



OVERLOOK SHELTER NORTH ELEVATION, ca. 1935-1942

Courtesy Arkansas State Parks

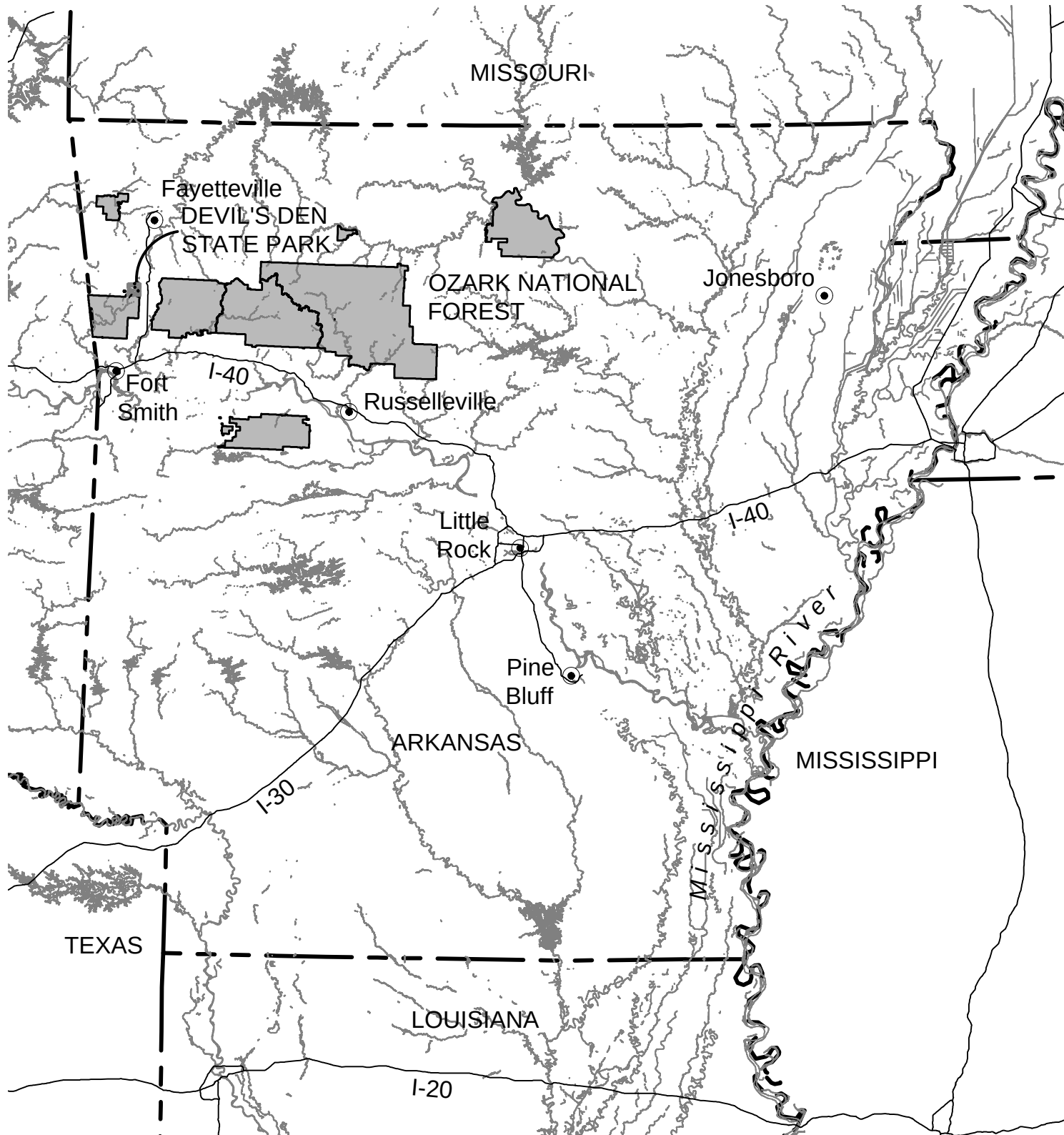
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Devil's Den State Park, established in 1933, was one of six state parks designed and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Arkansas. The CCC was one of many federally sponsored programs established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the Great Depression to create job opportunities. Despite growth and modernization, Devil's Den has gained a national reputation as a prime example of CCC design and construction. The park contains 2,200 acres of the scenic Boston Mountains, a section of the Ozark Plateau in Northwest Arkansas. The rugged landscape features limestone and sandstone bluffs, caves, crevices, and other unique geologic formations. The area is primarily forested with deciduous hardwoods and encompasses a two-mile, picturesque stretch of the Lee Creek valley. Despite numerous conflicting explanations often involving fantastic tales of American Indians, outlaws, or the supernatural, the true origin of the name, "Devil's Den" remains uncertain.

Indigenous Americans utilized the Lee Creek valley seasonally for hunting, gathering, and agriculture for thousands of years. The Osage occupied the region when the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 brought the area under the control of the United States government. Some Cherokee also migrated to the area due to pressures from white, Euro-American settlement in their homelands. A series of treaties with the U.S. government led to the removal of the Osage and Cherokee from Arkansas by 1828. The white settlers that replaced them moved into the flatter areas on Lee Creek and along the tops of surrounding plateaus. The rugged landscape made access and farming difficult, which meant settlers hunted, raised, and grew only enough food to support their own families. Following the Civil War the population in the Ozarks reached an all-time high, and by the early twentieth century game animals had been hunted to near extinction and single-crop farming had severely eroded the thin soils. The newly formed U.S. Forest Service established the Ozark National Forest in 1908 to protect and manage portions of the Ozark Mountains surrounding Devil's Den. The boundaries of the national forest expanded as residents facing financial and environmental hardships sold their land to the government and moved to areas with greater economic opportunity.

The stock market crash of 1929 was the primary cause of the Great Depression of the 1930s, but Arkansas was also hit with widespread flooding in 1927 and severe drought in 1930-1931, making conditions in the state particularly challenging. Roosevelt's CCC was initiated in 1933 and targeted unemployed, single young men, organizing them into companies performing conservation work on publicly owned lands. At least ten CCC companies helped build Arkansas' first six state parks under the guidance and design direction of the National Park Service, including Devil's Den State Park. Robert Kreilick, one of the CCC landscape architects designing the park, explained that "the National Park Service insists that none of the necessary man-made things spoil these natural areas, and that the resulting development will afford the greatest possible amount of pleasure for the greatest number of people... [Built elements] are to be of such a nature that they will harmonize with the surrounding natural features and characteristic." (Kreilick R. L., nd). Major CCC projects at Devil's Den included two circuitous, scenic roads with overlooks; stone and timber bridges, and stone culverts; a trail network for horses and pedestrians; a naturalistic dam on Lee Creek, creating Lake Devil with a recreational waterfront; and rustic Combination Building with visitor amenities; seventeen rustic cabins, each with a unique footprint, and much more. Devil's Den State Park was highly regarded by the National Park Service as one of the best examples of this style in 1938, as attested by the numerous examples and praise of the park's built features included in Albert Good's three-volume *Park and Recreation Structures*.

U.S. involvement in World War II brought an end to the CCC period at Devil's Den in 1942. Future plans, such as a second dam and new sixty-acre lake, were halted and Arkansas State Parks assumed full responsibility for the park. Time, weather, use, and changes to management took their toll on the CCC-built components of the park in the decades that followed. Fires and floods caused the loss of several CCC structures, including the bridge over Lee Creek, two cabins, and a bathhouse, and many of the other CCC structures had fallen into disrepair. Several significant changes were made in the 1960s and 1970s to stabilize and modernize the park, although repairs and new construction efforts were often not in keeping with the original CCC design vision. The new steel and concrete bridge built over Lee Creek in 1960 had little in common with its predecessor, and in 1967 several miles of the narrow, winding, and scenic entrance road were abandoned in favor of a much wider, straighter, and faster descent into the park. A swimming pool built next to the combination building in 1963 prompted the closure of Lake Devil's beach.

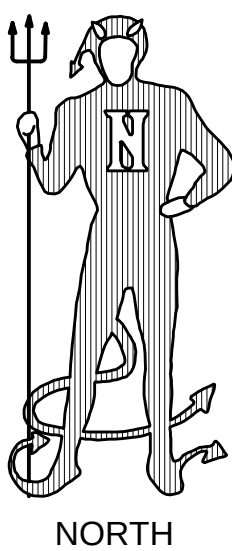


ARKANSAS STATE MAP

0 50 100 150km

0 20 40 80mi

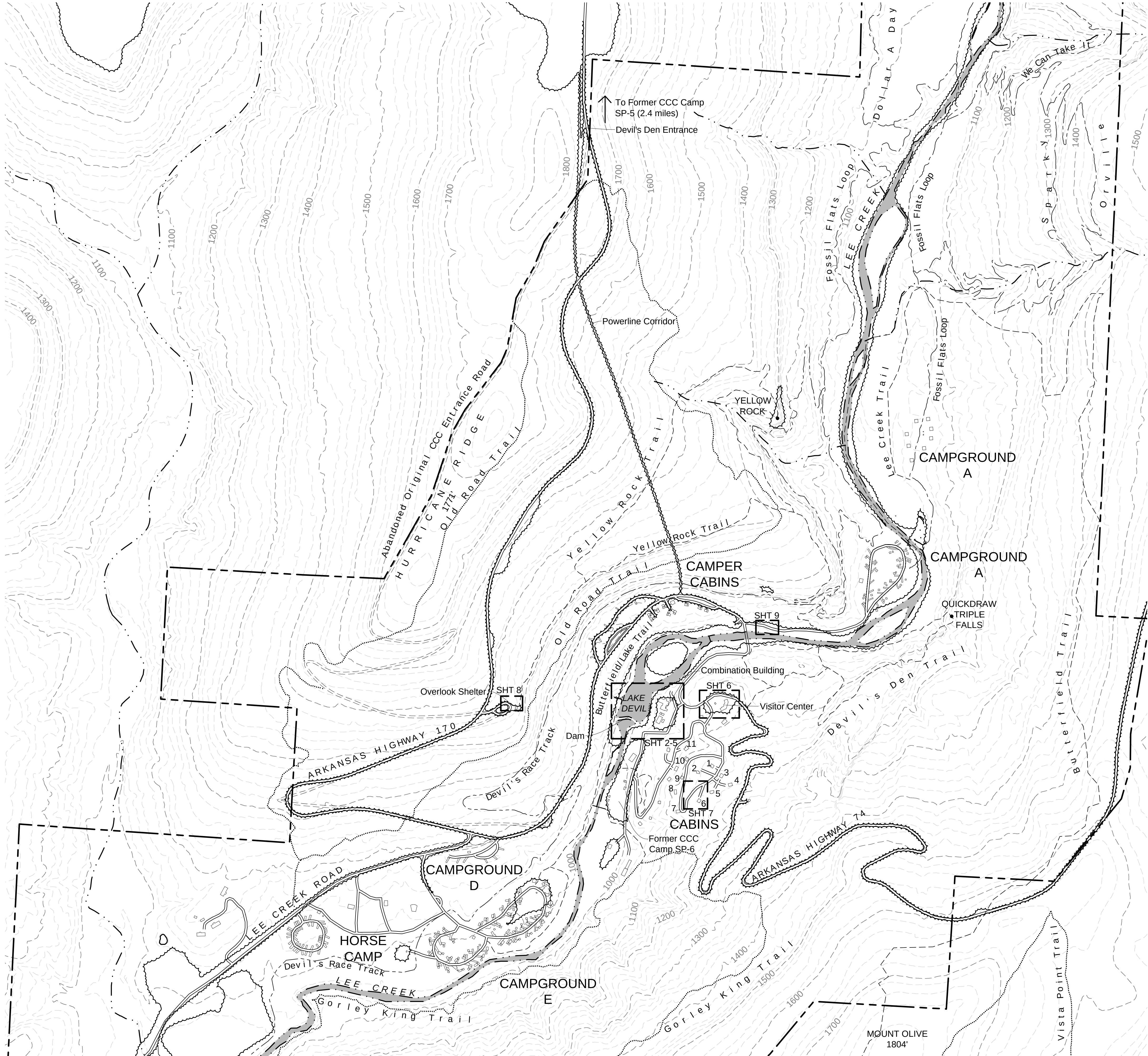
SCALE: 1:2,500,000



DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

VISITOR CENTER WOOD SIGN DETAIL

Hand-made sign believed to have been made and installed in the early 1980s, perhaps commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the park (Tim Scott, Assistant Superintendent, DDSP). The "devil" north arrows on this sheet set are based on a figure featured on the original entrance sign to CCC Camp SP-5.



SYMBOL KEY

- PAVED ROAD
- UNPAVED FORMER ROAD
- HIKING TRAIL
- MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAIL
- HIKING/MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAIL
- HORSE TRAIL
- STREAM
- FOREST CANOPY
- 100' CONTOUR
- 20' CONTOUR
- DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK BOUNDARY

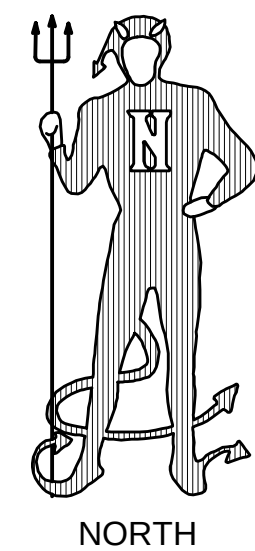
DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK SITE PLAN DETAIL

0 100 200 300m

METRIC SCALE: 1:6,000

0 250' 500' 1,000'

IMPERIAL SCALE: 1" = 500'



OVERLOOK SHELTER NORTH ELEVATION, 2023

Courtesy K. Erdman

Interest in the preservation of the remaining CCC-designed park features gathered momentum in the 1980s as the park passed its 50th anniversary and has increased since then, although these efforts are tempered by pressure to accommodate a growing number of visitors. Over the past forty years several new campgrounds, cabins, and trails have been added. Renovations to CCC structures have ensured their continued use, while the two CCC cabins that were lost have been reconstructed and the iconic overlook shelter has been restored to CCC specifications. Despite some losses and additions that have compromised important aspects of its historic integrity, Devil's Den State Park survives as a remarkably intact example of this important period of Arkansas and American history.

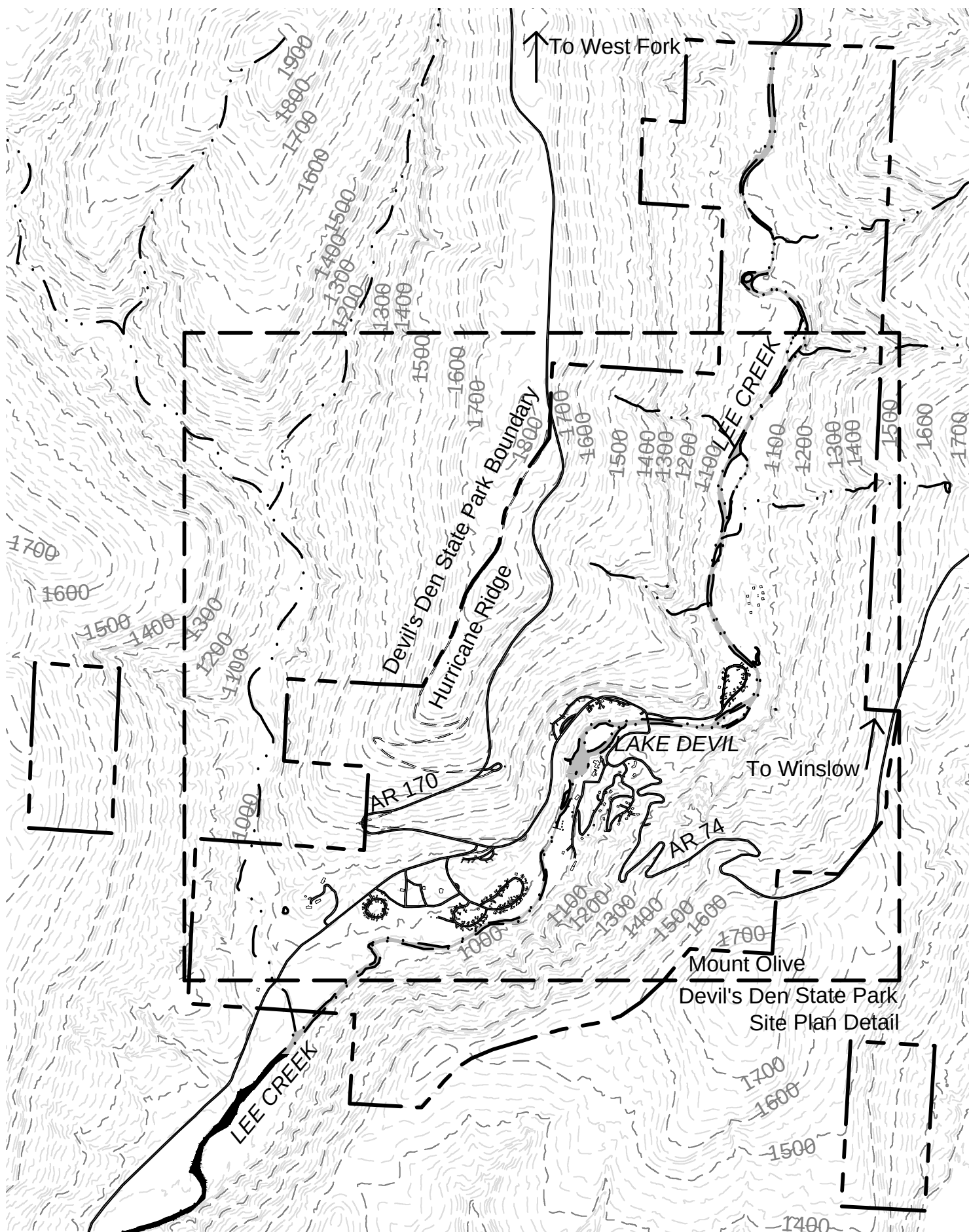
PROJECT CREDIT

This HALS documentation was completed by a professor-led, student-assisted team from the Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design and the Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies (CAST), both of the University of Arkansas. The project lead was Kimball Erdman, who also served as the principal author of the report. Graduate student Lori Filbeck contributed significant historical research, fieldwork, and a first draft of the HALS report. Filbeck and Allen Hart also utilized terrestrial laser scanning to produce a point cloud of the Combination Building that we referenced in the measured drawings. Additional help on report writing and research was provided by undergraduate research assistant Sophia Bobzien. Undergraduate students/research assistants Andrea Alfaro, Emily Booth, Matthew Gaudin, Brett Paris, and Reed Waters also conducted historical research and fieldwork, and created the measured drawings under Erdman's direction. CAST staff members Angie Payne and Malcolm Williams conducted the drone-based photogrammetry and GPS mapping on which the measured drawings were based. CAST staff member Manon Wilson spearheaded the collection of historical documentation. This HALS documentation was part of a larger effort to produce a website documenting the CCC's work at Devil's Den State Park by CAST and FAY funded by an Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council grant (see <https://ccc-cast.uark.edu/>).

Due to time and budget constraints, this set of measured drawings highlights key representative areas of Devil's Den State Park, rather than including all extant sites and features designed and built by the CCC.

PRINCIPAL SOURCES

Field Reconnaissance, University of Arkansas Department of Landscape Architecture HALS documentation team, 2023.
Drone-based Photogrammetry, University of Arkansas Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies, 2023.
Terrestrial Laser Scan, Allen Hart and Lori Filbeck, 2023.
Arkansas County Assessor Mapping Program, accessed 2023 through Arkansas Geographic Information Office's Spatial Data Infrastructure.
USGS National Hydrography Dataset, accessed 2023 through Arkansas Geographic Information Office's Spatial Data Infrastructure.
2019 USGS National Elevation Dataset 1 m Digital Elevation Model, accessed 2023 through Arkansas Geographic Information Office's Spatial Data Infrastructure.
See accompanying HALS report for other primary and secondary sources.



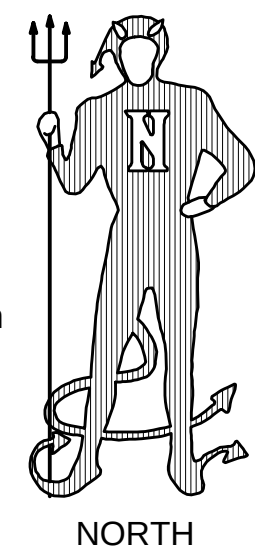
DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK SITE PLAN

0 400 800 1,200m

METRIC SCALE: 1:24,000

0 1,000' 2,000' 4,000'

IMPERIAL SCALE: 1" = 2,000'





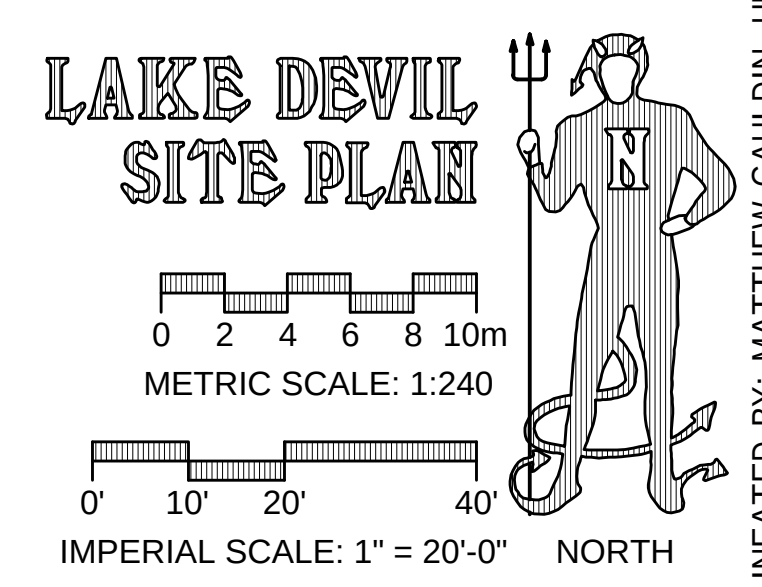
STEPSTONE CROSSING
SHEET 9

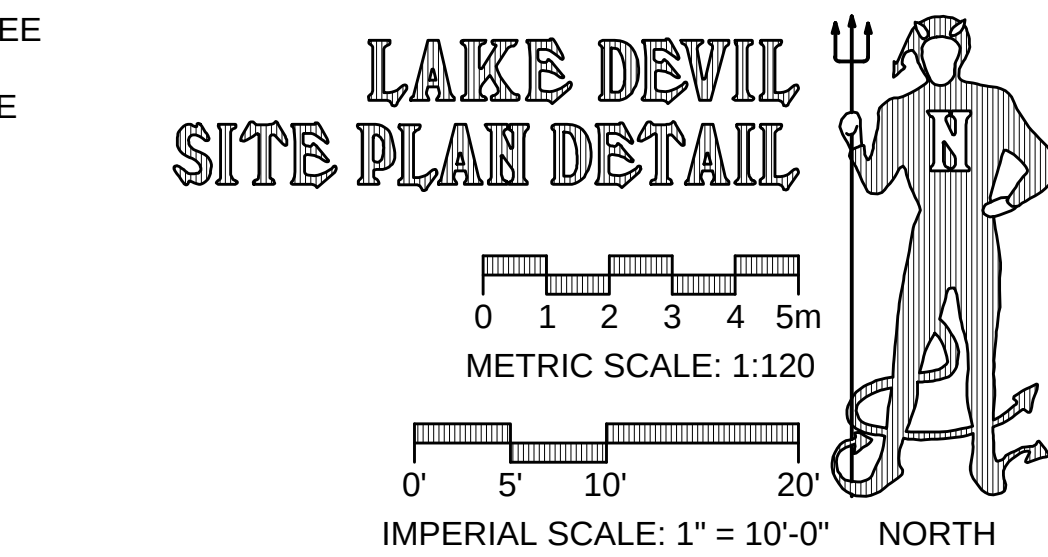
NONE
SHEET 5

NONE
SHEET 3

SHEET 3
SHEET 4

- SYMBOL KEY**
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ASPHALT | DECIDUOUS UNDERSTORY TREE |
| CONCRETE | DECIDUOUS OVERSTORY TREE |
| GRAVEL | EVERGREEN TREE |
| FINE GRAVEL & DIRT | STANDING DEAD TREE |
| COARSE GRAVEL | STUMP |
| WOOD | DECIDUOUS SHRUB |
| MOWN LAWN | EVERGREEN SHRUB |
| FOREST FLOOR | FOREST CANOPY |
| SHRUBS, PERENNIALS & GRASSES | |





TREE LIST

Code	Botanical Name
Ar	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
As	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Cca	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Cg	<i>Carya glabra</i>
Co	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Cl	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>
Cc	<i>Carex canadensis</i>
Cf	<i>Cornus florida</i>
Dv	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>
Fa	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
Jn	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Jv	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Ls	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>

Common Name
Red Maple
Sugar Maple
American Hornbeam
Pignut Hickory
Shagbark Hickory
Mockernut Hickory
Eastern Redbud
Flowering Dogwood
Common Persimmon
White Ash
Black Walnut
Eastern Redcedar
American Sweetgum

Code	Botanical Name
Ns	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
Po	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
Ps	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Qa	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Qf	<i>Quercus falcata</i>
Qm	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>
Qr	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Qsh	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>
Qs	<i>Quercus stellata</i>
Ua	<i>Ulmus alata</i>

Common Name
Black Gum
Sycamore
Black Cherry
White Oak
Southern Red Oak
Chinkapin Oak
Northern Red Oak
Shumard Oak
Post Oak
Winged Elm

Note: the DBH (diameter at breast height) is listed after the code in inches.

SHRUB & VINE LIST

Code	Botanical Name
Ic	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>
Rh	<i>Rhododendron</i> species
Tr	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
Vs	<i>Vitis</i> species
Yp	<i>Yucca pallida</i>

Common Name
Chinese Holly
Azalea
Poison Ivy
Wild Grape
Paleleaf Yucca

SYMBOL KEY

ASPHALT	DECIDUOUS UNDERSTORY TREE
CONCRETE	DECIDUOUS OVERSTORY TREE
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SHRUBS, PERENNIALS & GRASSES	

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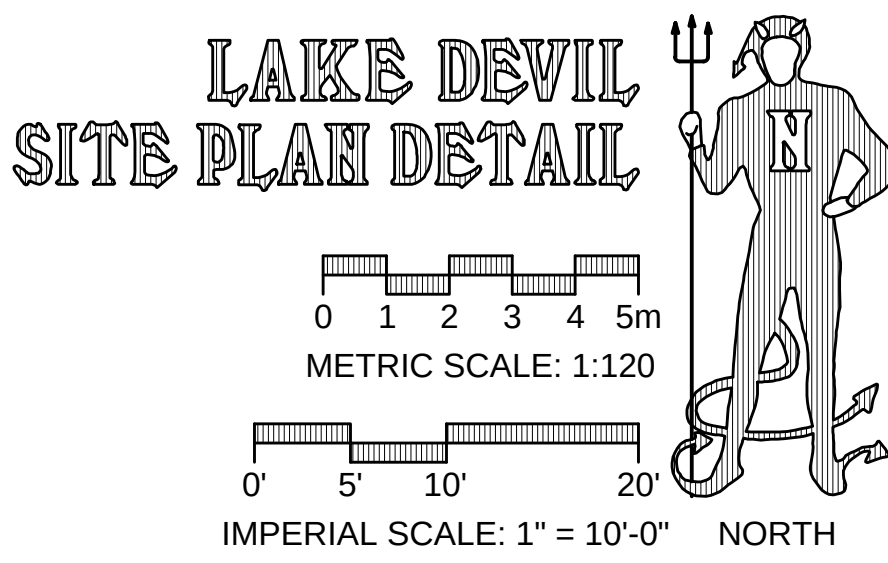
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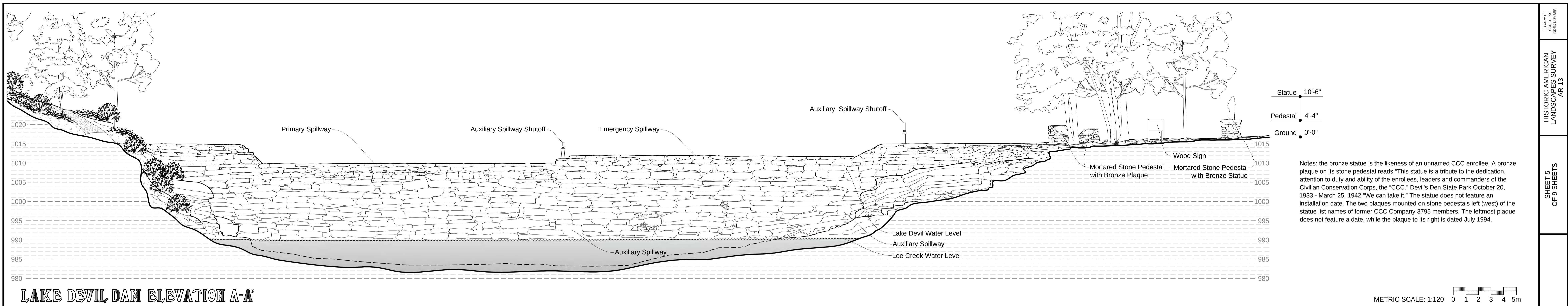
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⊗	STANDING DEAD TREE
×	STUMP
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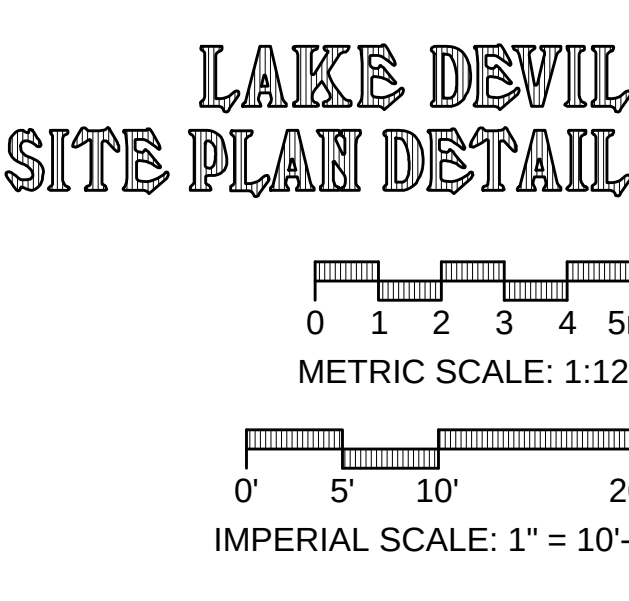
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FOREST FLOOR	FOREST CANOPY
SHRUBS, PERENNIALS & GRASSES	





TREE LIST

Code	Botanical Name	Common Name	Code	Botanical Name	Common Name
Ar	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	Ns	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum
As	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	Pe	<i>Pinus echinata</i>	Shortleaf Pine
Ap	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Red Buckeye	Ps	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry
Cco	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut Hickory	Qa	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak
Cg	<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut Hickory	Qf	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Southern Red Oak
Co	<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory	Qv	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black Oak
Ct	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut Hickory	Ua	<i>Ulmus alata</i>	Winged Elm
Cc	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud			
Dv	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Common Persimmon			
Jn	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut			
Ls	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Redcedar			
Ls	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	American Sweetgum			
Mv	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay Magnolia			

Note: the DBH (diameter at breast height) is listed after the code in inches.

SHRUB & VINE LIST

Code	Botanical Name	Common Name
Af	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo Bush
Ca	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American Beautyberry
Il	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	Chinese Holly
Pq	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper
Rh	<i>Rhododendron species</i>	Azalea
So	<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	Coralberry
To	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	Poison Ivy
Vd	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum
Vs	<i>Vitis species</i>	Wild Grape

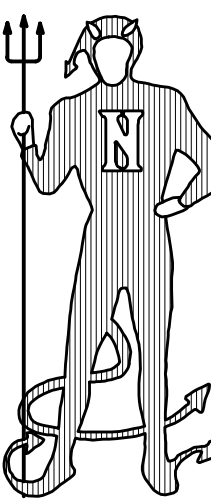
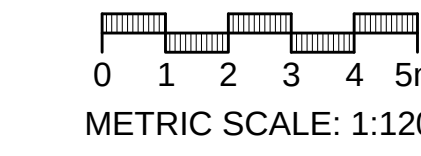
HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS LIST

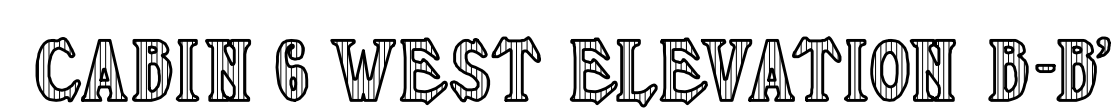
Code	Botanical Name	Common Name
At	<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Common Bluestar
Av	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Common Columbine
Sw	<i>Swamp Milkweed</i>	Swamp Milkweed
Pd	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Butterfly Milkweed
Rh	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Purple Poppy Mallow
Sa	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	Northern Sea Oats
Scs	<i>Schizanthus litoralis</i>	Lemon Grass
Sm	<i>Scrophularia marilandica</i>	Canada Wild Rye
Sr	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Rose Yarrow
Sd	<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	Yellow Day-lily
Sn	<i>Symphoricarpos novae-angliae</i>	Dwarf Crested Iris
Syo	<i>Symphoricarpos novae-angliae</i>	Chinese Bushclover
Md	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Beebalm

SYMBOL KEY

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VISITOR CENTER SITE PLAN



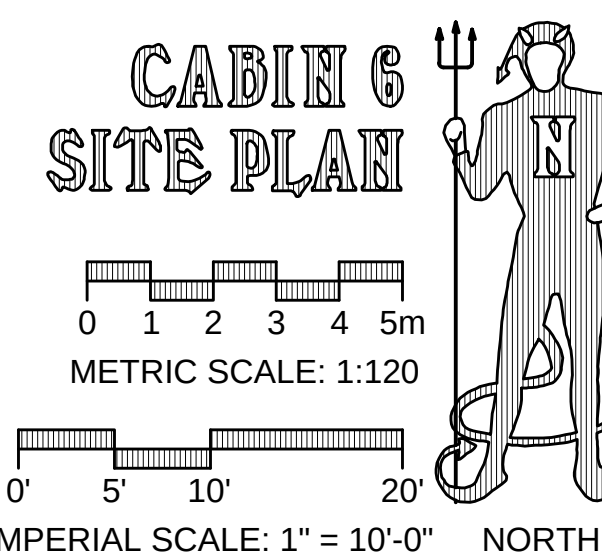


TREE LIST

Code	Botanical Name	Common Name
Ct	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut Hickory
Cf	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood
Jn	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut
Ls	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	American Sweetgum
Qa	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak
Qf	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Southern Red Oak
Qr	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak
Qsh	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard Oak
Qs	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	Post Oak
Qv	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black Oak
Vr	<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum

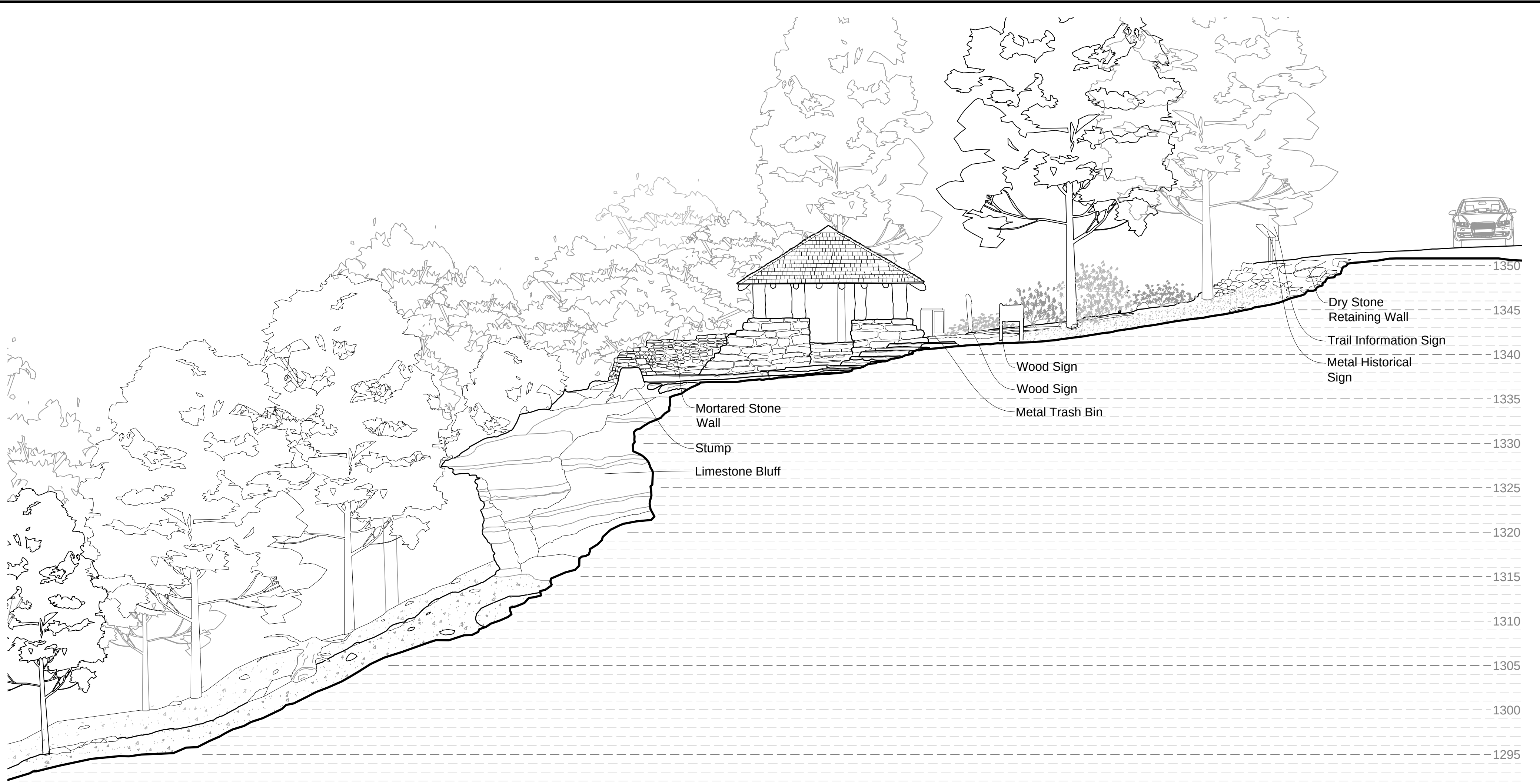
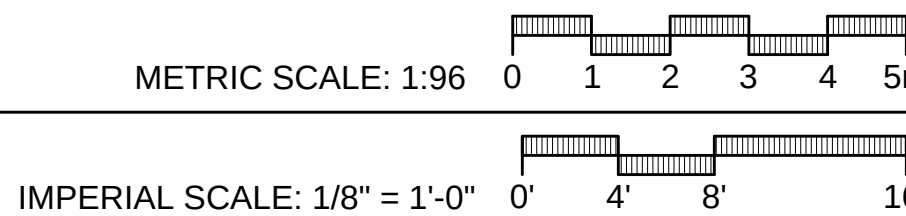
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			DECIDUOUS OVERSTORY TREE
			DECIDUOUS OVERSTORY TREE

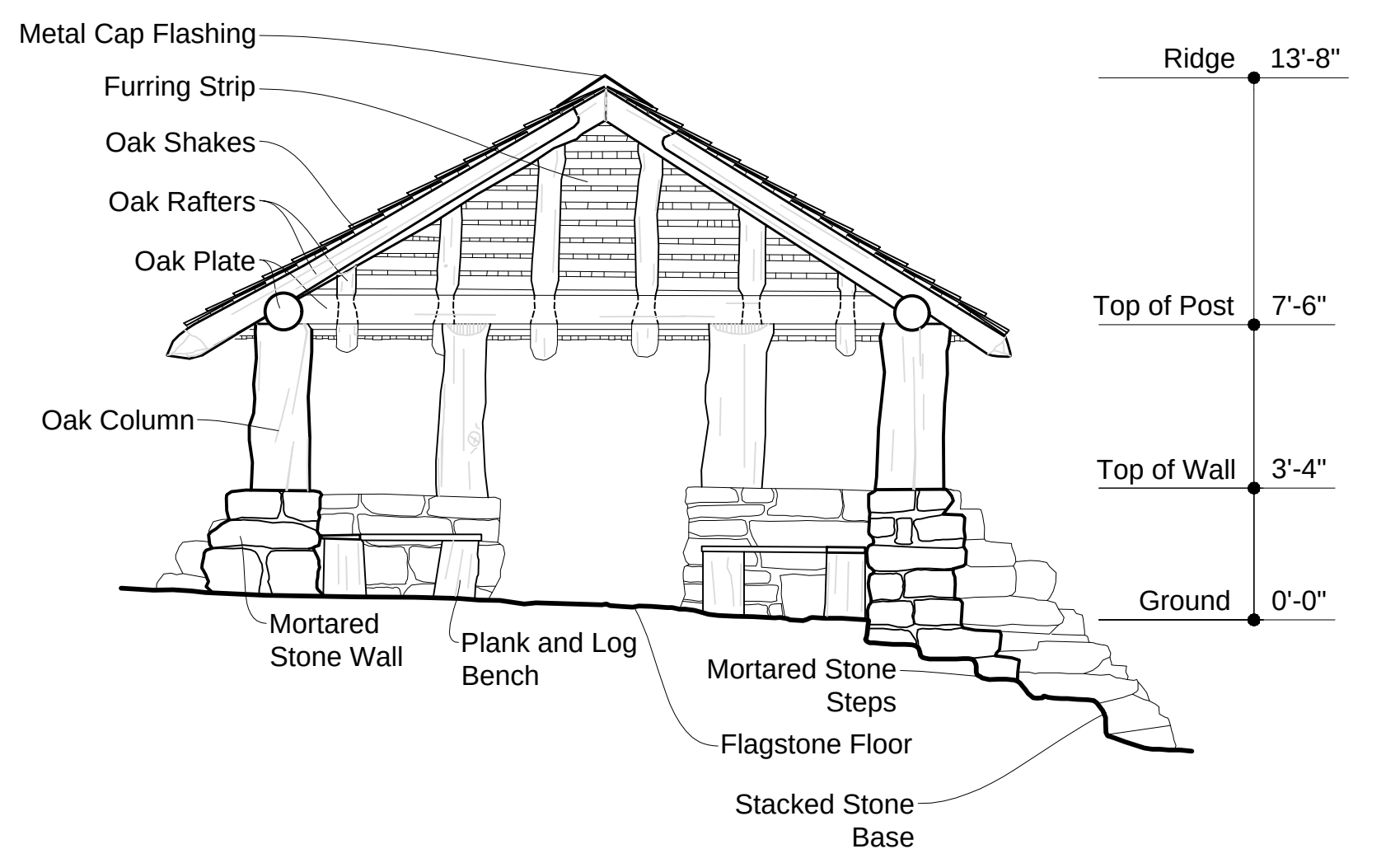
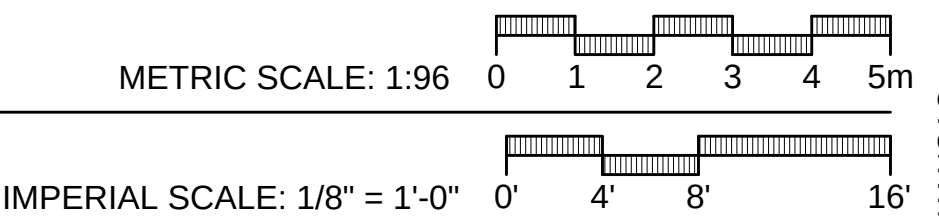




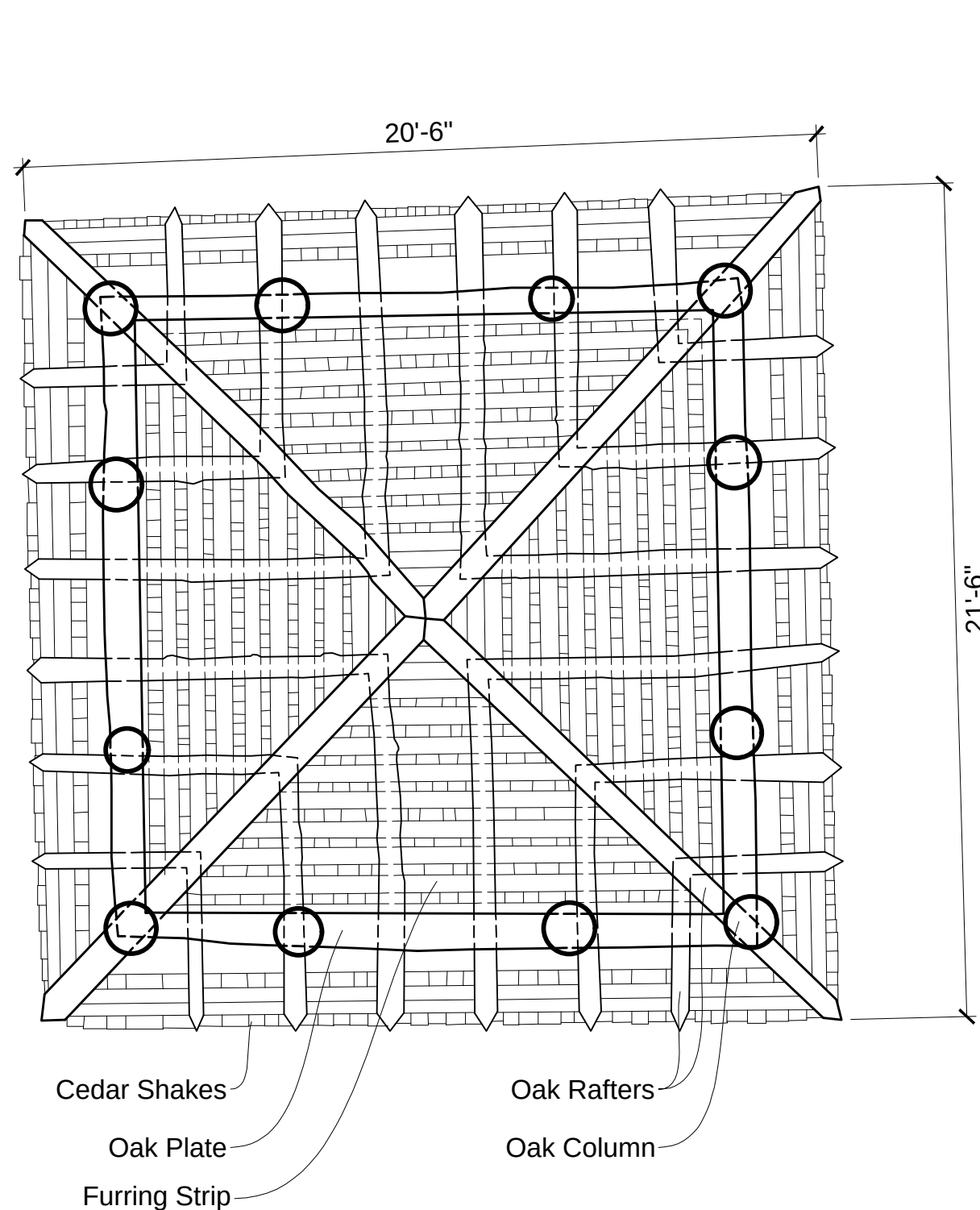
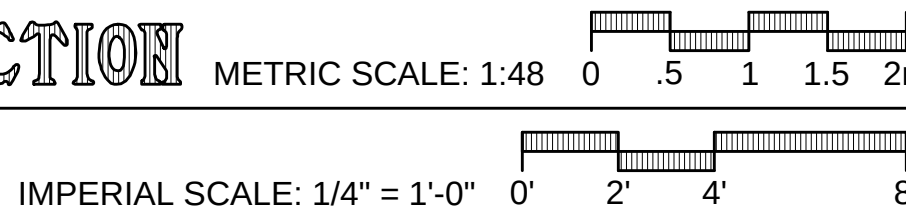
OVERLOOK SHELTER EAST ELEVATION B-B'



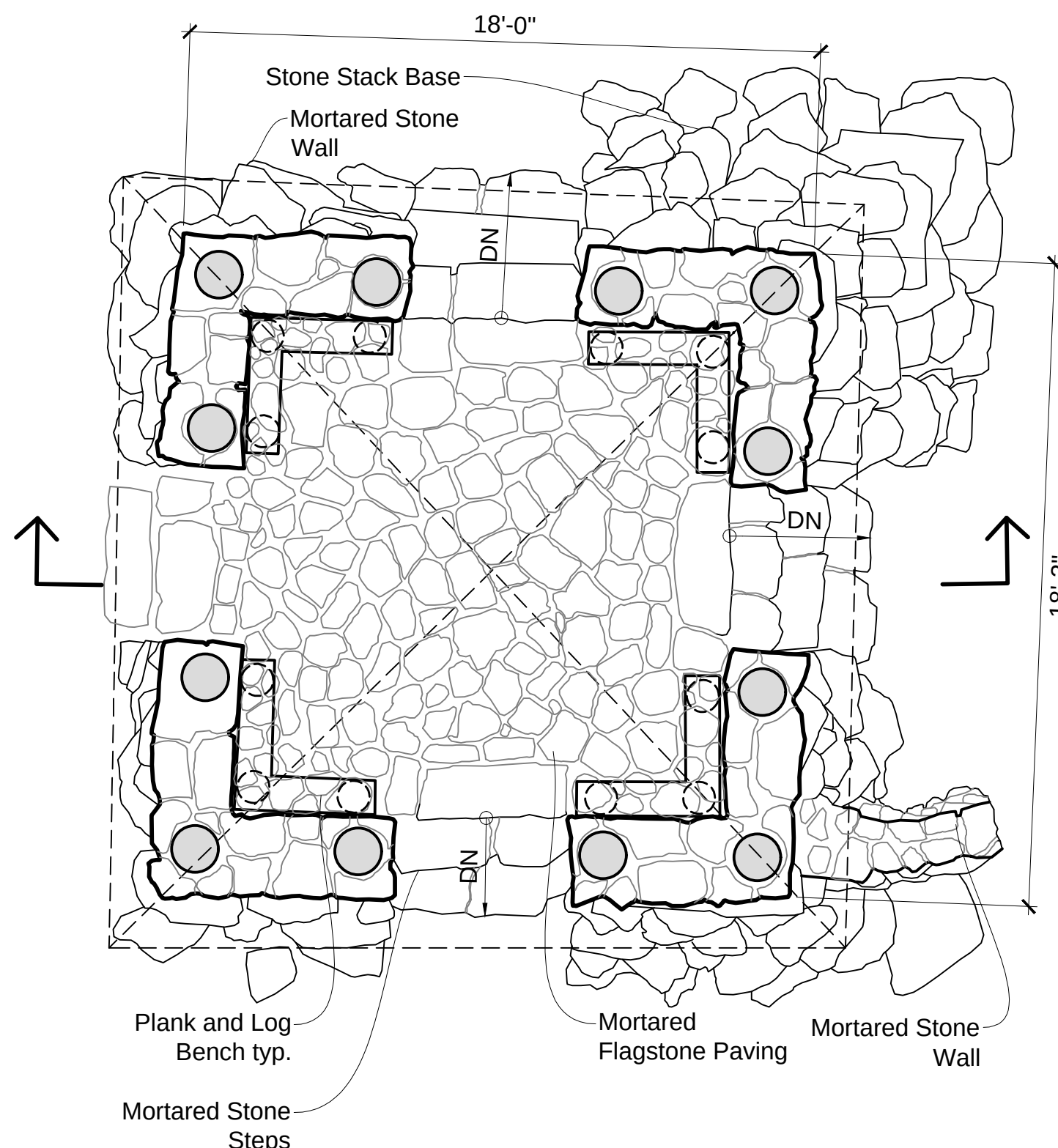
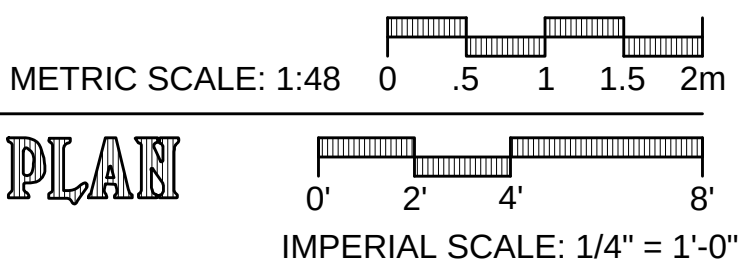
OVERLOOK SHELTER NORTH ELEVATION A-A'



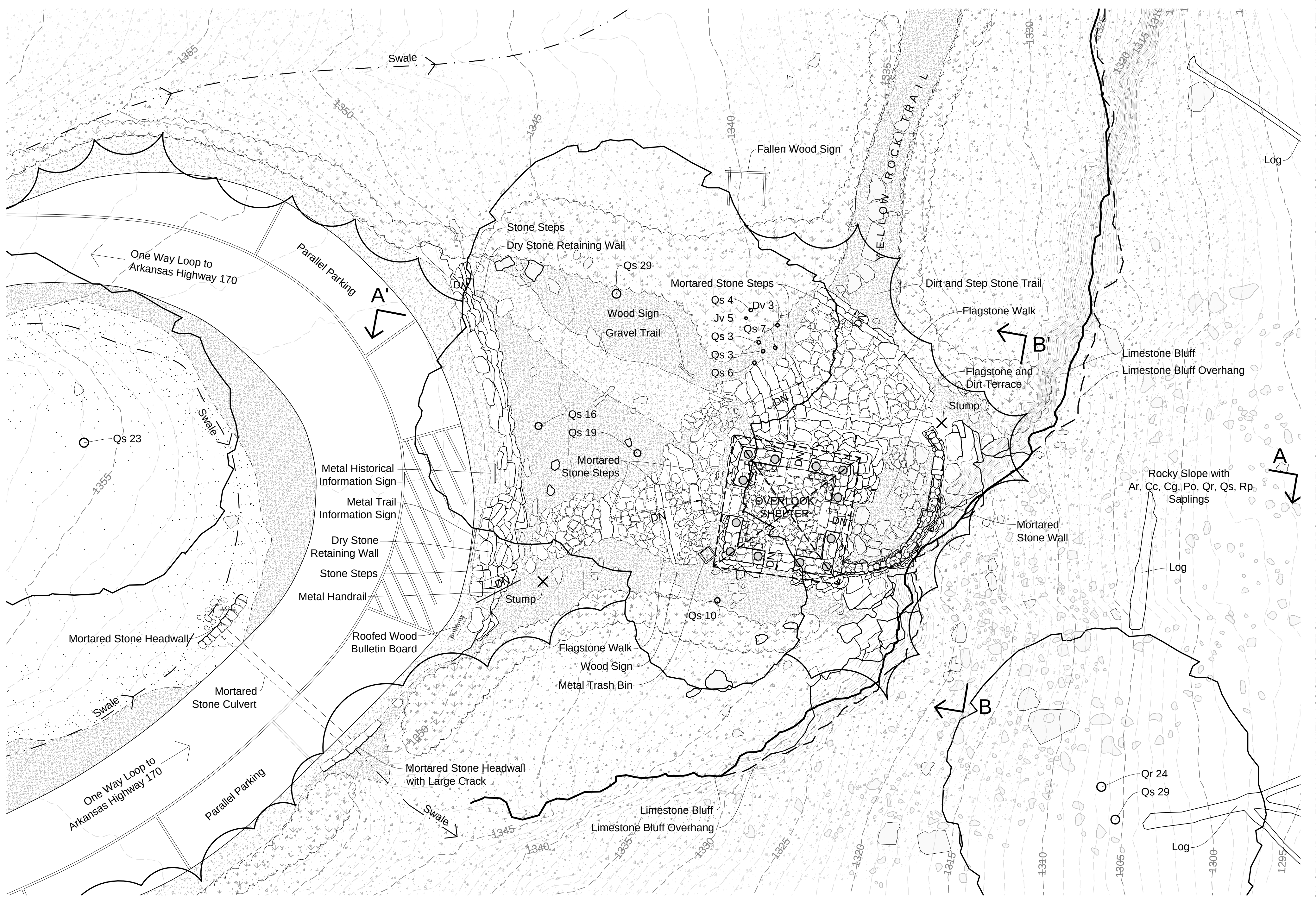
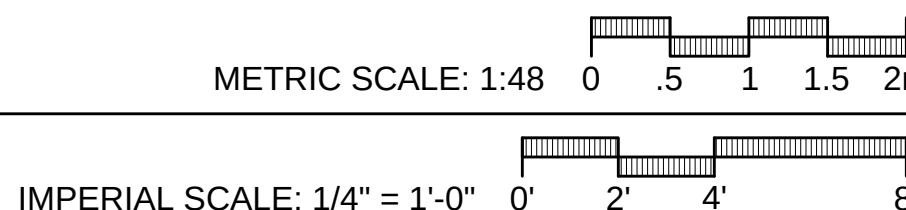
OVERLOOK SHELTER SECTION



OVERLOOK SHELTER
REFLECTED CEILING PLAN



OVERLOOK SHELTER
FLOOR PLAN



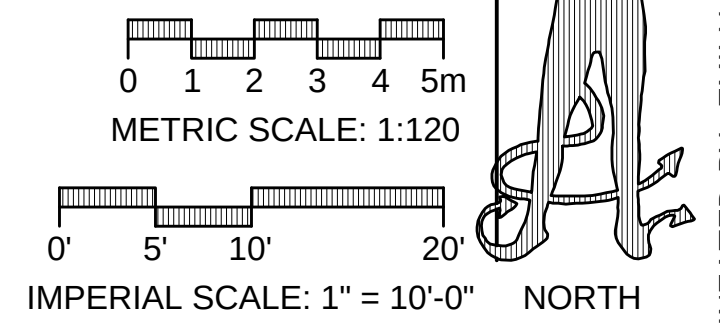
TREE LIST

Code	Botanical Name	Common Name
Ar	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
Cg	<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut Hickory
Cc	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud
Dv	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Common Persimmon
Jv	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Redcedar
Po	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore
Qr	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak
Qs	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	Post Oak
Rp	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust

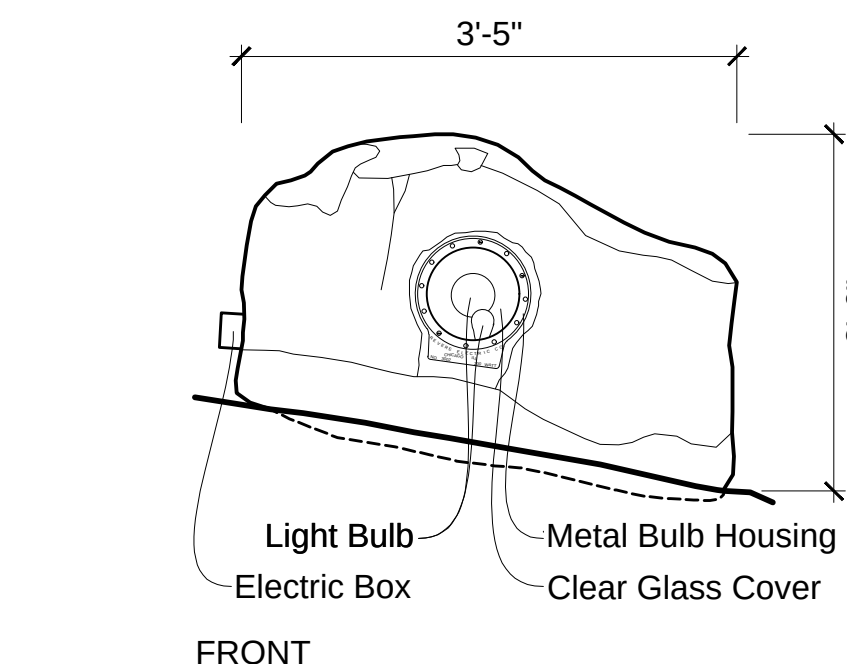
SYMBOL KEY

ASPHALT	DECIDUOUS UNDERSTORY TREE
CONCRETE	DECIDUOUS OVERSTORY TREE
GRAVEL	EVERGREEN TREE
FINE GRAVEL & DIRT	STANDING DEAD TREE
COARSE GRAVEL	STUMP
WOOD	DECIDUOUS SHRUB
MOWN LAWN	EVERGREEN SHRUB
FOREST FLOOR	FOREST CANOPY
SHRUBS, PERENNIALS & GRASSES	

OVERLOOK SHELTER
SITE PLAN

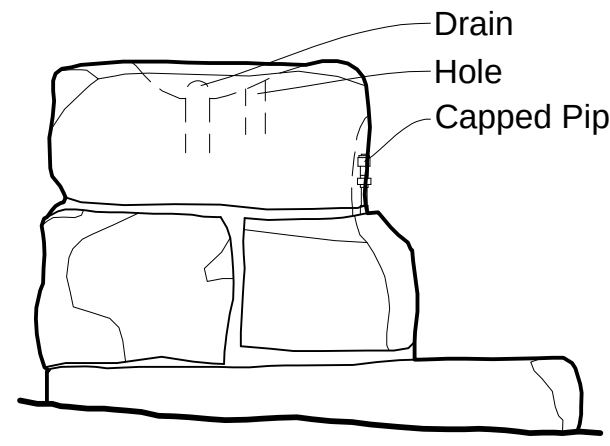
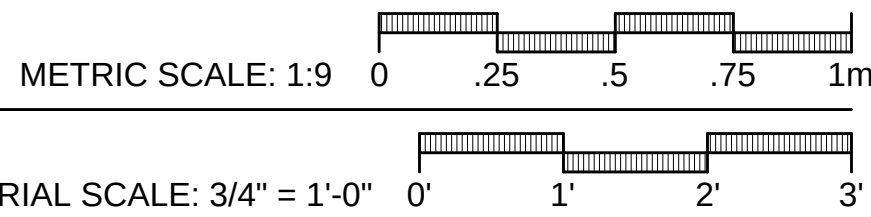


Note: the DBH (diameter at breast height) is listed after the code in inches.



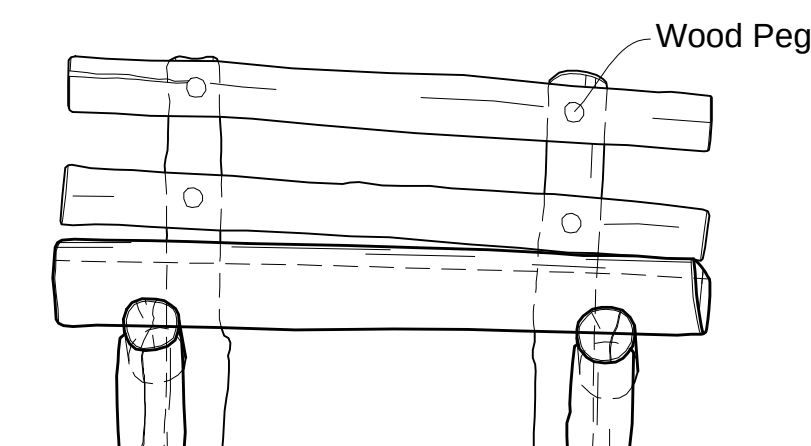
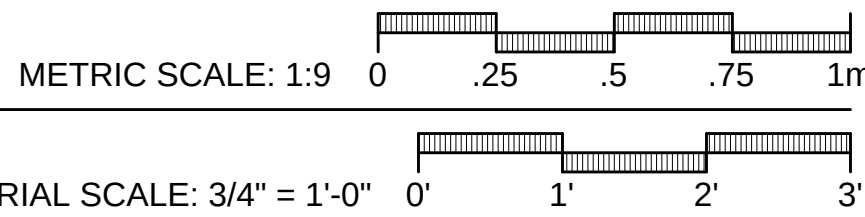
BOULDER LIGHT

Notes: drafted to the extent visible. This is one of five similar extant boulder lights installed by the CCC near Lake Devil.

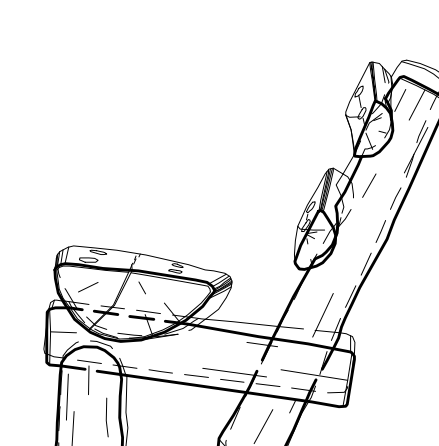


MORTARED STONE DRINKING FOUNTAIN

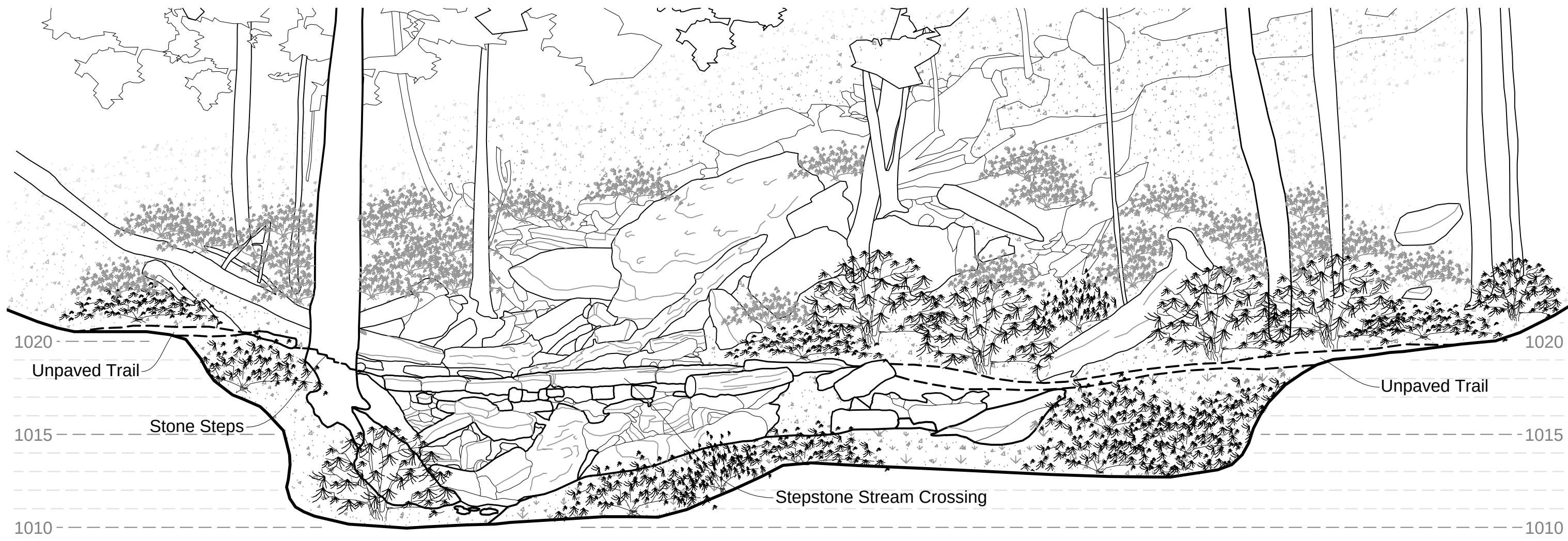
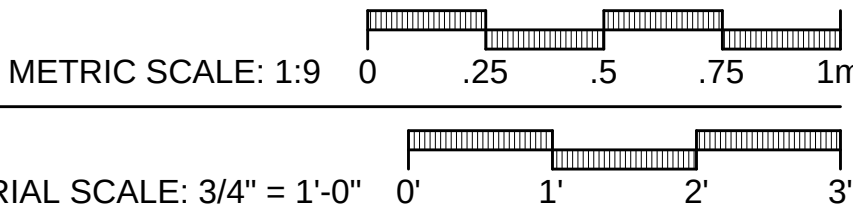
Notes: drafted to the extent visible. This is one of two similar extant fountains installed by the CCC (the second is currently at the Visitor Center). Neither is in working condition.



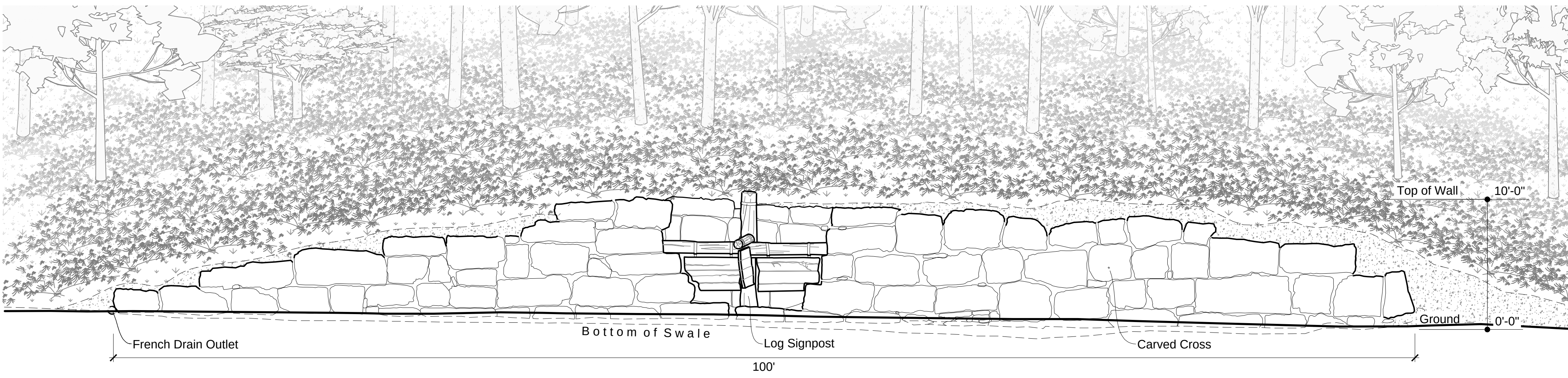
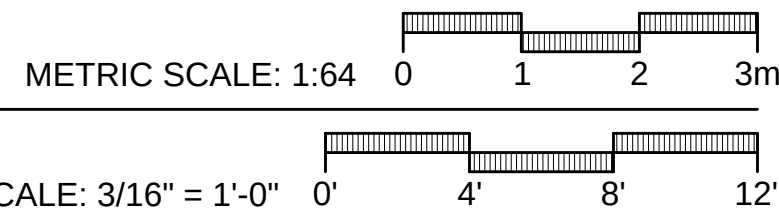
LOG BENCH



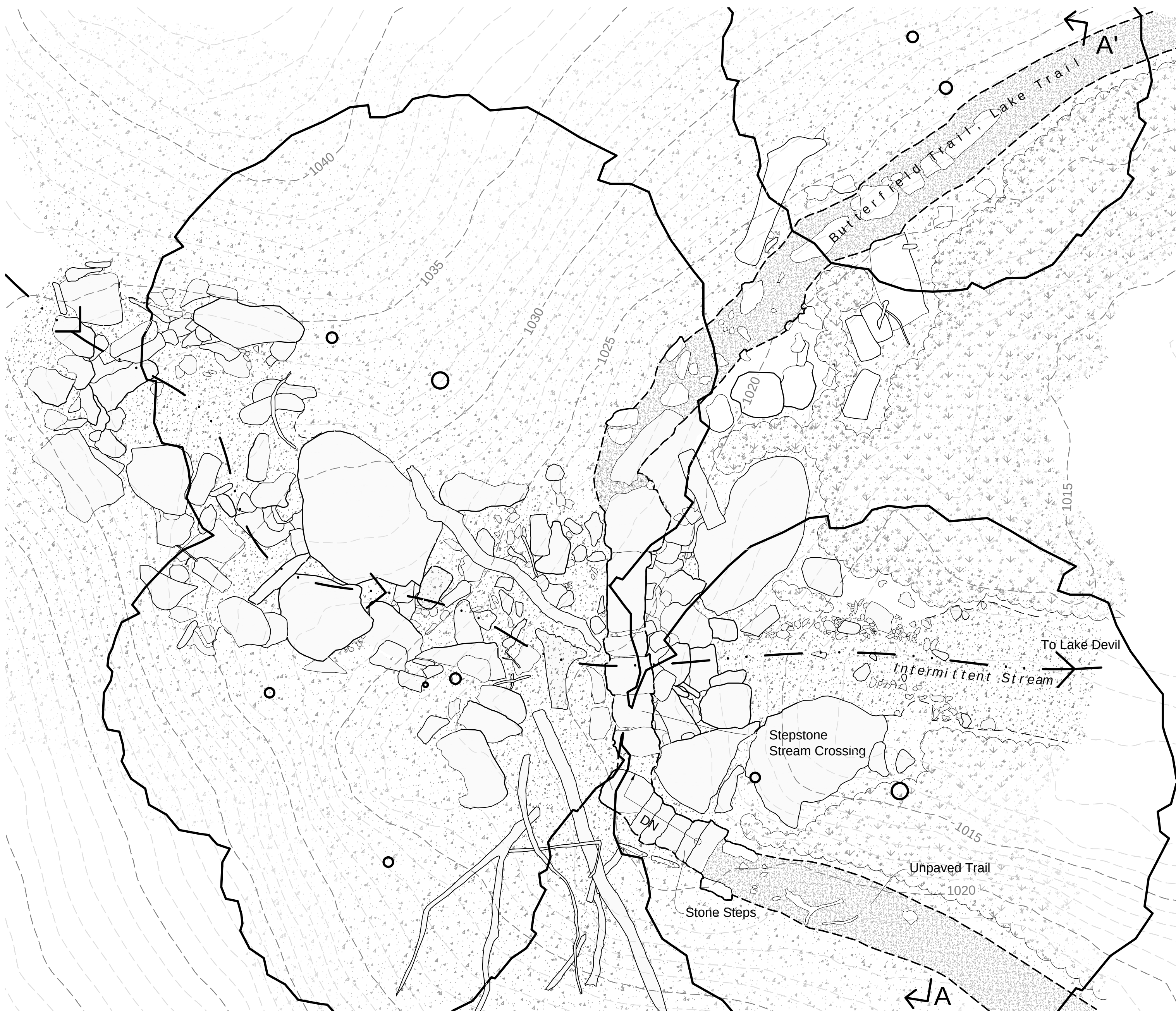
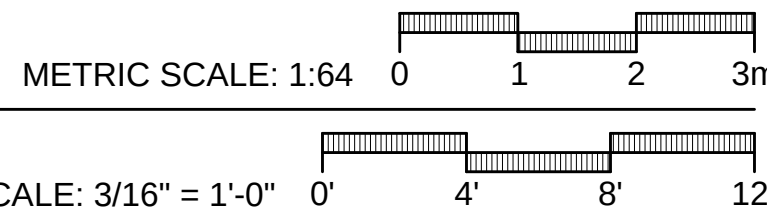
Notes: this is one of five similar extant outdoor benches built by the CCC ranging in length from 4'-6" to 8'-2". The seats and backs are made from split and peeled logs, while the rest of the bench is made from peeled logs. Originally placed on the Lake Devil beach, all are now kept under the combination building pavilion.



STEPSTONE CROSSING ELEVATION A-A'



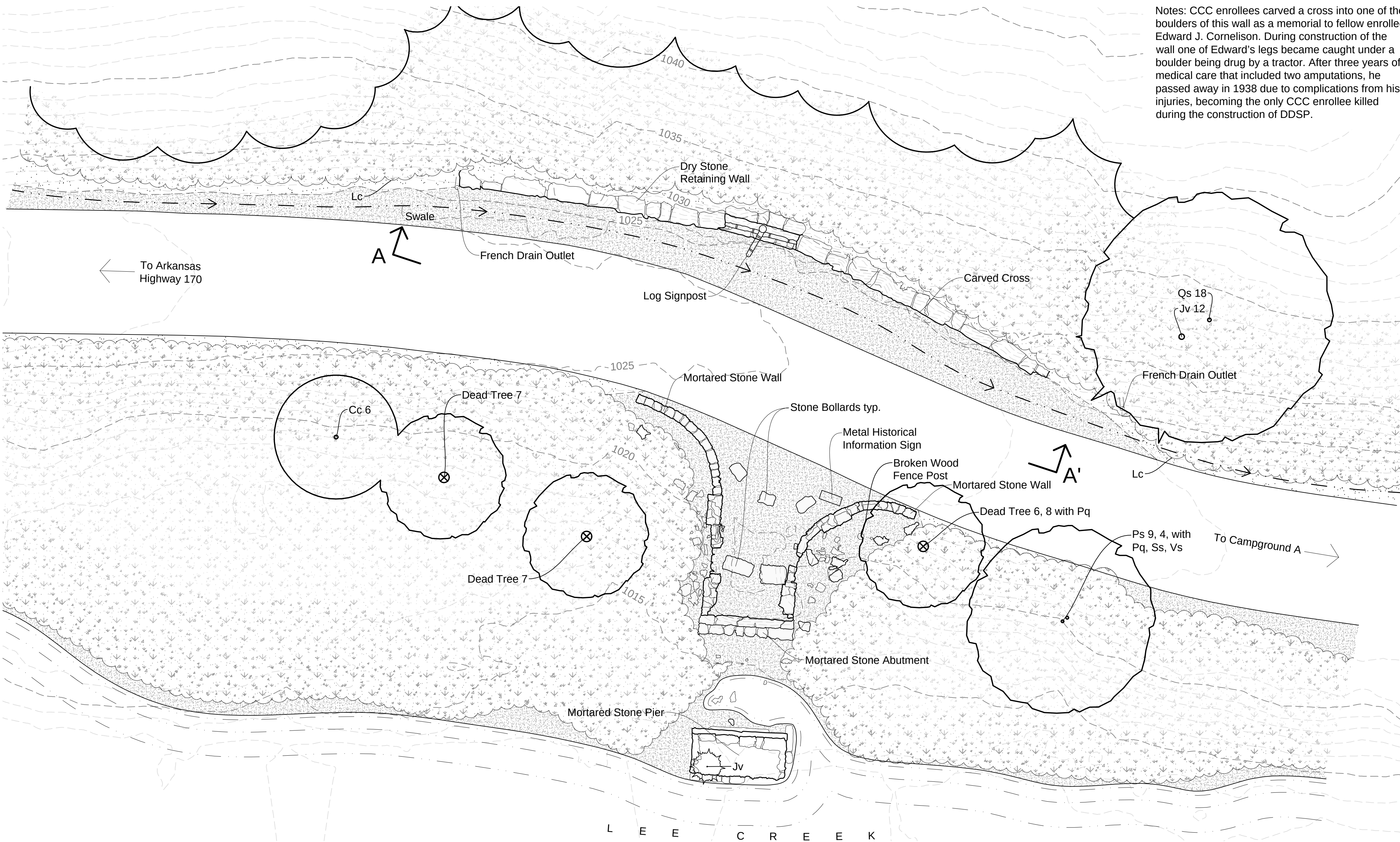
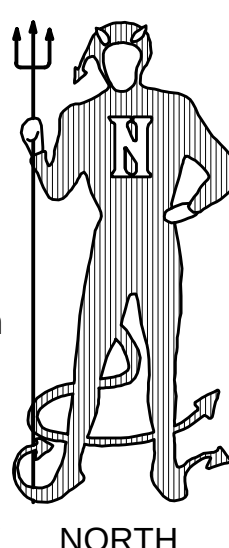
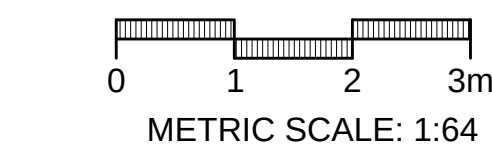
RETAINING WALL ELEVATION A-A'



TREE LIST

Note: the west bank of Lake Devil features a lowland forest dominated by white oak (*Quercus alba*), black oak (*Quercus velutina*), and post oak (*Quercus stellata*).

STEPSTONE CROSSING SITE PLAN



TREE LIST

Code	Botanical Name	Common Name
Cc	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Chinese Bushclover
Jv	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Redbud
Ps	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Eastern Redcedar
Qs	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	Black Cherry
		Post Oak
Note: the DBH (diameter at breast height) is listed after the code in inches.		
Code	Botanical Name	Common Name
Lc	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Chinese Bushclover
Pq	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper
Ss	<i>Smilax</i> species	Green-brier
Vs	<i>Vitis</i> species	Wild Grape

SYMBOL KEY

ASPHALT	DECIDUOUS UNDERSTORY TREE
CONCRETE	DECIDUOUS OVERSTORY TREE
GRAVEL	EVERGREEN TREE
FINE GRAVEL & DIRT	STANDING DEAD TREE
COARSE GRAVEL	STUMP
WOOD	DECIDUOUS SHRUB
MOWN LAWN	EVERGREEN SHRUB
FOREST FLOOR	FOREST CANOPY
SHRUBS, PERENNIALS & GRASSES	

RETAINING WALL AND BRIDGE REMNANTS SITE PLAN

