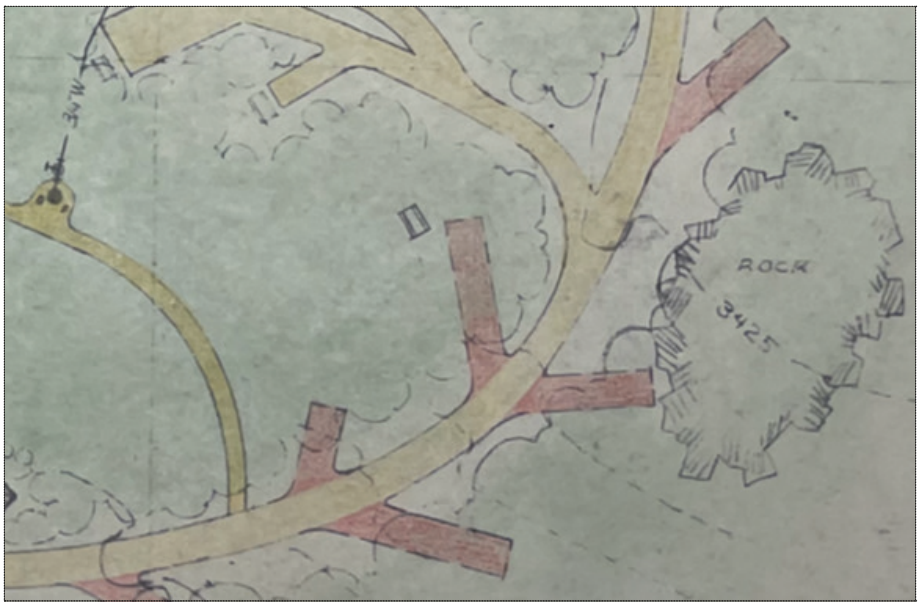

Figure 2.2. Reverence for existing natural systems and features carried into future planning efforts, including during Mission 66. This plan from 1960 shows an existing rock outcropping (right) at the south end of the campground. (SHEN Map Case 11, Drawer 2, Folder 3)

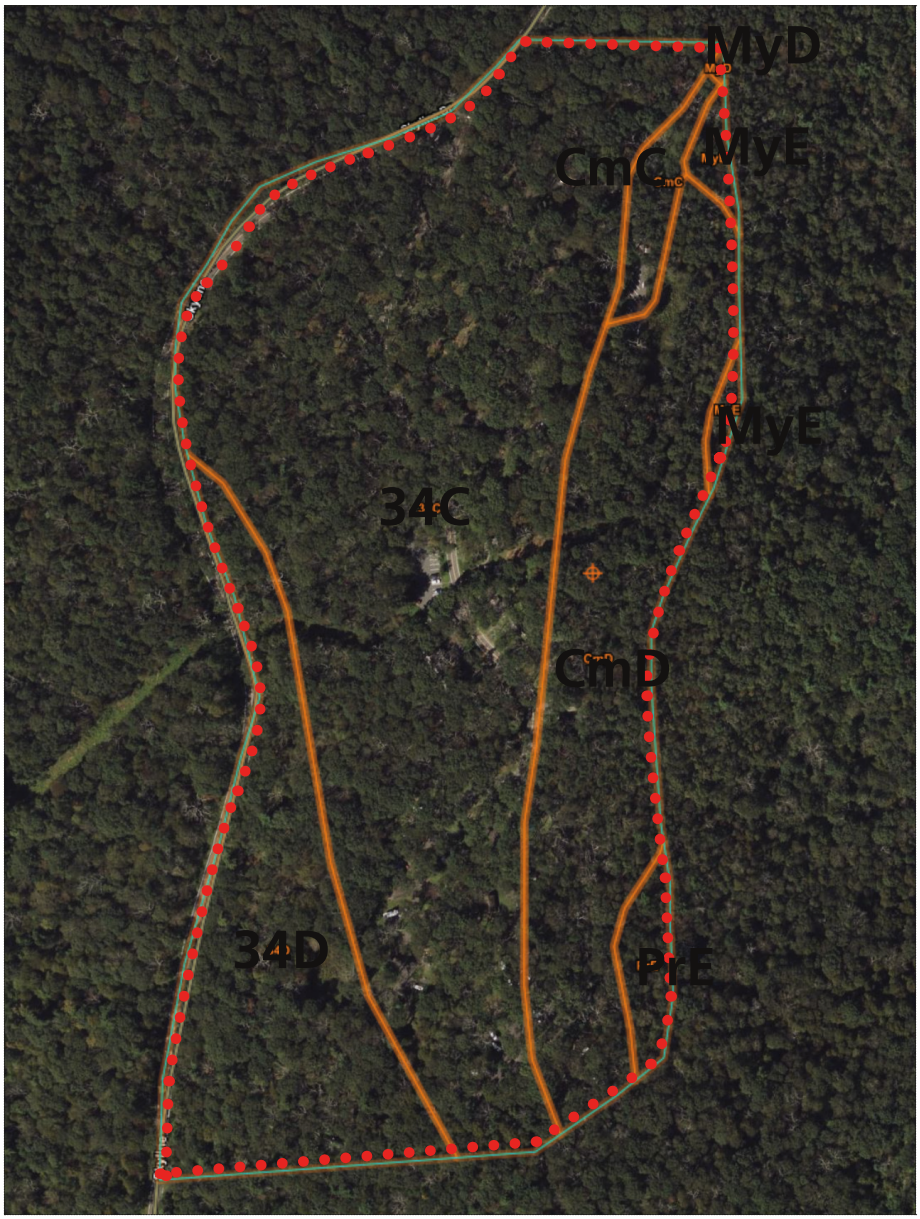

Figure 2.3. Soil map of the Lewis Mountain area. Approximate cultural landscape boundary shown in dotted red line. (United States Department of Agriculture Web Soil Survey, Page County, Virginia [VA139] and Green County, Virginia [VA79])

LAND USE

Land use refers to the principal activities conducted upon the landscape and how these uses organized, shaped, and formed the land.

HISTORIC

From 1938 to 1942, National Park Service landscape architects, in conjunction with the architect of the Virginia Skyline Company, planned and developed the cultural landscape as a segregated picnic area and campground for Black visitors on Skyline Drive. This established the cultural landscape's historic recreational land use (supplanting its former use as homesteads and extractive lands). Lewis Mountain was the only overnight recreational landscape available to Black visitors in the whole of Shenandoah National Park.

The cabins, campground, and lodges were added between 1939 and 1954, further expanding the recreational use of the study area. When the campground was established in 1939, park planners added several informal spur trails that connected it with the extant Appalachian Trail—the eastern boundary of the study area. Park planners also added a variety of parking spurs in the campground to accommodate vehicle and trailer campers.

Park facilities remained officially segregated until 1946. While integration gradually expanded after 1945, Lewis Mountain saw a significantly higher proportion of visitation by white tourists, rather than Black tourists, by the early 1960s. While the demographics of Lewis Mountain and associated historic groups significantly changed after the period of significance, altering who was visiting Lewis Mountain for its recreational land use, the physical environment and recreational opportunities remained largely consistent for park visitors.[10]

EXISTING

Lewis Mountain retains its many forms of recreational land use that date to the period of significance. The site is still used for picnicking, camping, hiking, and cabin camping. It also remains an integral part of both Skyline Drive and the Appalachian Trail, providing services for travelers along these routes.

EVALUATION

Lewis Mountain's recreational use has not changed significantly since its period of significance (Figure 2.4). Apart from demographic changes, the recreation opportunities and physical fabric have remained consistent since the historic period. The landscape retains integrity of land use in the formal sense, owing to continued recreational uses, features, and functions.

LAND USE, LEWIS MOUNTAIN – CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES	
Feature Description	**Feature Contribution**
Recreational use via picnic grounds, lodge and cabins, and campground	Contributing
Recreational use as part of the Appalachian Trail, featuring spur trails that connect to the main route	Contributing
Recreational use as part of Skyline Drive	Contributing



Figure 2.4. Trailer campers continue to use the campground facilities at Lewis Mountain today. (Boone, North Carolina State University, 2022)

CULTURAL TRADITIONS

Cultural traditions refer to the practices that have influenced the development of the landscape in terms of land use, patterns of land division, building forms, stylistic preferences, and the use of materials.

HISTORIC

During the period of significance, Lewis Mountain was host to a thriving Black community of campers, picnickers, lodgers, and staff that was cultivated by the camp managers, the Tutt and Wright families (who were themselves Black). Known for its good food, good music, and good company, the Lewis Mountain lodge served as the cultural center of Lewis Mountain. Here, Lloyd Tutt, Mittie Tutt, Isabelle Wright, and their families provided high-quality service to Black guests who traveled from across the country to Shenandoah National Park. As a result, Lewis Mountain was the only national park facility in Virginia listed in The Negro Motorist's Green Book.[11]

Lewis Mountain was also the focal point for an intergenerational culture of Black families from nearby Luray, Virginia. Many of these families worked on the mountain, or travelled there with churches or social clubs (Figure 2.5). Lewis Mountain served as a safe space for Black families and groups who could not otherwise gather at parks closer to their hometowns, where both legal and social segregation prevailed. As a result, oral history participants frequently and fondly recalled annual Homecomings at Lewis Mountain, in which Black visitors would return to Lewis Mountain to connect as a community. As Shirley Ann Tutt McCoy described the occasion:

> Homecoming, the way it used to be, was just that. People came home from New York, from Philadelphia, from Pittsburgh, from all over, and they came back to reconnect.
>
> And one of the biggest reconnections was the picnic. And it was always on the mountain. . . . And the other thing about it... all the good-looking boys in Luray worked on the mountain. So, most of us were dying to get up there, because they rarely got down to town, you know, because of the business. So, if you want to see them, you have to go up there. And [Mr. Tutt] hired all of them up on the mountain.
>
> But they, I remember, we always had this gathering inside the lodge with the piano. And Miss Alice Green played "Good night, Irene." And we would all sit around singing all that. But he, Uncle Lloyd, would do everything he knew how to do to make the reception—to everyone because it was the New York-Virginia Club.
>
> And for Luray, like, you know, your parents went out, they bought new furniture, they gather food and put them in their freezers for the whole year, just to get ready for all of this big welcoming home of people from all over. . . . Lewis Mountain was an integral part of what homecoming was and they felt like they were a part. So, they made certain that their part was done well. And you felt that connection there. Now you're just going to a picnic somewhere. You

> know, it's very different there. And the people who you know, they were our people. And so, our people over the years have always tried to make whatever was given to us better than what we were missing. If you get my drift. . . .
>
> So, Uncle Lloyd was going to make, even though we couldn't go to Big Meadows or Skyland, he was going to make Lewis Mountain Lodge so good that we would miss going there, that other people would miss and as Elaine said down the road when they got an opportunity to come there, they did. But he made it better than, so like they said we never thought about going to any other place because why would you? You have the best of what you could get right there. And it took away the sting of segregation.[12]

McCoy went on to note that conditions at Lewis Mountain began to change in the late 1950s and early 1960s, a result of desegregation and the fact that by this time, the Tutt's and Wright's were no longer managing the lodge at Lewis Mountain. McCoy said that after this time, group Homecomings moved closer to Luray, and Lewis Mountain became "very different," noting that there "really is no connection with the site and the events [anymore]."[13]

EXISTING

Few Black visitors, or indeed any visitors of color, use Lewis Mountain today; it is primarily booked by white visitors. This is a trend reflected across the park, and indeed, much of the outdoor recreation industry in the United States. The rich culture and community of Lewis Mountain that developed because of—and despite—Jim Crow are no longer present. The cultural nucleus of Lewis Mountain—the lodge—no longer serves food, has no seating options, and cannot accommodate gatherings of any kind. Instead, it serves solely as a convenience store with restrooms and laundry facilities.

Likewise, few social clubs or church groups regularly gather at Lewis Mountain in the picnic grounds. This may be the result of restrictive regulations, such as special-use permits that limit large gatherings, or (in the case of the campgrounds) the competitive online reservation system that makes it challenging for groups to secure lodging. Due to these and other changes, Lewis Mountain is now mostly used by individual families or small groups that camp or stay in the cabins. There is no coherent cultural traditions across the cultural landscape, particularly with respect to the historic associations with Black visitors from Luray and elsewhere.

However, Lewis Mountain remains a popular stop for thru-hikers who enter the cultural landscape from one of its many spur trails linking it with the Appalachian Trail. The campground also remains popular with both tent campers and trailer campers. It remains among the most highly used campgrounds in the park, while in season. Many visitors return annually.

During fieldwork in 2022, the authors of this report observed that the picnic grounds were seldom used at Lewis Mountain, meaning that the popularity of the site is not carried across to all areas of the cultural landscape.

EVALUATION

The cultural landscape does not retain integrity with respect to the cultural traditions of sociability and celebration among the local and visiting Black communities. The robust community that was present and actively cultivated at Lewis Mountain during the period of significance no longer exists under current conditions. During a group interview conducted for this report, former Lewis Mountain workers and their families noted they felt that there was no reason for them to visit the site anymore. Elaine Taylor Blakey noted the beauty of the park but emphasized that "there's nothing [at Lewis Mountain] that would draw me there now. Not really."[14]

This sentiment was shared among the participants, who frequently noted the lack of food service at the lodge and the lack of facilities for group gatherings. Instead, descendants continue to gather annually for Homecoming at other regional parks that offer amenities such as shelters, pools, and playgrounds. These alternations to physical features and their use, combined with current park policies around reservations and permits, deter group gatherings and the development (or continuation) of community. Despite the existence of strong descendant community within the region, there is a complete loss of cultural traditions within the cultural landscape.



Figure 2.5. Churchgoers were among the many groups that frequented Lewis Mountain. In this undated picture, several people sang spirituals at the Lewis Mountain picnic grounds. Such functions are no longer held at Lewis Mountain. (SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.04230/Neg. No. 825-33)

TOPOGRAPHY

Topography refers to the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface, characterized by features such as slope, articulation, orientation, and elevation.

HISTORIC

National Park Service landscape architects oriented Lewis Mountain along a north-south ridgeline plateau that connected with Skyline Drive. This flat area descended into the Devil's Ditch to the north, the Conway River basin to the south, and the Naked Creek watershed to the west. The plateau also ascended to Lewis Mountain's summit to the southeast. Overall, the site sloped downward from northeast to southwest, then rose to the southeast of the campground. This gently sloping topography contributed to the visitor experience of a rural, mountainous landscape.[15]

The topography within the cultural landscape's developed area was relatively flat. It ranged in elevation from 3,425' to 3,400' above sea level. The high point, located just south of the picnic grounds and east of the cabins, was approximately 3,456'. All buildings and structures were set into the sides of slopes and not at their crests, in keeping with the Rustic Style's deference to landscape features.

Lewis Mountain's central section contains the steepest slopes within the study area. It is possible that the largest concentration of buildings was placed in this section because steep slopes can accommodate buildings more readily than they can accommodate campsites or picnic areas.

From the cabin area, the landscape descends into the campground. This area generally ranges in elevation from 3,415' to 3,400'. The highest point in the campground is located near the comfort station, which was intentionally sited to be within view of most of the campsites. Civilian Conservation Corps workers modified the steeper sections of the campground using cutting and filling to create flat, stepped areas that contained campsites. These included the parking spurs and tenting areas.

EXISTING

The topography of Lewis Mountain has not undergone any significant changes since its period of significance. The site still retains the same orientation, slopes, and siting along a ridgeline plateau. (Figures 2.6 and 2.7)

EVALUATION

The topography of Lewis Mountain retains its integrity from the period of significance.

TOPOGRAPHY, LEWIS MOUNTAIN – CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES	
Feature Description	**Feature Contribution**
Location of Lewis Mountain along the north-south ridgeline of the park	Contributing
Gently sloping topography from northeast to southwest	Contributing



Figure 2.6. The gently sloping mountaintop topography of Lewis Mountain is a character-defining feature of the picnic grounds, and the cultural landscape as a whole. (Nasta 2022)



Figure 2.7. The topography of the campground is generally flat, consistent with its identity as a ridgetop plateau. Compare and contrast the mountains in the background of the image and the flat campsites in the foreground. (Torkelson 2022)

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

A site's spatial organization refers to the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

HISTORIC

The study area was acquired for Shenandoah National Park in the mid-1920s; prior to its acquisition, the land was divided into privately-owned land tracts.[16] Lewis Mountain was planned by the National Park Service and developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1938 and 1940. The study area's designers divided it into three discrete sections: the picnic grounds to the north, the lodge area in the center, and the campground in the southern section. These sections were connected by a circulatory system consisting of roads and pathways. Lewis Mountain was delineated from its surroundings by Skyline Drive (Figure 2.8), which bordered the cultural landscape on the north, and by the Appalachian Trail, which bordered the area on east.

Park designers established the area closest to Skyline Drive as the picnic grounds. A loop road and parking lots encircled this area, which was further subdivided into a series of individual picnic sites. The collection of sites was then organized around a central comfort station transected by a series of footpaths.[17] Each site contained a fire pit and picnic tables.

The central section of Lewis Mountain was organized around a lodge. A series of cabins was built in an arc along the hillside opposite the lodge, visually linking these buildings together. Both lodge and cabins were oriented toward the central camp road, albeit opposite one another.

The southern section of Lewis Mountain was organized as the campground. In keeping with the camp planning principles developed by Meinecke, the campground was divided into designated campsites. All sites were organized along a series of one-way loop roads. A single comfort station served as the center of this section of the landscape and was linked to the campsites via a central footpath featuring a series of rustic stone drinking fountains. Each campsite contained a parking spur, tent site, fire pit, and picnic table.

Changes to the cultural landscape's spatial organization during the period of significance were limited to the construction of an amphitheater during the Mission 66 period. It was located in a small island between the picnic ground and central lodge area.

EXISTING

The amphitheater was removed circa 2001 and replaced by a series of moveable benches in the same location. While no permanent traces of the amphitheater remain, these moveable benches occupy the forest clearing where the structure was located during the period of significance. Despite the loss of permanent features, the amphitheater clearing continues to separate the camp core from the picnic grounds. This is the only alteration to the study area's spatial organization since the period of significance. The cultural landscape remains organized in three parts: the picnic ground, the lodge area, and the campground. The circulatory system that connects the sections remains largely unchanged.

EVALUATION

The spatial organization of Lewis Mountain is consistent with conditions during the site's period of significance. The construction and subsequent removal of the amphitheater do not detract from the significance of the cultural landscape's spatial organization; therefore, Lewis Mountain's spatial organization retains integrity.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, LEWIS MOUNTAIN – CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES	
Feature Description	**Feature Contribution**
Demarcation of Lewis Mountain by Skyline Drive to the west and north, and the Appalachian Trail to the east and south	Contributing
Delineation into three sections linked by circulation features	Contributing
Picnic grounds loop, consisting of a central circular drive and centrally-located comfort station	Contributing
Picnic grounds loop, consisting of a central circular drive	Contributing
Campgrounds loop consisting of a central circular drive and centrally-located comfort station	Contributing
Amphitheater area separating the central built core and the picnic grounds loop	Non-contributing



Figure 2.8. Since its construction, Skyline Drive has served as the demarcating line that separated Lewis Mountain from the rest of the park. Historically, Skyline Drive also spatially segregated Lewis Mountain from the rest of the park. (Photo by T. W. Kines, Aug. 2, 1950, National Archives and Records Administration NAID 205741626/ Local ID: 30-N-50-4747)

CIRCULATION

Circulation is defined by the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

HISTORIC

Before the development of Lewis Mountain, numerous informal and unpaved tanbarking and homesteading trails crisscrossed the cultural landscape. When park planners developed the first master plan for Shenandoah National Park in 1935, they incorporated many of these existing circulation networks into their extensive fire management system. This included a small foot trail that began near the present-day lodge and ran to the summit of Lewis Mountain, south of the present-day campground. Also predating the campground was the Appalachian Trail—the historic scenic trail that runs from Georgia to Maine. The portion of this trail that passed through the future campground and picnic area was completed circa 1937. It was subsequently rerouted in 1938 from the west side of the new development to its east.

The reuse of existing roads was practical, and demonstrated respect for the natural landscape. Preeminent landscape gardener Frank Waugh and others advocated for such methods to be incorporated into the Civilian Conservation Corps's standard practice. Waugh noted that road development in parks and wild areas tended to be overdone. He urged planners to take care in designing a minimalist circulation network before they planned any other landscape feature. Reflecting on this topic, Waugh wrote, "it is probably better to begin the development of any area with very meager roads and trails, enlarging old roads as may be required, improving construction and extending fresh trails in new areas when positively demanded by use."[18] In concert with the principles of other park landscape architects, Waugh's guidance became actionable design policy for Shenandoah National Park. Albert Good widely promoted such policies in his books.

As originally constructed, the circulation system at Lewis Mountain consisted of a network of naturalistic pedestrian pathways, roadways, parking areas, and spur trails connected to the Appalachian Trail. The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed this circulation system between 1938 and 1940, during the site's initial period of construction. Following Waugh's guidance, park designers implemented the design of the circulation system in the Rustic Style, which called for curvilinear routes and naturalistic materials. The selective construction and management of circulation within the camp scene also protected vegetation from compaction and erosion.[19]

The pedestrian circulatory system consisted of a series of pathways that connected areas of recreation—such as campsites or picnic areas—to shared facilities, such as comfort stations and drinking fountains. These pathways were originally paved

with asphalt and were approximately 3'-4' wide. In the picnic grounds, three pathways connected the outer loop road to the central comfort station. These paths then passed through the future amphitheater area and connected to a path system that linked each cabin together. Pathways further connected each cabin with the main road, as well as the lodge/camp store and the campground beyond. The campground has a similar circulatory system to the picnic ground, with pathways that extend outward from a central comfort station to the outer loop road and campsites. The cultural landscape was also historically connected by the Civilian Conservation Corps to the Appalachian Trail via cleared pathways or spur trails.[20]

Another main feature of Lewis Mountain's historic circulation system was its automobile infrastructure, including the main access road that connected to Skyline Drive and the various parking areas. The access road historically split off from Skyline Drive and ran north to south through the cultural landscape. Several one-way loop roads were created along it, branching off to service different areas of the cultural landscape. The northernmost loop split to the east and served the picnic grounds. This road, in turn, had several parking pull-offs for easy visitor access to the picnic areas. South of the picnic ground, a smaller loop road branched off to the west and provided access to a large parking lot adjacent to the lodge, as well as a drop-off area directly in front of the lodge. In the campground section of the cultural landscape, the two-way access road was divided into a right-branching one-way loop road with counterclockwise circulation. Parking loops and parking spurs for individual campsites branched off these one-way loops. Within the campground loop, there were two smaller loops that optimized the number of campsites served directly from the road, including curved parking spurs that allowed trailers to pull straight through without backing up. Other, more traditional Meinecke-type parking spurs required backing into and out of each campsite.[21]

EXISTING

Much of the historic circulation system remains at the site today, although there have been several modifications. Many of the pedestrian pathways have been paved over repeatedly with asphalt, resulting in a raised, rounded profile. A pathway from the picnic grounds comfort station leading northeast to the loop road has been removed but is still visible in the landscape. An additional set of log cribbing steps was constructed to connect the cabin paths near Cabins 1 and 2 to the lodge parking area. However, most pathways still function in the same way and continue to connect the same facilities and locations within the cultural landscape.

Four non-historic (but contributing due to their association with the Appalachian Trail) dirt paths connect the cultural landscape to the Appalachian Trail (AT). In the campground there are two formal connections to the Appalachian Trail

that are marked by modern signposts. Within the picnic area, there are two connections to the AT. One formal connection is located near the telephone building, at the south end of the picnic grounds, and is marked with a signpost. The other connection is a social trail located at the northernmost end of picnic grounds and is unmarked. A section of the original Appalachian Trail—predating the Civilian Conservation Corps's rerouting projects—is still visible in the southern section of the cultural landscape; it is marked by a large boulder.[22]

Sections of the access road, such as the section near the campground comfort station, were widened during utility work that was done from 1999-2000. A parking lot was constructed in the picnic grounds in 1980.

EVALUATION

While much of the circulation system has been modified in some way since the period of significance, the pathways and roads still retain their historic design, location, and materiality (Figures 2.9, 2.10, and 2.11). Most roads retain their historic direction, except for the campground where the one-way flow has been reversed on the main and branch loops. The experience of circulating through the cultural landscape is similar to how it would have been during Lewis Mountain's period of significance, and this landscape characteristic thus retains its integrity.

CIRCULATION, LEWIS MOUNTAIN – CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES	
Feature Description	**Feature Contribution**
Alignment and character of main entrance road, connecting Skyline Drive to: the picnic grounds; developed area; and campground, including forked entrance road and planted islands	Contributing
Lewis Mountain campground Meinecke-type loop, including vehicle pull offs and one-way direction of travel	Contributing
Central pedestrian path from lodge to western side of campground loop	Contributing
Paths connecting cabins to the main road	Contributing
Appalachian Trail spurs	Contributing
Paved trails in picnic area	Contributing
Remnant trace of former Appalachian Trail route	Contributing
Lodge paths and paving	Contributing
Lewis Mountain lodge parking lot	Contributing
Accessible parking spurs	Non-contributing
Log cribbing steps at lodge parking lot	Non-contributing
Paving around comfort station in campground	Non-contributing
Picnic grounds parking lots	Non-contributing
Widened section of main road adjacent to campground comfort station	Non-contributing



Figure 2.9. Footpaths like these adjacent to the cabins display characteristics of the Rustic Style, employing curved routing and preserving existing vegetation or incorporating new plantings. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 2.10. View of a representative parking spur. This design was pioneered by E.P Meinecke and employed at campgrounds across the country. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 2.11. View of a representative Meinecke-type loop for a camper trailer. (Nasta 2022)

VIEWS AND VISTAS

Views and vistas are defined as the prospect afforded by a range of vision in the landscape, conferred by the composition of other landscape characteristics and associated features.

HISTORIC

Lewis Mountain's views and vistas are subject to the conditions of its topography, surrounding vegetation, and built features. During extractive periods of timbering and tanbarking in the 18th and 19th centuries, the study area likely was less forested and would have featured expansive views to the west of the Shenandoah Valley, Massanutten Mountain, and other ridges that make up the Virginia Blue Ridge. As the landscape regenerated from industrial thinning, the recovering vegetation altered and limited these views.

When Lewis Mountain was established in the late 1930s, park planners carefully considered the creation of a natural scene—notably, the views and vistas throughout the study area. Park planners surveyed the landscape and mapped out buildings and structures, roads, and other features to take advantage of their natural settings. Chief among the texts read by park planners was a series of treatises on campground design and scenery preservation published by the principal pathologist of the U.S. Forest Service, E.P. Meinecke. In his writings, Meinecke extols the virtues of preserving the natural setting where possible. To do so, he advocated for the arrangement of vegetation, boulders, and other natural features to achieve privacy, create designed views, and manage vehicle and pedestrian access to vegetated areas. Writing of campsite planning, he noted:

> Generally, the breaking up of an area into sites will leave some unused or unusable spots, open spaces covered with a tangle of vegetation, small patches and groups of reproduction, or picturesque outcrops of rock with some green. They are the "pictures on the wall," the decorative element that tends to break the monotony and adds to the feeling of living in the woods, away from the restrictions of civilization.[23]

Such considerations were given their own section, entitled "Beauty in the Camp." Meinecke's treatise predated Albert Good's book *Park and Recreation Structures* by a few years and would likely have been well-circulated among the designers of Shenandoah National Park.

Central to Meinecke's development of the camp scene or its views was the careful management of vegetation. He noted the importance of maintaining a natural screen at camp edges and between individual units, while also clearing understory vegetation within campsites. Above all, he argued, all caution should be taken before any tree or natural feature was removed from a campsite. Preserving natural features such as boulders, trees, or logs created "landscape rooms," fashioning a varied experience throughout the camp. This design logic held

that new built features, such as buildings or roads, should be located with these natural features in mind and indeed, should contribute to and not detract from existing landscape rooms. Early master plans for Lewis Mountain note the specific location of existing trees and rocks, indicating that park planners were conscious of creating views and vistas while placing new built features.

Both Meinecke and Good thus argued for the creation of specific views within camp environments. These included:

- Clear sightlines between individual camp and picnic sites and the centrally-located comfort stations in the campground and picnic grounds;
- The careful preservation of existing vegetation and scenery to frame views along roads and paths;
- Reciprocal views between buildings and structures in cabin clusters;
- Views to and from the lodge along axial roads and paths within the campground, framed by vegetation and planted islands; and
- Screened views at the edges of the campground, limiting views into and out of the camp.

At Lewis Mountain, this included limited views to the west of Skyline Drive and the landscape beyond, as well as views to the east from the Lewis Mountain Picnic Grounds of the Devil's Ditch.

In her study on Lewis Mountain, Erin Krutko Devlin further asserts that the entrance to Lewis Mountain was intentionally screened to ensure it was not visible from Skyline Drive.[24] Such an outcome served two goals: it served to racially and physically divide visitors, and it hid most physical evidence of segregation, apart from the entrance sign, from public view. Following this logic, the sequence of views and vistas from Skyline Drive to the lodge was screened and framed initially by a planted traffic island at the entrance, and then by maturing trees flanking the central campground road and at its junctures with other circulation features. Such vegetation features were arranged to prevent clear views of the lodge or facilities beyond. Where the central road splits at the picnic ground, park landscape architects used the curve of the road to bend the vista away from the lodge. Once at the cabins, designers directed the view back towards the lodge, terminating it in a vista that highlighted the building and its views beyond. This entrance sequence thus featured carefully choreographed views and vistas.

Similar approaches existed elsewhere along the main road and its spurs into the picnic ground and campground areas. Similarly, vegetation on the edges of the study area was actively feathered into a gradient, both to serve as a screen beyond the campground and to integrate it into the surrounding forest environment.

The picnic ground and campground also featured central views to and from their respective comfort stations, which were located on a natural rise and were clearly visible from all parts of each area. The picnic grounds also may have featured a prospect from the boulder field in the center of the picnic area. This human-made feature was the result of Civilian Conservation Corps laborers removing boulders from the landscape and stacking them in an ornamental fashion. No documentation has been found to indicate the design intent for this feature. However, when visiting the site today, the pile is surrounded by young vegetation that suggests it was once cleared, which would have allowed reciprocal views to and from the feature through the picnic grounds.

Historically, Lewis Mountain also featured a cleared vista from the lodge. The western elevation of the lodge featured a large picture window and several smaller windows, along which dining tables and other seating were arranged for visitors to look out over the landscape. The master plan for Lewis Mountain, as well as historic building plans by Marcellus Wright, Jr., called for a terrace on the western side of the lodge where visitors could fully appreciate the western vista (Figure 2.12). Much more substantial terraces were built at the whites-only Big Meadow and Skyland lodges. However, there is no evidence to indicate that the terrace was ever constructed at Lewis Mountain; the reasons for its omission are not known. It may be further physical evidence of the Virginia Skyline Company's resistance toward completing equivalent facilities for Black campers at Lewis Mountain, or it may have been a means for the company to cut costs at a facility it deemed unprofitable. More research is needed to confirm why the terrace was not completed.

The lodge's western vista may have featured views of the farms and homesteads of the Allen and Field Hollows, beyond the park boundaries, as well as the South Naked Creek watershed (Figures 2.13 and 2.14). It also almost certainly featured views of Massanutten Mountain and the Shenandoah Valley. Previous research stated that this vista was not constructed or cleared from the surrounding forest. However, aerial photography from the 1960s definitively shows a triangular clearing on the west side of the lodge that extends most of the way to Skyline Drive. It is likely that this vista was cut circa 1940 and then not maintained by the concessionaire, which would explain why later aerial imagery did not show this feature.

In keeping with the general design principles that called for screened views into and out of campgrounds, this vista featured a thin screen of vegetation adjacent to Skyline Drive. It is likely that the lodge was partially visible from Skyline Drive in the early years of its operation; in turn, Skyline Drive was almost certainly visible from the lodge windows. The view from the lodge may have been similar to the view from The Oaks overlook, located 0.6 miles to the south.

By the 1970s, this vista had largely been lost. Aerial photography from 1977 indicates that by this time, the vista was gone.[25] It is not known why the vegetation was allowed to return in this area, effectively abandoning the vista. The timing roughly coincides with changes in the management of Lewis Mountain following the departure of the Tutts and the Wrights. During this time, dining facilities were removed from the lodge, and it was converted into a camp store. This change in use may coincide with shifting management priorities for the broader landscape and its views.

Recent conversations between Audrey Tutt and Claire Comer also indicated that there was likely a clearing behind the lodge, presumably the vista clearing, which was used informally by the Tutt and Wright families for picnic and Homecomings.

Lewis Mountain has also featured directed views along its utility corridor since its creation in the late 1930s.

EXISTING

Internal views within the landscape have remained relatively consistent since the study area's construction, apart from the periodic loss of trees or shrubs that frame views along circulation features. As mature trees and shrubs die, or are lost to storm events, they have not been replaced. As a result, the campground and picnic areas have become significantly more open over time. Screening vegetation between campground and picnic sites has increasingly become mowed turf, melding together most sites into one continuous lawn with only a high canopy and creating open understory views. In the eastern half of the picnic area, vegetation management has had the opposite effect. A lack of maintenance east of the comfort station and boulder field has resulted in significantly overgrown vegetation that blocks internal views to and from the comfort station and the eastern parking lot.

Lewis Mountain does not retain its historic western vista from the lodge. This has been lost to vegetation that now entirely blocks views out of the lodge's western windows. In the same way, the store counter of the lodge now prevents visitors from easily looking out the windows.

Lewis Mountain retains views along its utility corridor behind the cabins across from the lodge. Although these views date to the period of significance, they are not in keeping with the Rustic Style design of the cultural landscape. They are considered non-contributing, incompatible features.



Figure 2.12. This excerpt from the 1938 Lewis Mountain Master Plan shows a vista designed by park landscape architects at the lodge. The southwesterly vista likely highlighted views of Skyline Drive and the Shenandoah Valley beyond. (Excerpt from SHEN 47218, Shelf 4, Box 8)

EVALUATION

Lewis Mountain continues to take advantage of the views to and from natural and cultural features within the landscape, as created by park landscape architects and Civilian Conservation Corps laborers. This includes its carefully framed views along camp circulation features, as well as screened views into and out of the study area. Landscape features such as the boulder field and mature trees continue to be the subject of internal views. Lewis Mountain also retains the directed views along its utility corridor. Although this feature dates to the period of significance, it is not in keeping with the rustic landscape design and is considered a non-contributing feature of the cultural landscape.

Lewis Mountain does not retain its principal designed vista to the west of the lodge. It has also lost its clear views to the comfort station and boulder field from the eastern side of the picnic area. This portion of the landscape has become substantially overgrown, blocking views from the parking lot to the picnic grounds. Similarly, both the western side of the picnic grounds and much of the campground have lost numerous character-defining mature trees, resulting in an open landscape that is not consistent with the historic character. This has increased the available views within these areas, in contrast with the landscape's original design intent. As such, the cultural landscape has diminished integrity with respect to views and vistas. However, careful treatment can reverse the damage to or loss of character-defining views and vistas, most of which are remain available within the cultural landscape (see the table below).

VIEWS AND VISTAS, LEWIS MOUNTAIN – CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES	
Feature Description	**Feature Contribution**
Sightlines between the comfort station and boulder field in individual picnic sites	Contributing
Views along road axes, framed by character-defining trees	Contributing
Reciprocal views between individual buildings in the cabin and lodge cluster in all directions	Contributing
Views along circulation features throughout the cultural landscape, framed by character-defining trees and understory plantings	Contributing
Screened views at the edges of the camp, limiting views into and out of Lewis Mountain	Contributing
Directed views along the utility corridor	Non-contributing (Incompatible)



Figure 2.13. This 1963 aerial photograph of Lewis Mountain shows the lodge (center) and its designed vista, including a triangular clearing facing Skyline Drive to the west (green). Maintenance of this vista waned in the ensuing decades. The vista is now blocked by vegetation except along the electric transmission right-of-way. (USGS EROS 1963)

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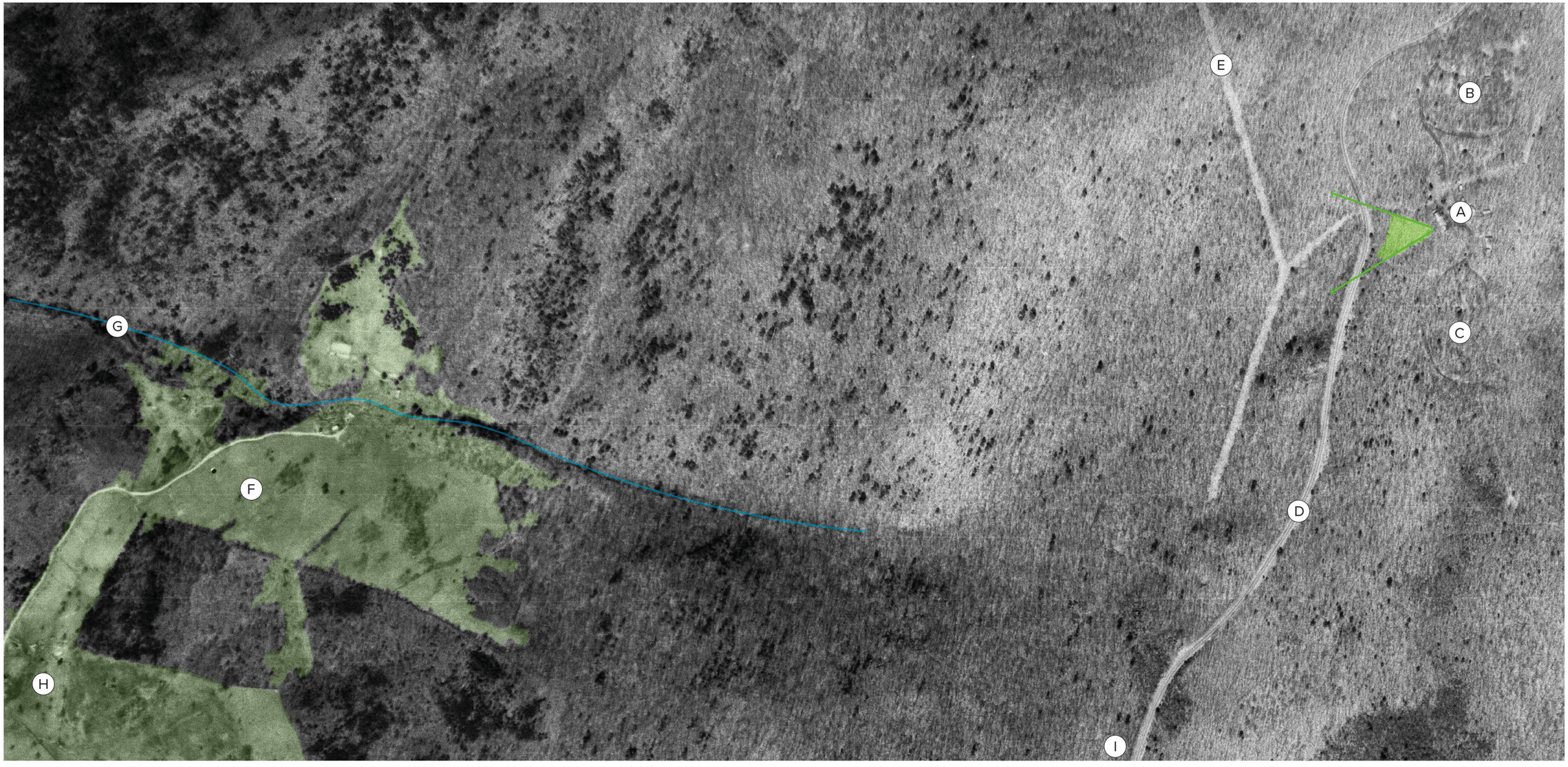

Figure 2.14. The original 1938 master plan for Lewis Mountain called for the creation of a westward vista from the lodge (A). This vista was constructed and maintained into the 1960s. It would likely have featured views to the west of the farms in Allen Hollow (F) and Field Hollow (H), as well as the watershed of South Naked Creek (G). It may have also featured more immediate views of Skyline Drive (D) and the utility clearing that serviced Lewis Mountain (E). (USGS EROS 1963, annotated by Torkelson 2022)

VEGETATION

Vegetation features are characterized by the deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants, and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

HISTORIC

No photos exist to indicate what the historic conditions of vegetation might have been before the period of significance and the construction of Lewis Mountain as a recreational landscape. Those photos that do exist from the early years of the period of significance—which consist primarily of aerial photographs—show much younger, thinner trees that were regenerating from the historic extractive uses of the landscape (Figure 2.23). Much of Lewis Mountain generally would



Figure 2.15. The picnic grounds feature clear sightlines between each picnic site, as well as filtered views in areas where mid-story and understory plantings create degrees of privacy within landscape rooms. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 2.16. The comfort station at the campground sits on a small rise, allowing it to be viewed centrally from all campsites. Mature trees also direct views to and from it along circulation features. (Nasta 2022)



Figure 2.17. Mature trees like these direct reciprocal views along circulation features between each cabin. However, there are no young trees in the understory or midstory, so once these mature trees are lost, the historic viewsheds will be significantly altered. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 2.18. Mature trees direct views along circulation features, visually linking various parts of the cultural landscape. (Nasta 2022)

have consisted of a patchwork of second-growth Eastern deciduous forests and clearings (e.g., former fields or selectively timbered or barked lands).

Vegetation was a critical part of Lewis Mountain's design and construction, and it contributed significantly to the rustic character of the landscape and its design. Chief among the principles of the Rustic Style was the impulse to highlight native vegetation and existing features within the landscape. National Park Service landscape architects and the Civilian Conservation Corps strategically used vegetation to create a naturalistic experience that prioritized scenic value over built improvements. Campground planners, such as E.P. Meinecke and Albert Good, advocated for the strategic planting of native trees to both highlight a site's natural beauty and create screening and privacy.[26]

Reforestation and the Forest Margin

Reforestation of submarginal lands was a significant component of Emergency Works programs nationwide. Within Shenandoah, this meant planting former farm fields, homesteads, and the entrances to logging or tanbarking roads with trees. At Lewis Mountain beginning in 1938, the Civilian Conservation Corps would have undertaken this work initially, under the supervision of the National Park Service. To prepare the landscape for camp construction, workers cleared downed timber and other debris and selectively pruned or thinned existing trees within the future camp units and camp core.

Civilian Conservation Corps workers who were engaged in reforestation were guided by a bulletin written by preeminent landscape gardener Frank Waugh. His bulletin was adopted in 1935 as a standard part of the educational curriculum for all Civilian Conservation Corps workers. Within rustic landscapes, Waugh argued for a zonal approach to vegetation planning. Prior to his work, this practice was largely unheard of within silvicultural circles, having been historically limited to the field of landscape gardening and the teachings of Andrew Jackson Downing, Calvert Vaux, Frederick Law Olmsted, and their students.[27] Waugh's background as a horticulturalist and Forest Service consultant united the aesthetic considerations of landscape gardening with the practical concerns of on-the-ground conservation work.

Waugh argued that in order to create the most naturalistic landscape, National Park Service designers should carefully undertake restorative plantings to soften the transition between developed areas or clearings and the untouched forest beyond (Figure 2.19). This feathered approach employed naturalistically-arranged mass plantings of native shrubs and plants such as mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), azalea (*Rhododendron sp.*), and viburnums (*Viburnum sp.*), among other site-specific plantings such as oak, maple, or pine.[28] Remarking on the importance of the forest margin, Waugh credited a

successful zonal restoration as creating "the very spice and seasoning of the whole landscape."[29]

Waugh's zonal approach was further clarified in a series of illustrations in *Landscape Conservation*. Zone A consisted of the natural forest, containing taller trees, and varied vegetative strata below. Zone B transitioned to a canopy and understory of smaller trees and large shrubs. Zones C and D transitioned from small shrubs to low ground covers, herbs, and vines that opened onto turf or developed areas. (Figure 2.19)[30]

Plantings within the Camp

While research for this report did not locate any site-specific historical planting guidance for Lewis Mountain, contemporary documents such as E.P. Meinecke's *Camp Planning and Construction* or Waugh's *Landscape Conservation* offer a look at how the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service treated camp plantings and the camp scene around this time. Natural settings, including Lewis Mountain, were actively designed and managed during their initial development. Meinecke referred to the careful management of plantings in any natural setting as "the pictures on the wall," noting that the creation of a pleasant camp environment did not happen without intention or design.[31] "Intelligent planting, therefore," he noted, "makes high demands on the imagination. The landscape gardener must visualize the ultimate effect of his planting as it will appear in the future." The larger design of the camp landscape would not be seen for decades after the initial planting efforts, once vegetation matured. The careful culling of large trees, pruning of existing ones, and planting of new ones would have all been carefully considered and undertaken by National Park Service staff to achieve the desired effect.[32]

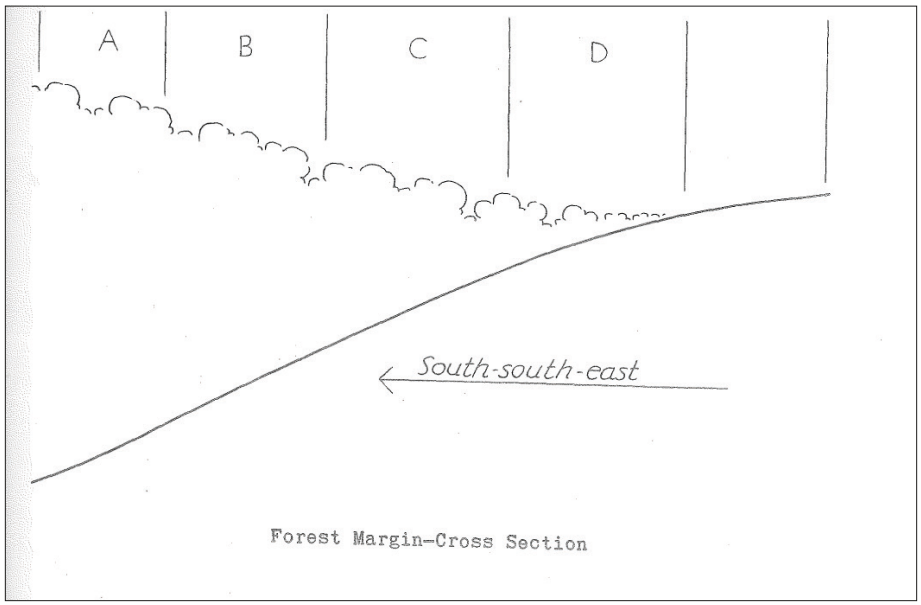

Figure 2.19. In his bulletin Landscape Conservation, Frank Waugh advocated for a zonal approach to restorative plantings between developed areas or clearings (to the right of "D") and fully-forested or natural zones (left, "A"). His manual was standard issue to all Civilian Conservation Corps companies employed on National Park Service lands. (Waugh 29)

Remarking on vegetation management at campsites, Meinecke wrote:

> The only changes [to the landscape] that can be made immediately are negative, that is, they consist in the removal of trees, shrubs or large rocks to make room for essential camp features.. . .Planting is expensive, and its effects do not become visible for years. The greatest care must, therefore, be exercised in the choice of trees or shrubs to be removed. An error in judgement cannot easily be rectified. This kind of work, which requires careful weighing and a good deal of creative imagination, should under no circumstances be left to untrained men. Each tree or shrub to be cut should be designated, and cutting should be strictly confined to these plants. No greater mistake can be made than to cut out all lower growth indiscriminately. A screen of shrubs or young reproduction between camps is a valuable asset, and its preservation must be made an integral part of any subdivision plan.[33]

Waugh's bulletin offered further, refined guidance to designers and workers establishing campgrounds. He conceded the need for greater, judicious clearance of vegetation to make campgrounds both pleasant and useful. "For looks," Waugh wrote, "the marginal dress of shrubs and herbs should be maintained; but for the need of light and air in camp, considerable clearing up is required." Such clearances for recreational uses, done correctly, could offer beautiful contrasts between sunny glades and the surrounding forest.[34]

Albert Good, apparently further codifying Waugh's guidance, noted that to achieve such an effect, workers should remove large trees that prevented "sunlight from reaching each building for at least two hours a day."[35] Smaller trees throughout camp units and the camp core were left to develop into a mature canopy. Many of these trees flanked roadways or abutted buildings and structures.

Meinecke and Waugh's hesitancy toward tree removal denotes a careful consideration of the entire camp scene and its successional future. They state the importance of not only an overstory, but also a well-developed and -managed understory to serve as a screen between camp units and the wider park. Such an understory also contained young trees that would eventually replace mature canopy trees as they aged or were removed.

Ornamental Plantings

Ornamental plantings are defined in this report as intentionally planted, placed, or cultivated specimens that are set apart from the surrounding forest environment. Such plantings have been a part of the camps' design since their initial design and construction by the Civilian Conservation Corps and National Park Service. According to historic photos and fieldwork, the most common location of these plantings was around buildings and structures.

Formal, geometric new plantings in rehabilitated landscapes—such as Lewis Mountain—were both cost-prohibitive and at odds with the naturalistic impulses

of Rustic Style landscape design. Limited formal plantings followed a similar planting palette found in Waugh's zonal approach. Ornamental plantings along roads or along the sides of buildings softened their edges and helped these artificial features to blend with the natural setting.[36] Photographs taken during the period of significance often highlighted these naturalistic, yet deliberately planted, clusters.

When Civilian Conservation Corps laborers constructed Lewis Mountain from 1938-1940, they cleared the site of dead chestnut trees and undergrowth, and then planted several native species. The Civilian Conservation Corps planted hemlock trees (*Tsuga canadensis*) around the entrance to the lodge. A hemlock was also planted in the campground. In addition, the Civilian Conservation Corps planted species such as mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), oak (*Quercus sp.*), pine (*Pinus sp.*), azalea (*Rhododendron sp.*), birch (*Betula sp.*), red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), and witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*).[37]

Mountain laurel and witchhazel were planted strategically around the cabins to help the buildings blend into the surrounding forest and reinforce the site's rustic design. Their flowering nature also aesthetically enhanced the landscape in the spring. Young trees were also planted in between campsites to increase privacy and create landscape rooms.

The picnic grounds were planted with pine trees for their year-round shade; their high canopies also served to preserve the open viewshed across the picnic grounds. Witchhazel and serviceberry were planted in patches to soften these open viewsheds and provide visual color to the picnic grounds.

Oaks and mountain laurel were planted in the traffic islands throughout the study area, including at its entrance.[38]

During the Mission 66 campaign and immediately after, designers relied on the same set of guidelines developed by the National Park Service in the 1930s. These vegetation management practices and landscape design guidelines continued to preserve existing vegetation and to advocate for a Rustic Style in the park. This included the careful preservation of existing trees during construction of the new campground registration. To do so, park staff built a Rustic stone masonry tree well around the existing trees during the 1967-1968 campground rehabilitation.

EXISTING

Much of the vegetative design intent remains legible within the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape. Many plantings added during the period of significance, or in-kind after it, are extant. However, there have been significant alterations and losses that continue to impact the landscape's integrity. Utility work undertaken from 1999 to 2001 resulted in the removal of many existing plantings around buildings

and circulation features. Extreme weather events, including Hurricane Isabel in 2003, have further thinned out the vegetation throughout the study area. Pests such as the fungus that causes oak wilt (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*), the hemlock wooly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*), and the spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) continue to impact mature, character-defining vegetation. As these threats kill mature trees, they are removed as part of the hazard tree program and are not replaced.[39] During fieldwork in 2022, the project team noted the removal of a large character-defining oak tree that flanked the entrance to the Lewis Mountain lodge.

Nonetheless, Lewis Mountain retains numerous significant planting groups that illustrate its historic Rustic Style landscape design. These include: rhododendron and mountain laurel planting islands outside the lodge and its parking lot; planted hemlocks adjacent to the lodge; elderberry, laurel, witchhazel, and rhododendrons adjacent to cabins; and mature oaks and pines that frame views along circulation features.

EVALUATION

Vegetative conditions at Lewis Mountain have changed since the period of significance, but the landscape has retained much of its design intent (Figures 2.15, 2.16, 2.17, 2.18, 2.20, 2.21, 2.22). Characteristic groupings of trees and shrubs remain adjacent to building and structures, mature trees flank circulation features, and high canopies of trees provide shelter to picnickers and campers. Some loss of character-defining vegetation due to age, disease, and storm events has resulted in a modified landscape that is increasingly more open. Cleared areas, including the boulder field and the lodge vista are no longer legible due to unmanaged vegetative growth. However, careful management, as well as in-kind replacement plantings can result in the restoration of the cultural landscape's design intent, and these changes can be reversed. Therefore, the vegetation at Lewis Mountain retains its historic integrity.

VEGETATION, LEWIS MOUNTAIN – CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES	
Feature Description	**Feature Contribution**
Civilian Conservation Corps-planted traffic islands at the lodge, parking lots, and at the camp entrance	Contributing
Civilian Conservation Corps-planted or -preserved trees adjacent to buildings and structures	Contributing
Civilian Conservation Corps-planted shrubs adjacent to buildings and structures	Contributing
Civilian Conservation Corps-planted trees that frame views along circulation features	Contributing
Civilian Conservation Corps-planted trees and shrubs that deliberately limit views into and out of Lewis Mountain	Contributing
In-kind replacements of Civilian Conservation Corps Plantings	Contributing



Figure 2.20. This tree well, added just after the Mission 66 campaign between 1967 and 1968, illustrates the continuity of interventions at Lewis Mountain that employ the principles of the Rustic Style to the cultural landscape. This tree well preserved the existing trees during the campground rehabilitation, demonstrating the designers' reverence for existing landscape features. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 2.21. View to the south of the Lewis Mountain campground comfort station, showing a Civilian Conservation Corps-planted or -preserved oak tree that was historically incorporated into the circulation patterns of the campground. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 2.22. Planted islands and ornamental plantings along buildings were important features of the landscape at Lewis Mountain, as designed by National Park Service and planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Note the large stump near the entrance to the Lewis Mountain lodge, where a large character-defining oak tree once stood. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 2.23. This undated historic photo shows some of the ornamental species that were planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps adjacent to the Lewis Mountain Cabins. (SHEN 54703, Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

CLUSTER ARRANGEMENT

Cluster arrangement is the location and pattern of buildings, structures, and associated spaces in the landscape.

HISTORIC

The cluster arrangement of Lewis Mountain was developed according to the park's master plan for the landscape. All buildings and structures were arranged around the centrally-located lodge. The cabins were arranged linearly along the central park road and faced the lodge opposite them. An additional loop of cabins was called for in the original master plan, to be located east of the built cabins and lodge, but these cabins were not constructed.

The campsites, which had a similar function to the cabins, were organized along a loop road and clustered around a central comfort station. This campground cluster was in the southernmost section of the cultural landscape, farthest from Skyline Drive. Per the guidance of E.P. Meinecke and other camp planners at the time, these campsites were arranged along the one-way road, with easy access between the parking spur and the cooking/eating areas. This arrangement, both between campsites and within each site, was intended to optimize camper comfort while protecting the surrounding vegetation. Many of the campground's Meinecke spurs and loops were enlarged at the end of the period of significance between 1967 and 1968, during the campground rehabilitation to accommodate larger vehicles and trailers.

The picnic ground had a similar cluster arrangement to the campground, with individual picnic areas arranged within a circular loop road around a central comfort station. However, unlike the campground, picnic tables were moveable. Other features, such as fire pits and drinking fountains, were fixed in place. As a result, the cluster arrangement of individual picnic areas was subject to change.[40]

EXISTING

The cluster arrangement at Lewis Mountain is identical to that of its period of significance (1938-1968). The site retains its central cluster of cabins, arranged linearly opposite the lodge, as well as its clusters of campsites and picnic areas that each surround a comfort station.

EVALUATION

The cluster arrangement at Lewis Mountain is unchanged since the end of its period of significance. Therefore, Lewis Mountain retains integrity with respect to its historic cluster arrangement.

CLUSTER ARRANGEMENT, LEWIS MOUNTAIN – CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES	
Feature Description	**Feature Contribution**
Cluster of centrally-located cabins, facing the lodge	Contributing
Campground cluster	Contributing
Picnic grounds cluster	Contributing



Figure 2.24. View to the south of the campground cluster at Lewis Mountain. (Boone, North Carolina State University, 2022)



Figure 2.25. View to the southeast of a portion of the cabin cluster at Lewis Mountain. (Torkelson 2022)

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Building features refer to the elements primarily built for sheltering any form of human activities; structures refer to the functional elements constructed for other purposes than sheltering human activity.

Lodge

HISTORIC

The lodge at Lewis Mountain was designed by the Virginia Skyline Company's architect Marcellus Wright, Jr., in consultation with Charles I. Barber of Barber and McMurry Architects. The lodge was constructed between 1939 and 1940 by the Virginia Skyline Company (Figure 2.26).

Wright conducted an initial site visit with park staff in March of 1939, to discuss his designs. His initial building plan included a central dining room flanked by a kitchen, storage room, heater room, manager's bedroom with bath, and public toilets for men and women. The dining room featured a low ceiling and led to an outdoor terrace, while additional staff lodging was to be located in a series of dormered rooms over the dining room. All rooms within the lodge were in one central massing; the initial design did not feature side wings. (This original drawing has been lost.)[41]

Reflecting on Wright's March 1939 plans, Park Landscape Architect Harvey P. Benson and Superintendent J.R. Lassiter offered several critiques and revisions.

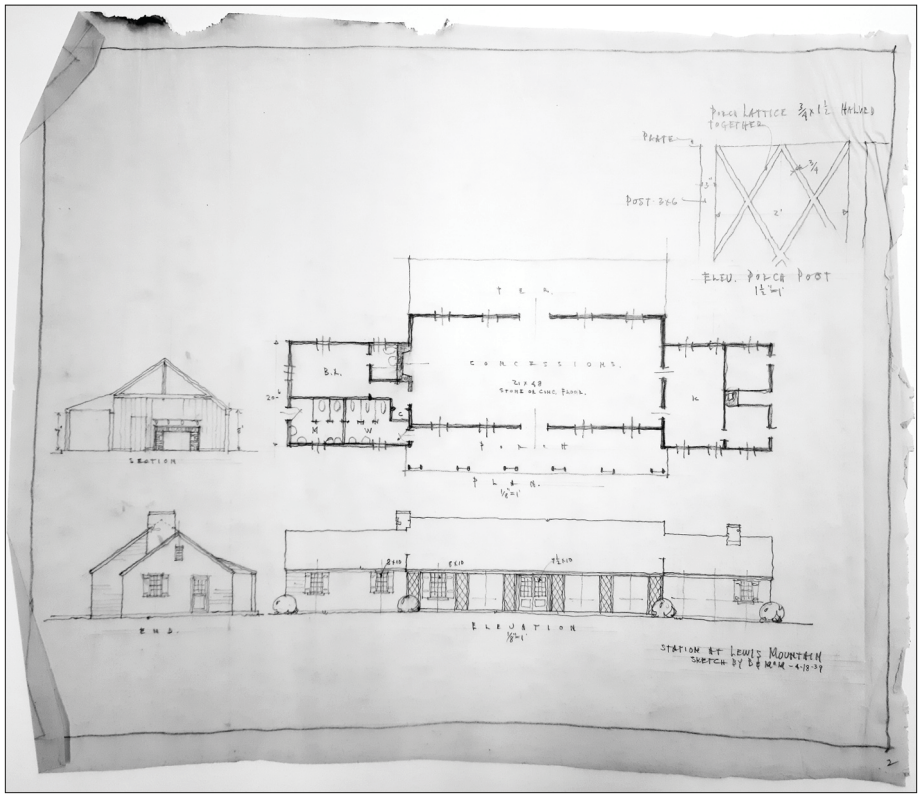

Figure 2.26. This sketch by Charles I. Barber of Barber and McMurry Architects was drawn days after a meeting of the National Park Service Regional Office Branch of Plans and Design in which participants critiqued Marcellus Wright Jr.'s initial plans for the lodge. Following the meeting any revised designs completed by Wright were to be brought to Barber for endorsement. (Map Case 12, Folder 66, Charles I. Barber Papers, MS-2006, Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives, University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

They felt that the main room was too small to serve its purpose as dining room, lunch counter, and gift shop. The planned rooms in the attic would make the space feel even smaller, and so they struck those spaces from the proposed drawings. In their place, Benson and Lassiter recommended an open dining room with scissor trusses above, similar to the Skyland Lodge (burned 1952). The displaced staff housing, they noted, should be in a separate cabin on site or in additional wings to the side of the main dining room. In removing the attic rooms and their dormers, the exterior of the structure was simplified; Benson recommended adding a simple shed porch to the front of the structure that could be flanked by service wings.[42] However, Wright, for unknown reasons, was slow to incorporate these changes, and progress on the design of the Lewis Mountain lodge all but stalled.

At an April 6, 1939, conference of the Regional Office Branch of Plans and Design concerning the Virginia Skyline Company's building program at Shenandoah, Associate Director Arthur E. Demaray and Chief of Planning Thomas Vint reiterated the immediate necessity for facilities for Black campers at Lewis Mountain. This regional group of National Park Service personnel was unsatisfied with the progress made to date on the Lewis Mountain lodge. During the meeting, Wright presented to the group the same initial designs for the lodge that he had previously shared with Lassiter and Benson. The group repeated the earlier critiques and recommendations, and called for any future plans to include the possibility of expansion. Based on these revisions, the Virginia Skyline Company was able to simplify the building plan, reduce construction costs, and expedite the lodge's completion. Lastly, in a likely effort to force Wright and the Virginia Skyline Company to complete the Lewis Mountain project, the committee stipulated that all revised designs should be approved by the consulting architect, Charles I. Barber, and then re-presented to the group for final approval.

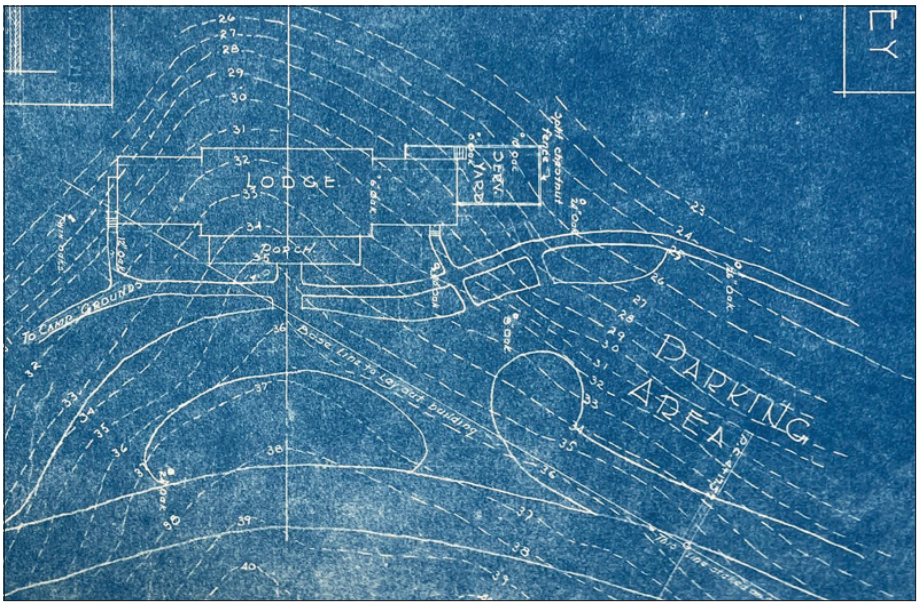

Figure 2.27. The lodge at Lewis Mountain was sited to take advantage of the existing topography. (Excerpt from SHEN Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 7. Used with permission, © Marcellus Wright Cox Architects, All Rights Reserved.)

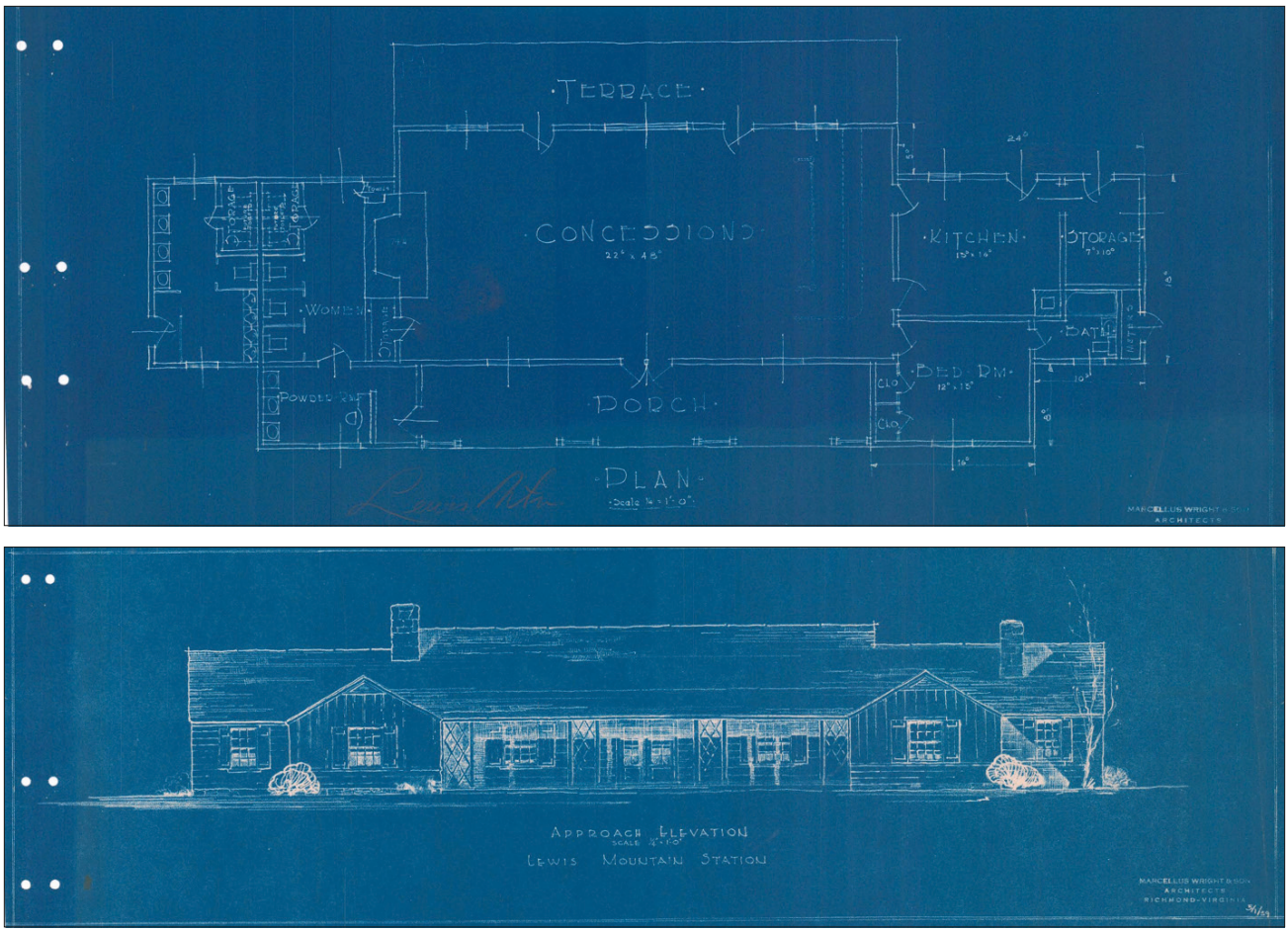

Figure 2.28. Marcellus Wright, Jr. completed a revised set of drawings for the Lewis Mountain lodge in early May of 1939. The bump-outs flanking the porch, as well as the rear terrace, were never built. (SHEN Maps and Plans Office. Used with permission, © Marcellus Wright Cox Architects, All Rights Reserved.)

Park planners intended that scuttled programming such as the terrace or additional staff quarters could be added during future building expansions; however, such expansions were never undertaken. Rather, a sketch completed by Barber in the days following the meeting closely resembles the design of the lodge today. It features a simplified central dining room flanked by a terrace and a porch with shed-roof (Figure 2.26). All services and other programming were housed in attached wings. The roofline and side elevations of the lodge were then modulated, likely to minimize the building's presence in the landscape.

Following Barber's advice, Wright prepared revised drawings in May of 1939 (Figures, 2.28, 2.29, 2.30, and 2.31). Like Barber's sketch, Wright's drawings featured a central shed-roof porch and two side wings. He also added two cross-gabled rooms on the front of the lodge and retained the terrace. Wright also modified Barber's programming, moving the manager's room into the kitchen wing and consolidating the other wing into bathrooms.

Construction drawings from June of 1939 show the finalized designs for the Lewis Mountain lodge. Following the advice of the committee, Wright removed the terrace and the two cross-gabled rooms at the front of the structure, which were originally designed as a powder room and a bedroom. These three spaces were left in the drawings as dashed lines to indicate areas for future expansion. The loss

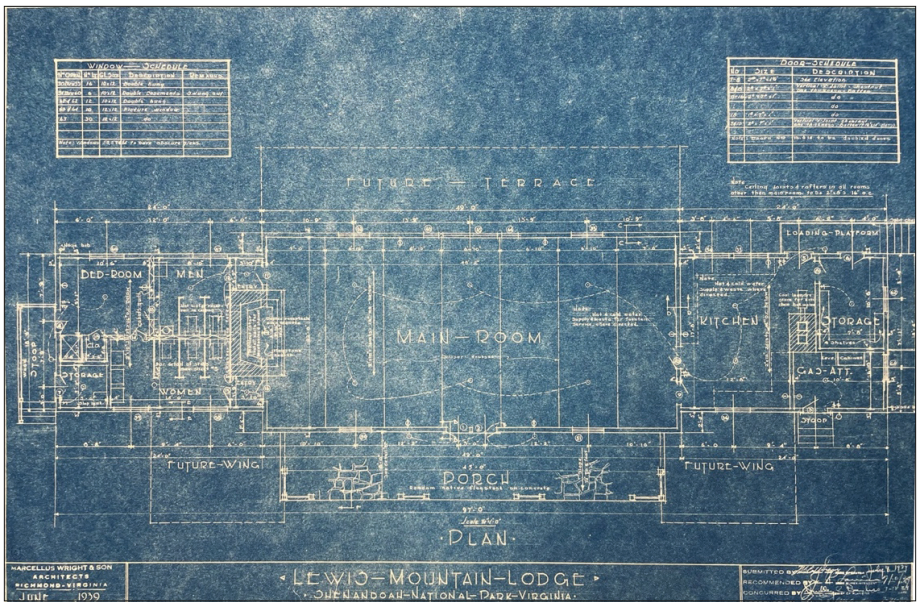

Figure 2.29. Wright drew up construction plans for the Lewis Mountain lodge in June of 1939. (SHEN Map Case 9 Drawer 5 Folder 7. Used with permission, © Marcellus Wright Cox Architects, All Rights Reserved.)

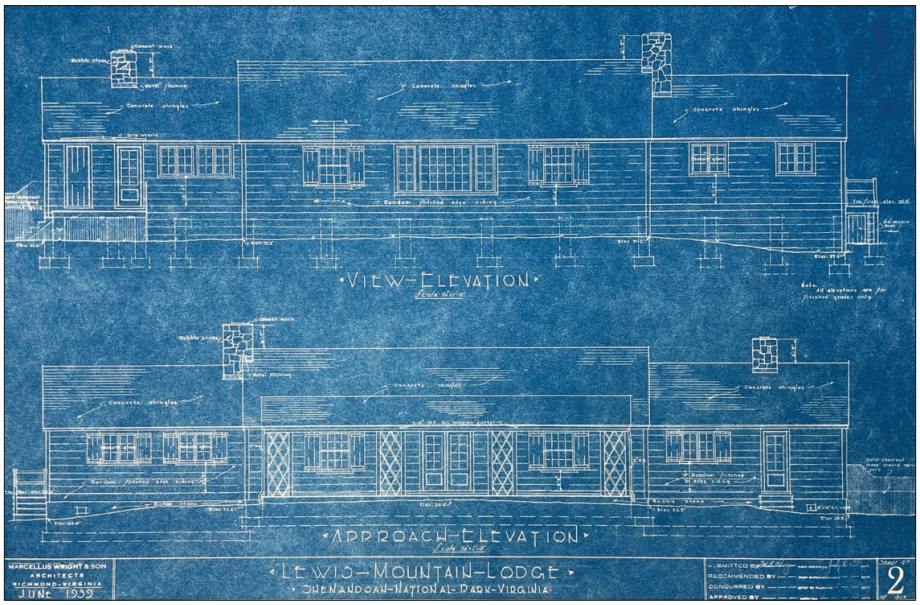

Figure 2.30. Wright drew up the elevations for the Lewis Mountain lodge in June of 1939. (SHEN Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 7, Used with permission, © Marcellus Wright Cox Architects, All Rights Reserved.)

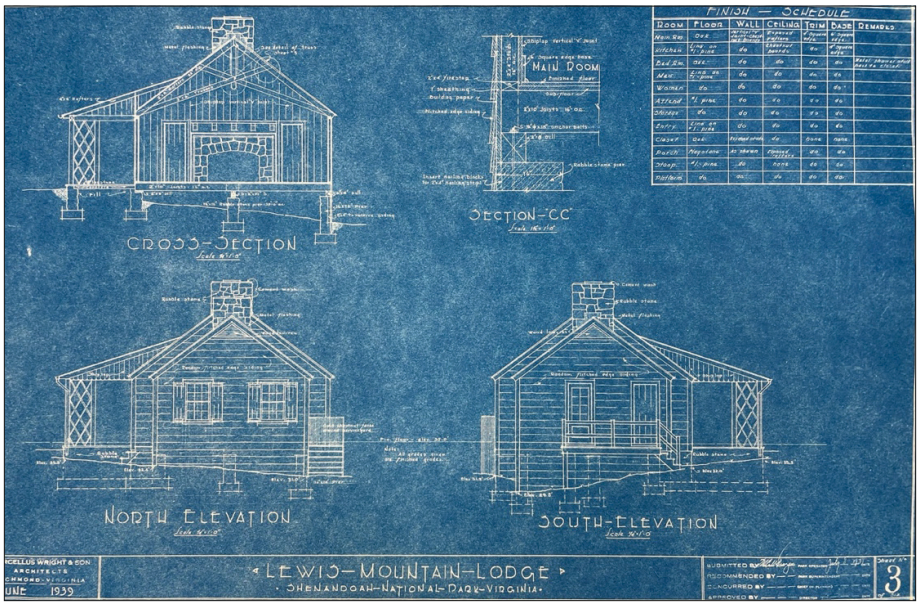

Figure 2.31. Wright produced the elevations, details, and sections for the Lewis Mountain lodge in June of 1939. (SHEN Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 7. Used with permission, © Marcellus Wright Cox Architects, All Rights Reserved.)

of these two rooms shifted the programming of the lodge. Wright relocated the manager's room to the same wing as the bathrooms and reduced the size of each bathroom; he eliminated the powder room altogether. In elevation, the building remained much the same. However, service spaces were equipped with smaller windows that were placed higher on the walls.

As built, the lodge was a one-story building with a symmetrical plan and a low profile that blended into the landscape. In elevation, the building stepped down to the north and south from its main massing. It featured rustic materials throughout, including two stone chimneys. One was located between its south and central massing, and a second was centrally placed in its north massing. Each section of the building was clad with random horizontal flitched-edge siding that was painted dark brown. Its roof was covered with concrete shingles made in the park by Civilian Conservation Corps laborers. The main façade contained a central entryway set within a covered native-flagstone porch with lattice posts. This central entrance section was bordered on each side by windows. The lodge's side elevations featured additional windows, and the rear elevation, dubbed the "view elevation" by Wright, featured a series of large windows, including a central picture window that looked out onto a managed vista.[43] The building also featured a service yard enclosed by a split chestnut fence. The landscape around the lodge included preserved oak trees that flanked it to each side, as well as Civilian Conservation Corps-planted hemlocks on its façade facing the central drive.[44]

Designs for the lodge were approved in July of 1939, following an on-site evaluation by Acting Park Landscape Architect Scudder Griffing. Griffing was concerned about how the lodge would fit into the landscape in relation to the approach road and parking lot. Accordingly, he staked out the footprint of the lodge and made small adjustments to the lodge's siting within the original master plan. This included moving the location of the structure further north to orient it



Figure 2.32. The Lewis Mountain lodge remains little changed from the period of significance. (Torkelson 2022)

parallel to the existing contours, allowing the building to better connect with the existing topography; the parking area also shifted north. According to Benson, the slightly shifted lodge site also connected better with the parking area. Such adjustments resulted in the present-day grading of the lodge, which is set into the hillside and contains a sunken parking area placed out of sight, lower than the lodge and main approach road.[45]

The lodge opened to Black visitors in July of 1940, and changed little during the period of significance. Circa 1968, the lodge was converted into a camp store and dining operations ceased.

EXISTING

The interior of the lodge has changed since the period of significance. The addition of accessible bathroom facilities on the south side of the building reoriented the location of the men's bathroom and showers, as well as the manager's quarters. Moreover, once the lodge was converted to a camp store, it lost its dining tables and lunch counter. Sometime after this conversion, the main counter inside the lodge was moved in front of the large picture window (from its location to the side of the kitchen), limiting views from the lodge to the landscape beyond.

The exterior of the Lewis Mountain lodge/camp store is largely unchanged from the period of significance (Figure 2.32). In 1996, however, the exterior of the building was altered to be made more accessible. To do so, a portion of the bathroom stairs and platform at the south end of the building were razed to accommodate a new wooden ramp. This ramp was also placed over the original stone steps that connected the south elevation of the lodge to a storage area below the building. The central entrance to the lodge was also regraded as a ramp leading to the top of the flagstone terrace.[46] In 2010, the building's concrete shingles were replaced with composite shingles that closely matched historic conditions. Beyond these minor changes, the exterior of the building remains little altered since the period of significance.

Cabins 1-3

HISTORIC

Cabins 1-3 were designed by Marcellus Wright Jr. according to a standard plan he developed for the Virginia Skyline Company's cabins throughout Shenandoah National Park. Construction of the initial cabins began in 1939, and was completed in time for the facility to accommodate Black campers in July of 1940. In keeping with the 1938 master plan for Lewis Mountain, the Virginia Skyline Company built the first cabins in the central section of the study area in the side of a hill facing west towards the lodge. (The 1938 master plan called for a series of 50 cabins.) While the Virginia Skyline Company originally constructed four cabins according to this design, one of the buildings burned down in 1940, and was not replaced.

Cabin 1 was used as employee quarters during the period of significance. All other cabins were open for public rental. Most were rented as duplexes, with one family or group occupying each side of the cabin.

Each cabin was vernacular in design and featured native building materials, with simple frame construction and a gabled roof. In plan, Wright's cabins featured two bedrooms split by a shared bathroom. Both bedrooms were accessed by their own exterior doors and porches on the west façade. These doors were perhaps the most ornate features of the cabins, sporting rough-cut planks organized in a vertical chevron pattern. The facades of these cabins were symmetrical, and had four six-over-six, double-hung windows with a six-light window in the center. In keeping with the Rustic Style, each cabin was fitted with flitched-edge wooden siding, native stone piers, and simple wooden windows and doors (Figure 2.33).[47]



Figure 2.33. Cabin 1 was used by Lewis Mountain employees during the period of significance. This 1961 photo shows the cabin, including a small sign that reads "EMPLOYEES." (SHEN 22055, Box 2, 0-276)



Figure 2.34. Cabin 2 was built in 1940. It features two bedrooms with separate entrances, flanked by a central, shared bathroom. (Nasta 2022)

EXISTING

Cabins 1-3 are extant and nearly identical to their condition during the period of significance (Figure 2.34). Cabins 1 and 2 underwent preservation treatment in 1993. Likely during this time, each cabin's timber porch was replaced with dimensional lumber. Despite this change, all three buildings retain a high degree of physical integrity from the period of significance.[48] Cabins 1-3 are contributing buildings to the cultural landscape.

Cabin 4-5

HISTORIC

Cabins 4 and 5 were designed in 1948 by architects Louis W. Ballou and Charles G. Justice for the Virginia Skyline Company. While these buildings were not constructed during the initial phase of Lewis Mountain's development, their design was consistent with the Rustic Style of Marcellus Wright, Jr.'s earlier buildings. Each mimicked the low-profile massing, color, and materiality of their predecessors. Ballou and Justice, however, specified rough-sawn board siding instead of flitched-edge siding, and standard shingles instead of concrete ones, . The architects also called for the enclosure of the building and porch footings with similar sawn-board siding to prevent rodents from accessing the space under the cabins.[49]

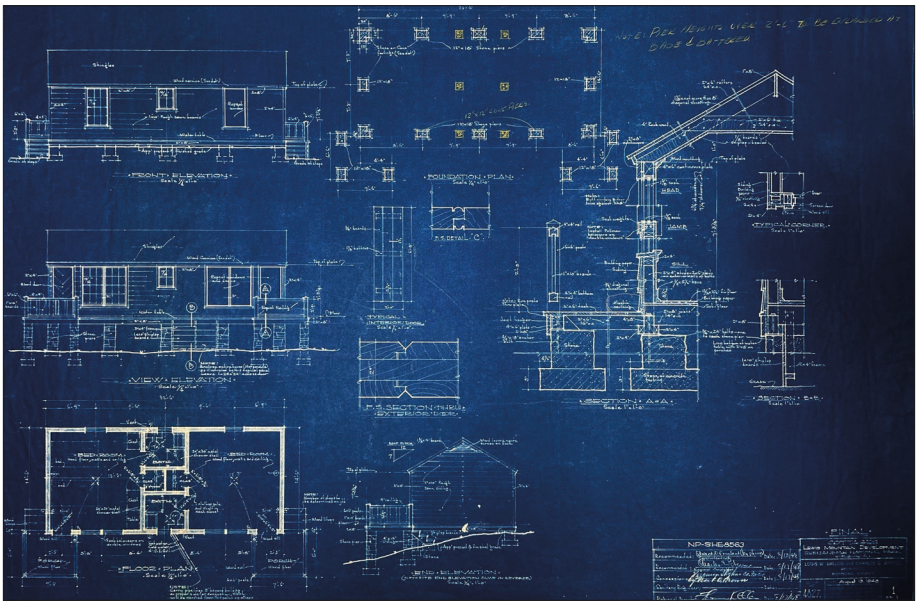

Figure 2.35. Cabins 4 and 5 were designed by the architecture firm Ballou and Justice, in keeping with the previous designs of Marcellus Wright, Jr. However, in plan, each bedroom had its own closet and bathroom. (SHEN Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 7. Used with permission, © Ballou Justice Upton Architects, All Rights Reserved.)



Figure 2.36. Cabins 4 and 5 were designed by architects Ballou and Justice and constructed by the Virginia Skyline Company in 1948. Cabin 4, shown here, remains little changed from when it was built, apart from its porch restoration. (Nasta 2022)

In plan, each cabin featured two bedrooms, two closets, and two bathrooms. Cabins 4 and 5 were designed as duplexes and did not connect or share interior facilities like some of the earlier Lewis Mountain cabins did (Figure 2.35).

EXISTING

Cabins 4 and 5 are extant and closely resemble their historic conditions during the period of significance (Figure 2.36). These buildings underwent a preservation maintenance treatment from 1999-2000, including porch restoration, new roof installation, and siding replacement. During this campaign, the siding along the footings of each porch was removed and not replaced.[50] Cabins 4-5 are contributing buildings to the cultural landscape.

Chestnut Cottage F & Spruce Cottage G

HISTORIC

Chestnut Cottage F and Spruce Cottage G were both designed in 1938 by Marcellus Wright, Jr. for the Dickey Ridge developed area. In 1952 and 1953, regional and park staff initiated conversations to move the cabins from Dickey Ridge to Lewis Mountain; however, the cabins were not moved to Lewis Mountain until 1954.[51]

Park Landscape Architect Harvey Benson and National Park Service Engineer Charles Baldwin met with representatives of the Virginia Skyline Company at Lewis Mountain in October of 1953, to locate the sites for the two relocated cottages. The group originally sited the buildings to the northeast of Cabin 1, on the south side of the picnic grounds parking area. However, after inspecting the proposed site, Benson and Baldwin noted that use of the picnic grounds had expanded across the road and that several picnic sites occupied this area. As a result, Benson recommended siting the two cottages to the south, opposite the existing five cabins. The two relocated cottages were not sited as part of the existing arc of cabins. Instead, they were placed opposite the southernmost cabin and across a potential future road. Originally called for in the 1938 master plan, this road would loop behind the extant cabins and accommodate up to 50 total cabins at Lewis Mountain; however, it was never built. The total cost for the move of the two cottages was $1,225, including new walks, site grading and seeding, selective cutting, and utilities hookup.[52]

Like the other cabins at Lewis Mountain, Chestnut Cottage F and Spruce Cottage G featured dark brown flitched-wood siding and gabled roofs. The two cottages had a similar plan to the Ballou and Justice cabins added in 1948, with two bedrooms, two baths, and two closets. Each side was accessed by its own door



Figure 2.37. From left to right, Chestnut Cottage F, Spruce Cottage G, and Cabin 15. Outdoor dining shelters are located between the buildings. (Torkelson 2022)

with a wooden porch. Both cabins had four six-over-six, double-hung windows on the north and south elevations and two vertical wooden slat doors with four-light windows. Notably, these two cabins were installed on cinder block foundations, instead of wooden or stone piers.[53]

At some point after their installation, each cabin was equipped with non-historic CMU porch supports and pipe railings. These replaced the wooden porches that were constructed on the cabins when they were first installed at Lewis Mountain. These were later removed.

EXISTING

Chestnut Cottage F and Spruce Cottage G remain at Lewis Mountain (Figure 2.37). In 1995, Spruce Cottage was modified to increase accessibility. This included the addition of a ramp, parking area, and an additional exterior entrance. The rear of the structure was also extended to make the bathroom larger to accommodate a wheelchair.[54] In 2002, non-historic materials were removed: the CMU porch supports were replaced with wooden posts; and modern asbestos roofing was removed. Historic materials, including rotting flitched-edge siding, were replaced in-kind. Spruce Cottage remains the only accessible accommodation at Lewis Mountain.

Both cottages retain all aspects of their rustic design. Non-historic features, such as accessible ramps and entrances, comprise materials that are in keeping with the buildings' historic rustic material palette. Both cottages contribute to the cultural landscape.

Cabin 15

HISTORIC

Cabin 15 is the southernmost cabin in the Lewis Mountain development, but documentation on the building is scarce. Past cultural landscape documentation attributed its construction to the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club as an overnight accommodation for club members before the development of Lewis Mountain. However, there is no archival information to date to support his claim. Building records in the Maps and Plans Office associate its construction with the Sky-Line Company circa 1940. Historically, it may have consisted of a simple tent platform of unknown materials and design. At an unknown date after the creation of Lewis Mountain campground, the building was reportedly enclosed; more research is needed to verify this claim. In plan, the 14' x 8'-8" frame building was set upon a 22'-2" concrete slab; the building featured a full-length gable-roof that covered the cabin and a porch area. The exterior of the building was clad in vertical board-and-batten siding. It also had a door and two transom windows on its west façade.

EXISTING

Cabin 15 is extant with no known significant changes since the period of significance (Figure 2.38). It is managed by the park's concessionaire and available to the public to rent. It is a contributing building within the cultural landscape.



Figure 2.38. Cabin 15 may have been constructed as a tent platform, predating Lewis Mountain's development as a recreational landscape. (Nasta 2022)

Picnic Ground Comfort Station

HISTORIC

The Picnic Ground Comfort Station was the first building constructed for the Lewis Mountain development. When the picnic area opened in 1938, construction of a permanent comfort station had not been completed. As a result, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed a temporary pit toilet until the permanent version could be completed the following year, once the water and sewer systems were in place. The temporary facility was likely demolished shortly after the permanent structure was built.

The comfort station, installed between 1937 and 1938 at the Lewis Mountain picnic area, was of a standard design found throughout the park. Similar buildings were added at the Big Meadows campground, Elkwallow, and the South River picnic area. This simple log design, approved for parkwide use in 1936, employed a single log pen capped with a gable roof. In plan, the structure was divided into men's and women's bathrooms, separated by a central utility room. The entrances for each gender were located on opposite sides of the building, placed behind wooden screens. The exterior of the building featured logs with concrete chinking.[55]

During Mission 66, park staff proposed replacing the building with a Modern equivalent. However, funding never materialized, and the historic structure was retained.

EXISTING

In 2000 and 2001, park staff rehabilitated the comfort station. This included preserving the historic exterior, including the entrance privacy screens and flagstone walks. However, National Park Service staff widened the comfort station's entrances and modified its interior configuration to make it more accessible and to accommodate modern bathroom fixtures. Despite these changes, the exterior of the building is nearly identical to its historic condition (Figure 2.39). As a result of the rehabilitation, the picnic grounds comfort station retains its integrity to the period of significance. It is a contributing building to the cultural landscape.



Figure 2.39. The picnic grounds comfort station retains the integrity of its design, as constructed during the period of significance. (Nasta 2022)

Campground Comfort Station

HISTORIC

The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the campground comfort station at Lewis Mountain in 1942 (Figure 2.40). It cost $965.62 to build, and was completed according to a standardized plan for stone comfort stations used throughout the park. This building was located on a slight rise at the center of the campground loop, in the southernmost section of the cultural landscape. As built, it was a gabled one-story building featuring regular-coursed stone walls, a concrete shingle roof, and board-and-batten gable ends. The building's north and south facades featured entrance doors flanked by stone wall privacy screens. Each of these elevations also had an additional door to the storage room and two windows. The gable ends also contained two windows.[56]

EXISTING

The campground comfort station has changed little since the period of significance, owing to its masonry construction (Figure 2.41). However, its interior configuration was lightly modified in 1983, to increase accessibility and to accommodate modern fixtures. The building underwent preservation treatments in 1998 and 2003. The scope of these projects is unknown. Nevertheless, the extant building is consistent with historic documentation of the conditions during the period of significance, suggesting that recent initiatives retained the building's historic character.[57] It is a contributing building to the cultural landscape.

Retaining Wall

HISTORIC

Adjacent to this comfort station, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed a retaining wall circa 1939, when workers initially graded the campground. The retaining wall was made of dressed and coursed random-cut stone and is approximately 2'-6" wide, 2' to 3' high, and 75' long. It features two stone steps at its southern terminus.[58]

EXISTING

The retaining wall remains extant (Figure 2.41). Recent repaving campaigns have covered some of the historic masonry with asphalt. Vegetation has also overtaken portions of the wall. However, it otherwise remains unchanged from the period of significance. It is a contributing structure to the cultural landscape.

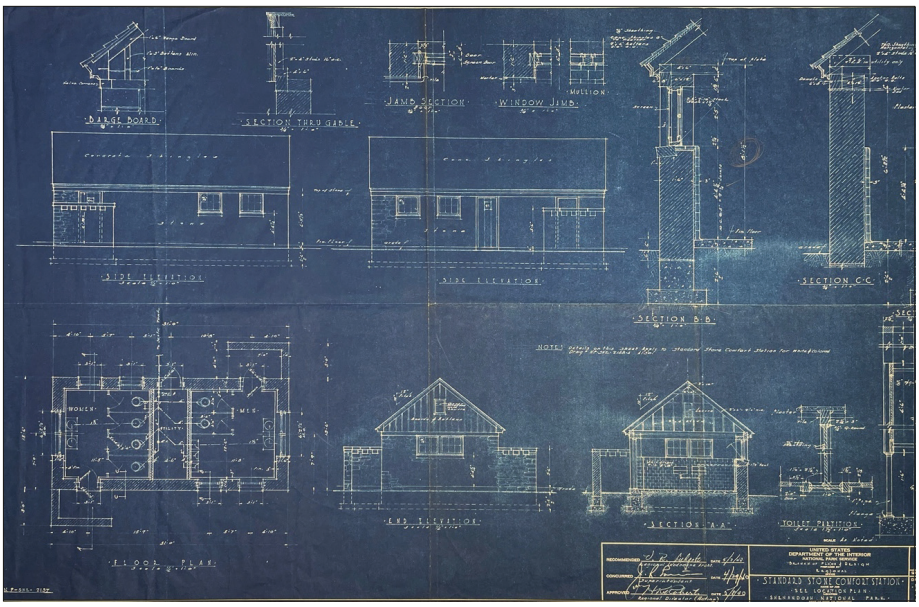

Figure 2.40. The comfort station at the Lewis Mountain campground was of a standard design employed across the park. It featured stone walls up to the roofline, where board-and-batten siding continued into the gables. (SHEN Map Case 11, Drawer 5, Folder 7)



Figure 2.41. The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the campground comfort station in 1942; it has not been significantly changed since that time. The Civilian Conservation Corps also built a stone retaining wall to the west of the comfort station, shown here to the right of the asphalt path. It is a contributing structure to the cultural landscape. (Torkelson 2022)

Campground Office

HISTORIC

The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed Lewis Mountain's campground office between 1939 and 1940, to serve as a contact station for campers checking into their sites within the campground. It was located at the campground entrance in the southern section of the cultural landscape. As built, the office was a 12' x 8'-2", one-room frame building with a central entrance and shed-roof set on cinder block piers. It featured vertical board-and-batten wooden siding painted dark brown. The roof was historically tarpaper and featured a small, corrugated metal awning over the entrance.[59]

EXISTING

In 2003, Hurricane Isabel destroyed the roof of the Lewis Mountain campground office; it was replaced soon after. The office's condition today is fair. Much of its siding is rotten, owing to splash back from rain and its roof is peeling back in places. Despite these condition issues, the building remains nearly identical to its appearance during the site's period of significance (Figure 2.42).[60] It is a contributing building to the cultural landscape.

Figure 2.42. The campground office was constructed between 1939 and 1940, to serve as a check-in station for campers at Lewis Mountain. (Nasta 2022)



Pump House

HISTORIC

The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the pump house in 1939, to provide water to Lewis Mountain facilities (Figure 2.43). This approximately 12' x 12'-10" building was built into a hillside. It featured a poured-in-place interior concrete shell, clad with exterior stone walls. Each elevation was topped with a small clerestory window, The recessed central entrance featured a wooden door with a small window and vent. It was located on a non-contiguous parcel across Skyline Drive from Lewis Mountain, closer to the Bear Wallow Springs area.[61]

EXISTING

The pump house is extant, although it was taken out of service in the 1970s after Lewis Mountain's water system was converted to a well (Figure 2.44). Since this time, there have been few changes made to the structure. Its wooden door was replaced at some point with a metal door, likely to restrict access to the space. Although the building is now functionally obsolete, there have been few significant physical changes to the building since the period of significance.[62]

Figure 2.43. A 1938 drawing of the Lewis Mountain pump house. (SHEN Map Case 9, Drawer 5, Folder 4)

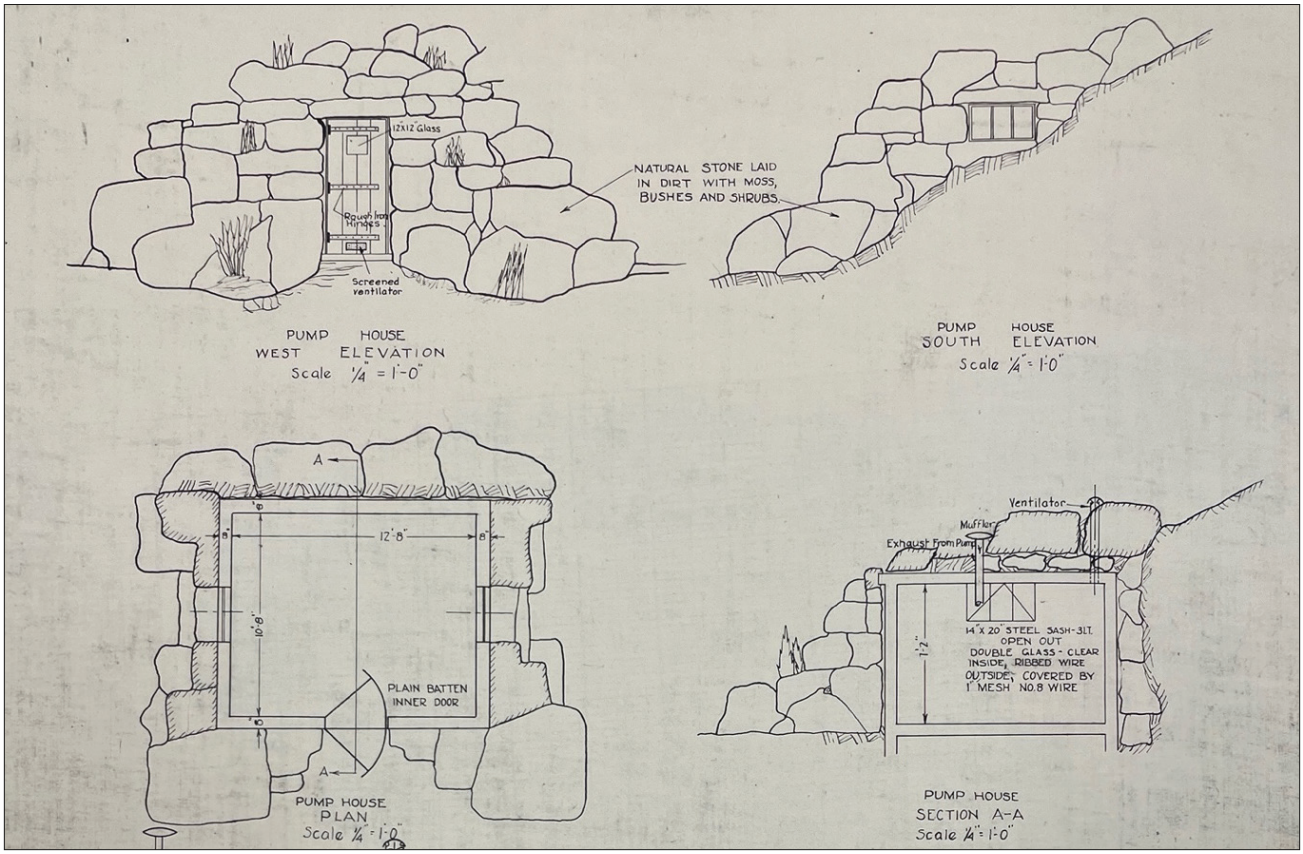



Figure 2.44. The Lewis Mountain pump house remains out of use today, but retains much of its historic design. (Norm Forder, National Park Service, 2010)

Boulder Field

HISTORIC

During Lewis Mountain's construction between 1937 and 1938, Civilian Conservation Corps workers arranged boulders into a pile on the eastern side of the picnic grounds. Doing so served two purposes: first, park landscape architects were able to clear the terrain of obstructions, so that the picnic grounds could easily accommodate large groups. Second, the boulder field likely afforded an area of visual interest within the landscape. Or, as Meinecke would have described it, the boulder field afforded a "picture on the wall," that is, a rustic attraction in the landscape. Its location at a high point near the center of the picnic grounds was likely no accident, as this feature would have figured prominently within the internal viewsheds of each picnic site. It may have offered a prospect to visitors, in much the same way that the high point at Pinnacles Picnic Area does today. The National Park Service frequently incorporated such rustic landscape features in its designed landscapes. However, it should be noted that to date, there is no archival evidence that corroborates this reading of the cultural landscape.[63]

EXISTING

The Civilian Conservation Corps-constructed boulder field remains at Lewis Mountain without any significant changes, or indeed any maintenance (Figure 2.45). As a result, in the decades since its creation, young trees, shrubs, and vines have overtaken this feature. The eastern half of the picnic grounds is heavily vegetated and blocks all views from the eastern parking lot into the central area.



Figure 2.45. The Civilian Conservation Corps-era boulder field in the picnic area remains in place today. However, it is heavily overgrown. (Vaughn, North Carolina State University, 2022)

Campground Registration Kiosk & Registration Kiosk Retaining Wall

HISTORIC

The original designs for the Lewis Mountain campground included a registration box. Campers used the structure to register when they arrived after the camp office was closed. The National Park Service removed this box during the 1967-1968 campground rehabilitation, when the agency changed the one-way direction of the campground road. National Park Service staff replaced the registration box with a new self-service kiosk of a standard design used throughout the Park Service (Figures 2.46 and 2.47). As built, it comprised three wooden panels that conveyed information about the campground rules to visitors. One panel featured a map of the campground. These panels were covered by a gabled shingle roof set on wooden posts. The kiosk also contained a metal fee-collection tube, colloquially called an "iron ranger."

Changes in road circulation and grade likely also required the addition of the retaining wall and tree well that surrounded the kiosk. The retaining wall was laid at the base of the kiosk, with coursed, random-cut stone laid in a curved pattern. It measured approximately 1' wide, 30" long, and 4' high.

EXISTING

The 1967-1968 campground registration kiosk and associated retaining wall are contributing features of the cultural landscape (Figures 2.48 and 2.49).[64] Their construction concludes the period of significance; their design is considered compatible with the Rustic Style of the campground and an extension of Mission 66 planning efforts. Similar rustic stone walls and tree wells were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps throughout the park. These resources do not contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape, but should be managed as resources compatible to the historic scene.

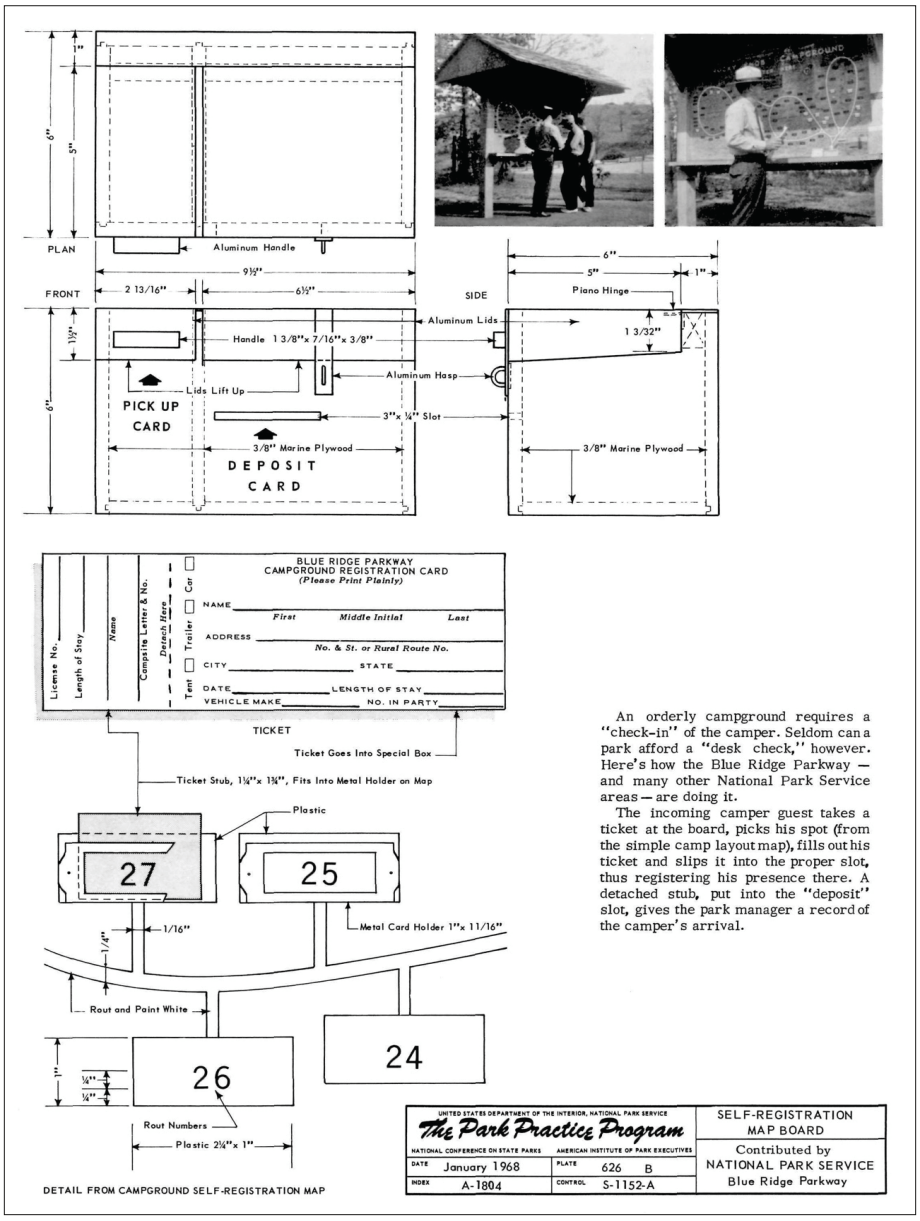

Figure 2.46. This self-registration map board design from the Blue Ridge Parkway is similar to one that was installed at Lewis Mountain. It was published in the *Park Practice Program*, a widely circulated publication of National Park Service designs for recreational landscapes. (National Park Service, *Park Practice Program*, Index A-1804, Control S-1152-A)



Figure 2.47. The original campground registration kiosk at Lewis Mountain, shown in this 1967 photo, did not include a masonry wall or tree well (as shown in Figures 2.48 and 2.49). A new registration kiosk and retaining wall were added in the 1967-1968 rehabilitation. (SHEN Maps and Plans Office)



Figure 2.48. The campground registration kiosk is no longer used by after-hours campers. Rather, it remains a vestige of past registration systems. Both it and its associated retaining wall (not visible in this photograph) contribute to the landscape. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 2.49. The circa 1967-1968 stone retaining wall and tree well at the campground entrance were constructed according to Rustic Style design principles, similar to those employed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service in earlier eras. (Torkelson 2022)

KIT-38 Microwave Building (Telephone Building)

HISTORIC

The KIT-38 microwave building was installed at Lewis Mountain sometime between 1957 and 1961. It was built as a part of a larger parkwide effort to improve communications between facilities.[65] The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Virginia commissioned the building, and the Fuqua Construction Company erected it. The one-story frame building contained one room measuring 12'-7" x 14'-3", set onto a concrete foundation. The shed roof was covered using a built-up system. The exterior of the building was clad with brown-stained vertical board-and-batten siding. Access to the building was only possible via a single central door and concrete steps.[66]

EXISTING

This building remains extant in the cultural landscape and is maintained as a utility (Figure 2.50). It is situated prominently along the Appalachian Trail, but is out of sight of the cabin and picnic areas. Since its initial construction, it has been repainted red and outfitted with a new set of wooden stairs that were built over the existing concrete ones. Although constructed during the period of significance, the building is considered a non-contributing feature, as it was not part of the original Rustic Style of the campground and does not fit within this historic context. It also detracts from the Rustic setting of the Appalachian Trail.



Figure 2.50. The KIT-38 Microwave utility building at Lewis Mountain is a non-contributing structure to the cultural landscape. (Torkelson 2022)

Power Plant (Abandoned)

HISTORIC

Located downslope from the Lewis Mountain lodge, this small structure was erected between 1940 and 1949 as a power plant that housed an electrical generator. (It is also variously referred to as the storage building.) As built, the CMU structure measured 8' x 10' and was constructed on a concrete foundation. It had a door on one side and a window opening (with undetermined sash design) on the other. It was capped with an asbestos shingle shed roof.[67]

EXISTING

This structure is in critical condition (Figures 2.51 and 2.52). It shows evidence of structural failure and a possible past fire, and has largely lost its roof. The structure dates to the period of significance and was a critical part of the utility system of Lewis Mountain. However, it retains little to no integrity. As a result, it is considered a non-contributing feature in this report.



Figure 2.51. The roof of the power plant building has largely been lost. (Nasta 2022)



Figure 2.52. The Lewis Mountain power plant structure is in critical condition has resulted in a significant loss in integrity. As a result, it is considered a non-contributing feature in this report. (Nasta 2022)

Dining Pavilions

HISTORIC

After the Lewis Mountain lodge ceased food operations in the late 1960s, visitors began cooking in their cabins. This presented a health and safety challenge; to solve this issue, the park concessionaire constructed outdoor dining pavilions at each cabin circa 1968. The Virginia Skyline Company commissioned local architects Baughan & Baukhages of Luray, Virginia to create sympathetic rustic dining shelters. The architects came up with several schemes that responded to the topographic conditions and aesthetic consideration of each historic cabin.

These dining pavilions were constructed using dimensional wooden lumber. They consisted of wooden posts that supported gabled or shed roofs over concrete pads. These roofs sheltered picnic tables and food storage cabinets, and featured adjacent fireplaces. Scheme 1 called for an attached shed roof. Scheme 1A called for an attached end-gable roof. Scheme 2 called for a detached shed-roof structure. Scheme 2A called for a detached gable roof structure.[68] All four schemes featured attached fireplaces and cooking areas (Figure 2.53).



Figure 2.53. After the suspension of food service at the lodge in the late 1960s, architects Baughan & Baukhages designed the dining shelters at Lewis Mountain. (SHEN Map Case 9 Drawer 5 Folder 6. © Baughan & Baukhages, PLLC. All Rights Reserved)



Figure 2.54. This dining pavilion located south of Cabin 5 was built circa 1968, once dining operations ceased at the lodge. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 2.55. These two dining pavilions attached to Cabin 4 were added in 1968, according to two schemes by architects Baughan & Baukhages of Luray, Virginia. (Nasta 2022)

EXISTING

Cabins 1-4, the Spruce Cottage, and one half of the Chestnut Cottage have attached dining pavilions built according to schemes 1 and 1A. Cabin 5 has two freestanding dining pavilions of scheme 2A, as does the other half of the Chestnut Cottage. No pavilion retains its original built-in fireplace (Figures 2.54 and 2.55). These buildings/additions were added in 1968, at the end of the period of significance. Therefore, they contribute to the cultural landscape and are compatible with its rustic aesthetic.

Interpretive Kiosks

HISTORIC

Circa 2012, National Park Service officials added an interpretive kiosk immediately south of the campground comfort station. As built, this kiosk consisted of a wooden frame structure with a shake roof. National Park Service staff affixed six interpretive panels to the posts of this structure. These panels detailed the park's natural history, campground regulations, and other important information. One panel also detailed Lewis Mountain's segregated history.

A smaller panel was added to the picnic grounds likely around the same time. It is located near the comfort station and includes information on picnic area policies.

EXISTING

Both structures are non-historic and do not contribute to the cultural landscape.

- -

EVALUATION

All the buildings and structures from Lewis Mountain's period of significance remain on the site today, and most retain their original use. (A limited number of structures, including the power plant building and pump house, are no longer in service.) However, several of the buildings have undergone some modification. Many of these modifications have been preservation treatments that are compatible with the landscape's period of significance. Moreover, many non-historic alterations have been removed so that the buildings and structures could be restored to their historic conditions. Other changes to buildings, including dining pavilions, are in keeping with the rustic aesthetics of the cultural landscape established at the end of the period of significance and do not detract from its integrity. Therefore, none of the modifications to the cultural landscape's buildings and structures has had a significant, adverse effect on the buildings' physical integrity. Lewis Mountain retains integrity of its buildings and structures.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, LEWIS MOUNTAIN – CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES	
Feature Description	**Feature Contribution**
Lodge/camp store	Contributing
Chestnut Cottage F	Contributing
Spruce Cottage G	Contributing
Cabin 1	Contributing
Cabin 2	Contributing
Cabin 3	Contributing
Cabin 4	Contributing
Cabin 5	Contributing
Cabin 15	Contributing
Campground comfort station	Contributing
Retaining wall at campground comfort station	Contributing
Campground office	Contributing
Picnic ground comfort station	Contributing
Pump house	Contributing
Boulder field in picnic grounds	Contributing
Dining pavilions (attached and freestanding)	Contributing
Campground registration kiosk and retaining wall	Contributing
KIT-38 Microwave Building (Telephone Building)	Non-contributing
Picnic grounds information kiosk	Non-Contributing
Power Plant (abandoned)	Non-contributing

SMALL-SCALE FEATURES

Small-scale features are the elements that provide detail and diversity, combined with function and aesthetics, to a landscape.

Boulder Drinking Fountains

HISTORIC

During Lewis Mountain's initial period of construction, the Civilian Conservation Corps built a series of boulder drinking fountains throughout the campground and picnic grounds (Figure 2.56). Laborers likely began this effort in 1938, but it was not completed until 1939. Each fountain was composed of a native boulder fitted with a brass bubbler, and featured a carved basin at the top. The side of each boulder contained a brass faucet or spigot mounted above a French drain of gravel bordered by curb stone. Most of these boulder drinking fountains were dug into the ground and set in a concrete base. At Lewis Mountain, all fountains were accessed via asphalt pathways that led right up to the edge of the fountains.

Figure 2.56. The boulder drinking fountains at Lewis Mountain were part of a standardized series of drinking fountains employed throughout the park. (OCLP 2005)

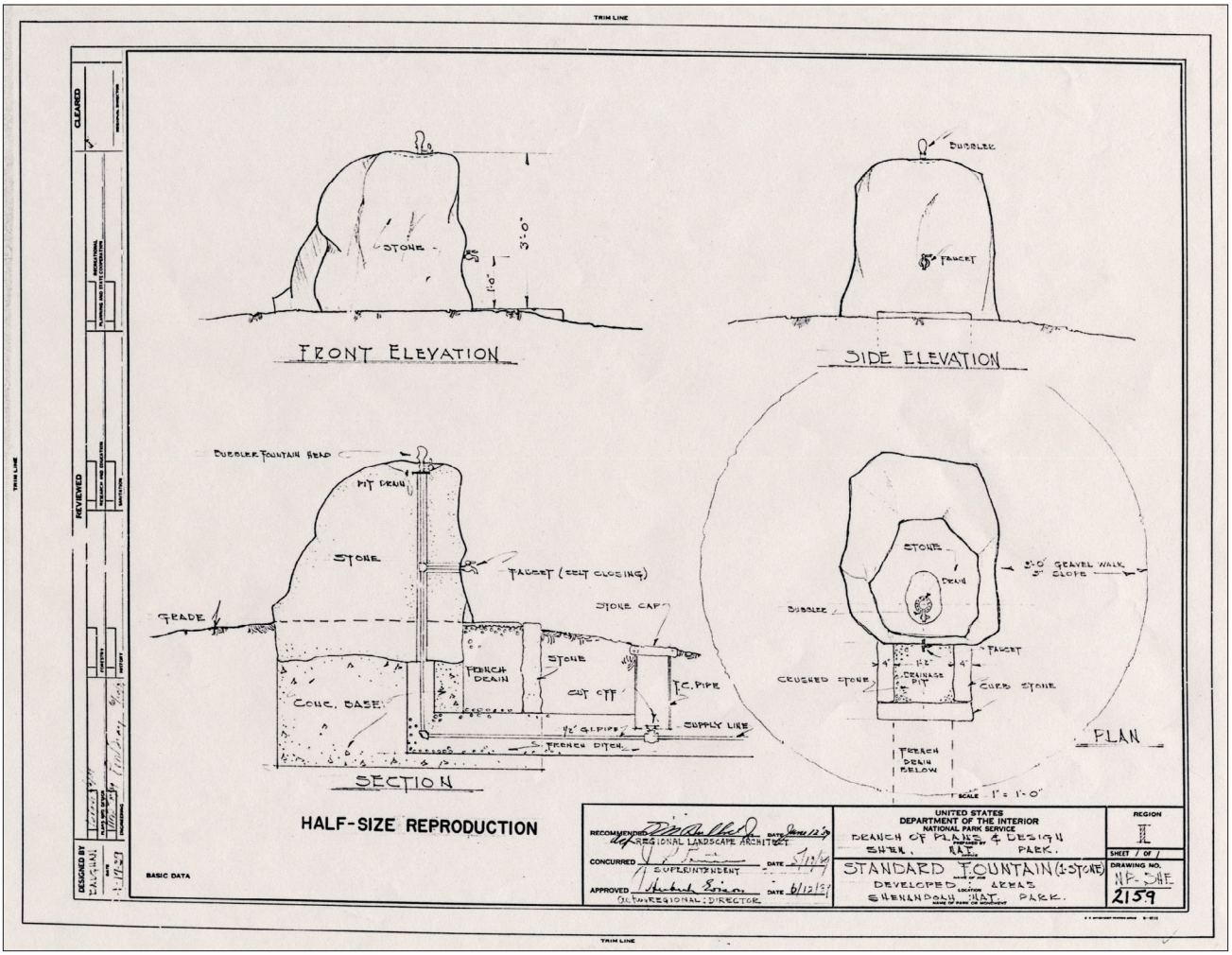



Figure 2.57. This boulder drinking fountain at the south end of the campground remains in operation today. (Torkelson 2022)

EXISTING

Many of the boulder fountains still exist at Lewis Mountain (Figure 2.57). However, there have been some alterations over the years. Some fountains have been removed, capped off, or altered to have chrome fixtures rather than brass. Ten fountains remain in the campground and picnic areas. However, during fieldwork in 2022, only one was operational.[69]

Boulders Along Road Edges

HISTORIC

Plant pathologist E.P. Meinecke advocated for the careful placement of boulders within campgrounds to restrict the movement of vehicles, preserve the natural landscape, and prevent root damage, soil compaction, and erosion. Writing on the topic, Meinecke noted that, "The automobile belongs exclusively on the road and in its parking spur. As soon as it leaves these it becomes a menace. . .Frequently there will be natural obstructions, rocks, stumps of trees or large logs, scattered through the camp grounds [*sic*], which serve to keep the car in its place."[70] By adding obstacles such as boulders at Lewis Mountain, campground planners were able to protect vegetation from vehicles and trailers. Meinecke was careful to recommend that all boulders be dug into the ground to make them appear as if they grew out of that location and to prevent them from looking like they were obviously placed there by human hands. The placement of the initial boulders at Lewis Mountain was not documented, but many of the boulders that are embedded throughout the campground were almost certainly added during the period of significance.

At some point after 1952, additional boulders were placed in several locations along the access road and loop roads to keep cars from going off-road. These



Figure 2.58. Boulders like these were intentionally placed to prevent vehicles from entering the picnic grounds. They were placed according to principles outlined by Meinecke and others. Some of the boulders may have replaced rotten log guardrails. (Nasta 2022)

replaced earlier chestnut logs and guardrails that rotted away. While these boulders were placed after the initial period of construction, their placement is in keeping with campground planning principles promoted by park planners in the 1930s and 1940s.[71] Additional boulders were also added or moved at Chestnut Cottage in the 1990s, when that building was made accessible. These boulders were placed at the end of the accessible parking area as a form of curb stops.

EXISTING

The boulders that define the road edges in areas of the cultural landscape are still present today and have undergone few significant changes (Figure 2.58). These features reinforce the landscape's rustic character and are considered contributing features.

Benchmarks

HISTORIC

During the initial survey of the area in the 1930s, the United States Geological Survey placed three benchmarks in the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape. USGS benchmarks provide researchers with location information—such as latitude, longitude, or elevation—as a point of reference in survey data. The Lewis Mountain benchmarks consisted of concrete posts topped by copper plaques that noted geographic information. These benchmarks were in the wooded area to the south of the cultural landscape, in the campground, and in the picnic ground.[72]

EXISTING

The USGS benchmarks at Lewis Mountain remain in the landscape today and have not been changed since the period of significance (Figure 2.59). They are contributing features of the cultural landscape.



Figure 2.59. This USGS benchmark is a contributing feature of the cultural landscape. (Torkelson 2022)

"Dusk-to-Dawn" Lights

HISTORIC

Until the Mission 66 period, Lewis Mountain did not feature lighting within the landscape. Lights were limited to the interiors of buildings and those mounted on their exteriors.

As a part of the long Mission 66 period, Shenandoah National Park installed several "dusk-to-dawn" lights around the park, including at Lewis Mountain, marking the first time that the area featured any lighting features. The new "dusk-to-dawn" lights were mounted on 12'-tall posts that were painted brown. In limited cases, including the dining pavilions, some were added to the exterior of buildings.[73]

EXISTING

This lighting system remains in place at Lewis Mountain (Figure 2.60). It has not been modernized since the original circa 1950s and 1960s building campaign. They are contributing features of the cultural landscape.



Figure 2.60. An example of a dusk-to-dawn light at Lewis Mountain. (Torkelson 2022)

Picnic Tables

HISTORIC

Picnic tables were located throughout the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape during the period of significance. At the time of initial construction as a recreational landscape, these picnic tables were distributed across the picnic grounds and at each campsite. In the 1930s and 1940s, there were two standard types of Civilian Conservation Corps-constructed picnic tables used at Shenandoah National Park, including at Lewis Mountain (Figure 2.61). Moveable wooden picnic tables were added to areas where there was no corresponding campsite or grill, while concrete stationary tables were added to areas that required permanent fixtures, such as campgrounds and picnic sites. The moveable table consisted of wooden planks supported by X-shaped bracing and arranged into a tabletop and benches. The stationary table design consisted of the same wooden tabletop and benches; however, unlike the moveable version, the benches for the stationary tables were mounted onto concrete pillars that were set into the ground.[74]

These Civilian Conservation Corps-designed tables/benches were used throughout the entire period of significance and were not replaced until the 1967-1968 campground rehabilitation.[75] In keeping with the design program of Mission 66, the National Park Service created a standard Modern metal picnic table (Figure 2.62). This design was shared widely throughout the National Park Service through the publications of the Park Practice Program. As wooden tables rotted throughout Shenandoah National Park, they were replaced with Modern versions. These tables consisted of wood-plank tabletops and benches supported by bent metal pipes. This metal piping was curved into a cross shape to form the ends of the tables.[76]

EXISTING

The picnic tables that date to the 1960s iteration of the Park Practice Program remain extant throughout the site, including in the picnic grounds and at various locations throughout the campground. They are contributing landscape features. However, Shenandoah National Park staff are in the process of replacing these throughout Lewis Mountain. The new tables feature heavy metal pipe supports and plastic-dipped grate benches and tabletops. These replacement features do not contribute to the cultural landscape.

There are also two accessible picnic tables in the campground that are also non-contributing.

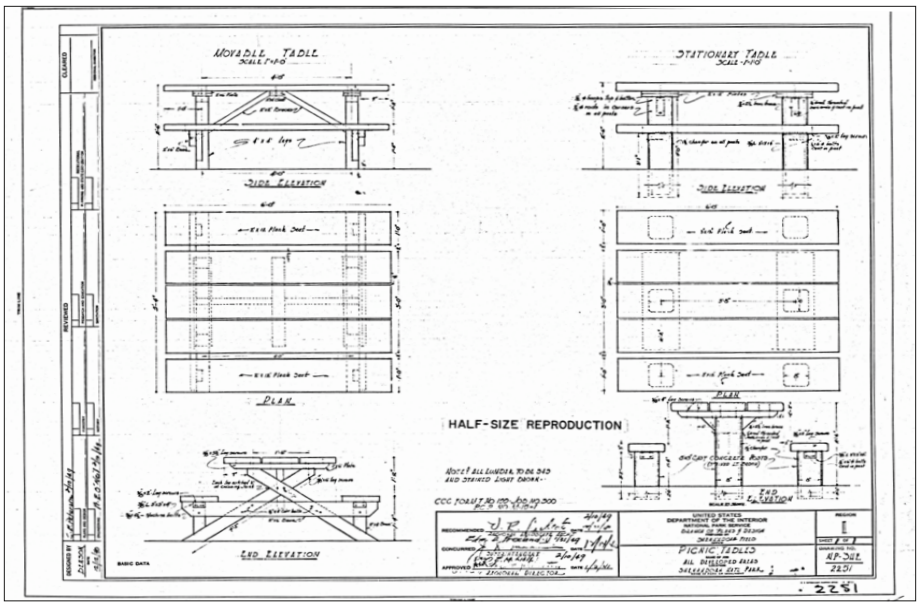

Figure 2.61. Shenandoah National Park employed two standard types of picnic tables at Lewis Mountain during the period of significance. One was wooden and moveable, while the other was concrete and fixed. (NPS ETIC SHEN_134_2251)

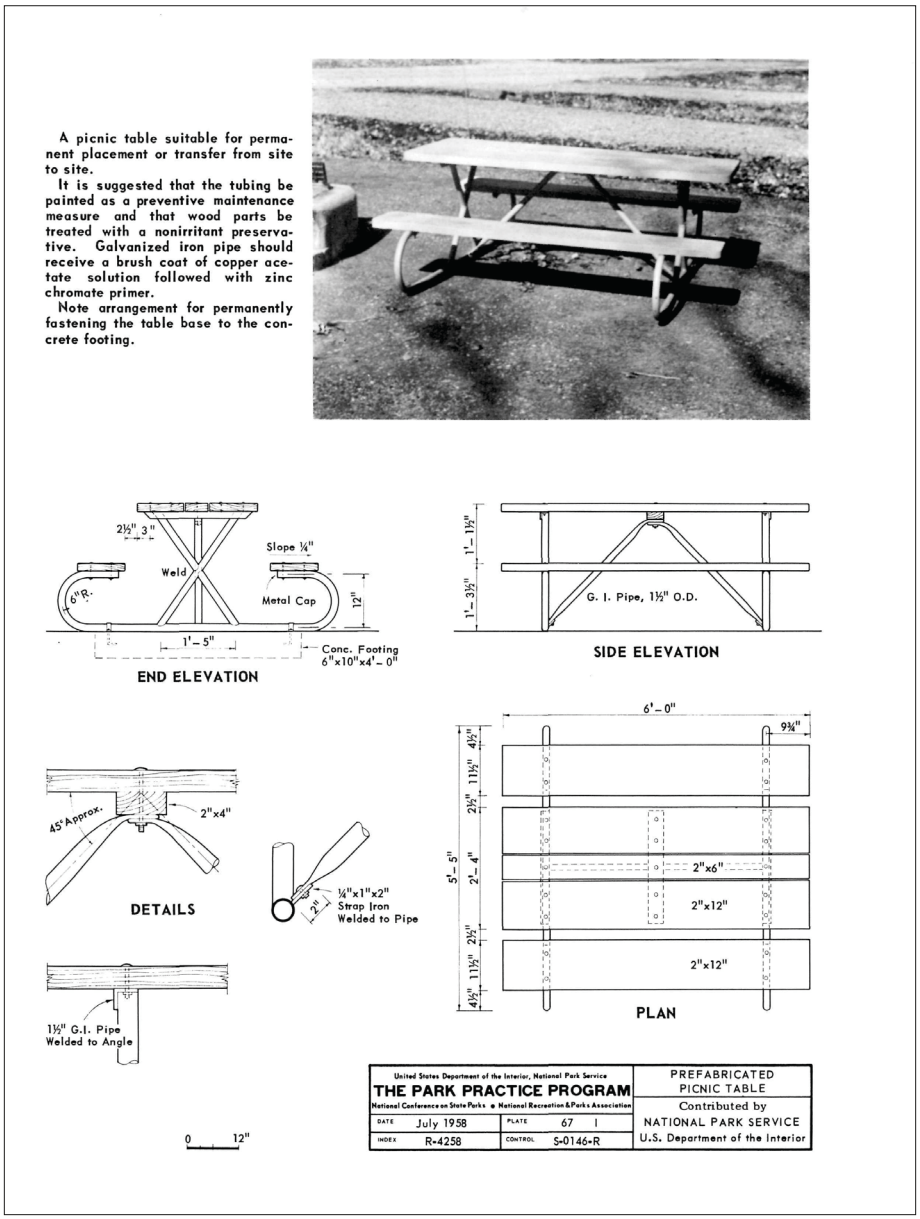

Figure 2.62. Between 1967 and 1968, most picnic tables at Lewis Mountain were replaced with Modern alternatives. This design was widely circulated in the National Park Service under the Park Practice Program. They are contributing landscape features. (National Park Service, Park Practice Program Index R-4258, Control S-0146-R)

Entrance Sign

HISTORIC

Signage was an important aspect of park design that played both an aesthetic and a functional role in the landscape, and entrance signs in particular were a vital part of any park. The Civilian Conservation Corps highlighted this importance in its manual on "Signs and Markers," in which it described specific design guidelines for park signage—most notably regarding entrance signs. Civilian Conservation Corps-designed signs were not beholden to a set of rigid guidelines, but they were consistent in the quality of their design. As noted in the manual, park signs were to be defined by their "fitness" to a specific place and setting. This concept of sign "fitness" was an extension of the National Park Service's Rustic Style, which prioritized locality and regional environments in its design. The Civilian Conservation Corps felt that signs should be legible and informative, while also attractive and grounded in a sense of place. The sign's mounting was just as important as its design (Figure 2.63).[77]



Figure 2.63. Undated photo of the first entrance sign for Lewis Mountain, built along Skyline Drive. This sign and its successor were tangible expressions of Jim Crow policies. Numerous complaints were filed by the public, including by the NAACP, in response to this sign and its replacements. (Unknown photographer, SHEN 22060/4001.009.01.04533/ Negative No. P 766L)

The entrance sign to Lewis Mountain was integral to the site, as it provided direction while travelling, noted which services were offered at a given location, and—most significantly for Black visitors travelling under the threat of Jim Crow—indicated which facilities were available for segregated use. The initial iteration of the sign at Lewis Mountain, designed by park landscape architects and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, consisted of a hanging sign board. It was located in the central planted island at the entrance to the campground, and read:

LEWIS MT.

PICNIC

GROUNDS

FOR

NEGROES

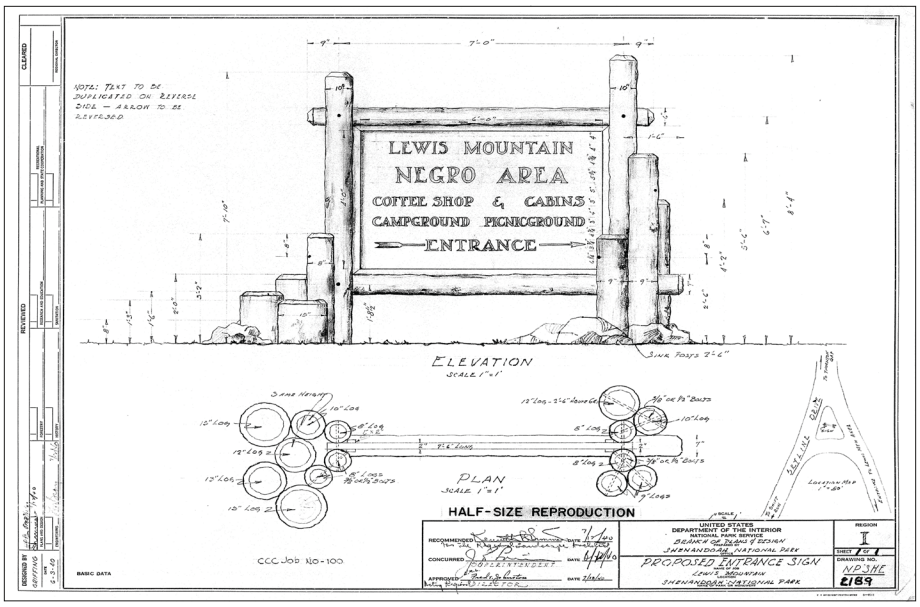

Figure 2.64. The 1940 entrance sign to Lewis Mountain employed the use of the Rustic Style while enforcing segregated use. (NPS ETIC SHEN_134_2189)



Figure 2.65. After legal desegregation in 1945 and 1946, the National Park Service simply scraped off the words "Negro Area" and replaced them with "Lodge." Such a move did nothing to encourage Black visitors to use other spaces in the park, but rather left a tangible reminder of policies that were still socially enforced. (Lennart. Y. Berg, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.11802/Negative No. 663-16B)



Figure 2.66. This sign was located at the entrance to Lewis Mountain during the Mission 66 era. (Donald M. Black, National Park Service, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide #04635)

The mounting of the sign consisted of native logs.[78] This sign was presumably constructed in the late 1930s, before Lewis Mountain's campground was completed.

The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the next iteration of Lewis Mountain's sign around 1940 (Figure 2.64), when Lewis Mountain officially opened with both picnic grounds, a campground, and a lodge. This sign was significantly larger and more detailed, and read:

LEWIS MOUNTAIN

NEGRO AREA

COFFEE SHOP & COTTAGES

CAMPGROUND PICNICGROUND [*sic*]

>>>------ ENTRANCE ------->

The sign was mounted on dark stained chestnut logs of varying heights, stacked around the taller log structure that held the sign.[79]

When the park was desegregated by law in 1945 and 1946, the sign was slightly altered to convey this change (Figure 2.65). By 1946, the words "Negro Area" had simply been removed from the sign and replaced by the word "LODGE." However, traces of the former lettering clearly read "Negro Area" underneath the new lettering.[80] Desegregation at Shenandoah was primarily implemented through the removal of racial designations from park signage and literature, instead of active enforcement of the change. In this way, barriers to integrated use remained in the landscape, despite legal desegregation.[81]

By 1965, the entrance sign was replaced with a simple Modern sign (Figure 2.66). Like its predecessor, it contained an arrow that directed traffic and listed the available facilities, this time adding mention of a campfire circle.[82] It read:

LEWIS MOUNTAIN

---------->

MEALS LODGING

PICNIC AREA CAMPGROUND

CAMPFIRE CIRCLE

The National Park Service logo was also added to the sign.

EXISTING

The current entrance sign at Lewis Mountain was likely installed in recent decades (Figure 2.67). It was installed after the period of significance and employs



Figure 2.67. View to the west along Skyline Drive at the entrance to Lewis Mountain. Note the extant entrance sign, as well as the remnants of plantings within its traffic island. (Nasta 2022)

a different font than the historic signs, and features icons instead of words to indicate the available facilities at Lewis Mountain. It is non-contributing.

Other Signage

HISTORIC

There were several other informational and regulatory signs located throughout the cultural landscape during its period of significance. One type of sign was a wooden sign that was painted brown with routed white or yellow lettering. These signs conveyed basic information, such as Skyline Drive distances, safety warnings, or camping regulations; they often featured points indicating a direction of travel. There were also standard regulatory metal signs that provided traffic information or park rules. In addition to these signs, there were various exposed aggregate concrete posts that conveyed trail names and distances on metal bands.

EXISTING

All signage at Lewis Mountain has almost certainly been replaced since the period of significance. Wooden signs that are painted brown are considered compatible with the historic character of the landscape but are non-contributing. Metal traffic signs are a modern necessity but are also considered non-contributing.

- -

EVALUATION

Lewis Mountain retains several small-scale features that date to the period of significance and contribute to the landscape, including drinking fountains, boulder edging, USGS benchmarks, Modern picnic tables, and lighting. Other features such as some picnic tables and signs have been replaced. Modifications after the period of significance, additional signage, do not significantly impact the historic landscape character of Lewis Mountain. Therefore, Lewis Mountain retains integrity with respect to its small-scale features.

SMALL SCALE FEATURES, LEWIS MOUNTAIN – CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES	
Feature Description	**Feature Contribution**
Boulder fountains	Contributing
Boulders along road edges	Contributing
USGS benchmarks	Contributing
"Dusk-to-dawn" lights	Contributing
Picnic tables (Mission 66 to 1968)	Contributing
Entrance sign	Non-contributing
Picnic tables (recent)	Non-contributing
Signage	Non-contributing

Landscape Feature Table: Contributing and Non-Contributing Features

Lewis Mountain was documented for inclusion in the NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory in 1999 (CLI-300118), with updated documentation for existing conditions and contributing features in 2021. The following table lists the contributing features and selected non-contributing features of Lewis Mountain organized by landscape characteristic. The table includes a cross-reference for the Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) if applicable. Items noted in the table below and listed with an * are entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

CHARACTERISTIC / FEATURE	EVALUATION	CRIS RESOURCE NAME	CRIS-HS Resource ID	DATE
Natural Systems and Features				
Location in the Blue Ridge Mountains, part of the Appalachian Mountain Range	Contributing	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mature second growth forest dominated by oaks, surrounding areas developed as campground	Contributing	n/a	n/a	n/a
Land Use				
Recreational use via picnic grounds, lodge and cabins, and campground	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938
Recreational use as part of the Appalachian Trail, featuring spur trails that connect to the main route	Contributing	n/a	n/a	Pre-1935
Recreational use as part of Skyline Drive	Contributing	n/a	n/a	c. 1930s
Location of Lewis Mountain along the north-south ridgeline of the park	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938
Gently sloping topography from northeast to southwest	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1968
Topography				
Demarcation of Lewis Mountain by Skyline Drive to the west and north, and the Appalachian Trail to the east and south	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940
Delineation into three sections linked by circulation features	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940
Picnic grounds loop, consisting of a central circular drive and centrally-located comfort station	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940
Picnic grounds loop, consisting of a central circular drive	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1939
Campgrounds loop consisting of a central circular drive and centrally-located comfort station	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1939-1940
Amphitheater area separating the central built core and the picnic grounds loop	Non-contributing	n/a	n/a	c. 2021
Circulation				
Alignment and character of main entrance road, connecting Skyline Drive to: the picnic grounds; developed area; and campground, including forked entrance road and planted islands *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Road System	083149	1938
Lewis Mountain campground Meinecke-type loop, including vehicle pull offs and one-way direction of travel *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Road System	083149	1939; 1968
Central pedestrian path from lodge to western side of campground loop *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Complex Pathways	083160	c. 1938-1968
Paths connecting cabins to the main road *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Complex Pathways	083160	c. 1938-1968
Appalachian Trail spurs	Contributing	n/a	n/a	c. 1938-1940
Paved trails in picnic area *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Complex Pathways	083160	c. 1938-1939
Remnant trace of former Appalachian Trail route *	Contributing	n/a	n/a	Pre-1938
Lodge paths and paving *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Complex Pathways	083160	1939-1940
Lewis Mountain lodge parking lot *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Road System	083149	1939-1940
Accessible parking spurs	Non-contributing	Lewis Mountain Road System	083149	c. 1995

Log cribbing steps at lodge parking lot	Non-contributing	Lewis Mountain Complex Pathways	083160	Unknown, post-POS
Paving around comfort station in campground	Non-contributing	Lewis Mountain Complex Pathways	083160	c. 1990s
Picnic grounds parking lots	Non-contributing	Lewis Mountain Road System	083149	1980
Widened section of main road adjacent to campground comfort station	Non-contributing	Lewis Mountain Road System	083149	1999-2000
Views and Vistas				
Sightlines between the comfort station and boulder field in individual picnic sites	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940
Views along road axes, framed by character-defining trees	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940
Reciprocal views between individual buildings in the cabin and lodge cluster in all directions	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940
Views along circulation features throughout the cultural landscape, framed by character-defining trees and understory plantings	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940
Screened views at the edges of the camp, limiting views into and out of Lewis Mountain	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940
Directed views along the utility corridor	Non-contributing (Incompatible)	n/a	n/a	1938-1940; and later
Vegetation				
CCC-planted traffic islands at the lodge, parking lots, and at the camp entrance	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940s
CCC-planted or -preserved trees adjacent to buildings and structures	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940s
CCC-planted shrubs adjacent to buildings and structures	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940s
CCC-planted trees that frame views along circulation features	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940s
CCC-planted trees and shrubs that deliberately limit views into and out of Lewis Mountain	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940s
In-kind replacements of CCC Plantings	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940s and later
Cluster Arrangement				
Cluster of centrally-located cabins, facing the lodge	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1940
Campground cluster	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1939-1940
Picnic grounds cluster	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1938-1939
Buildings and Structures				
Lodge/camp store *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Lodge	083158	1939-1940; 1996 (accessible)
Chestnut Cottage F *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Cabin "F" (11/12)	083194	1938; 1954 (Moved from Dickey Ridge)
Spruce Cottage G *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Cabin "G" (13/14)	083195	1938; 1954 (Moved from Dickey Ridge)
Cabin 1 *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Cabin #1	083152	1939-1940
Cabin 2 *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Cabin #2 (7/8)	083153	1939-1940
Cabin 3 *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Cabin #3 (5/6)	083154	1939-1940
Cabin 4 *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Cabin #4 (3/4)	083155	1948

Cabin 5 *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Cabin #5 (1/2)	083156	1948
Cabin 15 *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Cabin #15	083151	c. 1940
Campground comfort station *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Campground Comfort Station	083159	1942
Retaining wall at campground comfort station *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Campgrd Comfort Sta Retaining Wall	83161	1939
Campground office *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Campground Office	083150	1939-1940
Picnic ground comfort station *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Picnic Grounds Comfort Station	083163	1938
Pump house *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain CCC Pumphouse	221829	1939
Boulder field in picnic grounds	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1937-1938
Dining pavilions (attached and freestanding)	Contributing	(same as associated cabins)	(same as associated cabins)	1968
Campground registration kiosk and retaining wall	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Kiosk Board Retaining Wall	083157	1967-1968
Picnic grounds information kiosk	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1967-1968
Power Plant (abandoned)	Non-contributing	n/a	n/a	c. 1940-1949
Interpretive Kiosks	Non-contributing	n/a	n/a	c. 2012
KIT-38 Microwave Building (Telephone Building)	Non-contributing (incompatible)	n/a	n/a	1957-1961; and later
Small-Scale Features				
Boulder fountains *	Contributing	Lewis Mountain Complex Boulder Fountains	083162	1938-1940
Boulders along road edges	Contributing	n/a	n/a	c. 1938-1940; 1952; 1967-1968
USGS benchmarks	Contributing	n/a	n/a	c. 1930s
Picnic tables (1950s-1968)	Contributing	n/a	n/a	1950s (M66) and 1967-1968
"Dusk-to-dawn" lights	Contributing	n/a	n/a	c. 1950s-1960s
Entrance sign	Non-contributing	n/a	n/a	Unknown (recent)
Picnic tables (recent)	Non-contributing	n/a	n/a	c. 2022
Signage	Non-contributing	n/a	n/a	Various

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Treatment

According to National Park Service policy, a *cultural landscape report (CLR)* is the primary supporting document guiding the treatment of cultural landscapes and is required before significant interventions are undertaken. *Treatment* is the collective set of actions taken within a cultural landscape to protect and preserve the resources and characteristics that contribute to its historic character. Treatment guidance may range from broad guidelines, principles, and policies to site-specific tasks. The overall goal of treatment is to provide a basis for the sound stewardship of the cultural landscape according to the *National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guidelines* (1997) and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1996).

Part II of this report provides treatment guidelines for Lewis Mountain based on the Part I findings. The recommendations were developed through discussion and collaboration with National Park Service staff and partners and were refined during two virtual treatment workshops convened in June and July 2023.

The treatment recommendations are also greatly informed by guidance from descendants—people who lived, worked, and visited Lewis Mountain during the period of significance. The authors of this report convened members of the New York-Virginia Club as a group for a virtual oral history conversation and a discussion about the future of Lewis Mountain in August of 2022. For more on their recommendations, see the "Summary of Stakeholder Feedback" and "Treatment Philosophy" below.

The treatments proposed in this report are recommendations and do not constitute specific obligations on the part of the National Park Service or its concessionaire(s). Adoption of the report's recommendations are subject to legal, budgetary, and operational constraints.

TREATMENT FRAMEWORK

Treatment for a cultural landscape is subject to the park's enabling legislation, management policies, and mission. This describes the framework within which this report's landscape treatment guidelines and tasks have been developed.

Congress authorized Shenandoah National Park on May 22, 1926.[1] The authorization followed 1925 legislation establishing the proposed park boundaries and authorizing land acquisition by the Commonwealth of Virginia on the National Park Service's behalf. The park's original purpose was to preserve an

area of natural beauty and provide recreational opportunities to the public. For more on the park's enabling legislation and executive orders, see the April 2015 Foundation Document, Appendix A.

The treatment and use of Lewis Mountain must also be considered within a framework of applicable laws, agreements, and policies. These mandates govern various management issues, including preserving, protecting, and interpreting cultural resources. Key laws, regulations, and functional requirements that apply to the recommended treatments include the following:

Treatment for the cultural landscape is subject to the National Park Service Organic Act (1916), which established the National Park Service and defined its purpose: "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such a means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."[2]

Any landscape treatments at Lewis Mountain are also subject to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This act protects buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects with significant scientific, historical, or cultural value. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on properties listed or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. All actions affecting a park's cultural resources must comply with this law, implemented through 36 CFR 800.[3]

Additional guidance shaping treatment choices is included within: the *National Park Service Resources Management Guidelines* (NPS-28); Director's Order #28, *Cultural Resource Management*; Executive Order 11593, *Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment* (1971); and National Park Service *Management Policies* (2006).

NPS-28 guides resource management and landscape preservation, including biotic systems, defined as plant and animal communities associated with human settlement and use. NPS-28 directs the management of specimen vegetation—such as trees, shrubs, and orchards—to ensure health and vigor and, if appropriate, provide for propagation of the next generation, especially for rare plants or those unavailable in commerce. For natural systems, NPS-28 calls for managing landscape patterns to allow for natural dynamics. To avoid spreading and disrupting adjacent natural plant communities, exotic plant species in cultural landscapes should be monitored and controlled. In addition to biotic systems, NPS-28 states that historic circulation features are to be rehabilitated to accommodate health and safety codes in ways that minimize impacts on historic character.

Director's Order #28 also directs the National Park Service to comply with the substantive and procedural requirements described in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*; the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*; and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (NPS 1998b).

Executive Order 11593, *Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment* (1971), mandates that "the Federal Government shall provide leadership in preserving, restoring, and maintaining the historic and cultural environment of the Nation."

The National Park Service *Management Policies* (2006) establishes policies that guide the management of the entire national park system. According to the document, these policies "set a firm foundation for stewardship that will continue to earn the trust and confidence of the American people."[4]

PARK PLANNING

The National Park Service expresses its priorities and goals for managing its resources through its publicly reviewed planning documents, including General Management Plans (GMPs), Master Plans, Development Concept Plans (DCP), and Foundation Documents. These planning documents articulate the park's purpose and fundamental resources, establish long-term goals and strategies, and provide public input and review opportunities. This report's guidance is informed by the objectives outlined in those documents.

Shenandoah National Park drafted and approved a combined *General Management Plan and Development Concept Plan* (GMP + DCP), completed in 1983. It was originally intended to be used as a guide for park management for 10 to 15 years. The document is out of date by this measure; it has not been updated but continues to serve as the official planning guidance for the park. When the GMP + DCP was written, the park was less than 50 years old, and resources such as Lewis Mountain that were associated with the initial development of park infrastructure were only beginning to be recognized for their historical significance. The plan recommended undertaking the necessary research and documentation for determining those resources' significance and stipulated that they be treated as historic until such determinations could be made. New structures in the vicinity of historic structures were to be complementary in design and compatible in scale with existing buildings. Specific resources, such as the lodge, cabins, and campground, were identified in the GMP + DCP for preservation, interpretation, and adaptive reuse.

Among its specific objectives related to Lewis Mountain, the GMP + DCP called for the expansion of existing facilities to meet modern needs.[5] None of these measures were implemented. The recommended tasks included:

- Picnic Grounds
    - Construct a picnic shelter that accommodates 4 groups, including new fireplaces and a water spigot
    - Increase accessibility of the existing comfort station
- Lodge and Cabins
    - Construct 5 new duplex cabins (accommodating 10 groups)
    - Increase interior accessibility at the lodge while preserving the exterior
    - Increase parking capacity from 24 to 32 cars
- Campground
    - Install a trailer dumping station and new septic system
    - Construct an employee housing unit that also serves as a contact station

More recently, the April 2015 park foundation document codified preservation and rehabilitation efforts at Lewis Mountain. A foundation document is the underlying guidance for all management and planning decisions in a national park system unit. It describes the core mission of the park unit by identifying the unit's purpose, significance, fundamental and important resources and values, interpretive themes, assessment of planning and data needs, special mandates and administrative commitments, and the unit's setting in its regional context. The 2015 Shenandoah National Park Foundation Document identifies the park's purpose as follows:

> Shenandoah National Park preserves and protects nationally significant natural and cultural resources, scenic beauty, and congressionally designated wilderness within Virginia's northern Blue Ridge Mountains, and provides a broad range of opportunities for public enjoyment, recreation, inspiration, and stewardship.[6]

Interestingly, the foundation document lists Skyline Drive as contributing to the park's fundamental resources and values (FRVs) but recognizes the drive's associated historic structures under a lesser category. Among its highest priorities, the foundation document calls for the creation of a Skyline Drive Cultural Landscape Report. As a contributing property to the Skyline Drive Historic District, the Lewis Mountain Cultural Landscape Report, partially addresses this need.

Ongoing and Future Planning Efforts

This cultural landscape report connects with recent and ongoing preservation and rehabilitation efforts. As of 2023, ongoing park planning efforts will address aging utilities and deferred maintenance, in cooperation with the park concessionaire.

As of Fall 2023, several projects are ongoing or planned at Lewis Mountain:

- Lewis Mountain Lodge roof replacement
- Lewis Mountain Cabin 1 roof replacement
- Lewis Mountain lodge bathroom rehabilitation
- Installation of new waterlines and replacement of existing waterlines to the lodge and cabins
- Parkwide road rehabilitation, including Lewis Mountain entrance road and parking lot

This report, paired with those concurrent and forthcoming projects, will ensure that Lewis Mountain is preserved and its condition is improved according to the guidance of established treatment plans and guidelines.[7]

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

To better understand the history, existing conditions, and management context of Lewis Mountain, the authors connected with 5 historical users and 25 National Park Service staff, concessionaire staff, non-profit partners, and scholars. For a complete list of stakeholder contacts, refer to Appendix A of this report. These stakeholder conversations directly informed the treatment recommendations.

Treatment recommendations were also informed by a collaborative landscape architecture studio on Lewis Mountain, conducted by North Carolina State University under the supervision of Professor Kofi Boone with input and guidance from the University of Pennsylvania research team. This studio was completed in the Fall of 2022. Some recommendations from this studio have been incorporated into this report.

This treatment philosophy is strongly informed by interviews with individuals who visited or worked at Lewis Mountain during the period of significance. Two themes emerged from interviews with historical users. When asked how they would like the stories of Lewis Mountain told, and what the future of the site should look like, they shared:

1. There is no physical connection at Lewis Mountain linking the existing landscape with its history as a segregated place. Nothing at the site adequately

conveys the sorrow segregation caused, or the joy users felt in gathering in this landscape.

2. There is nothing that would draw historical user groups back to the site, nor are there any amenities that could host groups of any kind. There is no purpose-built group gathering facility or easy opportunity for group lodging or food service.

When asked where the history of Lewis Mountain should be interpreted, the descendants' guidance was resounding: *at the lodge*, with the caveat that its present use as a camp store does not easily allow this. Such guidance indicated the clear need to restore the lodge to its former condition as a group gathering space, while relocating the necessary camp store functions elsewhere—perhaps in a new facility. In doing so, the Lewis Mountain lodge could provide spaces for interpretation and group gathering, neither of which is currently possible at the site. Similar group facilities should be constructed in outlying areas of Lewis Mountain, including shelters in the picnic grounds and group campsites in the campground.

The report also responds to input gleaned from interviews with site managers, concessions staff, and park officials. During these interviews, the following themes emerged:

- Lewis Mountain is valued for its small footprint and intimate, rustic camp setting
- On-site interpretation inadequately conveys the cultural significance of the site or its historically segregated status
- Vegetation management, turf restoration, and loss of vegetative design intent are recurring concerns
- Lewis Mountain lacks group facilities, including group camping, shelters, or food service
- Some modernization of cabin and lodge features is necessary to meet modern uses

SWOT ANALYSIS

A SWOT analysis is a strategic planning tool that helps identify current conditions (strengths/weaknesses) and future influences (opportunities/threats, both internal and external) for a specific park or system of parks in the present moment. It allows National Park Service representatives and their partners to openly and creatively evaluate current and future contexts for park planning.

This SWOT analysis reflects existing conditions and is shaped by the Part I research, field investigations, and stakeholder engagement interviews/surveys. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats are not listed in priority order.

SWOT ANALYSIS—LEWIS MOUNTAIN

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
• Historical associations as campground run by and for Black campers • Historic integrity • Popularity with today's campers • Secluded nature, small size/compact footprint, quiet • Rustic nature of cabins (no modern amenities; can unplug) • Affordable ($) • Camp store resources and showers • Connection to the Appalachian Trail • Campground is first-come-first-served • Firepits at each cabin (only place in the larger park where this is true) • Returning guests year after year • Mature forest around site and soft edge • Institutional energy to "own" the history of segregation at Lewis Mountain • Campground not as "beat up" as larger areas of the park • Ecological resources including native lawn, oak canopy, and lack of invasives • Historic planted islands and shrubs adjacent to buildings	• Siloed management of the landscapes; three parts (i.e. National Park Service volunteers, National Park Service maintenance, concessionaire, and AT folks); results in confusion over who bears responsibility for an issue (e.g. trees) • No activities that would draw Black users to the site • Lack of interpretation (related to site history) in the camp core or picnic grounds • Lack of service on-site for digital interpretation • Out-of-date utilities • Seasonal rentals (no year-round rentals) • Canopy loss due to weather, disease, and climate change • General lack of midstory and ground cover; mostly turf in many areas • Loss of historic designed plantings • Erosion along social paths • Limited resources and staffing • No on-site gathering spaces for groups • No food service • Lack of clarity in lodge's historic design and use (i.e. current use as a camp store. • Few accessible features
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
• Partnerships for interpretation, management, and maintenance (SNPT, SVBHP, or an advisory group) • New interpretive signage • Storytelling through trails or other dynamic means • Digital interpretation as an option for folks who cannot get to the site or who would not otherwise feel safe • Gathering space to allow groups to gather • Potential for adding new or proposed-but-unbuilt historic features • Renewed successional canopy throughout the site • Enhancement of secluded character and restored privacy with restored campground plantings • Enhancement and rehabilitation of historic ornamental species throughout • Opportunity to test climate resilient plantings, including drought tolerant plantings or low maintenance versions. • Viewshed restoration in picnic grounds and at the lodge • Increased accessibility • Expanded campground or cabin area?	• Profit-driven model (concessionaire) v. resource-driven model (National Park Service) • Lack of communication between managing entities across the landscape • Tree loss and/or removal (hazard tree program; climate change; pests/disease) • Lack of canopy regeneration; particularly in mown turf areas • Construction activity (past and present), which introduces invasives and typically does not appropriately revegetate or preserve native grasses, soils • Deferred maintenance, resulting in buildings that are in fair/poor condition • Lack of staffing to maintain facilities • Not thinking in terms of the whole Skyline Drive landscape; thinking in terms of parts or sections, resulting in the loss of overall design intent • Staff turnover/loss of momentum

TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY

For cultural landscapes, a treatment philosophy defines an overall goal of enhancing historic character and perpetuating those characteristics and features that convey historical significance based on the landscape's historic integrity, park policies and planning, natural resource protection, park operations, and other resource management issues. The treatment philosophy is drafted according to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

Lewis Mountain represents the paradox of two historical themes: the cultural landscape is the direct result of separate and unequal design and disinvestment driven by racial discrimination, and yet it also represents the reclamation of that landscape by Black campers who created a distinct cultural life at Lewis Mountain. These paradoxical legacies demand a treatment approach that foregrounds equity and reparative actions. *Rehabilitation* appropriately meets this goal, as it both preserves the cultural landscape and affords opportunities for change that enhance group gathering, address planned-but-unbuilt historic features, and provide a new interpretation that tells a richer story of the cultural landscape.

What does it mean to preserve and interpret facilities that were designed to be inferior, while at the same time celebrating how Black users made meaningful and lasting memories out of an unequal landscape? Rather than simply preserving the site, treatment can and should establish new spaces (such as picnic pavilions), create designed-but-unbuilt features (such as the lodge terrace or additional cabins), or repurpose extant historic features (such as the lodge) that afford opportunities for descendant gatherings—including homecomings—to take place. Treatment should also offer new opportunities for virtual and on-site dialogues, inviting voices that are otherwise underrepresented in outdoor recreation as a form of equity, healing, and intergenerational repair. Rehabilitation also affords opportunities for new interpretation, including restoring features that appear in historical photos (such as the log guardrail used in group photos), integrating oral histories into the landscape elements, and creating traditional interpretive waysides.

At the same time, Lewis Mountain faces traditional landscape preservation issues of the sort typically addressed in cultural landscape report. The treatment strategy for Lewis Mountain preserves and enhances its rustic character while adapting to today's changing environmental conditions, uses, and management practices. While most of the extant built features at Lewis Mountain remain little changed from the period of significance, its vegetation and natural systems have suffered under climate change and improper management. During the period of significance (1938-1968), the essential qualities that defined the experience at Lewis Mountain would have included a mature, high tree canopy punctuated by native turf, understory shrubs, and Civilian Conservation Corps-cultivated

ornamental plantings around built features. The continued threat of oak decline and extreme weather events will result in the further loss of mature trees at Lewis Mountain. Without a strategy to cultivate a successional canopy, Lewis Mountain will become more open, less shaded, and dominated by turf lawns. Careful landscape treatments will restore the landscape's historic vegetative character by establishing a successional canopy, restoring midstory and ground covers, augmenting ornamental plantings, and testing climate-resilient alternatives. Such an aggressive regime of native plantings will reverse the decades of loss and restore the integrity of the cultural landscape.

The treatment strategy also foregrounds the need for more transparent and cooperative management across the three zones/character areas of the cultural landscape: the picnic grounds, the lodge and cabins, and the campground. Each character area was historically designed using master planning techniques as a cohesive component of the cultural landscape. The segmented nature of the site today—with each character area operated by a different partner: concessionaire, maintenance, and campground volunteers—risks further loss of character-defining elements, notably vegetation. The loss of the historic lodge vista is evidence of the adverse effects of a siloed management strategy. The restoration of that vista will require input and continued support from each of the partners that manage Lewis Mountain. Similarly, any interpretive strategy will require cooperation across the three landscape areas to facilitate a geographically robust and cohesive understanding of the site's history.

Any future treatments should be determined and designed in concert with a newly created advisory board or coalition that would co-manage the site. This group would guide planning and preservation efforts at Lewis Mountain. The coalition should include historical users, scholars, National Park Service staff, concessionaires, volunteers, and non-profit partners connected to Lewis Mountain or with expertise in an area relevant to the site's management.

The recommendations in this report grow from several years of study and represent an understanding of the landscape as of 2023. This document should be continually revised in response to additional research, changing conditions, or the introduction of additional stakeholders; it should be considered a contribution to future preservation, interpretive, and community-building efforts. We invite National Park Service managers, existing stakeholders, academic partners, and the public to share in the co-management and preservation of this important cultural landscape.

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PRIMARY TREATMENT: REHABILITATION

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for establishing professional standards for the preservation of cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, revised in 1992, were codified as 36 CFR Part 68 in the 12 July 1995 Federal Register (Vol. 60, No. 133). The standards identify four primary treatment approaches: *preservation*, *rehabilitation*, *restoration*, and *reconstruction*. Each treatment approach involves a different level of physical intervention and includes specific guidelines and standards as described below.

> *Preservation* is the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain a historic property's existing form, integrity, and materials. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses on the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. Preservation does not generally allow for new additions or new construction; however, limited and sensitive upgrades to mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional are appropriate within a preservation project.
>
> *Rehabilitation* is the act or process of making possible a compatible use of a property through repair, alterations, and additions, while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.
>
> *Restoration* is the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period by means of the removal of features from other historic periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. Limited and sensitive upgrades to mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make the property functional are appropriate for a restoration project.
>
> *Reconstruction* is the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and details of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, or objects for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period in its historic location.

Rehabilitation is the recommended primary treatment for the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape. Rehabilitation provides the flexibility needed to preserve the resources and enhance the historic character of the camp while accommodating current site conditions and meeting the objectives outlined in the treatment philosophy. Other feature-specific treatments are enumerated under individual treatment tasks.

According to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, rehabilitation treatment actions must conform to the following standards:

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.

4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be supported by documentary and physical evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

TREATMENT REFERENCE DATE

Identifying a treatment reference date provides a benchmark for managing historic landscape character. The treatment reference date corresponds to a time during the period of significance when the landscape reached the height of its development or when the property best illustrated its significance and interpretive themes. In rehabilitation, identifying a treatment reference date is not to replicate conditions present that year but rather to avoid imposing anachronistic elements that never coexisted on the property. The treatment reference date for this report is 1968—the year the Lewis Mountain campground rehabilitation was completed, marking the last significant change to the design of the landscape during the period of significance.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT ZONES // CHARACTER AREAS

The authors divided the cultural landscape into three landscape management zones, or character areas, to establish priorities, articulate historical character, facilitate the cultural landscape's management, and consolidate treatment efforts (Figure 3.1). These management zones are based on geographic location, use, character, and resources. Each management zone may have different treatment tasks, but the overarching treatment philosophy and goals guide apply globally.

These management zones are the picnic grounds, lodge and cabin area, and the campground; they are described below and depicted in Figure 3.1. The zone names are abbreviated with a two-letter code that is used to organize and enumerate treatment tasks.

Picnic Grounds (PG)

The Lewis Mountain picnic grounds is the first feature visitors encounter after entering the developed area. It is bounded by a one-way circumferential road and parking area that encloses a series of picnic sites. It features a centrally located comfort station and accessible picnic grounds. A series of small-scale features, including boulder drinking fountains, fire rings, picnic tables, and signage, are located throughout the area. The area is characterized by high canopy trees and clear sightlines between picnic sites, parking areas, and the comfort station. It also includes a Civilian Conservation Corps-constructed boulder field located within dense woods. Historically, the boulder field and woods were divided by a path, and would have been significantly less dense. The picnic grounds also feature an informal amphitheater area and an Appalachian Trail spur.

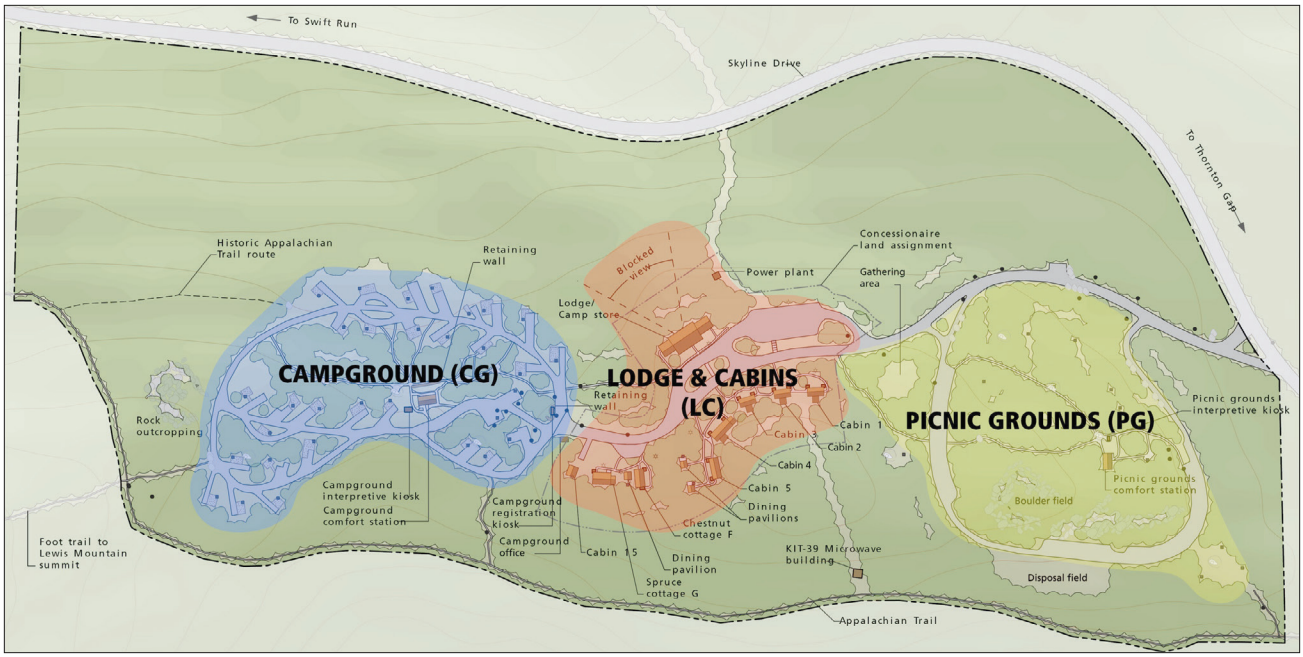
Lodge and Cabin Area (LC)

Serving as the historical core of the cultural landscape, the lodge and cabin area is the most developed area within the cultural landscape. Historically, it would have featured a vista overlooking Skyline Drive and the landscape beyond. This vista has been lost. This management zone is organized around the centrally-located lodge, connected to the picnic grounds and campgrounds via a central road and parking lot. This area also features a line of rustic cabins and dining pavilions, which are linked by pathways and characterized by ornamental vegetation, native lawns, and high-canopy trees. Small-scale features throughout the area include picnic tables, chairs, signage, fire rings, and lighting. A power corridor bisects the site, perpendicular to Skyline Drive.

Campground (CG)

The Lewis Mountain campground is designed according to the principles of E.P. Meinecke and Albert Good, with individual campsite spurs linked along a series of one-way loop roads. Each campsite spur features a level tent site, a fire ring, and a picnic table. The campground is bisected by a central footpath punctuated by boulder drinking fountains. The campground also includes a stone comfort station, camp office, check-in kiosk, retaining walls, and spur trails to the Lewis Mountain summit and the Appalachian Trail.

Figure 3.1. Diagram showing the landscape management zones within the Lewis Mountain cultural landscape. (OCLP 2023; modified by authors)



GENERAL TREATMENT GOALS

The following general treatment goals establish a strategy for accomplishing the objectives outlined in the treatment philosophy by targeting the essential qualities of the historic character, including preserving rustic buildings and structures, restoring the lodge vista, enhancing naturalistic arrangements of native vegetation, and adding compatible features that complement the existing landscape.

PRESERVE BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES + EXPAND FACILITIES

- Preserve, stabilize, and maintain all historic buildings and structures to foster the feeling of being among nature.
- Bury utility lines to prevent future damage to historic buildings and structures and/or loss of power during storm events; restore landscape following disturbance using native plantings.
- Rehabilitate historic buildings and structures, allowing for limited modern amenities on the interior while preserving the historic exteriors.
- Conduct a feasibility study to increase the number of cabins, especially with an eye toward accessibility. Rather than making existing historic cabins accessible, modern versions could make Lewis Mountain more accessible.

INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY WHILE PROMOTING RUSTIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- Rehabilitate paths in-kind throughout the site; add accessible pathways where needed.
- Where additional paths are needed, they should be limited to the smallest area necessary; their routes should be simple and naturalistic, avoiding rigid geometry and extraneous curves.
- New and existing paths should continue to defer to and preserve existing landscape features, jogging around mature vegetation or other landscape features.
- Paving materials should be durable and accessible, but should not detract from the natural setting.
- Add accessible drinking fountains throughout the site, perhaps near the comfort stations and the lodge; units should be visually unobtrusive and complementary to the rustic landscape.

RESTORE LEWIS MOUNTAIN'S USE AS A GROUP GATHERING SPACE (IN ADDITION TO INDIVIDUAL RENTALS)

- Preserve Lewis Mountain's use as a picnic ground, lodging area, and campground.
- Restore the Lewis Mountain lodge to a group gathering space; construct a new camp store structure separate from the lodge to relocate those store functions. The restored lodge space should be used for interpretation and events. (See corresponding treatment tasks.)
- In addition to the lodge, enhance the connections with historic user groups by providing gathering facilities, including group campsites and group picnic shelters. (See corresponding treatment tasks.)
- Add features, such as the unbuilt lodge terrace, the lost vista, and/or food service, that would incentivize groups to gather at Lewis Mountain.

ESTABLISH ROBUST ON-SITE INTERPRETATION

- Lewis Mountain should serve as an interpretive hub along Skyline Drive, including several waysides, exhibit space in the lodge, and an interpretive trail.
- On-site interpretation should focus on both the landscape's segregated design and its role as a center of Black life within the park under Jim Crow.
- Interpretation should be located throughout the site, including all the picnic grounds, lodge, cabins, and campground.

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATURALISTIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER + PROMOTE CLIMATE-ADAPTIVE PLANTINGS

- Establish successional native plantings that provide for the long-term preservation of the landscape's rustic character, including canopy, understory, and ground cover; consider pest/climate resilient alternatives.
- Establish successional naturalistic plantings, including pest/climate-resilient alternatives.
- Create a protocol to replace missing character-defining trees throughout the site, so that significant trees are replaced in-kind as they are removed due to age or hazard tree status.
- In areas where turf is necessary, avoid over-mowing; allow for a rougher, less formal appearance that avoids clean edges.

- Enhance historic ornamental plantings adjacent to buildings and structures, consistent with the vegetation palette established during the Civilian Conservation Corps era.
- Screen incompatible views along power line utility corridors.

ENSURE CONSISTENCY AND COMPATIBILITY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- Many existing small-scale features are incompatible with the naturalistic design of the cultural landscape. As features age, they should be replaced with rustic alternatives, in keeping with historical guidance.
- All lighting should be converted to night-sky-friendly versions.
- Restore to working order all boulder drinking fountains, including reestablishing French drains and gravel around each unit. (See specific treatment tasks.)
- Reestablish consistent rustic signage throughout the site, using historic fonts and designs.
- Formalize and mark Appalachian Trail footpaths; provide additional wayfinding throughout the site, as needed. (See specific treatment tasks.)
- Install additional rustic barriers to prevent camper and service vehicles from going off the road and damaging the vegetation. Establish design guidelines for acceptable bollards and their placement based on rustic historical precedents.

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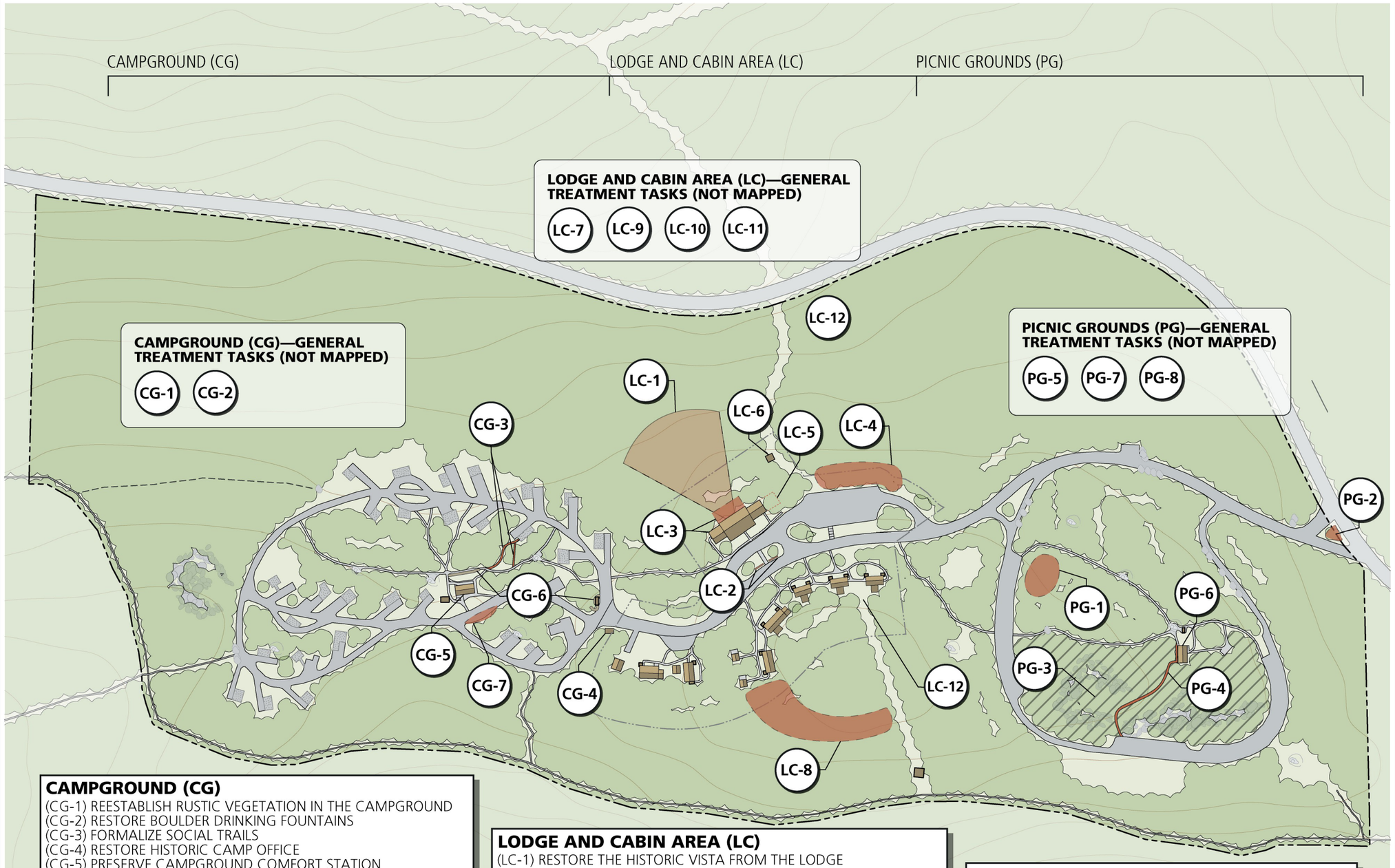

CAMPGROUND (CG)

(CG-1) REESTABLISH RUSTIC VEGETATION IN THE CAMPGROUND
(CG-2) RESTORE BOULDER DRINKING FOUNTAINS
(CG-3) FORMALIZE SOCIAL TRAILS
(CG-4) RESTORE HISTORIC CAMP OFFICE
(CG-5) PRESERVE CAMPGROUND COMFORT STATION
(CG-6) PRESERVE AND STABILIZE CAMPGROUND RETAINING WALLS
(CG-7) SCREEN OR RELOCATE DUMPSTERS, RECYCLING, AND ASH DISPOSAL IN CAMPGROUNDS

LODGE AND CABIN AREA (LC)

(LC-1) RESTORE THE HISTORIC VISTA FROM THE LODGE
(LC-2) RESTORE AND INTERPRET PHOTO LOG/GUARDRAIL
(LC-3) REHABILITATE THE LODGE, RESTORE THE INTERIOR, AND CONSTRUCT A REAR TERRACE
(LC-4) CONSTRUCT A NEW CAMP STORE BUILDING
(LC-5) RECONSTRUCT THE FENCE AROUND THE LODGE SERVICE AREA
(LC-6) REMOVE POWERHOUSE
(LC-7) REHABILITATE CABINS
(LC-8) CONSTRUCT NEW CABINS
(LC-9) REESTABLISH RUSTIC VEGETATION THROUGHOUT THE AREA
(LC-10) ENSURE CONSISTENCY AND COMPATIBILITY OF SMALL-SCALE FEATURES
(LC-11) ADD RUSTIC BARRIERS TO PREVENT VEHICULAR DAMAGE
(LC-12) BURY UTILITIES

PICNIC GROUNDS (PG)

(PG-1) BUILD A NEW PICNIC PAVILION OR PAVILIONS
(PG-2) INSTALL & INTERPRET A NEW ENTRANCE SIGN
(PG-3) THIN BOULDER FIELD VEGETATION
(PG-4) REESTABLISH MISSING CIRCULATION FEATURES
(PG-5) REDUCE MOWING OF TURF BY CULTIVATING NATIVE PLANTINGS
(PG-6) PRESERVE PICNIC GROUNDS COMFORT STATION
(PG-7) REHABILITATE PATHS THROUGHOUT THE SITE
(PG-8) RESTORE BOULDER DRINKING FOUNTAINS
(PG-9) ENSURE CONSISTENCY AND COMPATIBILITY OF SMALL-SCALE FEATURES

Cultural Landscape Report

Shenandoah National Park
Lewis Mountain Area
Virginia

Treatment Tasks

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Lewis Mountain Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2011
2. Lewis Mountain Site Plan Condition Assessment, 2019
3. USGS Orthoimagery, 2018
4. USGS Digital Elevation Model, 2021
5. NPS Landsnet Boundaries and Tracts
6. Field Review, April and August 2022

DRAWN BY

Ethan Berriault, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021
Megan Cahill, ArcGIS Pro 3.0, 2023
Jacob Torkelson, Adobe Illustrator 2023

LEGEND

- Cultural Landscape Boundary
- Concessionaire Land Assignment
- Turf
- Woods
- Road
- Gravel
- Building
- Path
- Retaining Wall
- Boulder
- Boulder Fountain
- Grill
- Sign
- Dusk-to-Dawn Lights

NOTES

1. Projection: Virginia North State Plane NAD83
2. Contour Interval = 5'-0"
3. All features shown in approximate scale and location
4. Canopy approximated from aerial imagery.

0 43 85 170 Feet

Drawing 6

TREATMENT TASKS

The following treatment tasks elaborate on the treatment goals in order to preserve the cultural landscape and enhance its historic character. The tasks are organized according to the three landscape management areas and include the existing conditions that should be addressed, a description of desired conditions, and task actions to achieve these conditions. For specific locations, refer to the treatment task map, Drawing 6.

PICNIC GROUNDS (PG)

(PG-1) Build a new picnic pavilion or pavilions

Existing Condition

The picnic grounds currently have no group shelters or pavilions. Instead, groups move picnic tables together to accommodate larger gatherings. In poor weather, groups are unable to gather within the picnic grounds, limiting their use. The lack of larger group facilities in this area also disincentivizes historic groups from returning to the site for gatherings, such as homecomings. While the original master plan for the site did not include a shelter, the 1983 General Management Plan indicated the immediate need for such a facility.

Desired Condition

Following rehabilitation guidelines, the picnic pavilion(s) should be sympathetic to the landscape's rustic design but distinctive in its modern appearance (so as not to appear historic). It should be made of timber and roofed with an appropriately rustic material such as wood shakes or a compatible synthetic version. It should



Figure 3.2. An example of a non-historic pavilion that is appropriately rustic in character, but distinct from the historic features within the associated park landscape. Pictured is the Telegraph Picnic Pavilion at Prince William Forest Park. (National Park Service Claire Hassler, PRWI)



Figure 3.3. Another example of a rustic yet modern pavilion in the nearby George Washington Memorial Forest. This pavilion is located at the Camp Roosevelt Campground, northwest of Luray, VA. (Dave Kiel, Outdoor Project)

be able to accommodate several small groups at once, while also being able to be converted to use by one larger group. The most comparable example within the park is located at Pinnacles Picnic Area; a pavilion constructed at Lewis Mountain should be comparable in scale. The addition of a picnic pavilion will undoubtedly affect the views and vistas within the picnic grounds; appropriate materials, plantings, and scale/massing will mitigate the impacts of the new structure on the cultural landscape (Figures 3.2 and 3.3).

Task Actions

- Construct at least one picnic pavilion, in consultation with a historical architect and a historical landscape architect.

(PG-2) Install a new entrance sign & interpretive signage

Existing Condition

The current entrance sign simply reads "Lewis Mountain" and features a series of obscure icons that fail to indicate the cultural and historical importance of the site. Similarly, the current sign does not encourage visitors to enter the Lewis Mountain Area; typically, only visitors with reservations or knowledge of the facilities venture off Skyline Drive into Lewis Mountain.

Desired Condition

As the focal point of substantial controversy during the Jim Crow era, the entrance sign to Lewis Mountain should convey the importance of the landscape's history within the context of the desegregation of the national park system. A new entrance sign should be in keeping with the historic rustic character of the camp

entrances throughout the park, including the recently restored sign at Skyland. However, its design should be distinctively modern and should not in any way replicate the harmful language that was featured historically.

Any new entrance sign should be clearly interpreted immediately adjacent to the entrance, with a new interpretive wayside or pull-off along Skyline Drive that includes photos and letters detailing discrimination in the park related to the historic entrance sign.

Before installing a new entrance sign or interpretive signage, park officials should consult with historical users and affiliated groups on the appearance, content, and interpretation of such a sign. Such interventions should be a work of co-design, and consultants should be compensated for their time.

Additional interpretive signage in the picnic grounds could indicate how the area was used historically, including homecomings and church services, family picnics, and the busing of Black campers and church groups up the mountain. Signage should also note that the picnic grounds were the first and only area available to Black campers for several years before the lodge area and campground were completed. Signage could use historic fonts (Figure 3.4) or materials.

Task Actions

- Install a new entrance sign at Lewis Mountain along Skyline Drive.
- Contextualize the new entrance sign with interpretive waysides along Skyline Drive.
- Add interpretive waysides throughout the picnic grounds, detailing how it was used historically.

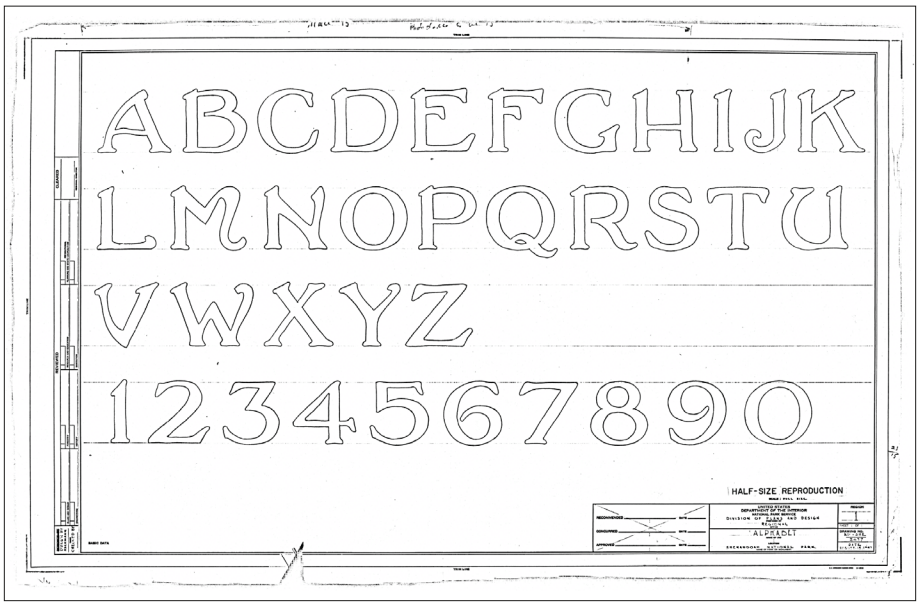

Figure 3.4. Signage throughout Lewis Mountain should use the historic font shown here in 1947. (NPS ETIC SHEN_134_2037)

(PG-3) Thin vegetation to restore prospect from boulder field

Existing Condition

As it exists today, the Civilian Conservation Corps-constructed boulder field is covered in dense vegetation that bisects the picnic grounds from the easternmost parking lot (Figures 3.5 and 3.6). The density of this vegetation obscures the boulder field and blocks views into and out of the picnic grounds towards the Appalachian Trail and parking area.

Desired Condition

While no historical photos or correspondence were located to indicate how the boulder field was designed, fieldwork indicates that the trees and shrubs in the understory are much younger than the tall canopy trees. This likely indicates that this area consisted of a thinned understory and high canopy, like other picnic areas in the park. Canopy species in this area are predominately oaks (*Quercus rubra, Quercus montana*), with a lesser degree of hickories (*Carya glabra, Carya cordiformis, Carya tomentosa*). As thinned, this area will foster filtered views throughout the picnic grounds, establish clear views along the restored trail to the parking lot, and reveal the extent of the boulder field (see PG-4).

Task Actions

- Thin understory vegetation throughout the boulder field area; preserve mature and maturing canopy trees.



Figure 3.5. Some areas of the picnic grounds already demonstrate the desired character, including native understory vegetation, limited turf, and mature canopy trees. This photo also shows the clear views throughout the picnic grounds that were intended by the designers. (Boone, North Carolina State University, 2022)

(PG-4) Reestablish missing circulation features

Existing Condition

At some point in Lewis Mountain's history, the path connecting the eastern parking lot with the comfort station (through/adjacent to the boulder field) was removed. Without this path, the eastern parking lot and picnic sites are now visually and physically separated from the main picnic grounds. Visitors must circumnavigate the road to enter the picnic grounds from the south or north.

Desired Condition

The restored path should follow its historic route and be paved with the same materials as the existing historic paths. It should also be the same width as the existing paths (Figure 3.6).

Task Actions

- Restore the missing path that connected the comfort station with the eastern parking lot.

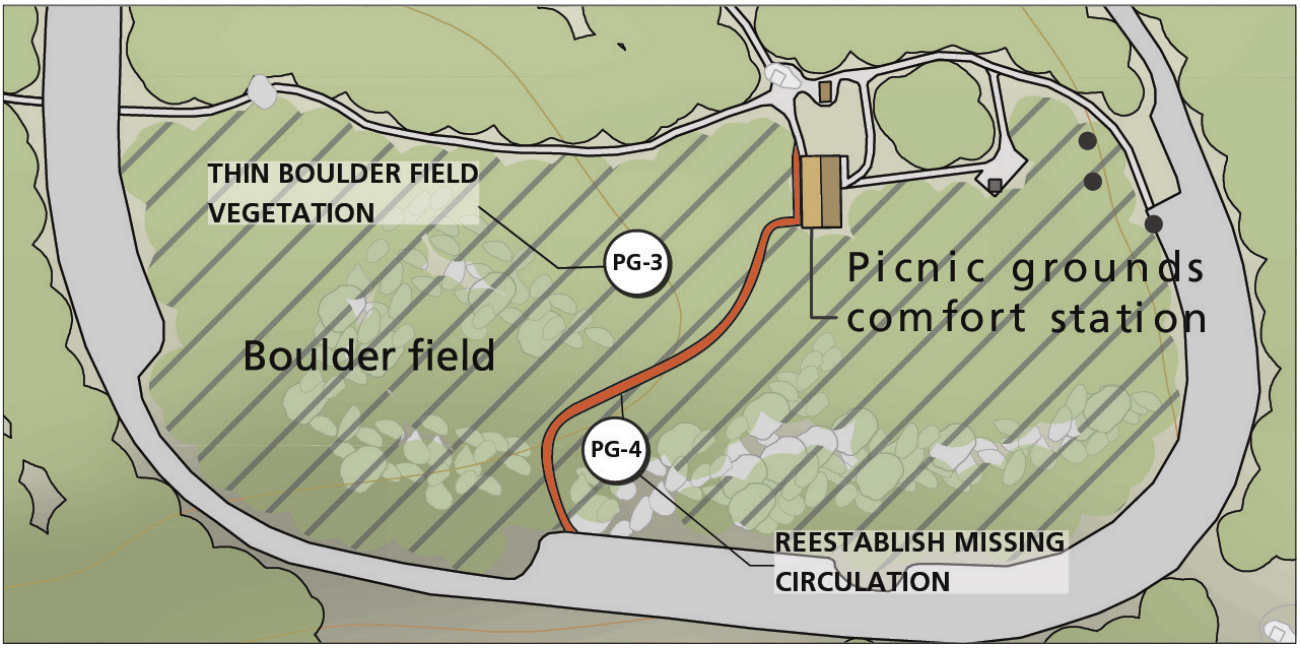

Figure 3.6. This diagram shows the forested area to be thinned (noted with hatching) surrounding the boulder field and adjacent parking lot. It also highlights the missing circulation feature (in red) to be re-established. (OCLP 2023, modified by authors)

(PG-5) Reduce mowing of turf by cultivating native plantings

Existing Condition

The picnic grounds are dominated by mown turf, requiring significant upkeep and cost to the park. Over time, the mowing regime at Lewis Mountain has reduced the quantity of native plantings—especially understory and groundcovers—replacing them with non-native turf. This is largely because after understory or canopy trees are lost to age or weather events, they are removed and replaced with turf. This has resulted in a more campus-like lawn feeling and less of the forested, naturalistic setting that was intended by the landscape architects in the 1930s and 1940s.

Desired Condition

Turf areas not used for picnicking should be allowed to "rest," meaning these areas should be planted with native ground covers and/or young trees and shrubs to establish a successional canopy and reduce the overall area of turf. The desired condition of the picnic grounds would feature a mature high canopy with understory islands of native plantings (Figure 3.7). This would reduce the overall mowing regime to only designated picnic sites, the former amphitheater area, and areas adjacent to circulation features and buildings/structures. A successful regime of native plantings would also protect the critical root zone of mature trees, ensuring their longevity. In instances where plantings are clearly ornamental, they should be replaced in-kind. This includes mature trees planted in parking lot islands and ornamental species such as witch-hazel, rhododendron, laurel, hemlock, and pine (Figure 3.8).

The desired character can be achieved in a two-part process. In the short term, interventions should establish additional ground cover (in place of turf) featuring native herbaceous, non-woody plantings. Successful examples of such treatment already exist throughout the picnic grounds in areas not mown. In the long term, staff should cultivate woody vegetation to create a successional canopy and to enhance existing ornamental vegetation.

Vegetative treatment should also selectively remove/thin vegetation from around the comfort station to prevent trapping dampness that would rot the wooden structure.

Task Actions

- Reduce the overall area of turf in favor of native plantings.
- Protect the critical root zone of mature canopy trees with native understory plantings.
- Establish a successional canopy by cultivating young native trees.
- Protect and replace ornamental species in-kind.
- Thin vegetation adjacent to the comfort station.
- Maintain turf along circulation features, in the amphitheater area, and at individual picnic sites.



Figure 3.7. The area of mown turf within the picnic grounds should be reduced in favor of native plantings and a successional canopy. As it exists, the picnic grounds feature many mature canopy trees and minimal ground cover or understory species. Specific picnic sites, such as this one, should remain turf; however, the surrounding areas should be converted to native ground covers; young trees should be planted to establish a successional canopy. (Nasta 2023)



Figure 3.8. Planted tree islands in the picnic grounds should be preserved. When damaged or lost, these trees should be replaced in-kind. (Nasta 2022)

(PG-6) Preserve picnic grounds comfort station

Existing Condition

The picnic grounds comfort station is in fair to good condition. It features a few rotting log elements, especially on sides adjacent to surrounding vegetation and along the foundation. It also features a cementitious roof with significant biogrowth.

Desired Condition

According to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* for preservation, all elements should be replaced in-kind. Further research should be undertaken to determine the appropriate historic roofing material. Biogrowth should be removed, and overhanging limbs should be trimmed away from the building.

Task Actions

- Preserve the picnic grounds comfort station.

(PG-7) Rehabilitate paths throughout the site

Existing Condition

The existing paths in the picnic grounds date to the period of significance. They are naturalistic in their routing and are paved with asphalt. However, they are in poor condition. In many places, the path is cracked or missing; in others, the paths have been repaved so often that they are mounded underfoot, making navigating difficult. Most paths are not accessible: many are too steep, and most are too narrow to accommodate a wheelchair.

Desired Condition

The existing paths' route, design, and materials should be preserved. However, consideration must be given to improving their accessibility, including widening some or all portions of the existing pedestrian circulation routes. Changes to the historic circulation should be made in consultation with a historical landscape architect. Appropriate measures should be taken to preserve the root systems of mature canopy trees, and native turf should be set aside for replanting after the project's completion.

Task Actions

- Rehabilitate existing historic circulation features, increasing accessibility where feasible and appropriate.

(PG-8) Restore boulder drinking fountains

Existing Condition

Some of the boulder drinking fountains in the picnic grounds are no longer operational. All of the existing fountains retain their boulder bases and chrome hardware; however, none feature their original gravel French drain.

Desired Condition

All boulder drinking fountains, including spigots, bubblers, and French drains, should be restored to operational order (Figure 3.9).

Task Actions

- Restore boulder drinking fountains and reinstall French drains.



Figure 3.9. Many historic boulder drinking fountains are no longer operational. All should be restored to working order. (Boone 2022)

(PG-9) Ensure consistency and compatibility of small-scale features

Existing Condition

The current picnic tables in the picnic grounds were installed during and after Mission 66, within the period of significance; however, they are not necessarily sympathetic to the naturalistic design of the landscape. They consist of metal piping with wooden boards. As they age, they should be replaced with modern, yet rustic alternatives.

A modern campfire circle marks each picnic site.

A variety of wooden signs are located throughout the picnic grounds. They are generally wooden with routed white letters; however, the fonts, style, and sizing vary widely. Lastly, there is minimal wayfinding signage for cars and pedestrians throughout the site, causing confusion, especially for Appalachian Trail hikers.

Desired Condition

As small-scale features within the picnic grounds age, they should be replaced with more rustic alternatives. Such replacements should be done in coordination with all other areas of Lewis Mountain; small-scale features should be consistent across the cultural landscape. (See the corresponding sections within this report.) Picnic tables and fire rings should be replaced with rustic alternatives over time; picnic tables should remain moveable. Compatible signage should be added to clarify wayfinding for cars and pedestrians (Figure 3.10).

Task Actions

- Replace picnic tables and campfire circles with more rustic alternatives. (Figure 3.11)
- Add rustic signage formalizing the connection to the Appalachian Trail, with directions to other parts of the landscape, including the camp store, campground, and shower facilities.
- Adopt a consistent font, style, and color for all signage, replacing existing signage where necessary (Figure 3.4, 3.10).



Figure 3.10. An example of a historic sign at Lewis Mountain that no longer exists. Such a sign should be used as a precedent for a cohesive campaign of signage improvements across Lewis Mountain. (Norris December 1949, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.11760/neg. 663-76)



Figure 3.11. Excerpt from a historic photo showing the types of picnic tables that were in the Lewis Mountain campground originally. (Excerpt from SHEN 54703, Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

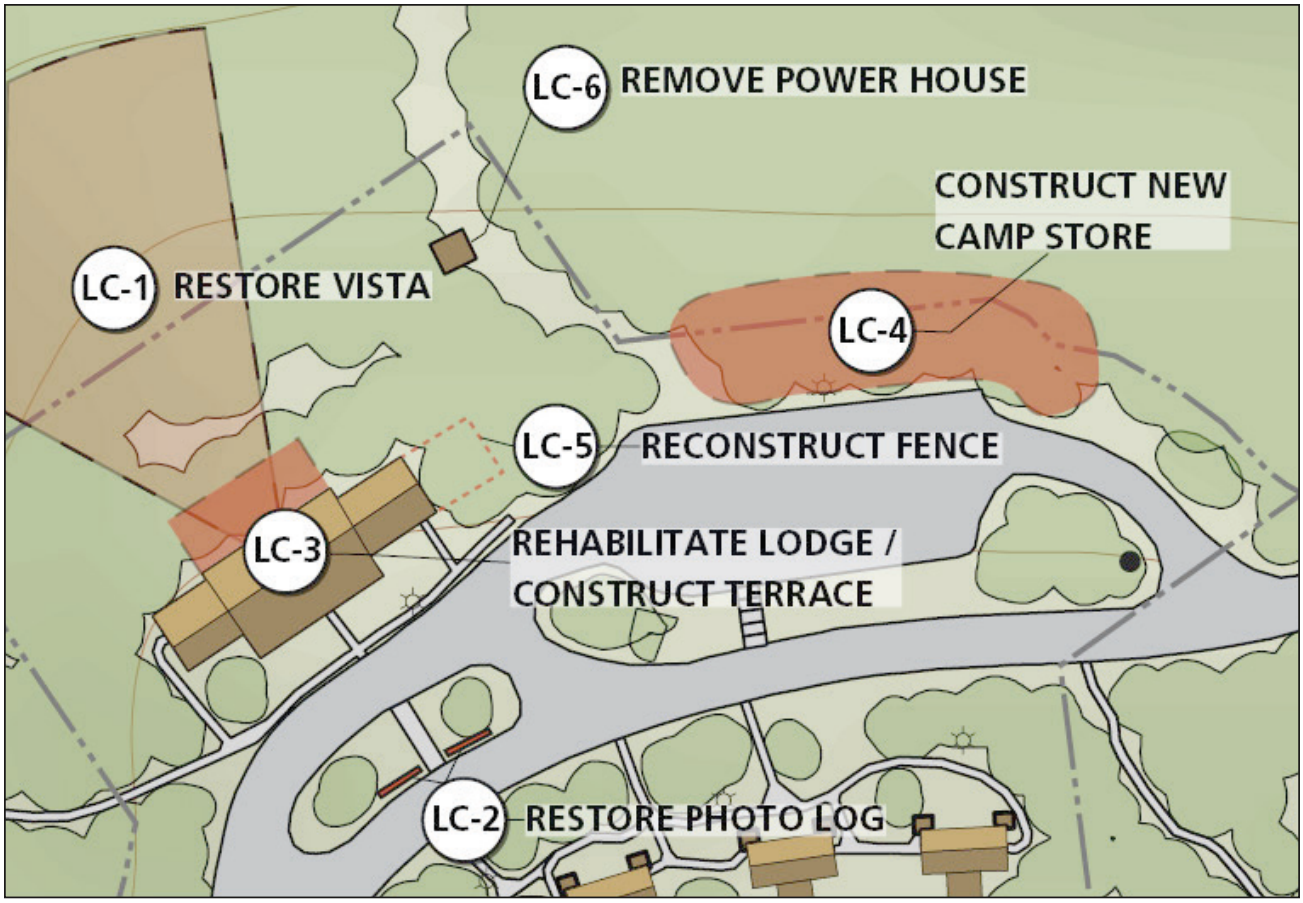

Figure 3.12. Detail diagram of the lodge area treatment tasks. (OCLP 2023; modified and annotated by authors)

LODGE + CABINS (LC)

(LC-1) Restore the historic vista from the rear of the lodge, looking west

Existing Condition

The historic vista to the north of the lodge no longer exists (Figure 3.12). The area behind the lodge today consists of dense young trees, having reverted to forest (Figure 3.13). Views from the lodge picture windows are currently obscured by vegetation and do not showcase any views of Skyline Drive or the valleys beyond.

Desired Condition

The vista should be restored through careful vegetation management. This should include retaining some number of trees along Skyline Drive to screen views of passing cars. The edges of the vista should also appear feathered, resembling a natural clearing rather than a geometric area. See the *Big Meadows Cultural Landscape Report* for more on vista restoration strategies.

Task Actions

- Restore the lodge vista.



Figure 3.13. The vista from the lodge picture window (left center) is currently obscured by forest. It should be restored in conjunction with the lodge rehabilitation and terrace construction. (Torkelson 2023)

(LC-2) Restore photo log/guardrail

Existing Condition

The "photo log" was a log guardrail located in the planted island between the lodge and cabin areas. It is no longer extant (Figures 3.14 and 3.15).

Desired Condition

Second only to the lodge, the "photo log" was the most frequently mentioned landscape feature in oral histories and historic photos. It should be restored using historic park plans for log guardrails. It should also contain an interpretive wayside detailing life at the Lewis Mountain lodge during the period of significance. A restored photo log could also include a place to put one's phone to retake historic photos and serve as an interactive interpretive element.



Figure 3.14. Gilda Wright, daughter of head chef Isabelle Wright, sits on the "photo log" across from the lodge in the late 1940s or early 1950s. (SHEN 54703, Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)



Figure 3.15. During oral histories conducted for the report, descendants regularly referenced the photo log as among their favorite features at Lewis Mountain. The "photo log" was a log guardrail located in a planted island between the lodge and cabin area. This photo collage shows where the photo log was located and what a restored log might look like. Pictured is Loyella Wright, daughter of head cook Isabelle Wright. (Torkelson 2023; adapted from SHEN 54703 Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)

Task Actions

- Restore "photo log."
- Install interpretive waysides detailing the culture of life at Lewis Mountain.

(LC-3) Rehabilitate the lodge, restore the interior, and construct a rear terrace

Existing Condition

The lodge currently hosts the camp store, showers, laundry, bathrooms, and staff lodging. The main interior space is occupied exclusively by the camp store, which features aisles and displays of camping equipment and souvenirs. There is no seating or on-site interpretation. The checkout counter and its displays block views from the lodge picture window. There is no existing food service, and seating is limited to the front porch only.

Desired Condition

The lodge was the cultural and logistical hub of Lewis Mountain during the period of significance. Frequently referred to in oral histories as a lively or "hoppin'" place, Black visitors gathered to eat, sing, dance, and rest in the lodge. Its current use as an exclusively commercial space does little to highlight this historic use and detracts from the legibility of this narrative (Figures 3.16 and 3.17).

Visitors to the lodge should understand the historical and cultural importance of the structure. They should be able to gather and linger there in large or small groups. The interior of the lodge should be restored using historic photos. This includes removing or considerably limiting the space reserved for commercial enterprises, with long-term plans to relocate the store operations to a new

adjacent structure. The existing counter should be relocated in order to open up views out of the rear windows to the restored vista. Compatible furniture, including a piano, should be installed.

The central lodge room should also feature exhibits and serve as a space for interpretive talks, educational events, and group gatherings, such as homecomings. While stakeholders offered varied ideas about the need for food service at Lewis Mountain, the lodge area could again feature a small kitchen for catering or group rentals. Consideration could also be given to inviting local Black-owned businesses to run pop-up events at the lodge.

On the exterior of the lodge, consideration should be given to constructing the designed-but-unbuilt rear terrace. Paired with the restored vista, such an improvement would facilitate group gatherings and encourage visitation. It would also serve to complete the original vision of the lodge, which was deliberately inferior in its design and quality compared with other lodges in the park constructed for white visitors. Any new terrace should be interpreted, so as not to be confused as a historic feature (Figures 3.18, 3.19, and 3.20).

The front porch of Lewis Mountain's lodge should be restored. This means removing inappropriate features, including vending machines, storage closets, and non-historic decorative diagonal cross-bracing. Existing historic features, including the loose flagstone paving, should be repaired in-kind. Furnishings on the front porch should be rustic in design (existing furnishings are not appropriately rustic) and could include a ping-pong table, as was mentioned in oral histories (Figures 3.21, 3.22, and 3.23).

All changes to the Lewis Mountain lodge should be completed following a Historic Structure Report (HSR) and a Historic Furnishing Report.

For the desired character of lodge plantings, see LC-9.

Task Actions

- Restore the interior of the lodge to its use as a group gathering space, removing or significantly limiting commercial functions. (See below for LC-4, Construct New Camp Store Building.)
- Establish interpretation outside and in the central room of the lodge, detailing life at Lewis Mountain during the period of significance.
- Relocate or remove the interior lodge counter to restore an unobstructed vista from the lodge entrance out the rear picture window.
- Consider constructing the unbuilt rear terrace as a group gathering space.

- Restore the lodge's front porch, remove existing vending machines and enclosed storage spaces, and restore the flagstone paving.
- Establish compatible rustic furnishings inside and outside the lodge.
- Remove inappropriate modern features, such as the diamond cross-bracing between pillars (which is not shown in any historic photos of the lodge).
- Complete a Historic Structure Report (HSR) and a Historic Furnishings Report for the lodge



Figure 3.16. The Lewis Mountain lodge hosted many distinguished guests, including Ada and Chester Franklin of the *Kansas City Call* newspaper, President Truman, and General Davis. Pictured are two unidentified individuals. (SHEN 54703, Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)



Figure 3.17. The current use of the lodge is inappropriate given the cultural and historical importance of the building. Camp store functions should be scaled down and ultimately relocated, and the space should be converted to a gathering and interpretive space detailing life at Lewis Mountain. (Torkelson 2023)

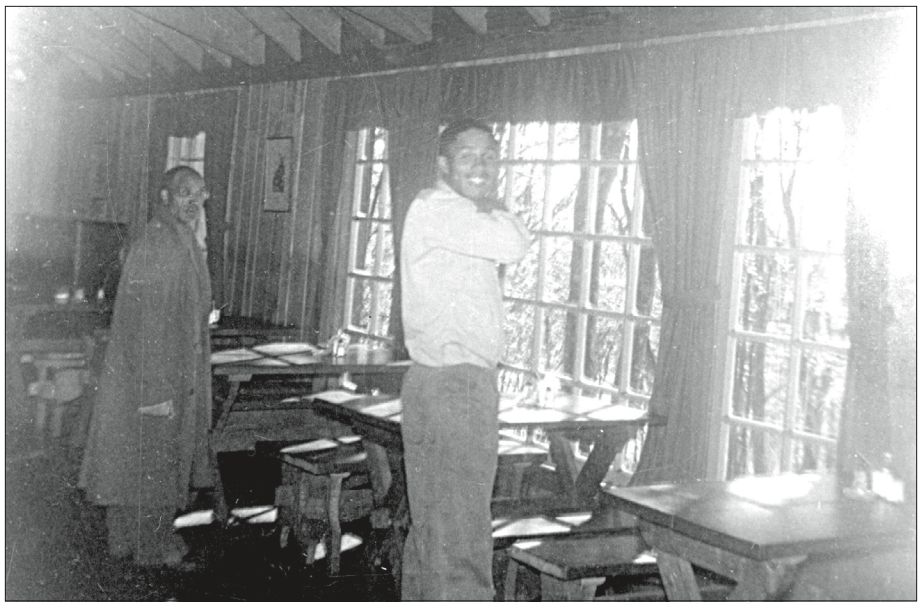

Figure 3.18. The Lewis Mountain lodge historically featured seating along the window facing the vista. The lodge served as the cultural and logistical center of life at Lewis Mountain. Pictured are Manager Lloyd Tutt (left) and Theodore Fisher (right). (SHEN 54703, Audrey Tutt Collection. Used by permission of Audrey Tutt.)



Figure 3.19. The vista behind the lodge should be restored, and the rear window should be cleared of any obstruction in order to highlight this vista. This should be done in conjunction with a Historic Structure Report (HSR) and a Historic Furnishings Report. (Mason 2022)

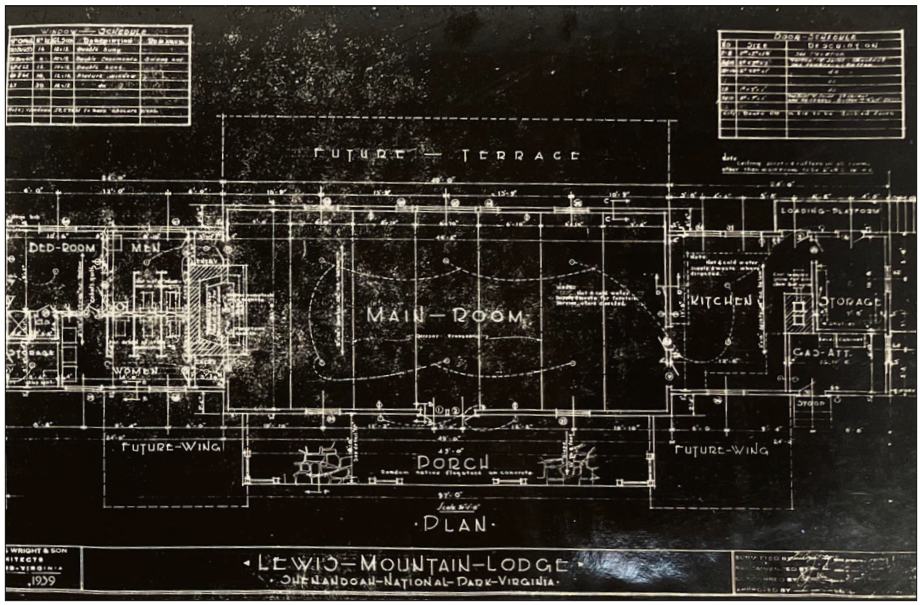

Figure 3.20. The original plans for the Lewis Mountain lodge called for a "future terrace" at the rear of the lodge. Consideration should be given to constructing this designed-but-unbuilt feature. (SHEN Maps and Plans Office)



Figure 3.21. Existing porch furnishings are incompatible with the historic design of the lodge and should be replaced with more rustic alternatives based on historic photos. The large vending machine (Left) storage closet (right) and should also be removed to restore views and make more room for seating or a ping-pong table. (Torkelson 2023)



Figure 3.22. The lodge porch should be restored, and modern additions to the porch should be removed, including the storage enclosure at left and the latticework. The lodge did not historically feature decorative diagonal latticework. Marcellus Wright did include it in his initial sketch of the lodge, but it was not installed until sometime after the 1990s. (Torkelson 2023)



Figure 3.23. The flagstone paving at the Lewis Mountain lodge is in poor condition and should be restored in-kind. (Torkelson 2023)

(LC-4) Construct a new camp store building

Existing Condition

Other than the lodge's restrooms, showers, and laundry, the camp store occupies the entire building (Figure 3.24). This function prevents the lodge's use as an interpretive and/or gathering space.

Desired Condition

A new camp store building would allow this essential service function to continue while restoring the lodge's historic uses. (This would not necessarily mean relocating shower, laundry, or restroom facilities from the lodge.)

A new camp store should be located near the existing lodge to avoid shifting the focal point of the cultural landscape (Figure 3.12). The west side of the existing parking lot is the most appropriate place for this structure and would not require additional circulation changes. (See Drawing 6 for an appropriate location.) The new camp store should defer to the lodge building; it should be smaller in scale, use complementary rustic materials, and appear unobtrusive to the landscape. The new building should be sited and designed in consultation with a historical architect and historical landscape architect.

The new structure should also consider adding limited food service. This would incentivize Skyline Drive visitors to stop at Lewis Mountain and learn about its history.

Task Actions

- Construct a new camp store facility near the lodge.



Figure 3.24. In order to restore and interpret the lodge, the camp store function should be relocated to a new structure. (Torkelson 2023)

(LC-5) Reconstruct the fence around the lodge service area to screen incompatible features

Existing Condition

The historic fence enclosing the lodge service area is no longer extant (Figure 3.26). Instead, the area remains unscreened (Figures 3.25 and 3.27). This exposes several features incompatible with the rustic landscape character, including dumpsters, utility task vehicles (UTVs), tools, and satellite dishes.

Desired Condition

Service-oriented features should not be visible to the public they should be screened behind a restored fence. Historic blueprints and photos indicate that the historic fence consisted of split chestnut planks; a modern, compatible material should be used, as chestnut is no longer available. The footprint of the fence may need to be larger to accommodate modern service needs.

Task Actions

- Construct a historically appropriate fence around the lodge service area to screen incompatible features.



Figure 3.25. This area off the kitchen was historically enclosed with a wooden fence. The fence should be rebuilt, and service equipment should be screened inside. (Torkelson 2023)



Figure 3.26. The service area attached to the Lewis Mountain lodge was historically screened. This fence should be reconstructed. (Excerpt from W Drew Chick, 1942, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide No. 04556)



Figure 3.27. The reconstructed fence should be large enough to screen incompatible landscape features such as dumpsters, UTVs, and satellite dishes. This will likely result in the relocation of the dumpsters to the utility area. (Torkelson 2023)

(LC-6) Remove power plant

Existing Condition

The existing power plant structure is in hazardous condition and poses a safety hazard to visitors.

Desired Condition

The existing historic power plant should be removed. Before removal, it should be thoroughly documented according to Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) standards. Once removed, consideration could be given to preserving and/or interpreting its concrete foundation.

Task Actions

- Document the power plant according to HABS standards. Once documented, remove the power plant.

(LC-7) Rehabilitate cabins

Existing Condition

All cabins are in fair to good condition. However, the cabins have not seen significant updates in their lifetimes. The concessionaire recently began to update electrical wiring and plumbing.

Desired Condition

Cabin exteriors should continue to be preserved using in-kind materials and preservation best practices. Cabin interiors should be rehabilitated to offer limited modern amenities, such as updated utilities or accessible features, while preserving the buildings' interior and exterior rustic character. Incompatible materials should be removed, pending a historic structure report. This includes dimensional porch railings that historically would have consisted of much more substantial timbers (Figure 3.28).

Task Actions

- Complete a Historic Structures Report (HSR) for the lodge and cabins.
- Rehabilitate all cabins, adding limited modern amenities and increasing accessibility in consultation with a historical landscape architect and historical architect.

(LC-8) Construct new cabins

Existing Condition

Lewis Mountain currently features 8 cabins. Cabins are either rented in their entirety or as a duplex. Facilities are regularly booked, often well in advance. Historic master plans and the 1983 General Management Plan called for the construction of additional cabins. Only one cabin is currently accessible (Spruce Cottage G).

Desired Condition

A limited number of cabins should be added to Lewis Mountain to increase capacity and provide additional accessible options. Cabins should be compatible

with the historic cabins—with similar scales, massing, and materials—in keeping with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* for rehabilitation. All improvements should be sited, designed, and constructed in consultation with a historical architect and historical landscape architect.

New cabins should only be located in the area east of the existing cabins, where a loop was planned but never built. Additional cabins should not be built in the campground, picnic grounds, or on the west side near the lodge. Refer to Drawing 6, Treatment Tasks.

As a form of interpretation, the new cabins could be named after former Lewis Mountain workers, their families, or National Park Service staff that worked towards desegregation (E.g. Tutt, Wright, Schley, Frye, Billings, Trent, Ickes, etc.).





Figure 3.28. Historically, each cabin featured timber railings on each entrance porch. Vertical supports were placed at a 45-degree angle and connected with horizontal sawn planks. These have since been replaced with dimensional lumber. (SHEN 22055 Box 3 Bldg #0-278; Nasta 2023)

Task Actions

- Construct a limited number of additional cabins.
- Consider renaming cabins after former Lewis Mountain families, workers, or advocates for National Park Service desegregation.

(LC-9) Reestablish rustic vegetation throughout the lodge and cabin area

Existing Condition

The lodge and cabins area features an impressive collection of historic ornamental vegetation planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps (Figures 3.30, 3.31, 3.32). This includes mature rhododendrons, witch-hazel, laurel, pine, and hemlocks (Figure 3.30). These plantings are located adjacent to buildings and structures, along circulation features, and in planted islands. However, many of these species are reaching the end of their lifespans. As they have been lost, they have not been replaced in-kind, but rather given over to mown turf.

Similarly, there are many native, mature canopy trees throughout the lodge and cabins area; these are predominately oaks (Figure 3.29). Due to a variety of factors, much of the tree canopy in this area has been lost in recent years. None of the trees have been replaced. This includes a massive character-defining oak that was located at the entrance to the Lewis Mountain lodge (Figure 3.33), but is now reduced to a stump. A limited number of trees have been left as snags; most have been removed to ground level.

The continued loss of this vegetation risks this area becoming dominated by lawn, with minimal trees and a landscape that is much more open in character than intended.

Desired Condition

The lodge and cabins area should appear to be part of the surrounding forest, not set apart from it. As trees and shrubs are lost to age or disease, they should be replaced in-kind (Figure 3.33). Where this is not possible due to climate change or ongoing pests, specimens should be replaced with a different species that achieves a similar effect. Similarly, young trees should be actively cultivated to establish a successional canopy. Character-defining trees, like the lodge oak, should be replaced in-kind.

Mowing should continue to be limited throughout this area. The native turf around the lodge and cabins grows slowly, unlike turf in other areas of the park. Where turf interacts with circulation features or buildings (in other words, the built areas used by visitors), it should be selectively mown. Every effort should

be given to avoiding clean-cut edges in order to maintain a rustic, naturalistic appearance.

Where mature canopy and specimen trees exist, their trunks and critical root zones must be protected from damage during future construction projects. This includes installing boards around tree trunks to prevent damage by machinery. Where possible, construction vehicles should be restricted from driving over the critical root zones of existing trees and shrubs. Where this is not feasible, protective matting or other preventative measures should be used to protect the existing trees. During construction projects, equipment and materials should be stored in existing parking lots or similar areas devoid of vegetation in order to avoid root compaction. Refer to ANSI A300 Part 5 (Management of Trees and Shrubs During Site Planning, Site Development, and Construction). All improvement projects at Lewis Mountain should be required to restore or



Figure 3.29. Dead trees, such as these two oaks along the entrance road, should be preserved as snags when they are not a danger to the public or to historic landscape features. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 3.30. Preserve and enhance the historic planted islands throughout the cultural landscape. This island, located between the lodge parking lot and cabins, features mountain laurels, pines, and oaks. (Torkelson 2022)

enhance the rustic vegetation and native turf after completion, including planting new/replacement trees.

All changes to vegetation should be done in consultation with natural resource staff and a historical landscape architect.

Task Actions

- Replace missing character-defining trees and shrubs adjacent to cabins and the lodge (including the lodge oak) and in parking lot islands, using historic photos as a reference.
- Replant ornamental and character-defining plantings (e.g. rhododendron, laurel, witch-hazel, hemlock, pine) in-kind around buildings and structures.



Figure 3.31. Character-defining rustic vegetation should be replaced in-kind after removal. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 3.32. Retain and enhance Civilian Conservation Corps-planted vegetation adjacent to cabins. As specimens die, replace them with appropriately similar historic species. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 3.33. In recent years, a large character-defining oak was removed from the Lewis Mountain lodge. It should be replaced in-kind. (HABS VA-119-71; Boone 2022)



- Plant small trees and shrubs to screen power line corridors adjacent to the parking lot and behind cabins, using appropriate low-growing shrub species such as witch-hazel.
- Where possible, preserve non-hazard dead trees as snags for natural (i.e., habitat) and rustic value.
- Create a CRM protocol to replace trees and shrubs that die or are removed.

(LC-10) Ensure consistency and compatibility of small-scale features

Existing Condition

This area features many modern small-scale features, several of which are incompatible with the rustic landscape. This is especially true of furniture at the cabins and lodge (Figure 3.34). The area also features a variety of modern and rustic signage in non-historic fonts.

Desired Condition

Using historic photos, replace existing camp and lodge furnishings with more rustic alternatives (Figure 3.35). This could also include elements featured in oral histories, such the porch ping-pong table. Rustic existing wooden signage should be replaced using the historic font and style (Figure 3.36). Historic photos note similarly rustic wooden signs, but featured yellow lettering instead of the present day white. Existing rustic sign lettering should be re-colored.



Figure 3.34. Examples of furniture that is out of character with the rustic design of the cabin camps. Non-historic furnishings should be replaced with wooden versions, relying on historical precedents for guidance. (Torkelson 2022)







Figure 3.35. Early in its tenure, the Lewis Mountain Lodge featured rustic booth-style seating, Adirondack-style chairs, and an unknown material chair with a checkered back. Similar seating was located at the comparable Dickey Ridge dining room. (Excerpts from JEH, July 1944, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.08501/ Neg. No. 911-11; Undated, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.01836// Neg No. SNP3; Undated, SHEN 22060/4001.009.05.01846/Neg no. H-011 SNP13)







Figure 3.36. These examples show the original design and style of signage at Lewis Mountain. Signs were painted brown with yellow routed letters, often featuring routed arrows or pointed sides that indicated a direction. (Excerpts from T. W. Kines, National Archives and Records Administration 205741626; Scudder Griffing, SHEN-02322/BVC Slide #04557; Dale Hoak (attributed), SHEN Maps and Plans Office)

Task Actions

- Replace cabin porch and lodge furniture with appropriate rustic furnishings, using historic photos as a reference.
- Replace existing wooden signage with historically appropriate versions using the original font and yellow lettering.

(LC-11) Add rustic barriers to prevent vehicular damage in the cabin area

Existing Condition

The historic paths in the cabin area were not designed for Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) use (Figure 3.37). These vehicles have damaged the historic paths, eroded vegetation on either side, and caused muddy conditions. They also cause root compaction of historic plantings and erosion along path edges. UTVs have also created social trails in areas where no paths existed previously.

Desired Condition

Housekeeping and host UTVs use should be limited to paved roads, not trails or turf, to prevent damage to historic landscape features. Facilities managers should add rustic barriers such as boulders, shrubs, or logs to prevent UTV use in the cabin area. Staff should also establish designated areas for golf cart parking during housekeeping activities, to prevent use of golf carts along narrow historic paths.

Task Actions

- Install rustic barriers along cabin paths to prevent UTV use and damage to existing features.



Figure 3.37. Housekeeping vehicles cause damage to the historic landscape, trampling turf, enhancing erosion, and harming the visitor experience. All UTVs should be kept on paved roads, and the cabins should be serviced by foot or cart. (Torkelson 2022)

- Establish designated areas for limited golf cart parking.

(LC-12) Bury utilities

Existing Condition

Lewis Mountain has featured a cleared utility corridor since it was constructed during the period of significance. However, the sharply cleared utility corridors are incompatible with the rustic and natural values of the park. Power lines are also susceptible to weather events. Downed trees can also rip power lines out of buildings, causing damage to historic structures.

Desired Condition

Utility lines should be buried whenever the opportunity arises, and the corridor should be screened with vegetation.

Task Actions

- Bury overhead utility lines and screen the corridor with vegetation.

CAMPGROUND (CG)

(CG-1) Reestablish rustic vegetation in campground

Existing Condition

The campground is significantly more open, and the canopy is less dense, than was historically intended (Figure 3.38). Many mature canopy trees have been lost due to oak decline and weather events, but have not been replaced. Turf dominates the campground, and there is little understory vegetation. There is little vegetation separating campsites to serve as a screen, or to denote where one site ends and another begins.

The continued loss of this vegetation risks this area becoming dominated by lawn, featuring minimal trees, and becoming much more open in character.

Desired Condition

The campground area should be part of the surrounding forest, not set apart from it. As trees and shrubs are lost to age or disease, they should be replaced in-kind. Where this is not possible due to climate change or ongoing pests, specimens should be replaced with a different species that achieves a similar effect. Similarly, young trees should be actively cultivated to establish a successional canopy. Character-defining trees, like the lodge oak, should be replaced in kind. During conversations with park natural resources staff, it was suggested that conditions at Lewis Mountain favor the soon-to-be-released disease-resistant American Chestnut. The authors concur with the re-introduction of this species at Lewis Mountain, which would have predominated in the decades before the creation of the park.

Mowing should remain limited throughout this area. The native turf around the lodge and cabins grows slowly, unlike turf in other areas (Figure 3.39 and 3.40). Where turf interacts with circulation features or buildings (in other words, the built areas used by visitors), it should be selectively mown. Every effort should be given to avoiding clean-cut edges in order to maintain a rustic, naturalistic appearance.

Campsites should be screened with native plantings (Figure 3.41). Campground planner E. P. Meinecke favored such practices as a way to limit the campers' impact on the surrounding environment. Such plantings also maximized privacy between campsites, minimized noise, and created what Meinecke called "the pictures on the wall," or pleasing scenes between campsites.

Where mature canopy and specimen trees exist, their trunks and critical root zones should be protected from damage during future construction projects. This

includes installing boards around tree trunks to prevent damage by machinery. Where possible, construction vehicles should be restricted from driving over the critical root zones of existing trees and shrubs. Where this is not feasible, protective matting or other preventative measures should be used to protect the existing trees. During construction projects, equipment and materials should be stored in existing parking lots or similar areas devoid of vegetation, in order to avoid root compaction. Refer to ANSI A300 Part 5 (Management of Trees and Shrubs During Site Planning, Site Development, and Construction). All improvement projects at Lewis Mountain should be required to restore or enhance the rustic vegetation and native turf after completion.

All changes to vegetation should be done in consultation with natural resource staff and a historical landscape architect.

Task Actions

- Reestablish vegetative screenings between campsites in the style of E.P. Meinecke, reverting areas from mown turf to naturalistic/native landscape plantings.
- Establish a successional canopy by planting additional trees.



Figure 3.38. These photos show the historically dense canopy of the Lewis Mountain campground in October 1967, as compared to 2022. Today's campground is significantly less forested, and restorative measures should be taken to establish a successional canopy. ((Top images) Dale Hoak (attributed), SHEN Maps and Plans Office; (Bottom images) Torkelson 2022)



Figure 3.39. Encourage the cultivation of a successional canopy by establishing no-mow zones with understory plantings and young trees. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 3.40. Similar vegetative conditions should be encouraged throughout the site in place of large turf areas. Mowing should continue along the edges of circulation features, but is unnecessary in areas not used by visitors. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 3.41. Replace turf between campsites with vegetation like the cluster of plantings on the left of this photo. Vegetation like this increases campsite privacy, reduces camper noise, and enhances the rustic character of the campground. Cultivating plantings like this would also reduce long-term mowing costs. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 3.42. This social trail has caused significant erosion and runoff onto the paved path below. Such a trail indicates the direction campers need to go to use the comfort station; this trail should be formalized and paved to prevent further erosion issues. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 3.43. Use plantings to discourage using and creating social trails. The trail shown here that empties directly into a campsite is a good candidate for shrubs and other barriers that could prevent its use, in favor of the existing paved trail at right. (Torkelson 2022)

- Limit the areas of mown turf in favor of native understory plantings.

(CG-2) Restore boulder drinking fountains

Existing Condition

Some of the boulder drinking fountains in the campground are no longer operational. All still feature their boulder bases and chrome hardware; however, none feature their original gravel French drain.

Desired Condition

All boulder drinking fountains, including spigots, bubblers, and French drains, should be restored to operational order.

Task Actions

- Restore boulder drinking fountains and reinstall French drains.

(CG-3) Formalize/prevent social trails

Existing Condition

A series of well-established social trails connect the western campsites with the central comfort station. These "desire paths" highlight the historical lack of paths between these two areas. Existing social trails are significantly eroded; some have been treated with gravel, which washes away into campsites.



Figure 3.44. The camp office features a wide range of permanent and temporary signage and literature. Existing camp office signs and literature should be replaced with consistent site-wide signage; temporary literature should be limited to a designated area. (Torkelson 2022)

Desired Condition

Use plantings to discourage using and creating new social trails (Figure 3.43). Where social trails cannot be prevented, formalize these paths as paved paths to prevent further damage to the landscape (Figure 3.42). In the short term, erosion barriers and plantings could mitigate some damage to the landscape caused by social trails (that should not be formalized). In the long term, paths that cannot be prevented should be paved similarly to existing historic paths.

Task Actions

- Formalize and pave existing social trails to the campground comfort station.

(CG-4) Restore the historic camp office

Existing Condition

The historic camp office is in poor condition; its tar paper roof is peeling, wooden elements are rotted, and the paint is peeling throughout the structure. The exterior walls of the office also feature a confusing array of signs and notices, many of which are outdated and incompatible with the design intent of the period of significance (Figure 3.44).

Desired Condition

As the first point of contact for campers, the camp office should clearly convey campground procedures and policies, avoiding clutter. The camp office should be restored to its historic condition, including replacing deteriorated elements in-kind, scraping old paint, and applying new paint to the structure. The excessive signs and memos should be removed and replaced with limited rustic signage consistent with the other signs to be added throughout Lewis Mountain; rotating/temporary literature should be limited to a designated notice board.

Task Actions

- Restore the camp office building.
- Replace existing camp office signs with consistent site-wide signage; limit temporary literature to a designated area.



Figure 3.45. Preserve and stabilize historic masonry walls in the campground. Appropriate treatment should replace mortars in-kind and remove biogrowth. (Torkelson 2022)



Figure 3.46. Waste receptacles at the focal point of the campground detract from the rustic setting. They should be moved to a less conspicuous location or screened. (Torkelson 2023)

(CG-5) Preserve the campground comfort station

Existing Condition

The campground comfort station is in good condition overall, but needs some repairs.

Desired Condition

The campground comfort station should be preserved. Stones should be cleaned, and joints repointed where necessary. The roof should be treated regularly for biogrowth.

Task Actions

- Preserve the campground comfort station, including cleaning and repointing stone where necessary.

(CG-6) Preserve and stabilize campground retaining walls

Existing Condition

There are two retaining walls in the campground: one is located to the west of the comfort station, and the other is located at the entrance kiosk. Both are in fair to good condition; they feature significant biogrowth and are missing joints or stones (Figure 3.45). The kiosk retaining wall was built as a tree well and is missing several of the trees around which it was built.

Desired Condition

Both retaining walls should be stabilized and preserved using in-kind materials and preservation best practices. The kiosk retaining wall also functions as a tree well; missing trees should be replaced, likely with oaks that predominate the area.

Task Actions

- Preserve and stabilize campground retaining walls.
- Replant missing trees in the tree well of the kiosk retaining wall.

(CG-7) Screen dumpsters, recycling, and ash disposal in campgrounds

Existing Condition

The campground waste receptacles are prominently located on top of the hill, adjacent to the comfort station. While this makes sense as a central location, it negatively impacts the cultural landscape (Figure 3.46).

Desired Condition

Consideration should be given to relocating the waste receptacles to a less conspicuous location, perhaps to the side of the camp entrance. If they cannot be moved, they should be screened using vegetation or in a rustic wooden enclosure.

Task Actions

- Screen dumpsters, recycling, and ash disposal in campgrounds.

POLICIES

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Create an advisory board or coalition that would interpret and oversee planning, interpretation, and co-management for Lewis Mountain. Such a committee should include former historic users or their descendants, scholars, National Park Service staff, and non-profit partners.
- Consider working with universities to design and/or test some of the ideas presented in this report; such collaborations could offer preliminary design guidance for interventions at Lewis Mountain.

INTERPRETATION

- Establish a series of interpretive interventions that:
    - Place the creation of Lewis Mountain within the larger context of park development and service-wide policies regarding segregation and desegregation experiments;
    - Provide a glimpse into the rich Black-led culture that existed at the Lewis Mountain lodge and cabins during the period of significance; and
    - Detail Lewis Mountain's development within the larger construction of Skyline Drive.

- Consider the following locations for some form of interpretation:
    - Entrance sign
    - Picnic grounds (gathering place for historic day groups)
    - Lodge (hub of historic landscape)
        - Across from lodge (historic photo log)
        - At the vantage point for the restored vista
    - Campground
- Consider more dynamic forms of interpretation, including:
    - Oral history trail along the Appalachian Trail, old Appalachian Trail, and/or throughout the site
    - Digital versions, including QR codes and/or online forms of interpretation
- Other interpretive themes could include:
    - Land grants/deeds (naming of Lewis Mountain)
    - Homesteading
    - Construction by the Civilian Conservation Corps and associated lumber mills/chestnut blight
    - Unbuilt features/master planning
    - History of Skyline Drive

RENTAL POLICIES

- Maintain the first-come, first-served rental policy at the campground to encourage diversity and access for those with limited computer access.
- Consider restricting or eliminating RV use of the campground due to damage from large RVs and trailers; the campground was not designed for such large vehicles, and they have damaged the historic integrity of landscape features.
- Explore group camping options for future rentals and/or a campground expansion.

CONCESSIONS MANAGEMENT

- Conduct a feasibility study to determine how existing Lewis Mountain cabins can be made accessible .
- In the long term, establish a contract requirement that gives historic users/ descendants a voice in the management of the site via the co-management/ advisory committee.
- Establish a contract requirement that affords groups with historical affiliations (including Black groups like the New York-Virginia Club) to gather on site for a specified amount of time. (Currently, they have no easy lodging options or facilities for gathering.)

EXPANSION OF FACILITIES

- Conduct a feasibility study for expanding the campground with additional group/hike-in facilities and a new cabin loop (as historically planned).
    - o The feasibility study should establish appropriate areas for:
        - Additional cabins
        - The new camp store
        - New picnic shelter(s)

APPALACHIAN TRAIL

- Consider expanding maintenance partnerships with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, inviting the group to work within the Lewis Mountain landscape and not just on the adjacent trail.

FURTHER STUDY

- Create a Historic Structure Report (HSR) for buildings at Lewis Mountain—in particular, the cabins and lodge.
- Prepare a historical study to address how Lewis Mountain fits within the racial history of the Appalachian Trail.
- Conduct further engagement with historical users who were not staff (or their relations), or based in Luray.
- Create a Forest Management Plan.

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[1] 16 USC, ch. 363, §1, 44 Stat. 616., May 22, 1926.

[2] 16 USC Sec. 1—4 (August 25, 1916) and Sec. 403 (May 22, 1926).

[3] 16 USC Sec. 470 (October 15, 1966).

[4] *Management Policies 2006* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 2006), 1.

[5] *General Management Plan: Shenandoah National Park* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1983), 156-157.

[6] *Foundation Document: Shenandoah National Park* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, April 2015), 4.

[7] A list of PEPC projects as of June 14, 2022, were provided by Brinnen Carter, former Resources Manager, SHEN.

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SHEN 42027, Map Case 9, Drawer 9, Folder 7.

SHEN 42027, Map Case 11, Drawer 2, Folder 1.

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SHEN 42027, Map Case 11, Drawer 2, Folder 3.

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SHEN 42027, Map Case 11, Drawer 5, Folder 7.

SHEN 42027, Map Case 13, Drawer 2, Folder 1.

SHEN 42027, Map Case 15, Drawer 4, Folder 11.

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APPENDIX A: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

STAKEHOLDERS INTERVIEWED:

HISTORICAL USERS // DESCENDANTS

- Francine Parks
- Elaine Taylor Blakey
- James Edward Parks
- Shirley Ann Tutt McCoy
- Audrey Tutt

PARK PARTNERS

- Monica Robinson, Executive Director, Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project
- Robin Lyttle, Vice President, Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project
- Jessica Cocciolone, Executive Director, Shenandoah National Park Trust
- Julie Shuren, Program and Community Outreach Manager, Shenandoah National Park Trust
- John Hedrick, Supervisor of Facilities, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STAFF

- Claire Comer, Interpretive Specialist, SHEN
- Roy Wood, Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Youth Programs, SHEN
- Jim Schaberl, Chief, Natural and Cultural Resources Division, SHEN
- Brinnen Carter, Cultural Resource Program Manager, SHEN
- Kandace Muller, Museum Specialist, SHEN

- John Mahoney, Chief of Commercial Services / Concessions Management Specialist, SHEN
- Gary Zbel, Chief of Maintenance, SHEN
- Russ Griswold, Supervisor of Roads, Trails, and Grounds, SHEN
- Norm Forder, Facilities, SHEN
- Rolf Gubler, Biologist, SHEN
- Jake Hughes, Biologist, SHEN
- Wendy Cass, Botanist, SHEN
- Mindy Bogue, Fee Program Manager, SHEN
- Jim Von Haden, Integrated Resources Program Manager, APPA
- Bethany Serafine, Regional Historian, NERO

DELAWARE NORTH STAFF (CONCESSIONS)

- Michael Darrow, Regional Manager, Delaware North
- Dicky Baker, Maintenance Manager, Delaware North
- Christina Mauck, Facilities Manager, Delaware North
- Ken Rees, Site Manager-Lewis Mountain, Delaware North

SCHOLARS

- Terrance Young, Professor Emeritus, CalPoly Poloma
- Kofi Boone, Professor, North Carolina State University

TREATMENT WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS (NATIONAL PARK SERVICE)

Workshop 1 (Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation)

- Bob Page
- Eliot Foulds
- Jennifer Hanna
- Brinnen Carter

Workshop 2 (SHEN)

- Pat Kenney
- Raquel Montez
- Roy Wood
- Russ Griswold
- Mindy Bogue
- Jim Schaberl
- Brinnen Carter
- Gary Zbel

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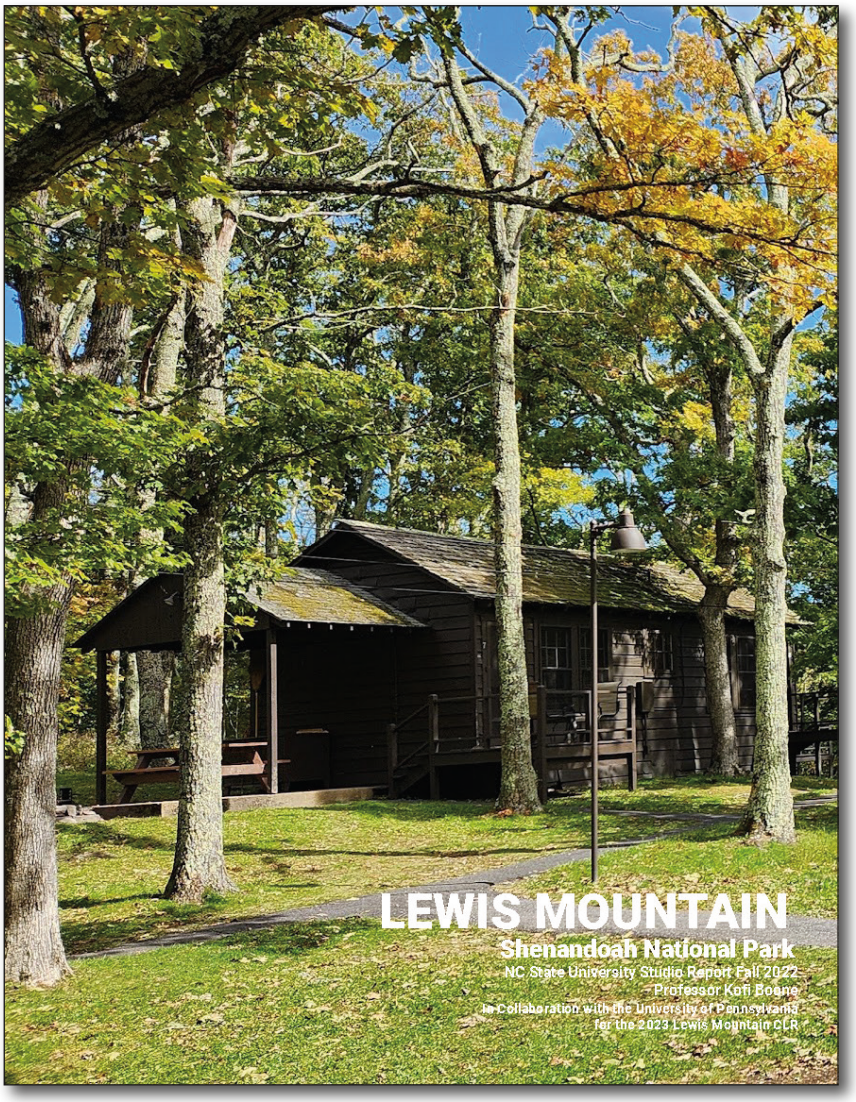
Appendix B: Lewis Mountain Studio Summary + Recommendations, North Carolina State University

This appendix was prepared by Professor Kofi Boone, FASLA of North Carolina State University. It is included here as a companion to the CLR. Boone and his students undertook a collaborative landscape architecture studio on Lewis Mountain with input and guidance from the University of Pennsylvania research team. Collectively, the students' projects imagined a diverse array of futures for the cultural landscape. Some of the design iterations that emerged from this studio were further refined and included in Part II of the report. This studio was completed in the Fall of 2022.





The Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites (CPCRS) is leading a Cultural Landscape Report process with the National Park Service. The forthcoming report will make recommendations for the rehabilitation of Lewis Mountain—the first intentionally designed segregated campsite for African Americans in Shenandoah National Park. CPCRS partnered with NC State LAR 507 Advanced Landscape Design Studio to explore iterative landscape treatments that might enhance the interpretive experience through design research. The ideas generated within are not recommendations and do not represent an obligation(s) by the National Park Service or its concessionaire. Rather, this work informed the development of the CLR treatment recommendations and represents an iterative landscape exploration process. This report is offered as a separate companion to the 2023 Lewis Mountain CLR.

With thanks to:
Dr. Randall Mason and Jake Torkelson, Monica Rhodes, Dr. Brinnen Carter, Dr. Erin Krutko Devlin, Mickey Fearn, Dr. Kang-Jae "Jerry" Lee, Dr. Jennifer Roberts, Bruce Saito, Dwayne Patterson, Claude Crews, Thomas Gull

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Executive Summary
How might the rehabilitation of Lewis Mountain celebrate the legacy of Black park goers who faced racial segregation as well as confronting contemporary landscape challenges? This was the question that drove the studio, resulting in a series of projects speculating on how Lewis Mountain could be transformed through rehabilitation. The studio used National Park Service Standards as a starting point.



However, many student proposals diverged from strict adherence to design standards to test underlying assumptions associated with site interpretation. The studio generated concepts for Lewis Mountain focused on ways of enabling equity, improved biodiversity, and climate adaptation as a part of site rehabilitation.

Climate adaptation: rehabilitation of the existing landscape that includes planting and management strategies that would replace diseased canopy trees with climate adapted species with similar character and form, reduction of the need for lawn maintenance including the introduction of lawn alternatives, low impact development strategies and stormwater management best practices that compliment the original design intent of the campsite.

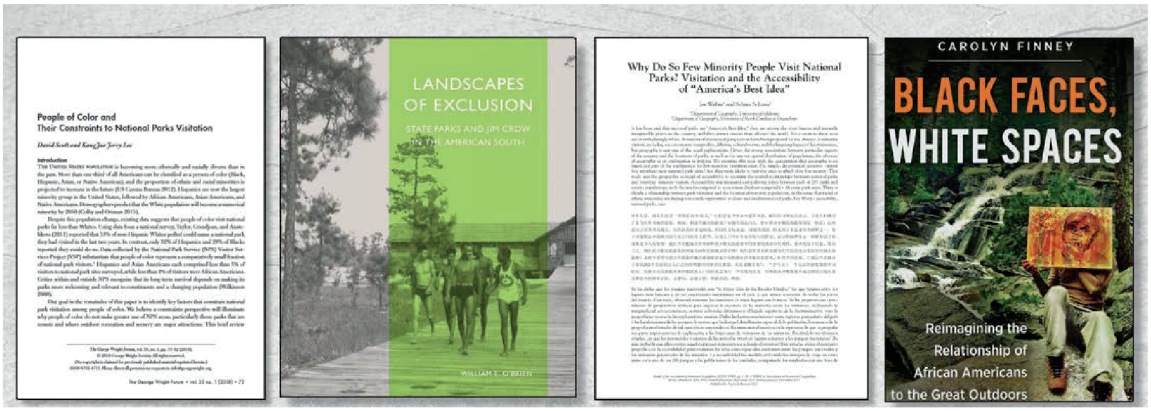
Biodiversity: rehabilitation of the existing landscape that would include the re-establishment of native groundcover and mid story plantings that honor Lewis Mountain's original design concepts, the conversion of spaces where the master plan was never implemented into rich species mixes that attract pollinators and contribute to wildlife corridors.

Equity: rehabilitation of existing structures and spaces, as well as the introduction uses that recall the group and community heritage of the site, naming facilities after key figures connected o the site's history during its period of significance, integ ating a range of interpretive strategies into site features and spaces, and introducing uses that recall the group and community heritage of the site as well as complimentary uses based on current research that could attract underrepresented groups. This might include partnerships with organizations focused on increasing Black visitorship in outdoor spaces.

The legacy of segregation in NC State Parks
The studio enabled students to conduct design research on the legacy of segregation on disparities in park access, programming, and use in the early 20th century in the Jim Crow South, Plessy v. Ferguson (1896 enforced the deployment in separate but equal facilities for White and Black Americans, and this was true of park spaces ranging from local to national parks.

A case study of three state parks in North Carolina, including a moderated conversation with current state park administrators grappling with the interpretation of those legacies, informed the Lewis Mountain study.

Dwayne Patterson (former director of NC State Parks) and Claude Crews (former park manager for Umstead Park during segregation, shared personal experiences with visiting and managing formerly segregated state parks. All communicated the challenges for balancing the need to recognize realities of segregation and its impacts on the sense of belonging and use by Black visitors. They communicated the anxiety and at times fear of navigating hostile and predominantly White communities to access park spaces.



Studio readings and frameworks
Students reviewed literature on the legacy of segregation in public open space including Black Faces White Spaces by Carolyn Finney (2014) and David Scott Kang-Jae "Jerry" Lee's article "People of Color and Their Constraints to National Parks Visitation" (2018). Scott and Lee provided a framework for describing barriers to national park use by people of color. They identified

Leisure constraints which shape the perception of belonging and inclusion in recreational spaces.
Limited socioeconomic resources which acknowledges racial disparities in access to resources available for taking the time and affording amenities needed for recreation.
Cultural factors and boundary maintenance that associate leisure activities with cultural frames that reinforce identity. Discrimination and White racial frames including the legacy of discriminatory practices and resistance to inclusion and assimilation of outsiders (in this case Black people)

Scott and Lee's work provided a useful reflective ool on NC State Park research and was foundational to the studio's grounding of National Park work.

Lewis Mountain
At the time of its creation, Lewis Mountain was the first segregated campground in Shenandoah National Park, and among the first in the National Park Service. The National Park Service capitulated to racially restrictive laws in Virginia and greatly restricted park access and use by Black people excluding them from White facilities, sometimes through violence.

The campsite occupies a ridge that is accessed off of Skyline Drive and adjacent to The Appalachian Trail. Although research suggests that Skyline Drive was visible from the Lodge at one time, Lewis Mountain is unique amongst the collection of Shenandoah National Park lodges and campgrounds in that it has no present-day external views to the mountains and valleys. Given its role as the Negro camping ground, and a legacy of extremely restrictive access rules, its relatively hidden nature seems intentional.

The campsite was built iteratively by the Civilian Conservation Corps starting in 1938. The full plan was never completed resulting in only half of the proposed cabins being completed. The site is accessed via a winding tree lined drive. The campground is the first space encountered featuring open lawn, picnic tables and grills, and stone water fountains. A rest facility in the rustic style of the era anchors one edge of the campground. As does a pile of rocks of unknown origin. A former outdoor theater was removed in previous park renovations, and the multilayered landscape that was a hallmark of the original design plan has largely been lost.

Further along the drive, and anchoring the highpoint of the site, is the lodge and cabin area. All in the rustic style derived from western national parks, cabins are essentially duplexes combining two bedrooms with separate entries and porches. They face the entry drive and are across the road from the main lodge, now transformed into a store and check in area. The cabins are still rented, and are in various stages of preservation. There are small covered dining pavilions between cabins, and an accessible cabin was added to the site in the late 20th century.

Additionally, the studio researched current barriers to park access and use producing disparities in White and Black community use. Estimated at less than 2% annually, Black people in particular do not visit many National Parks. Lee identified constraints to park us by people of color including limited socioeconomic resources, discrimination, white racial frames (of what is considered outdoor recreation), and boundary maintenance. Further, several authors and park administrators challenge the universal appeal of park experiences solely based on the rugged individual in solitude in sublime natural settings. Other groups, particularly Black people, have very different cultural lenses that they use to evaluate leisure and comfort in these spaces, and generally have favored places that enable communal, group, and intergenerational activities in natural settings.



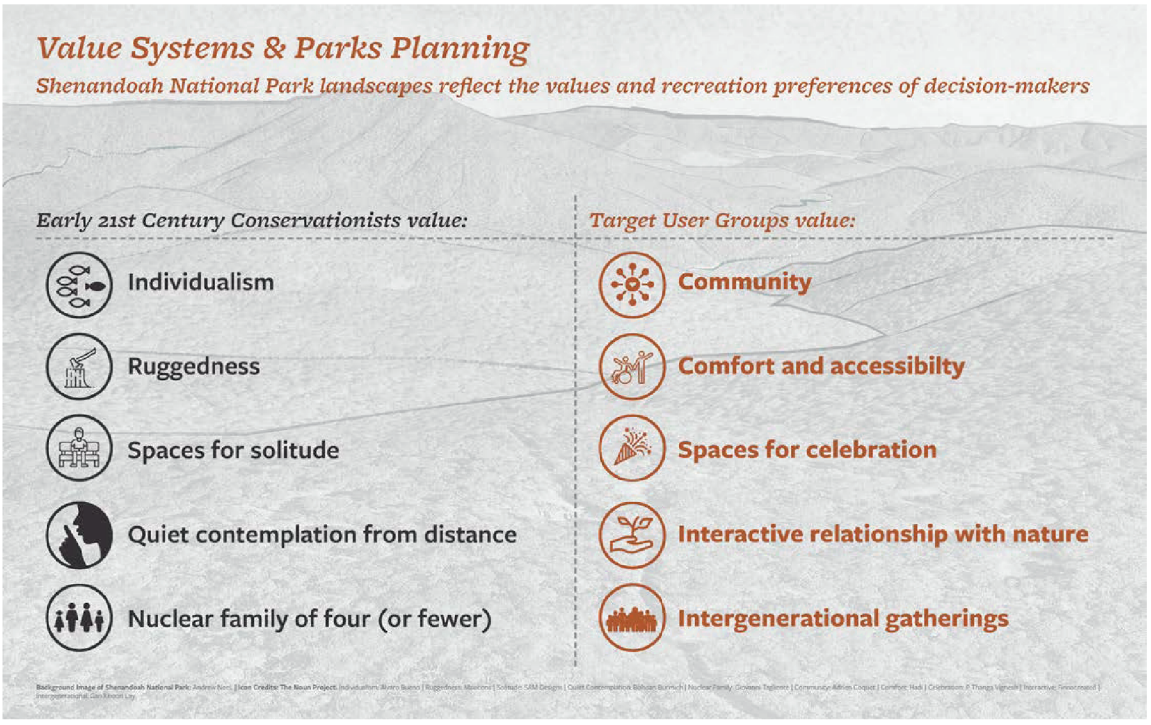
Studio site research

The studio visited Lewis Mountain with half of the studio choosing to rent campsites and stay onsite for the duration. Dr. Brinnen Carter, former Park Cultural Resource Manager, oriented the class to the site and park's history. In particular, he discussed some of the challenges posed by climate change (risks of increased and more violent storms, diseases, and other threats to biodiversity). Dr. Carter also discussed some of the financial and land management constraints that contributed to Lewis Mountain's extended period of decline and low maintenance. Lewis Mountain's last comprehensive renovations occurred over 30 years ago.

The studio site visit also enabled students to observe Lewis Mountain in the context of other, more recently renovated campsites. Skyland, featuring well maintained and programmed facilities with broad views to the valley was also, historically, the Whites only campsite that existed at the time of Lewis Mountain's development. The nearby Byrd Center featured an extensive exhibit interpreting Shenandoah National Park's development, as well as Lewis Mountain's history. By contrast, the experience of Lewis Mountain was cloistered and sheltered. This was in part due to its formation in the time of segregation and the need to separate Black facilities from White; even with viewsheds in and out of the campsite.

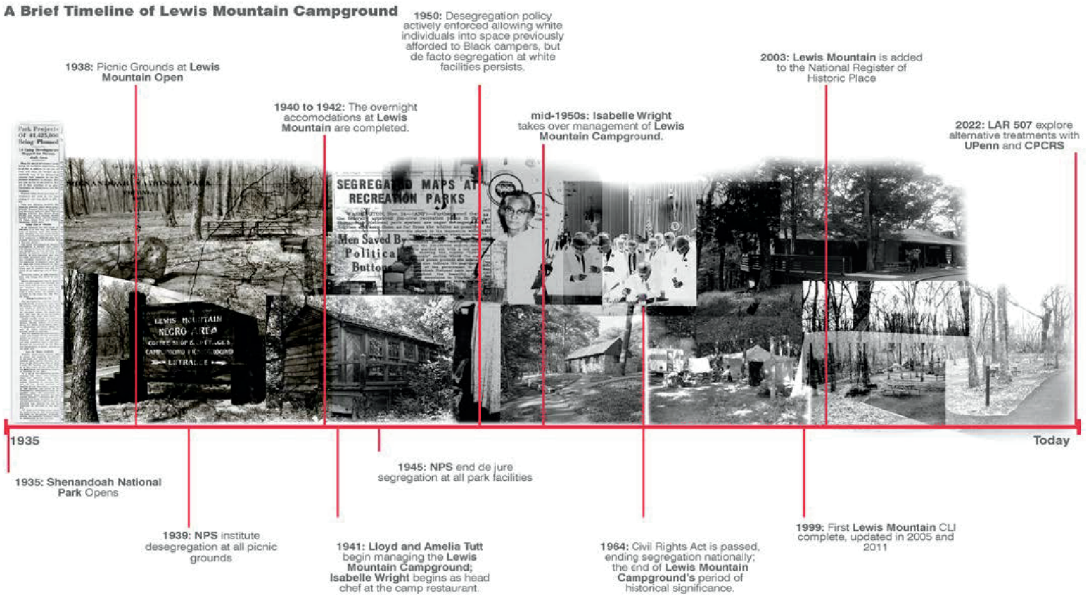
Campsite managers mentioned the site's current popularity due to its relative seclusion from other active parts of the park. They mentioned waitlists for renting cabins, and the campsites popularity with groups of bikers. When we were onsite, the cabins and camping area were both full with visitors.

Through onsite field study, archival research, and review of oral histories provided through interviews with living members and descendants of the New York Virginia Club, the studio suggested that although there is evidence of the rugged individual camping and nature-based leisure for which Lewis Mountain was intended, there was additional evidence of Black visitors adapting a place that was designed for individual recreation into a place for group, communal, and intergenerational activities.



The historical use of the Lodge reflected the process of adapting facilities to uses for which they were not intended. The Lodge was used as a very popular restaurant serving traditional soul food that was a park-wide attraction, and its dining area also served as a dance and performance venue. The lodge reflected the demand and image of the campsite as more than a place for individual relaxation. The studio conducted a viewshed analysis looking from the lodge to Skyline Drive and the valley beyond. The original drawings suggested that a view was available although it is currently obstructed by mature trees, and the analysis was inconclusive. The current use of the lodge as a camp store and check in facility does not reflect the historical significance of its use during the time of significance.

Although there are not many images reflecting the use of the lodge and the dining area as popular eating areas and dancehall, there were numerous quotes and testimonials extracted from written accounts and the reflections made in Monica Rhodes work. Rhodes led oral history and narrative research with living members and descendants of the New York-Virginia Club; one of several documented groups that frequented the campsite during its time of significance. Findings from that research included the central roles played by Lloyd and Mittie Tutt in the operation and management of Lewis Mountain. Lloyd Tutt managed Lewis Mountain from 1941-1953 and is credited with establishing many of the management practices that gave the site its early character. Among other things, he was mandated by the National Park Service to keep the campground and extremely popular dining room segregated and separated between Black and White people. Mittie Tutt managed the site after Lloyd's (her husband's) death. Together, they were integral to accommodating Black visitors during the period of significance.



For the broader site, there were written testimonials to overall campsite quality including comparisons to formerly Whites Only campsites like nearby Skyland. Thomas Wyatt Turner, Ph.D., the first Black person to earn a Ph.D. in Botany, visited the site in 1941 and offered both praise and criticism of the site. He commented that the "food was served with taste" echoing other records identifying the popularity of the food from Lewis Mountain's kitchen. However, Dr. Turner also noted that "cabins (were) wholly inadequate for large numbers", also supporting the challenge of a site designed for individual exploration being programmed and designed for users that traveled in groups. The site was overcome by the "rank wild growth of weeds"; an interesting comment coming from a botanist. Finally, Dr. Turner remarked on the site's context and, unique amongst Shenandoah Park campgrounds, its lack of views to the broad ridges and valleys. Dr. Turner wrote, "an observation tower... should be provided for viewing the surrounding country."

Many of the mature canopy trees on Lewis Mountain suffer from diseases. CCC notes describe the pre-development site as once having large stands of chestnut trees that also succumbed to disease. There are no old growth trees on site; most look to be less than 100 years old. The current disease is carried by insects. The spread of this disease goes beyond the park. But on site managers claimed that camp users burning wood that produces high amounts of smoke contribute to this issue. They argue that the smoke pushes insects into the canopies of the trees, accelerating the disease spread. For this reason, managers sell wood that produces little to no smoke to mitigate their perceived cause of disease spread. Further research is needed to substantiate their claims. However, there are numerous dying and dead trees standing throughout the campground.

In addition to wood, stone is a commonly used material on Lewis Mountain. It was used in the walls of the bathroom building serving the camping area as well as the restrooms serving the picnic area. Stone was used for water fountains dotting the picnic area (some currently inoperable). There is a large pile of boulders on the far western edge of the picnic area. The source of these stones is unknown but is presumed to be the leftover stone from campsite construction piled in a little used part of the site.



Studio recommendations

With this foundation, the studio pursued multiple strategies for addressing the need to adapt Lewis Mountain to a changing climate, preserve and promote biodiversity in recommendations for site transformation, and leveraging the unique history of the site to foster social equity. All student proposals can be accessed via this link. Excerpts from student work are included below to reinforce overall studio themes.

Climate adaptation: rehabilitation of the existing landscape that includes planting and management strategies that would replace diseased canopy trees with climate adapted species with similar character and form, reduction of the need for lawn maintenance including the introduction of lawn alternatives, low impact development strategies and stormwater management best practices that compliment the original design intent of the campsite.



Figure: 1 Impacts of climate change in Shenandoah National Park. Remote sensing and park staff discussions revealed several phenomena including more frequent and violent storms, to milder winters and wetter climate as impacts on the park's resilience (Image credit: Marybeth Campeau)

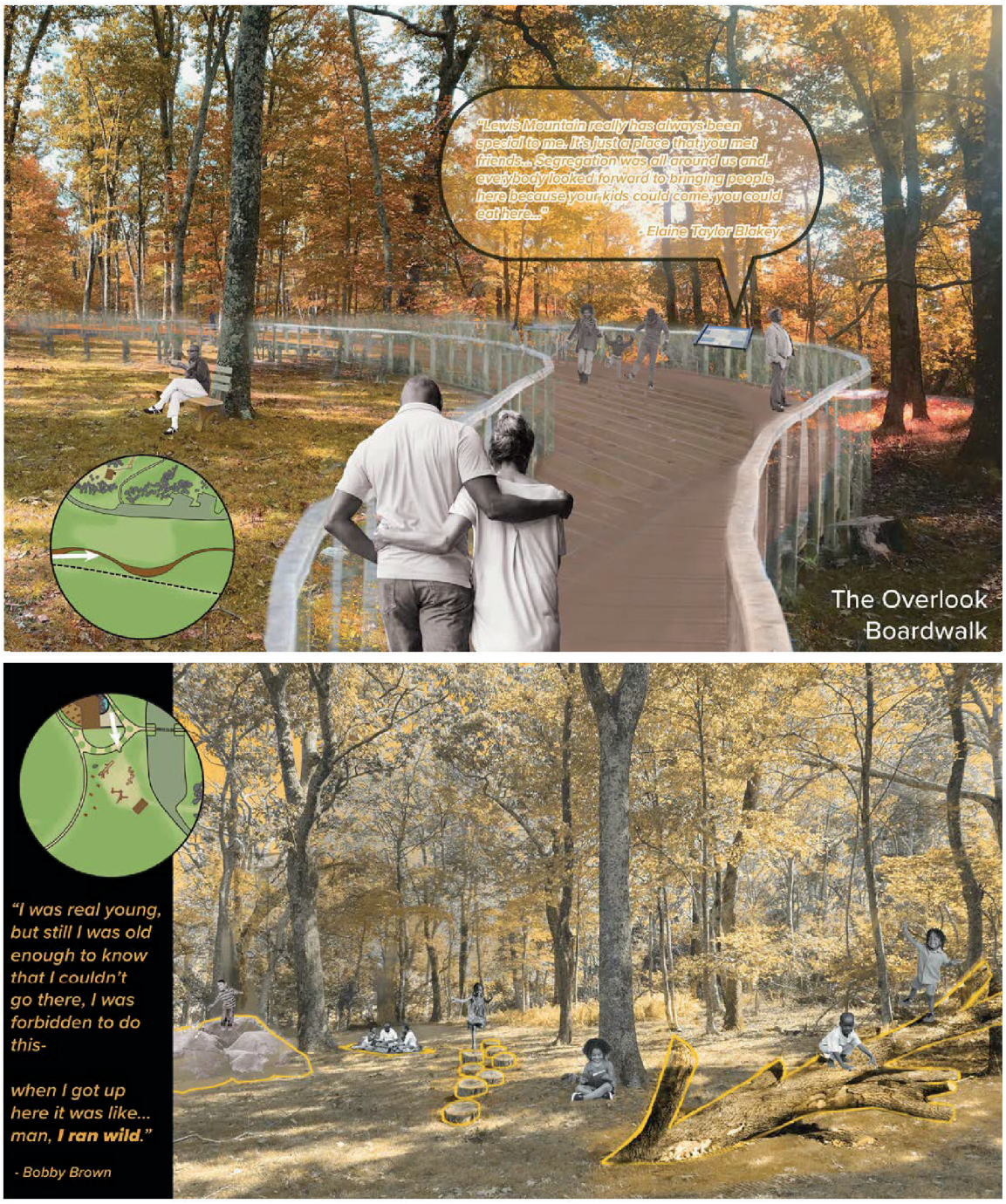


Figure 2: Responding to climate change in the CLR. Anticipate the impacts of climate change on site.Prioritize restoring the diseased tree canopy, reducing the carbon footprint of new construction through the use of low carbon and local materials, and repurposing existing on site materials. In this example, diseased and dying trees on site are repurposed as the materials for natural play areas in the campground. (Image credit: Maddie Gresh)

Biodiversity: rehabilitation of the existing landscape that would include the re-establishment of native ground-cover and mid story plantings that honor Lewis Mountain's original design concepts, the conversion of spaces where the master plan was never implemented into rich species mixes that attract pollinators and contribute to wildlife corridors.

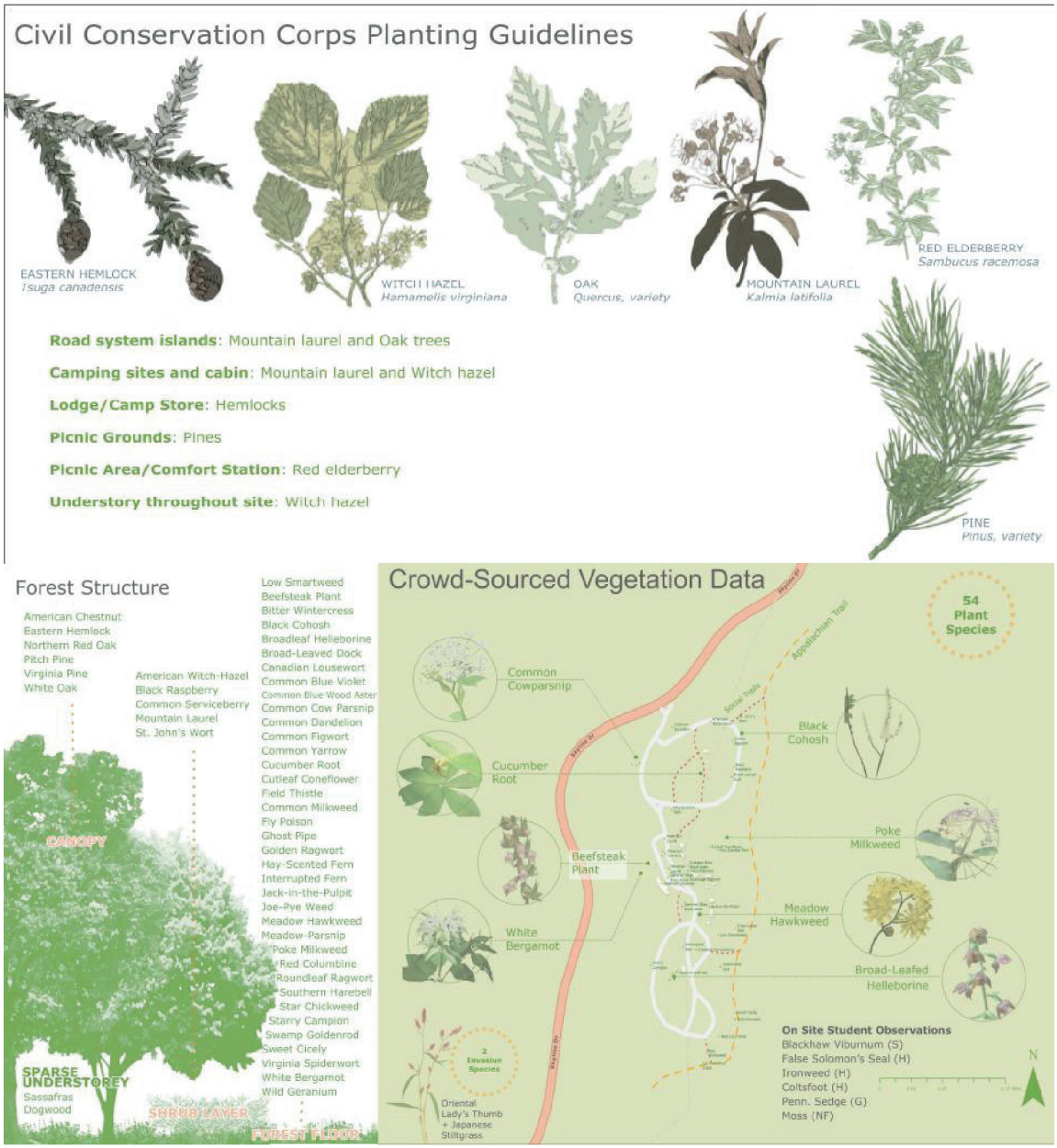


Figure 3: Responding to biodiversity imperatives in the CLR. Document native plant communities currently onsite to offer an expanded and complementary palette to supplement that of the CCC decades ago. In particular, returning the "missing middle story" of shrubs and flowering trees once present in Lewis Mountain could respond o trends in native plant communities in the park. (Image credit: Luma Kennedy)

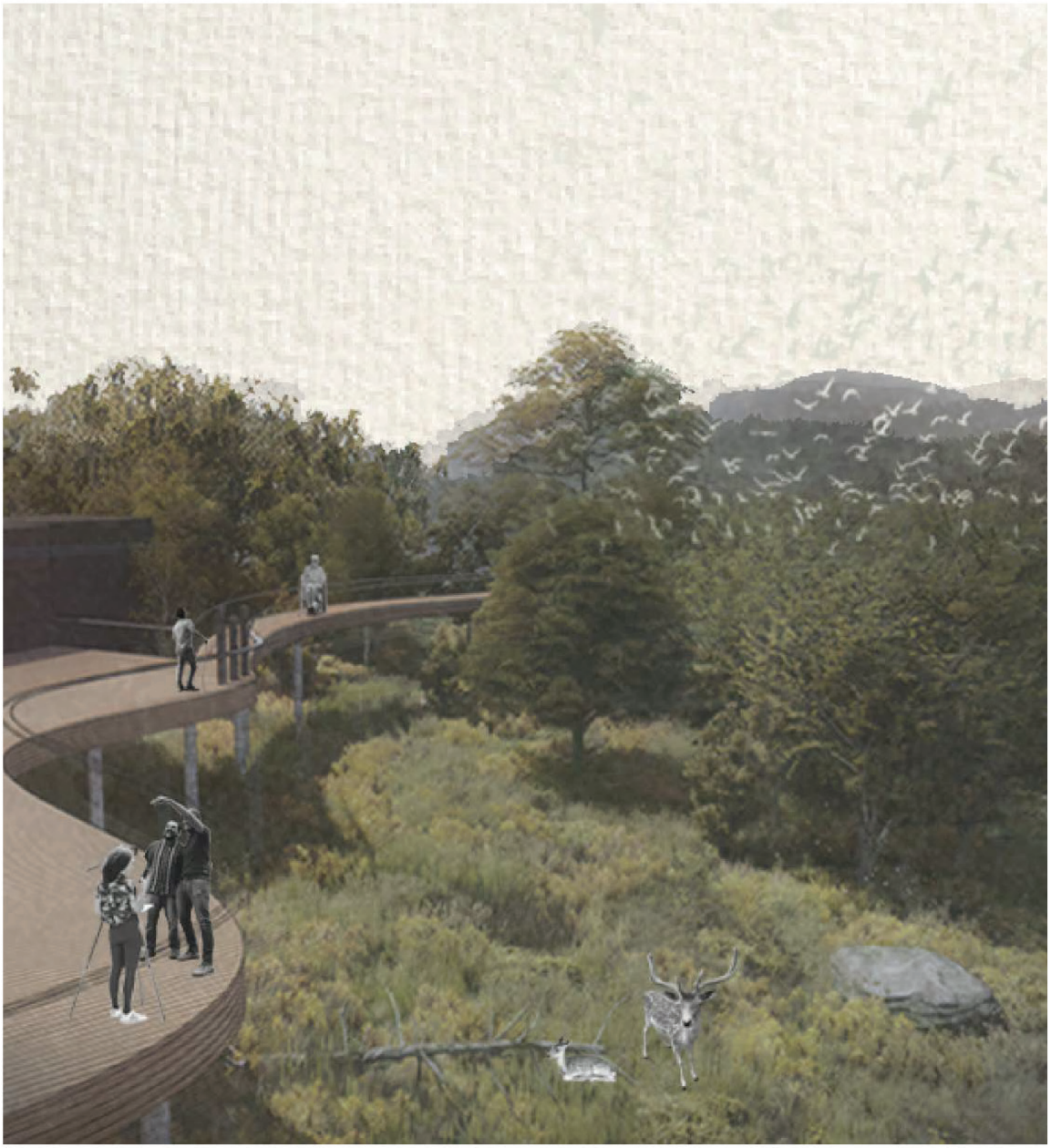


Figure 4: Responding to biodiversity imperatives in the CLR. Connect biodiversity with cultural imperatives to reinforce site narratives. Shenandoah National Park is a biodiversity hotspot and essential component of the east coast flyway. In this proposal for a deck connected to a rehabilitated Lodge at Lewis Mountain, birds and flight patterns were used as an analogy to social movements and the Great Migration to weave ecological and cultural imperatives into new interpretive experience of the site. (Image credit: Claire Henkel)

Equity: rehabilitation of existing structures and spaces, as well as the introduction uses that recall the group and community heritage of the site, naming facilities after key figures connected o the site's history during its period of significance, integ ating a range of interpretive strategies into site features and spaces, and introducing uses that recall the group and community heritage of the site as well as complimentary uses based on current research that could attract underrepresented groups. This might include partnerships with organizations focused on increasing Black visitorship in outdoor spaces.



Figure 5: Responding to equity imperatives in the CLR. Incorporate intentional group activity settings. Site research revealed a pattern of Black Americans coming to Lewis Mountain in groups but adapting their use patterns to a site infrastructure designed for rugged individualist experiences. There are opportunities to rehabilitate the site to provide improved infrastructure to support group activities on site. These may include group camping areas. (Image credits:Makayla Esposito)



Figure 6: Responding to equity imperatives in the CLR. Incorporate intentional group activity settings. Site research revealed a pattern of Black Americans coming to Lewis Mountain in groups but adapting their use patterns to a site infrastructure designed for rugged individualist experiences. There are opportunities for new cabin configu ations that can accommodate more diverse groups. New cabin configu ations could be sited to not impact the main image from the road, and complete to original site's cabin intent by ringing the knoll in cabins. (Image credits: Top-Makayla Esposito, Bottom-Kathryn Gottsegen)



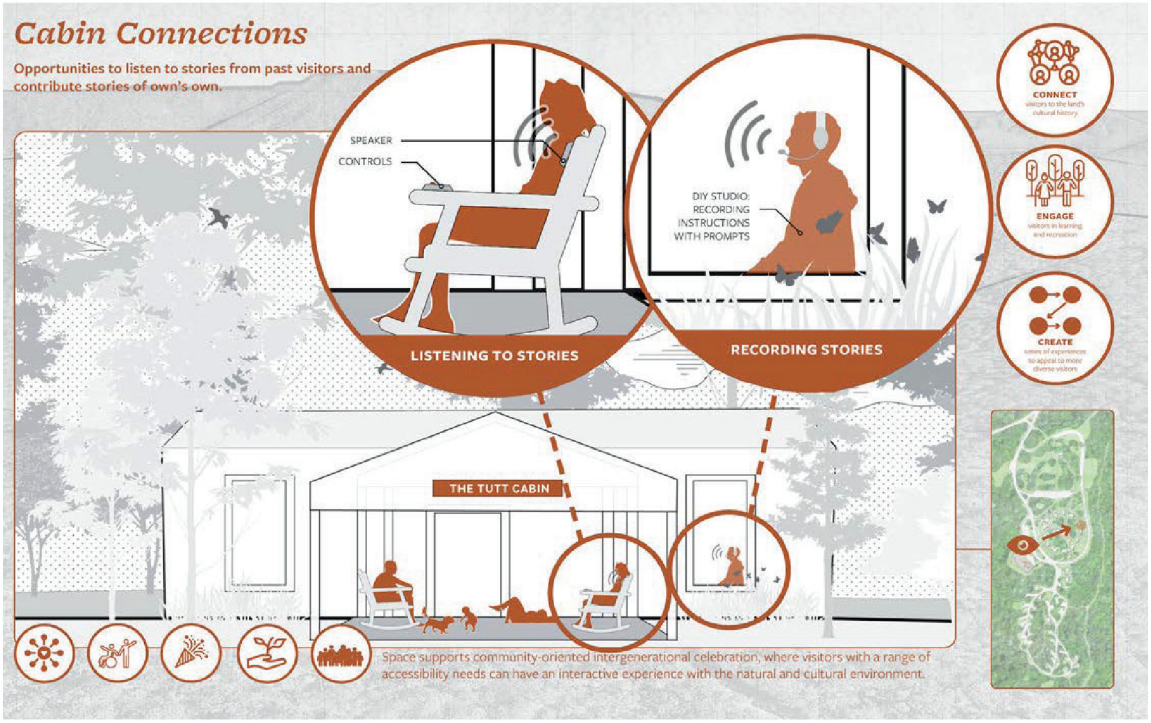


Figure 7: *Responding to equity imperatives in the CLR.* Embed interpretive opportunities throughout the site. Currently, site interpretation is reserved to one signboard. There are opportunities to distribute site interpretation broadly. In these proposals, cabins could receive names honoring key figures from Lewis Mountain's past, and be embedded with QR codes connecting visitors to audio and visual materials via mobile devices. (Image credit: Marybeth Campeau)

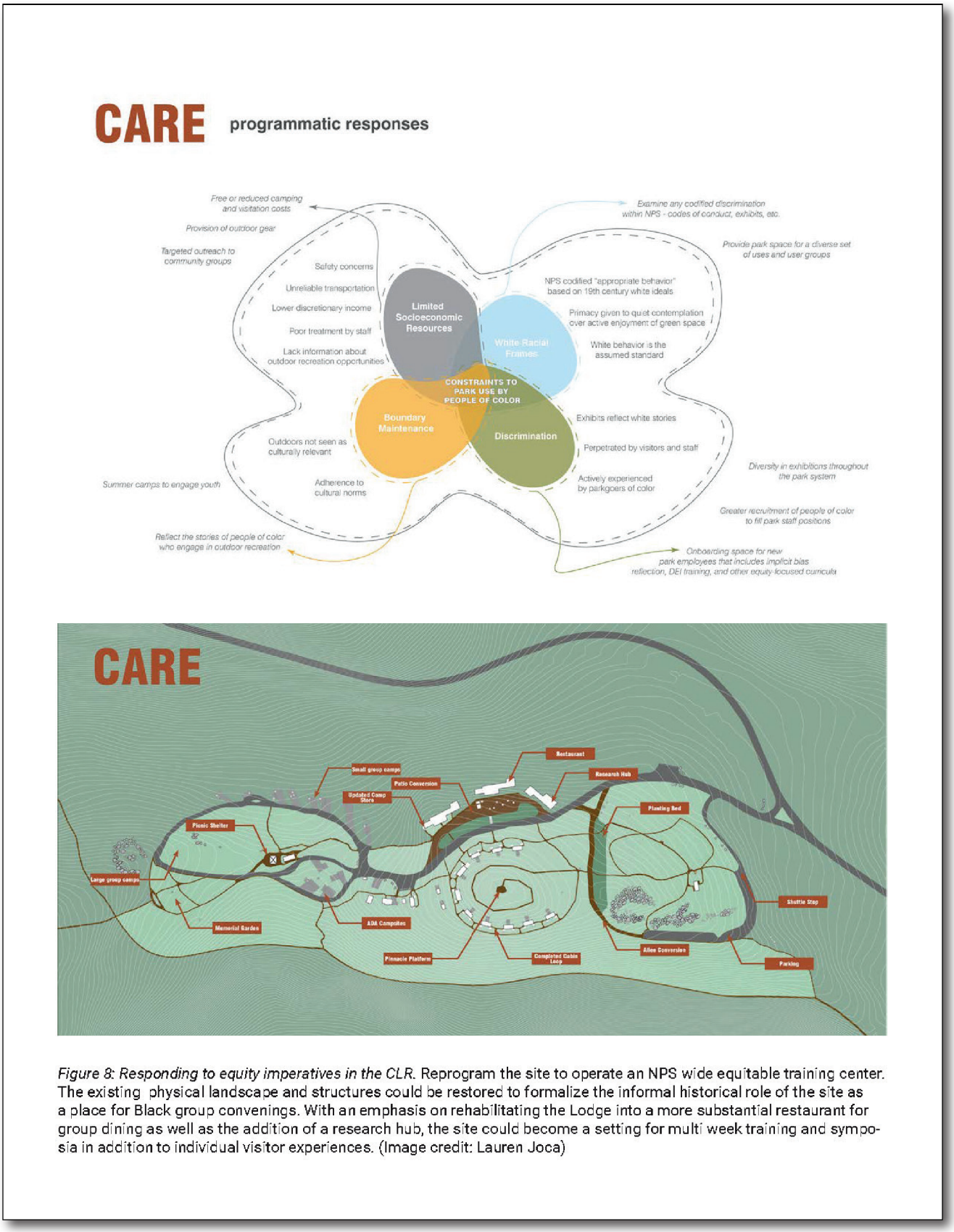


Figure 8: Responding to equity imperatives in the CLR. Reprogram the site to operate an NPS wide equitable training center. The existing physical landscape and structures could be restored to formalize the informal historical role of the site as a place for Black group convenings. With an emphasis on rehabilitating the Lodge into a more substantial restaurant for group dining as well as the addition of a research hub, the site could become a setting for multi week training and symposia in addition to individual visitor experiences. (Image credit: Lauren Joca)

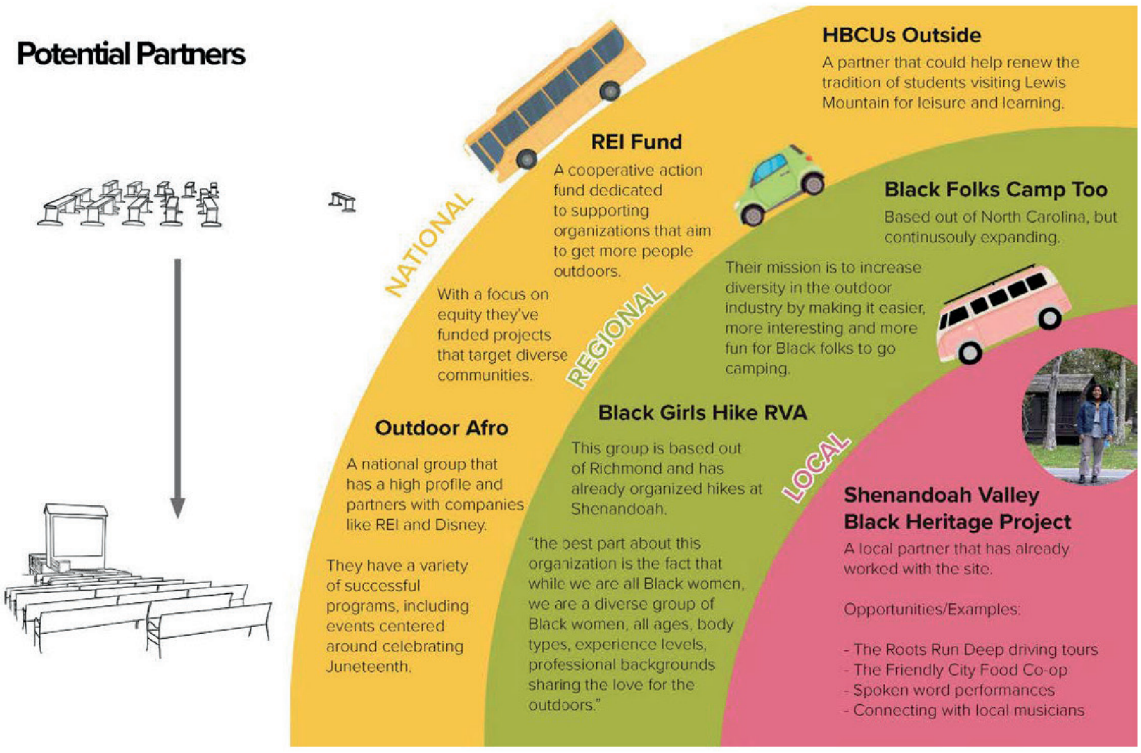


Figure 9: Responding to equity imperatives in the CLR. Strengthen connections to regional and national organizations that align with the themes of Lewis Mountain's historical use. There is a growing number of Black serving or Black owned leisure organizations seeking space for activities and promotion to their constituencies. Engaging with them could reveal additional site programming opportunities for the Lewis Mountain site. (Image credit: Maddie Gresh)

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U.S. Department of the Interior

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