

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK

HALS NO. AR-13

- Location:** 11333 West Arkansas Highway 74, Winslow, Washington County, Arkansas
Devil's Den State Park Historic District
35.780058°N, 94.252061°W (Center of Combination Building, Google Earth)
- Significance:** Devil's Den State Park (DDSP) is one of Arkansas' first six state parks, all of which were designed and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was established in 1933 as one of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal programs to boost the economy during the Great Depression. DDSP was also established in 1933, with design and construction continuing until the CCC was disbanded in early 1942 as the US entered World War II. As with other state and national parks of this period, all human-built elements in the park, including buildings, roads, trails, bridges, dams, signage, furniture, and many other features, were designed in the National Park Service Rustic style. DDSP 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*. Fortunately, despite numerous alterations over the years, the park is widely regarded as the most intact example of CCC design in Arkansas today and still serves as a national exemplar of this formative period of state and national parks.
- Description:** *Introduction*
Due to the large size of DDSP and the budget and time restraints of this documentation effort, this report will provide a general overview of the park landscape and its character-defining features, followed by more detailed examinations of several representative areas with high historic significance. These areas are also the subject of sheets 2-8 of the accompanying measured drawings and include the Lake Devil region, today's visitor center, one of the historic cabins, and the overlook shelter. Sheet 9 features two elements of the historic circulation system: the remnants of the former vehicular entrance bridge and a steppingstone stream crossing detail on a path, along with three small-scale feature details. Sheet 1 contains introductory maps, overall site plans, a summary of the park's history and significance, and project information.
- General Overall Description*
DDSP is situated in the northwest corner of Arkansas on the southern edge of Washington County. The 2,500-acre park includes a portion of the upper Lee Creek valley in the rugged landscape of the Boston Mountain region of the Ozark Plateau. The park boundary included two miles of Lee Creek extending from the mouth of Ellis Creek south to Cold Spring. The heart of the park was

situated in the creek valley at an elevation of 1,017 feet, in the shadow of two flat-topped mountains. Mount Olive, to the east, is the taller of the two at 1,804 feet. On the west is Hurricane Ridge, which includes the highly photographed Yellow Rock bluff and tops out at 1,771 feet. Dramatic views into the Lee Creek valley can be glimpsed from the slopes of both ridges through the dense forest. The many caves, ravines, and crevasses in the park have been formed by the uplift, erosion, and slumping of the sandstone and limestone layers. The park's caves, including the park's namesake, Devil's Den, have been closed since 2010 to protect the bat population from the spread of white-nose syndrome.

Part of the park's boundary is shared with the Ozark National Forest. A study conducted in the early 1960s found that vegetation in the less-disturbed areas of DDSP was divisible into three upland forest types dominated by white oak (*Quercus alba*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), respectively; a lowland forest type featuring white oak, black oak (*Quercus velutina*), and post oak as the leading important species; and an old field forest type dominated by post oak (Bullington 1962). Other important species listed in the study included mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), black hickory (*Carya texana*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and winged elm (*Ulmus alata*). Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) was the park's leading high understory species. Many other species were identified in the report, too numerous to include here. Our 2023 survey of selected developed areas of the park, such as Lake Devil, the visitor center, and cabin 6, found a similar assortment of primarily native species, although, in many instances, low understory species consisted primarily of mown lawn. Full plant lists of the areas we surveyed are included in the measured drawings. The extensive use of native plants today is in keeping with the CCC-period conditions. Although the CCC did not create detailed planting plans for each area of the park, drawings of example areas served as guides for the transplantation of native plants from other areas of the park. Those example areas, such as the landscape around the cabins, had many more understory trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants than are found in the park today.

As with all other features, roads and trails built by the CCC were designed to be congruous with the landscape. For the roads, this meant switchbacks that worked with site contours and pullouts at scenic views. "[The road through the park] is a scenic highway, composed of several hairpin curves, which will enable the motorist to obtain the best views possible" (Pepple 1934). Speeds were controlled by a road's winding layout, narrow width (only twenty feet), and gravel surface. Road edges were lined with periodically spaced boulders to serve as guardrails where they were needed. Rustic stone culverts and gutters were built to capture run-off from the roads and control drainage, and stone retaining walls held back grades where needed. Wayfinding signage was designed from logs and carved wood panels to guide visitors into, out of, and around the park. Two main roads were built by the CCC to get visitors through six miles of the

park, one from West Fork (AR 170) and the other from Winslow (AR 74). They connected at a stone, timber, and I-beam bridge spanning Lee Creek that served as the gateway to Lake Devil. Other similarly designed roads accessed the cabins, picnic areas, and other destinations in the park. All of these roads have since been paved. AR 74 retains its tightly winding CCC layout, while AR 170 has been significantly widened, straightened, shortened, and steepened, resulting in a road that has been designed for speeds much faster than those that are posted and a character that bears little resemblance to the original AR 170, which now lies abandoned (Figures 1 & 2).

By February 1941, the CCC had built 2.4 miles of bridle trails and 1.8 miles of hiking trails (Davies 1941). Designer had scoured the park for interesting destinations, including caves, crevasses, sheer cliffs, dramatic overlooks, and waterfalls, and created scenic routes to access them. The hiking trails were clustered in the “Crevice Area” that featured Devil’s Den and other formations near the park’s center. Steeper trail sections were augmented with stone slabs forming irregular stairs along the path or steps carved into the native rock to help the hiker manage the climb without detracting from the beauty of nature. Bridle trails accessed the Yellow Rock overlook and other more-remote sections of the park. Trails crossed the creek and the ravines with rustic wood and stone crossings varying in size and complexity, from exposed stepping-stones to structures sturdy enough for horses. Many of the CCC trails are still used today, with route alterations, although some of the bridle trails have been redesignated as hiking. Many more trails have been added in the past thirty years, including an extensive network of mountain bike trails. Some CCC trails have been significantly altered or abandoned. In the spring of 2024, an expedition consisting of two representatives from Arkansas State Parks and two members of the HALS documentation team managed to retrace the route of one of the first trails built by the CCC in areas they named “Devil’s Council Hall” and “Devil’s Kitchen,” both located in the Crevice Area. The trail has been abandoned since at least the 1970s, but many of its numerous stone steps were found intact, buried under a deep layer of leaves and soil. Similarly, much of the CCC stonework remains intact on all the park’s historic trails, although all original wooden features associated with the trails, such as signs and bridges, have been lost or replaced. Some wooden features have been rebuilt, but not to the original standards.

DDSP features numerous buildings and small-scale built features (Figure 3). Many of these buildings and features were built by the CCC and are described in the following sections. In general, the buildings designed as temporary structures by the CCC for their two camps, one north of the park boundary and the other between the cabins and Lee Creek, no longer remain. Three significant CCC buildings – two cabins and a bathhouse – also no longer remain, although the two cabins have been replaced with similar structures. The remaining CCC structures have all been modified but, overall, retain a moderate to high level of

integrity. Many new buildings have been added as well, with some attempts at using visually compatible materials and colors, but generally not using the same construction methods or adhering to the National Park Service Rustic style. Some of these new buildings are located in historically sensitive areas, such as the utility buildings and staff houses near the Combination Building and Visitor Center. Six "camper cabins" installed several years ago in a prominent location (a former CCC picnic area) on the entrance road on the west side of Lee Creek are a particularly stark contrast to the aesthetic sought by the CCC. This is due in part to the residential suburban feel created by mown lawns, concrete sidewalks, and paved parking spaces. Only one campground was built by the CCC at Devil's Den, on the west side of Lake Devil (the site of today's camper cabins). They also proposed a large group camp development north of second proposed lake, but the CCC was disbanded before these features were completed (Davies 1941). The CCC also designated picnic areas on either side of Lee Creek upstream of Lake Devil in the vicinity of Cold Spring, south of the dam that was being built for the second lake. Improvements that the CCC was planning for these picnic grounds in 1941 were never completed, and Arkansas State Parks has since converted them to campgrounds (drive-in and hike-in portions of Campground A). Four campgrounds, along with a group camp area, currently offer a total of 135 campsites, which vary from hookups to hike-in, tent-only spots. The transition from day-use picnicking to camping, particularly at Campground A and the camper cabins (formerly Campground B), has significantly altered the character of these areas due to the additional infrastructure needed to support overnight use.

Lake Devil (sheet 2-5/9)

The CCC dammed Lee Creek to form the ten-acre Lake Devil and establish the activity hub and heart of the park (Figure 4). The dam was built by cutting a key trench into the bedrock that curved across the creek bed, constructing two masonry walls on either side of the trench, and filling the gap with concrete. The downstream side of the dam was stair-stepped with large stones and boulders to create a structure approximately twenty-five feet in height from the base of the small pool and overflow channel to the top of the wall (Daniel - Lee 1972). The result was a dramatic waterfall effect at the primary spillway on the west side of the dam (technically a weir, but it has been referred to as a dam since its inception). In high waters, water flows across the entire length of the dam. A sluice gate low on the west side of the dam can be opened to regulate the flow of water as an auxiliary spillway. In 1972, the upstream side of the dam was reinforced with a wall of concrete, and stones were added to the top to raise the lake's water level two feet in an attempt to counteract damage from floods and decrease siltation problems. While the additions to the dam did not significantly change its appearance, Lee Creek's flow and deposition patterns were altered, along with the size and depth of Lake Devil and its island. Additional study is needed, but this action may have instead worsened siltation and flooding problems.

Most of the east side of the lake was designed by the CCC to serve as a swimming area. In the CCC's final iteration for this area, which was designed in 1938, an L-shaped portion of the lakebed was paved with concrete to protect swimmers from the rocky bottom. The shallow leg of the L ran along the shore and was demarcated by thick wood piers strung with a chain. The deeper but shorter leg of the L ran along the dam, crossing the chain and leading to a rustic log-and-stone diving platform with one three-meter and two one-meter diving boards. A mortared stone retaining wall separated the swimming area from a sandy beach, with two sets of wide stone steps with wood log handrails providing access to the water. The 1938 plan shows a low railing on top of the retaining wall, but based on photographic evidence from the CCC period, this was not installed. The beach was lined with log benches and additional seating was provided by a small stone amphitheater near the dam. A stone and log lifeguard stand sat on the edge of the dam. The steep bank leading down to the beach was covered with native trees and understory plants. Visitors traversed the bank by means of the amphitheater and a set of flagstone steps. Despite the closure of the beach and the raising of the water level in the 1960s and 70s, enough of the CCC-period features and character remain along the former swimming area to result in a moderate level of historic integrity. The diving platform, lifeguard stand, and one set of water-access steps are gone, but most of the other original rockwork remains, though the wall between the beach and the water is partially submerged. A wood and plastic lumber dock now sits on top of the northern water-access stair. The wood benches have been moved, and the sandy beach is now almost entirely lawn, other than a few well-worn patches. Two plaques and a statue commemorating the work of the CCC have been placed on the flagstone paths above the beach leading to the dam. A detailed comparison of vegetation is not possible, but today's plantings of primarily mature, native deciduous trees along the bank and on the east side of the dam are in keeping with the historic character.

The CCC's Combination Building is situated on a terrace at the top of the bank, with select views through the trees to the beach and Lake Devil (Figures 5 & 6). The L-shaped bathhouse portion of the building was built first. Its walls were framed from dimensional lumber sitting on a masonry footing 2' below grade with a slab on grade concrete floor. The roof, constructed of log members that were intentionally exposed, was gabled over the men's and women's rooms. The east leg of the L housed the women's shower, changing, and restroom area, separated by partitions constructed of 2" x 4" framing and shiplap. Interior walls were clad in the same shiplap. The men's room was nearly a mirror image, situated on the north end of the L. The windows, needed both for light and ventilation, had high sills for privacy that were constructed from 10" diameter logs with nominal window framing. A large boulder-sized stone base surrounded the structure with large diameter log columns supporting a hipped roof to shade the open clerk desk, which was lined with wood shelves and surrounded by a

wooden service counter. The second CCC phase at the north end of the building added a small commercial kitchen, an indoor dining room, and an attached outdoor pavilion. Both the dining room and pavilion included a beautiful masonry fireplace and chimney that were the width of each space. The dining room was flanked on both sides with three double door/screen combination openings for optimal airflow and connection to the outdoors. The lumber-framed walls and log-framed roof continued on the addition. The roof was covered with wood shake shingles, and the walls above the stone base were clad with 1" x 10" bark edge plank siding. Shelving, furniture, and light fixtures were also designed and built by the CCC. Today's Combination Building reflects the alterations made during a significant renovation in the early 2000s. The number of showers and toilets has been reduced to consolidate the men's and women's rooms into one side of the L, connected by an interior corridor. The remaining leg of the L is now a store that encompasses the former men's room and clerk's desk. This change also expanded the building's footprint further out beneath the hipped roof. The kitchen has been updated to modern food service requirements. The six double doors & screens in the dining room have been replaced with windows, and electrical items replaced or rewired. The plumbing in the two smaller restrooms on the north end of the building has been removed, and one has been converted into a mechanical closet, while the other has been relegated to storage. The Combination Building still features some of its original handmade furniture, light fixtures, and shelving. Five of the rustic log benches built by the CCC to sit on the beach are now located under the pavilion.

The area south of the Combination Building is part of the Lake Devil area with the lowest level of historic integrity. After initial CCC plans considered a small parking lot initially, a simple lawn was installed instead, framed by a flagstone path and terrace to the west and north, a service drive to the east, and native woodland to the south. The lawn no longer remains. In its place is an eclectic collection of contemporary features associated with the swimming pool and adjacent wading pool. The pool is surrounded by a stained and textured concrete deck and an iron fence with stone-clad columns; each topped with a lantern-style light. Rows of holly (Chinese Holly (*Ilex cornuta*) or possibly a small American Holly cultivar (*Ilex opaca*)) have been planted on portions of the perimeter in an unsuccessful attempt to screen views of the pool. The deck also accesses a storage building full of pool equipment, a lifeguard hut, and water slides at the pool's deep end. A recently built flagstone path and an ADA-accessible wood bridge over a shallow ravine provide additional access to the beach area and pool from the parking lot. Miscellaneous signs line the asphalt-paved and paint-stripped parking lot, which is lit by a combination of CCC-built boulder lights and floodlights mounted on tall wooden utility poles.

Visitor Center (sheet 6/9)

The building that now serves as the park's visitor center and administrative offices was designed by the CCC as the first building of a planned service group

that was never completed (Figure 7). In its initial configuration it housed a garage, shop, and warehouse. The building was roughly crescent-shaped in plan, with the garage in the center accessed by three double-swinging doors, and wings on either side at 45-degree angles. The shorter wing on the left served as the workshop, and the longer wing on the right was used as a tool room and warehouse. It was constructed of dimensional lumber with rafters pieced together on site. Large 12x12 hewn oak lintels spanned the large openings. The roof was clad in hand-split oak shakes while the siding consisted of rough-edge oak planks. Full log-end rafters were applied to the end gables to imply a log structure, while the base of the building incorporated built-up stone to mimic a traditionally laid masonry foundation. A large semicircular gravel service court in front of the structure was surrounded by a mortared stone retaining wall topped with a wood fence, screening views and restricting access. The court was entered through a wood double swing gate hung on mortared stone piers.

Arkansas State Parks has modified the interior of this structure extensively several times since the CCC period to serve a variety of administrative and visitor functions. The roof is now covered with asphalt shingles, and a small foyer has been added to the building's main entrance. Today's Visitor Center consists of an information room with a small museum and shop, an audiovisual room, restrooms, and administrative offices. Although vehicular circulation patterns have changed, the basic form of the original service court can still be seen in today's asphalt parking lot and access drive. Most of the CCC mortared stone retaining walls also remain, minus the wood fences and gate that the CCC installed to restrict views into the court. A rustic log flagpole on a mortared stone base, a large sundial on a mortared stone base, and CCC-built boulder drinking fountain have all been added or moved to the area in front of the building, along with small planting beds filled with shrubs and native perennials. Today's mown lawns under tall shade trees evoke a similar character to the one depicted in CCC-period photographs. Arkansas State Parks is currently considering building a new visitor center and repurposing the CCC structure once again.

Cabins (sheet 7/9)

The CCC designed and built 17 cabins along two roads southeast of the Combination Building (Figures 8 & 9). An upper drive provided access to seven cabins and ended in a small cul-de-sac, while eight more were accessed by a lower drive that looped back to the Combination Building by means of a road cutting through Camp SP-6. The remaining two cabins were approached by trails between the two drives, although a proposal from 1940 shows a spur from the upper drive that would have provided vehicular access.

The cabins were nestled into a densely forested slope. This private woodland experience was enhanced by CCC landscape architect Robert Kreilick's planting strategy of revegetating the construction zones with native understory plants. Similarly, the fieldstones used in the cabin foundations, steps, paths, and terraces

flowed into the surrounding landscape, blurring the line between human-built and natural elements. Each cabin had a unique floor plan, but all featured the same design language. The structural stone bases supported dimensional lumber-framed floors, walls, and roofs, but log units created sills and false rafters to give the feeling that they had been built solely from elements found on site. The huge stone fireplaces and chimneys anchored the building to the site while providing warmth for the unconditioned buildings. Although all cabins had hand-split wood shingles roofs, each building looked unique. The roof shapes and overhangs were varied, window sizes and sill heights fluctuated. Some cabins were sided with flat bark-edged siding, others with wood shingles. Small terraces were built outside of each cabin to allow the interior gathering space to extend into the environment. The CCC also designed and built all the furnishings, hardware, and light fixtures.

Despite numerous repairs, modifications, and additions made by Arkansas State Parks over the decades since the CCC era concluded, the cabin area retains a moderately high level of integrity. Examples of changes include the addition of stone-walled terraces and an assortment of site furnishings to facilitate outdoor cooking and dining, the paving of the access drives and a return loop added to the upper drive, and extensive material changes such as asphalt shingles to modernize and weatherize the structures. Two replacement cabins (built after the CCC originals were destroyed in the 1950s and 60s) are similar in character to the rest of the cabins. Mowing and weed whacking have resulted in a much more suburban character than the native woodland experience intended by the CCC. The impact of these alterations on historic integrity ranges widely, but with additional study and planning, much of the lost character could be recaptured without sacrificing modern convenience.

Overlook Shelter (sheet 8/9)

The CCC's design intent of this overlook and accompanying shelter was to serve as a welcome and introduction to the natural splendor of Devil's Den (Figure 10). As visitors descended on the original West Fork entrance road, five hairpin curves wound visitors gently down the mountain, increasing their anticipation through glimpses of captivating views peeking over the hills at new angles. The overlook shelter was perched on top of a bluff on the road's fourth hairpin, inviting visitors to exit their cars and immerse themselves in the park's grandeur.

The overlook affords a panoramic view to the east over the Lee Creek valley and into the heart of the park where Lake Devil lies. The shelter is an open-aired pavilion constructed with natural materials and a sturdy log framework. The pavilion's square plan features a mortared fieldstone foundation supporting twelve oak columns with a hipped roof covered with shakes. Right-angled plank and log benches sit in each of the four corners. The pavilion is accessible from openings on all four sides, with the primary passage moving east from the road and then exiting the pavilion to the west down a flight of steps to a semicircular

terrace. The terrace, perched on top of the bluff and bordered by a mortared stone wall, provides the principal viewing area through a selectively thinned oak forest. Flagstones protect the pavilion and terrace floors. Stone steps and flagstone, steppingstone, and dirt paths provide access to the pavilion, overlook terrace, and adjacent Yellow Rock trail. Unfortunately, a significant oak at the corner of the flagstone terrace was lost several years ago, and several signs clutter and partially obstruct the view of the site from the road.

History:

Pre Euro-American Settlement

Indigenous Americans utilized the Lee Creek valley seasonally for hunting, gathering, and agriculture for thousands of years. When Europeans first began exploring and trading in the region in the late seventeenth century, the Osage were making seasonal use of Northwest Arkansas from their primary villages in southwest Missouri. A 2004 study of prehistoric land use of the nearly 100,000-acre Lee Creek Unit of the Ozark National Forest, which includes the 2,500-acre DDSP, hypothesized that the area “probably was “home” at any particular time to several extended families representing a total population of no more than 250 people” (Sabo, Lockhart and Hilliard 2004, 32). This population would have been highly fluid based on seasonal migrations for hunting, gathering, and gardening activities. Settlement areas likely rotated cyclically, based, at least in part, on the exhaustion of wood supplies: “over several generations, a community of 250 persons would have cleared extensive tracts of bottomlands in an area the size of the Lee Creek Unit” (Sabo, Lockhart and Hilliard 2004, 34). Cherokee, displaced from their homelands in the southeastern U.S. by eighteenth-century Euro-American settlement, migrated to Arkansas from the 1780s to the 1820s, leading to occasional violent conflicts with the Osage. As with the Osage, the Cherokee may have utilized the Lee Creek area for seasonal hunting but not for permanent settlement. Myths about the name of the creek draw on romanticized imagery of Indigenous Americans. Purportedly, “Lee” is an abbreviation for Leilola, who, upon the death of her lover, allegedly drowned herself in the nearby stream (Hales 1991). The tale claims that the maiden belonged to one of the mound-building tribes that lived on the land before European settlers arrived (McCarty 1977).

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 brought the area under control of the U.S. government. The Osage relocated to eastern Oklahoma following a series of treaties signed in 1808, 1818, 1822, and 1825. In 1828, the Cherokee in Arkansas signed a treaty that ceded their lands to the U.S. government, and they also moved to eastern Oklahoma. Between 1834 and 1839 they were joined by Cherokee and other southeastern tribes who had attempted to remain on their ancestral homelands but were forcibly removed by the U.S. government following the Indian Removal Act of 1830, during the event that came to be known as the “Trail of Tears.” One of the routes taken during this forced exodus passed just a few miles from the boundary that is now DDSP (Heritage Trail Partners 2022).

100 Years of Growth and Decline: 1827-1932

The Devil's Den region was included in the formation of Missouri Territory in 1812 and then split off with the creation of "Arkansaw" Territory in 1819. Euro-American settlement of the region began in the 1820s, followed shortly thereafter by the establishment of Washington County on October 17, 1828. The first settlers coming to the Lee Creek Valley in the 1830s favored sites that had already been occupied and modified by indigenous tribes, primarily on the flatter areas on Lee Creek but also on the tops of surrounding plateaus, as they also found these sites favorable for farming (Sabo, Lockhart and Hilliard 2004, 34). The densely wooded, hilly landscape made access and farming difficult, which meant settlers had to be largely self-sufficient. Subsistence living was commonplace, in which homesteaders hunted, raised livestock, and grew crops primarily for their own support (Keck, History and Self-guiding Tour of the Upper Lee Creek Valley and Devil's Den State Park 1992, 2). Most roads in the area were obscure, unimproved tracks, although the route five miles to the west utilized during the Trail of Tears was incorporated into the Butterfield Overland Trail Route from 1858-1861. This route connected St. Louis, Missouri to San Francisco, California with a stagecoach service carrying mail, passengers, and freight. The Civil War (1861-1865) brought an end to the service and, like most elsewhere throughout the country, disrupted the daily lives of Lee Creek residents.

Following a period of population decline during and after the Civil War, the Lee Creek Valley population rebounded and reached a high point between 1880 and 1920. A new rail line was built through Winslow, sixteen miles to the east of Devil's Den. A post office and store opened in Blackburn, midway between Winslow and Devil's Den. A building that served as both a school and a church was built on top of Mount Olive on what would eventually become the park's east boundary, serving the Devil's Den community (Keck, History and Self-guiding Tour of the Upper Lee Creek Valley and Devil's Den State Park 1992, 3).

During this period, the logging industry expanded rapidly in Arkansas, especially near railroad lines. The rugged road from Devil's Den to the nearest station in Winslow made large-scale commercial logging of the valley unprofitable, although selective clearing operations were undertaken by many settlers to support the construction of homesteads, crops, and livestock. The thriving community at Devil's Den was like many others throughout the Ozarks, where remote conditions and few regulations took their toll on the landscape. By the early twentieth century, game animals in the region had been hunted to near extinction, and activities including logging and single-crop farming severely eroded the thin soil.

This lack of oversight would not last, however. The thick oak-hickory forest of the Arkansas Ozarks drew the attention of the newly formed U.S. Forest Service in 1908 when President Theodore Roosevelt signed a proclamation establishing the Ozark National Forest. These federally managed lands included large parts of Madison, Newton, Searcy, Pope, Johnson, Franklin, and Crawford Counties, and the very southeastern tip of Washington County (where Devil's Den is located). Many homesteaders in the Ozarks resented and resisted the new federally enforced policies restricting hunting, logging, and other activities. The boundaries of the forest grew as residents facing increasing financial and environmental hardships in the 1920s and 1930s were foreclosed on or sold their land to the government and moved to areas with greater economic opportunity. Unlike some of the surrounding area, Devil's Den was not absorbed into the Ozark National Forest boundary, but the population had already declined by the onset of the Great Depression in late 1929.

The New Deal and a New Park: 1933-1942

With the entire nation facing economic uncertainty, the presidential race of 1932 was a particularly important one. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, then Governor of New York, campaigned with assurances of progressive and constructive policies, promising a "New Deal" for the American people – a broad range of federally-funded programs and projects aimed to put people back to work. Only one month after Roosevelt's inaugural address, the Emergency Conservation Work Act received congressional approval on March 31, 1933. This enabled the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps on April 5. The CCC provided relief for the unemployed men through government-funded public work projects throughout the country and specialized in preserving and developing the natural resources of the nation. Under the guidance of the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, the program prioritized unmarried, unskilled, unemployed white men aged eighteen to twenty-five, who came from families on government assistance in rural areas. They were organized into companies of approximately 200 men and stationed in camps consisting primarily of tents or barracks, depending on the camp's location. Some companies were made up of young, single black men or World War I veterans, who were often married, comprising approximately ten percent each of the nearly three million total enrollees. Participants received room and board and earned \$30 per month, \$5 of which they kept for themselves and the rest they sent home to their families. The enlistees, together with local experienced men and trained professionals, improved the country's public lands, fought forest fires, planted trees, cleared & maintained access roads, re-seeded grazing lands, and implemented soil-erosion controls. They built wildlife refuges, fish-rearing facilities, water storage basins, animal shelters, bridges, and campground facilities. The program provided education and vocational training, which helped more than 50,000 illiterate men learn to read and write, giving them valuable money-making skills upon completion of their minimum six-

month term. It also put unemployed professionals, including landscape architects, engineers, and architects, back to work.

Arkansas needed to create opportunities to make use of the newly formed CCC, and state parks were identified as one of the suitable beneficiaries of their efforts. State parks were relatively new to Arkansas, with Petit Jean having been designated Arkansas' first state park in 1923 under the guidance of Stephen Mather, first director of the National Park Service (NPS). The federal government created the NPS in 1916 to assume management from the United States Army over its rapidly growing number of parks and monuments. In the 1920s, the NPS began helping states create their own state park systems, in part to alleviate crowding at national parks. Arkansas created the Arkansas State Parks Commission in 1927 and added Mount Nebo State Park in 1928, but no improvements were made to either park prior to 1933. With the promise of federally funded labor from the CCC and design oversight from the NPS, Arkansas State Parks added Devil's Den and Crowley's Ridge in 1933, and work began on all four parks. Two more were added during the CCC era; Lake Catherine in 1937 and Buffalo Point in 1938. At least ten CCC companies helped build Arkansas' first six state parks between 1933 and 1942.

A 1941 master plan recounts the DDSP's formation in 1933: "With increasing interest in the preservation of scenic recreational areas in Arkansas, attention was focused on the Devil's Den section of Lee's Creek as offering outstanding opportunities for state park development" (Davies 1941). The plan goes on to explain that the park "is intended to serve three purposes in line with public education, recreation, and enjoyment: 1) by providing a wide range of well-organized recreational facilities; 2) by protecting and encouraging the return of wildlife; and 3) by conserving and protecting an area of singular natural beauty and interest, topographically as well as for fauna and flora." The park was formed with state appropriation of 720 acres of tax-forfeited lands in 1933, followed by the acquisitions of eighty and 200 acres in 1934 and 1938. A governmental lease provided park access to 1,120 additional acres in 1935, and a special use permit was obtained by the park from the Ozark National Forest for 1,500 acres in 1939, bringing the total acreage controlled by the park to 3,620 acres by 1941 (Davies 1941).

Despite numerous explanations, the origin of the park's name remains uncertain. An account by Oren Stephens published in the *Arkansas Democrat* on July 14, 1940 begins with an admittance to this fact: "Ask any native how Devil's Den got its name and he will probably tell you he doesn't know, but that it has been called Devil's Den longer than he can remember" (Keck, *A Collection of Literature on the Origin of the Name "Devil's Den"* 1993) The account then proceeds to relate a tall tale involving the Devil and two early settlers that lived in the cave "once upon a time, long ago." Other explanations are equally imaginative and often nefarious, such as a hideout for stagecoach robbers or

prohibitionists, a foothold for Civil War soldiers preparing for an attack, or a shelter for several Cherokee who died from unknown causes after sheltering in the cave for a year and blamed their demise on the Devil (Keck, *A Collection of Literature on the Origin of the Name "Devil's Den"* 1993). Some stories refer to residents telling such stories to ward off curious children. Other explanations are less colorful, suggesting that the name refers to the roaring sound of wind exiting the cave or the area's rugged rock formations. Sam Davies, first director of Arkansas State Parks, described the cave and possible explanations for its name in the aforementioned 1941 master plan: "on the edge of... a crevasse is found a mysterious, narrow but extended, tortuous grotto in the rock formations which penetrates far into the canyon side. This natural wonder has long been known locally as the "Devil's Den," half facetiously, and partly... owing to native superstitions of long standing. From this interesting detail, this section of Lee's Creek canyon has derived the name of Devil's Den, a fitting name, rich with local color for the splendid State Park which has been created here. While the Exterior of the den is a scarcely noticeable feature of the landscape, it is the subject of early legends dating back to Indian habitation, and usually connected with mysterious disappearances. Although never completely explored, it is known to extend as many as eleven miles under the Boston Mountains." (Davies 1941). Regardless of its origin, the CCC fully embraced and perpetuated the imagery by giving similar names to other nearby landscape features, including Devil's Kitchen, Devil's Council Hall, Devil's Racetrack, and Lake Devil. Imagery of a devil with horns, tail, and pitchfork served as the mascot for the CCC camps and appeared on camp signs, while their newsletter was titled "The Voice of Satan."

Improvements to the park began in October 1933 with the arrival of the first CCC men from Nebraska, Company 754. They established Camp SP-5 (Arkansas State Park Camp 5) on the Clint Rieff farm at the top of a ridge two miles north of the current park boundary, next to Zinnamon Church and Cemetery. The CCC began by improving the access road from the town of West Fork, 11 miles to the northeast. They also designed and built a park entrance road that wound its way down 800 feet to the valley floor to a site on Lee Creek where they built a second CCC camp, Camp SP-6, in 1934. Company 754 was replaced by Company 797 from North Dakota in the spring of the same year. The camps, which operated like military outposts, were assembled out of simple support structures, including barracks, a kitchen and mess hall, a hospital, and supporting buildings housing administrative, design and construction, and education functions. Most structures were only intended for temporary use and were planned for removal once the park was complete. On July 1, 1935, a new company of enrollees from Northwest Arkansas under the direction of Sam Watkins arrived at Camp SP-6 (Spears 1999, 10). A small service group containing, among other things, a blacksmith shop, garages, warehouse, and carpenter shop, was built south of Camp SP-6 to facilitate construction and maintenance.

Each CCC camp was allowed to hire up to 12 design professionals, including landscape architects, architects, and civil engineers. Some designers were established professionals who remained in their home offices, working as subcontractors to the NPS on a variety of CCC sites, while others resided in and devoted all their efforts to a single CCC camp. Two of the most prolific designers for DDSP were Robert L. Kreilick, a landscape architect from Ohio who was stationed at the park throughout most of the CCC years, and architect Thomas Harding II, a prominent architect with an office in Little Rock who worked on several CCC projects around the state. Other DDSP designers included architect-in-training Paul Young Jr, who spent time in Harding's office before eventually going on to practice in Fayetteville, landscape architects Harold A. Marsh, Leo J. Diederich, and Charles Clayton, and engineers Henry Ben Shreeve, William Carl Smith, and Reuben S. Blood, Sr., among others. Design training and oversight for CCC projects was handled by the National Park Service, creating a uniform aesthetic in national and state parks and forests across the country. Kreilick 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" (Kreilick nd). He goes on to explain that built elements "are to be of such a nature that they will harmonize with the surrounding natural features and characteristic." The early twentieth-century design standards for national and state parks came to be known as National Park Service Rustic, or "Parkitecture," which grew out of the American Adirondack Architecture and the British-born Arts and Crafts movements of the mid-to-late nineteenth century (Carr 1998). The style sought to harmonize built elements with the natural setting using native stone, timber, and plant materials. The style insisted upon the subordination of any feature to its environment and evoked a primitive character by utilizing "local stone of the proper scale in a variety of sizes for interest and to avoid a pattern" and "native logs pleasingly knotted with textural surface to be preserved" (Good 1938, 5-8, Part I). The work by Kreilick and his colleagues at Devil's Den and other Arkansas State Parks was highly regarded by National Park Service administrators and designers. Numerous elements by CCC designers of Arkansas State Parks, including a dozen from Devil's Den, were featured in Albert H. Good's three-part work *Park and Recreation Structures*, a CCC-sponsored book published in 1938 that was intended to serve as a guide to exemplary park design.

The overlook shelter on the road into the park from SP-5 was among the CCC's first completed projects at Devil's Den. Designed by CCC landscape architect Charles Clayton and built in 1934, it proved to be one of their most adored. A sketch of the structure featured prominently on the cover of the park's 1930s master plan, and a photograph and plan were included in *Park and Recreation Structures*. The accompanying text nominated it for the fictitious "Pulitzer Award for Park Structures" and claimed "an inventory of all its points of high

merit is impossible in a limited space, but would surely lead off with skillful blending to site” (Good 1938, 108, Part II).

Cabin design and construction began in 1934 and continued for most of the CCC period. The earliest cabins were designed by Harding and contained only bedrooms and living rooms. Many cabins temporarily housed Camp SP-6 functions like barracks, education, management, and workshops, although some cabins remained available to tourists during the CCC period. Harding also designed two rustic structures in 1934 at Camp SP-6 that were intended to remain once the rest of the camp was dismantled: a bathhouse (“latrine and bath” with a laundry room) and a community building. The bathhouse, located between the cabins and Camp SP-6, was designed to meet both CCC workers’ and guests’ needs and was completed in 1935. The community building, which was planned for a slope near the bathhouse overlooking Lee Creek, was never built. Later cabins were planned with bathrooms and eventually kitchens, and some of their predecessors were modified by the CCC to include these facilities. Everything from the furniture down to the door hardware was designed and built by the CCC.

In 1935, the CCC completed construction of the vehicular bridge over Lee Creek designed by engineer Reuben Blood the previous year. The massive stone piers supported steel I-beams surrounded by timber beams and guardrails to conform to the overall park design and cross the creek with three spans. Like the overlook shelter, the bridge received high praise in *Park and Recreation Structures*: “The Devil’s Den bridge rolls magnificently and hospitably on to join hands with the guard rails of the transverse road construction with such unmistakable grace that it easily wins place as the key example of this group [of vehicular bridges with multiple wood spans]” (Good 1938, 196, Part I). The CCC built a large, dry stacked, boulder retaining wall and rustic, log road sign across the road from the northern end of the bridge. During construction of the wall one of Edward J. Cornelison’s legs became caught under a boulder being drug by a tractor. After three years of medical care that included two amputations, Cornelison passed away due to complications from his injuries, becoming the only CCC enrollee killed during the construction of DDSP (Edward J. Cornelison 1938). A small cross was carved into one of the wall’s boulders as a memorial and is still visible today.

The bridge connected CCC-built AR 170 from West Fork with AR 74 to Winslow, which the CCC was still working on. This new road ascended Mount Olive with a series of switchbacks. Blasting was required where sandstone outcroppings protruded into the roadway (Stearns 1935-1936). Careful consideration went into the views and vistas from both roads. “Each approach to the park has its own beauties. The road sweeps past picturesque mountain homesteads-log dwellings, gnarled orchards, zigzag fences. Here and there the trees have been cleared away for a particularly striking view. These views are

not selected at random. Mr. Kreilick picks each location in the winter, when the vistas are not obscured by foliage, and clears away just enough of the surrounding growth to accent the beauty of the scene without attempting to improve it – a glimpse of the valley floor framed by two nearer overhanging trees; an open field with a single spreading tree in the center, far below” (Carlisle 1939).

Excavation for the dam on Lee Creek began in December of 1935, and the area for the lake was cleared. Ben Shreeve, Blood, and Kreilick collaborated on the design. The CCC's intent to dam Lee Creek was driven by the desire to create a swimming area. Several lakes of various sizes and locations were proposed during the CCC period, but Lake Devil was the first to be designed and the only one completed. Project superintendent Bryan Stearns recorded in a February 1936 report that, with sixty percent of the excavation completed, a “rock ledge was discovered that was found to be adequate to support the structure. This ledge extended across the entire stream bed and well up into each bank – affording an ideal foundation for the dam – and making it possible to do to all of the construction without building a coffer dam” (Stearns 1935-1936). The sluice gate in the dam was closed for the first time on April 1, 1937, and members of the CCC began swimming in the new lake the following day: “Adviser Appleby claims the honor of being the first to swim in the lake. He plunged into the icy waters Friday morning for a brief circuit round the diving tower, and has since become unbearable to everyone about him with his boasts about how tough he is” (Dam Closed 1937).

Design and construction of the Combination Building on the new Lake Devil began in the summer of 1936 and lasted through 1938. R. W. Thompson served as the principal architect, while Kreilick designed the surrounding site and beach/swimming area. Kreilick and William B. Smith, Jr. also designed building modifications and furnishings. The name of the building came from the fact that it served as both a bathhouse for the swimming area and as a guest dining facility. The first phase of the building was the L-shaped bathhouse featuring men's and women's dressing rooms and a concessionaire. The second phase included a small kitchen, a dining room, restrooms, and a large, attached open-air pavilion. The adjacent swimming area underwent several redesigns by Kreilick, with the final version approved in 1938. Additions and modifications included a rustic diving platform, a concrete-bottomed swimming area with a roped-off shallow area, a rustic lifeguard stand, a sandy beach separated from the water by a mortared stone retaining wall, log benches, and a small stone amphitheater for additional seating.

A second “service group,” located at the site currently occupied by the visitor center (as of 2024), was among the last projects undertaken by the CCC at Devil's Den. For most of the 1930s, the CCC utilized an abandoned homestead northeast of the Combination Building, consisting of a house, shed, two barns,

stone wall, and rail fence, as the camp stables and paddock. Initially the CCC sought to “preserve this group and where necessary to restore it to its original condition as an example of the mountain architecture of the past,” but a change of plans led to the replacement of the homestead with the first phase of a planned service group in 1939 (Kreilick nd). A wood and stone structure was designed to house a shop, garage, and warehouse, although by the end of 1939, the plan was altered to replace the shop with a two-bedroom “quarters” and the garage with additional storage. A large semicircular gravel service court in front of the structure was screened from view by a mortared stone retaining wall topped with a wood fence and accessed by a wood gate. In 1941, the CCC was designing a second, slightly larger structure with a similar footprint at the south corner of the service court, but the CCC was disbanded before the project was realized. This new structure would have been oriented more to the public, featuring a shop and crafts display room, along with a superintendent’s quarters and office and additional storage.

A revised master plan created in early 1941, consisting of plans and an accompanying narrative outline, provides a useful summary of all work completed to date at the park by the CCC (Davies 1941). It also lays out ambitious plans for the future. The CCC was proposing to build contact stations at the West Fork and Winslow entrances; an administrative building with a superintendent’s apartment, grocery, and crafts shop (at the second service group); a new sixty-acre lake with a boathouse and dock at the southern end and an organized camp with a full suite of buildings including a dining and recreation hall, bathhouse, lodge, counselors’ cabins, and more at the northern end; additional picnicking facilities; new stables and paddock; one more single cabin and three buildings housing four overnight rooms each, located behind the second service group; two screened overnight shelters (barracks-type for groups); a lodge and additional cabins at the top of Mount Olive; and additional infrastructure to support all of this growth (Davies 1941). Work began on the second lake in 1941 with the partial construction of the dam, a stone sluiceway tower that would serve as the lake’s morning-glory-type spillway, and other infrastructure. Japan’s bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, drew the US into World War II and brought a swift end to the CCC as all resources and manpower focused on the war effort. The CCC wrapped up loose ends, abandoned the new lake and other proposed plans, and left Devil’s Den on March 25, 1942.

Since the CCC: 1942 - Present

The withdrawal of the CCC in 1942 did not completely sever the relationship between the NPS and ASP. State parks in Arkansas had gone through a similar period of neglect as national parks through the 1940s as the war effort demanded priority. Likewise, visitorship in state and national parks began to skyrocket in the mid-twentieth century due to peacetime conditions, increased automobile ownership, the development of the interstate highway system, and the baby

boom. In 1955 and again in 1961, an NPS representative conducted week-long visits to Arkansas, at the request of ASP, that included whirlwind tours of most state parks and meetings with state representatives. Findings and recommendations resulting from these visits were published in brief reports. Neither report made detailed site planning suggestions, but general management-level recommendations were offered.

The first tour was made by Allyn P. Bursley, Regional Chief, Division of Cooperative Activities, NPS Service Region One. His assessment of the general condition of CCC-built features throughout the state was not favorable due to insufficient funding. Time, weather, use, and changes to management took their toll on the CCC-built components of DDSP in the 1940s and 50s: “many structures... show signs of advancing age and need badly a comprehensive program of continuing maintenance which they deserve but have not received. Bases of posts and rafter ends are deteriorating; twenty-year old hand-riven shingles have developed leaks; various structures have caught fire or have been set afire, and have not been repaired or replaced. CCC barracks and shop buildings, intended only for very temporary use to facilitate work programs of the camps, are still functioning as organized group camps and as park utility centers, sometimes in locations in which they detract materially from the scenic attractiveness which the park should offer to its visitors” (Bursley 1955, 7). Some of the temporary CCC structures of Camp SP-6 had been repurposed for use by school, church, and other groups and were described by Bursley as “an organized camp with six barracks, central dining room, and toilet facilities” (Bursley 1955, 21). It’s not clear if the [toilet facilities” referred to the bathhouse that the CCC had intended to remain or another structure. DDSP’s roads were still gravel-surfaced at the time of Bursley’s report, but he recommended that they be paved (Bursley 1955, 21-22). Other recommendations reiterated those made in the CCC/NPS 1941 master plan, including a lodge and more cabins (presumably at the top of Mount Olive), the completion of the sixty-acre-lake, and more picnicking and camping facilities. As with their predecessors, Bursley admonished that any new facilities be “arranged to detract as little as possible from the natural charm of the parks, from the scenic attractiveness which justifies their existence” (Bursley 1955, 32). Suitably, Bursley also credited the earlier efforts of ASP, NPS, and the CCC: “Devil's Den is a living tribute to those who foresaw and arranged for its dedication to the enjoyment of Arkansas residents and their guests” (Bursley 1955, 21).

The author of the 1961 NPS assessment of ASP is not identified in the report, but it followed the same format with an updated conditions assessment and recommendations for each park. By this time, the remaining Camp SP-6 buildings at DDSP had been dismantled or sold and relocated, possibly including the bathhouse. In addition, one of the CCC cabins had been destroyed by fire

(Arkansas State Parks Under 1961 Conditions 1962, 50). ASP had paved park roads, but a flood had destroyed the CCC bridge over Lee Creek in 1959. The new steel and concrete bridge built by Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) the following year had little in common with its predecessor, instead bearing much more resemblance in scale, materials, and appearance to an interstate highway overpass. While the new bridge is not specifically mentioned in the 1961 report, the author's strong recommendation that "every effort should be made to relocate the state highway so that it does not run through the park" was likely a critique of ARDOT's heavy-handed approach (Arkansas State Parks Under 1961 Conditions 1962, 31). By way of explanation, the author explained that "Devil's Den is split by a state highway. This greatly complicates administration, operation and control, and makes orderly development very difficult" (Arkansas State Parks Under 1961 Conditions 1962, 51). The 1961 report also continued to recommend the implementation of the 1941 master plan, including the construction of the new lake, group camp, lodge, more cabins, and other facilities. The approach remained consistent with the 1941 and 1955 recommendations as well, with an emphasis on dispersing new development throughout the park (rather than overcrowding the existing core). The report urged the development of a new master plan that would "achieve these basic purposes and objectives:

1. Permanently protect and preserve the natural and scenic values of the park.
2. Provide for recreational and inspirational use of the park's natural resources.
3. Portray and interpret the park's plant and animal life, geology and other natural features" (Arkansas State Parks Under 1961 Conditions 1962, 31).

ASP did secure additional funding and began to reinvest in Devil's Den in the 1960s, although many recommendations of the 1955 and 1961 NPS reports were not followed. Repairs, modifications, and replacements often lacked appreciation for the aesthetic established by the CCC. Instead, the highly engineered approach to Devil's Den's "improvements" prioritized efficiency and cost. For example, even though the CCC swimming beach and diving platform at Lake Devil was one of the primary recreational draws of the park, Arkansas State Parks followed a twentieth-century national trend away from natural swimming areas and built a concrete swimming pool in the lawn south of the Combination Building in 1963. The pool was encircled with a chain-link security fence shortly thereafter, and Lake Devil's beach was closed to swimming and its diving platform was removed. In 1967 ARDOT replaced much of the narrow, winding, and scenic entrance road from West Fork (AR 170), abandoning much of the

original road, burying the other sections, and making the overlook shelter an optional detour. The new asphalt-paved road was much wider, straighter, and faster, with concrete and metal details, rather than stone. Efficient access was the focus of the new construction, rather than scenic experience or landscape sensitivity.

Following the destruction of a second cabin in 1967 by lightning and subsequent fire, along with the general decline of all CCC buildings, the remaining cabins underwent extensive renovations to modernize and winterize interiors in the 1970s (Spears 1999, 13). Asphalt shingles also replaced wood shakes, although this change may have occurred prior to the 1970s. Around the same time, the roof of the overlook shelter was replaced with dimensional lumber and asphalt shingles. In 1972, the Lake Devil Dam was raised two feet in an attempt to counteract damage from periodic flooding (Daniel - Lee 1972), flooding the former swimming area, mortared stone boundary wall, and water-entry stairs. In the 1970s ASP transformed the CCC building in the service group, which had been used primarily for administrative purposes since its construction, to also function as a visitor center. In the late 1970s and early 1980s several stabilization and restoration projects were undertaken on CCC structures at Devil's Den, notably the pump house on the shore of Lake Devil, by the Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC). The YACC, 1978-1982, was the federal government's third attempt to revive aspects of the popular CCC, preceded by the Student Conservation Program (1957-present, but renamed the Student Conservation Association) and the Youth Conservation Corp (1970-present, although modified after 1982).

Interest in preserving the remaining CCC-designed features gathered momentum in the 1980s as the park passed its 50th anniversary and has increased since then. However, these efforts are tempered by pressure to expand to accommodate a growing number of visitors. By 1992, park visitorship increased to nearly 400,000 per year from 40,000 per year in the 1940s (Keck 1992, 5). Over the past forty years, several new campgrounds, cabins, and trails have been added. In 1994, DDSP was added to the National Register of Historic Places. In November 1996, Arkansas voters passed a conservation sales tax, which went into effect July 1, 1997, designating one-eighth of one percent of the state's general sales tax for several projects. From this, Arkansas State Parks received forty-five percent. With these funds the overlook shelter was reconstructed per its original specifications by local craftsman Robert Runyan in the early 2000s. Several other modifications were made to the park around this time. The pool was rebuilt, and the chain link fence was replaced with a stone & ornamental metal barrier. The Combination Building was renovated to make room for a store by consolidating the locker rooms. The building's kitchen was also updated. The cabins were renovated again with central heat and air, and some elements

insensitively replaced in the 1970s were replaced again, this time more in keeping with the National Park Service Rustic style. The two cabins that burned were replaced in-situ with designs inspired by the original drawings. A new picnic pavilion replaced an earlier pavilion (possibly added in the 1960s) south of the Lake Devil Dam in 2009. Features added or expanded in the 2000s and 10s include additional mountain bike trails (started in the 1980s), additional camping areas, and six "camper cabins."

DDSP is more popular than ever. In 2024, the year this HALS documentation is being completed, Northwest Arkansas is the eighteenth fastest-growing metro in America (Williams 2024). DDSP and the public it serves would greatly benefit from undertaking a cultural landscape report that would guide future development while protecting the legacy and vision of the CCC.

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Historian: Kimball Erdman, Professor
Department of Landscape Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design
University of Arkansas
409 Vol Walker Hall
Fayetteville, AR 72701
(479) 575-5617
kerdman@uark.edu

This HALS report and accompanying measured drawings were 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 Andreia Alfaro, Emily Booth, Matthew Gauldin, 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.

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Figures:



Figure 1: An abandoned CCC-built stone bridge on the former entrance road, portions of which were replaced by the new AR 170 (in background) in 1967 (Erdman, 2023).



Figure 2: The original CCC bridge on AR 170 over Lee Creek was destroyed by a flood in 1959, leaving only remnants (right). The new bridge (left) built by ARDOT in 1960 did not follow the park's rustic design standards (Filbeck, 2023).



Figure 3: The CCC-built pump house on the shore of Lake Devil was restored by the Young Adult Conservation Corps in the early 1980s (Erdman, 2023).



Figure 4: The CCC built a naturalistic stone dam on Lee Creek to create Lake Devil. The dam was raised two feet by Arkansas State Parks in 1972 (Erdman, 2022).



Figure 5: The Combination Building featured a bathhouse (right), modified in the early 2000s to enlarge a retail shop area, and dining facilities supported by an attached outdoor pavilion (left) (Filbeck, 2023).



Figure 6: View from the Combination Building's pavilion towards Lake Devil. The rustic log benches at the pavilion's perimeter were built by the CCC and were originally located at lake's former swimming area (Erdman, 2022).



Figure 7: The current Visitor Center was built towards the end of the CCC period as part of a planned service group. The building now features asphalt shingles rather than its original oak shakes, as do most of the park's historic structures (Erdman, 2023).



Figure 8: Cabin 6 sits in a forest clearing on a small knoll, largely secluded from its neighbors. Flagstone terraces and walks, stone walls, and stone lights that have been added to the park's original cabins since the CCC period are generally in keeping with the park's rustic style (Erdman, 2023).



Figure 9: The park's CCC cabins employ a consistent design language but are highly varied in layout, size, and configuration. Cabin 16 is terraced into a steep slope (Erdman, 2023).



Figure 10: The overlook shelter and its surrounding hardscape features was promoted by CCC-period designers as an exemplar of the rustic style. The shelter was restored to historic conditions in the early 2000s (Erdman, 2012).