

# National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory 2022



**Bluffs Lodge**  
**Blue Ridge Parkway**

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## Chapter 1: General

### Region

Southeast

### Park Alpha Code

BLRI

### Park Org Code

5157

### Resource Type

Cultural Landscape

### Resource Classification

Cultural Landscape

### Inventory Status

Complete

### Resource ID

550214

### Resource Name

Bluffs Lodge

### Parent Landscape

Doughton Park

### Parent Resource ID

550140

### State

NC

## Park Name

Blue Ridge Parkway

### **Cultural Landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System:**

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archaeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources and cultural landscapes. The set of CRIS records for cultural landscapes is referred to as CRIS-CL. CRIS-CL records conform to a standardized data structure known as the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI).

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CRIS are: Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2006), Director's Order 28 (Cultural Resources) and Director's Order 28a (Archeology).

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI)

The CLI is the data structure within CRIS used to document and evaluate all potentially significant landscapes in which NPS has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest.

Each CRIS-CL record is certified complete when the landscape is determined to meet one of the following:

Landscape individually meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation; or,  
Landscape is a contributing element of a property that is eligible for the National Register; or,  
Landscape does not meet the National Register criteria, but is managed as cultural resources because law, policy or decisions reached through the park planning process.

Cultural landscapes vary from historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes to historic ethnographic landscapes, but may also fit within more than one type. Those eligible for the National Register have significance in the nation's history on a national, state or local level, as well as integrity or authenticity.

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are: *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of properties...*

*Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior...*

*Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(c) each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying...historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...*

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A) Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,...and historic sites...*

*Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.*



## Landscape Description

Bluffs Lodge is a 24-acre component landscape set within 6300-acre Doughton Park, a developed area on the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina. The site is accessed by a road leading off the Parkway at Milepost 241.1. The road passes by the Lodge and its parking lot and terminates in a parking lot for Wildcat Rocks Overlook. The component landscape includes the roadway, the Bluffs Lodge complex, Wildcat Rocks Overlook, two pump houses, and the nearby water tower. Views from this area include those over Basin Cove from the overlook, and into the meadow from the lodge.

Bluffs Lodge is part of one of the first developed areas to be planned for the Blue Ridge Parkway. The entry road, Wildcat Rocks Overlook and its parking lot were built between 1938 and 1939. The Lodge complex was built about ten years later, opening on 1 September 1949. The overlook is a prime example of the rustic-style stonework used in the early years of parkway construction. The Lodge is also rustic in style, but uses materials – like concrete shingles – that were important in post-WWII parkway development. It also represents the overall transition from cabin-style accommodations to the current motor court style. The open meadow, with its rolling topography, and scattering of trees, rhododendron, mountain laurel, and azaleas, are distinctive among Parkway landscapes, and figured prominently in the siting of the lodge and associated development.

The period of significance for Blue Ridge Parkway, as defined in Ian Firth's draft National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination, is 1933 – 1987. Parkway road development between these dates possesses NHL significance, while associated development – such as lodge sites – possesses NHL significance only through 1955. Later development may be historically significant as it relates to "Mission 66"-era projects and initiatives. Construction at Bluffs Lodge began in 1938, and all major features at the property were in place by the installation of the Robert L. Doughton memorial plaque in 1953. All these features contribute to the national significance of Blue Ridge Parkway as a NHL property.

Bluffs Lodge, previously listed in good condition, is currently in poor condition but still retains all major features from the period of significance. The property possesses historic integrity in six of seven criteria as defined by National Register standards.

## **Landscape Hierarchy Description**

On the 1936 Blue Ridge Parkway Master Development Plan, Doughton Park (then known as The Bluffs) is shown as one of the proposed parkway developed areas. The 6300-acre site largely consists of forested land on steeply sloping land, with the built environment consisting of rustic trails, overlooks and a shelter. It is listed in the CLI in its entirety as Doughton Park. More intense development was planned for sites closer to the parkway in areas totaling 225 acres in size. Each of these seven sites has a separate developmental history and function and deserves individual listing in the CLI as a component landscape. They are, leading from parkway north to south: Brinegar Cabin, Doughton Park Campground, Bluffs Coffee Shop and Service Station, Bluffs Lodge, Caudill Family Homestead, Bluffs Picnic Area, and Doughton Park Maintenance Area.

## **Recent Condition**

Poor

## **Subsite/Child components**

None

## **Landscape Type**

Historic Designed Landscape

## **Cover Page Graphic**

See Cover Page.

Site Plan(s)

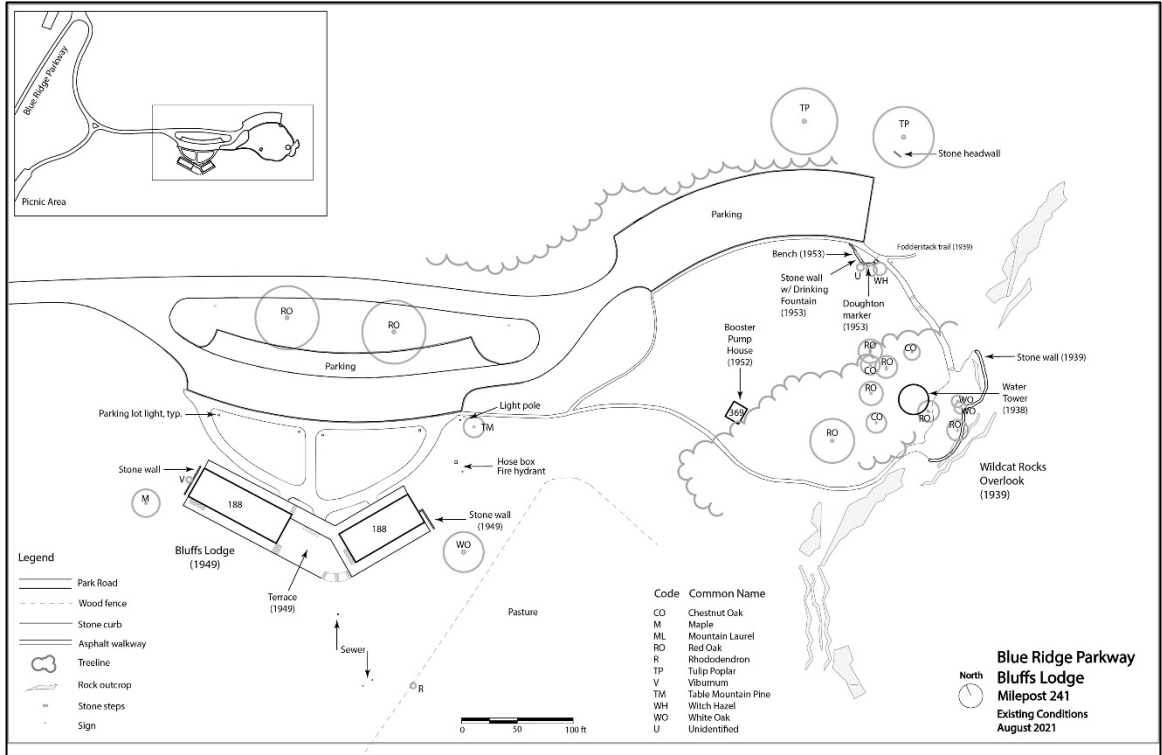


Fig 1-1. Updated Bluffs Lodge Site Plan (2021)

### Hierarchy Description Graphic

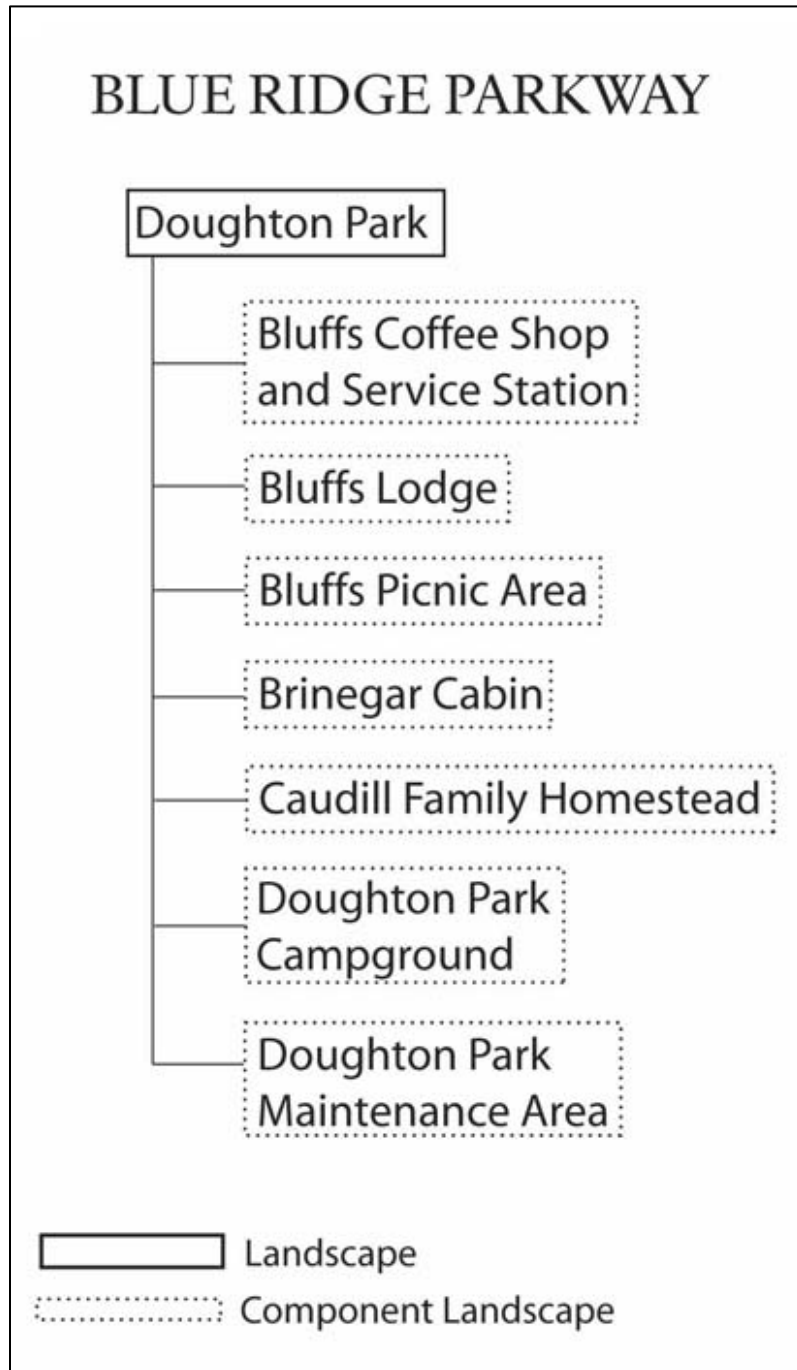


Fig 1-2. Doughton Park CLI Hierarchy

### Other Names

Seq. No.	Name	Type
3055	Bluffs Lodge	Both Current and Historic
3033	Wildcat Rocks Overlook	Both Current and Historic

## **Chapter 2: Concurrence Status**

### **Park Superintendent Concurrence Date**

09/16/2022

### **Park Superintendent Concurrence**

Yes

### **Completion Status Explanatory Narrative**

Field work was conducted for landscapes and component landscapes at Doughton Park during Summer 2001 by David Hasty, Lucy Lawliss and summer interns Patrick Beasley, Tom Gibney and Lindsey Heller. Follow-up fieldwork for the CLI update was conducted by NCPE intern Chris Robey during the Summer of 2021. The park contact is BLRI Cultural Resource Specialist, Andrew Triplett.

## Concurrence Graphics

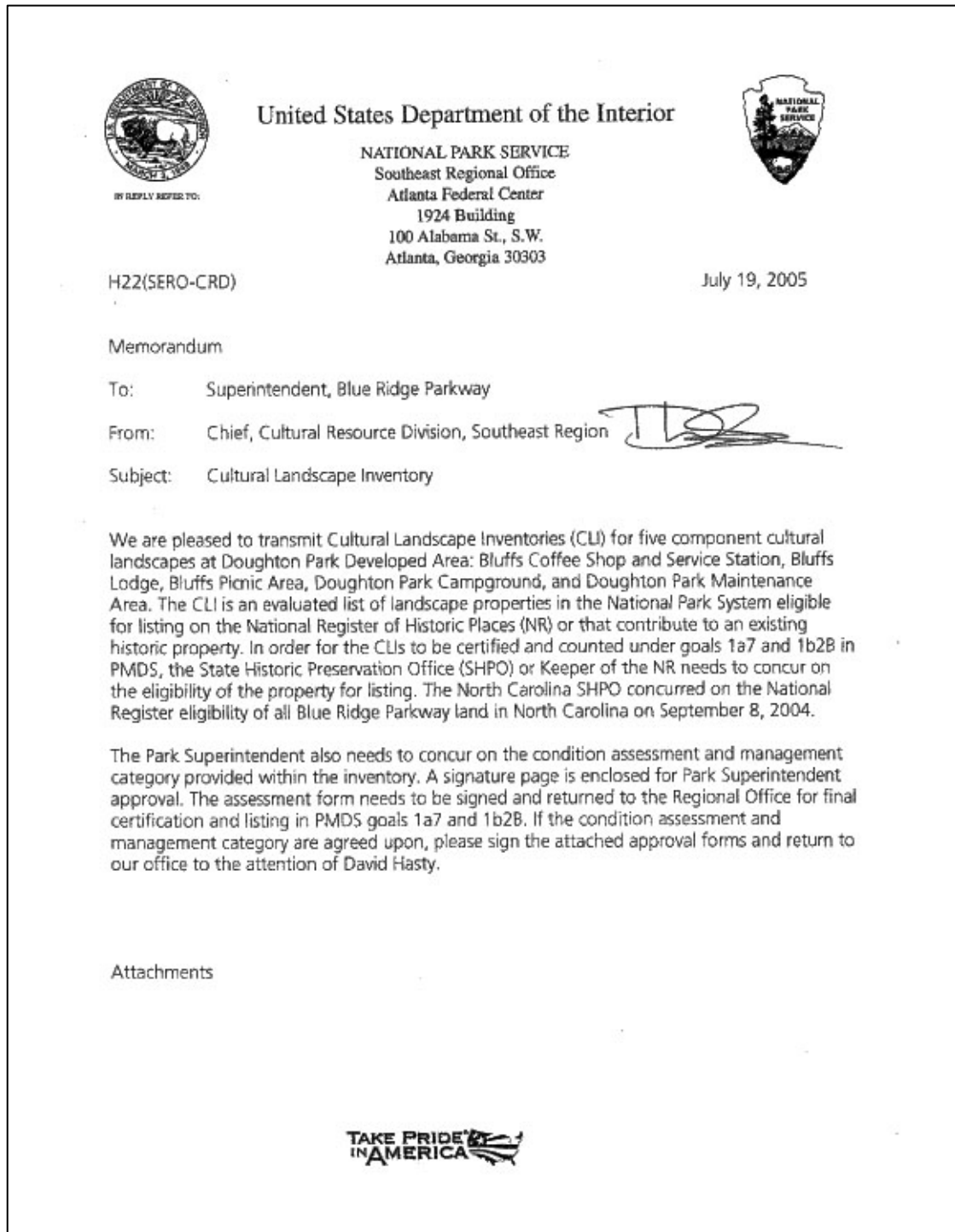


Fig 2-1. Letter to Superintendent



**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY  
CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – 6 June 2005**

**Park Information**  
**Park:** Blue Ridge Parkway  
**District:** Highlands  
**State:** North Carolina  
**Counties:** Wilkes, Alleghany

**Cultural Landscape Information**

Inventory Name	CLI Id #	Condition	Management Category
Bluffs Coffee Shop and Service Station	550218	Fair	Must Be Preserved and Maintained
Bluffs Lodge	550214	Good	Must Be Preserved and Maintained
Bluffs Picnic Area	550215	Good	Must Be Preserved and Maintained
Doughton Park Campground	550216	Good	Must Be Preserved and Maintained
Doughton Park Maintenance Area	550219	Good	Must Be Preserved and Maintained

**Park Superintendent Concurrence**

Concur  Do Not Concur


 8/1/05  
Superintendent Date

Fig 2-2. Superintendent Signature of Concurrence

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY  
CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – 31 August 2011**

**Park Information**  
**Park:** Blue Ridge Parkway  
**District:** Highlands  
**State:** North Carolina  
**Counties:** Wilkes, Alleghany

**Cultural Landscape Information**

Inventory Name	CLI Id #	Condition	Previous Condition Date
Bluffs Coffee Shop and Service Station	550218	Fair	5/4/2005 (Fair)
Bluffs Lodge	550214	Good	5/4/2005 (Good)
Bluffs Picnic Area	550215	Good	5/4/2005 (Good)
Doughton Park Campground	550216	Good	5/4/2005 (Good)
Doughton Park Maintenance Area	550219	Good	5/4/2005 (Good)

**Park Superintendent Concurrence**

Concur  Do Not Concur


  
 Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_ Date 9/23/11

Fig 2-3. Superintendent Condition Recertification, 2011

10/12/2004 10:48 FAX

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IN REPLY REFER TO

H32

**United States Department of the Interior**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
Blue Ridge Parkway  
199 Hemphill Knob Road  
Asheville, North Carolina 28803

*AMS*  
*8/17/04*

**JUL 21 2004**

Dr. Jeffrey J. Crow, State Historic Preservation Officer  
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
Division of Archives and History  
4610 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4610

Dear Dr. Crow:

As you know the National Register of Historic Places is the official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture. These contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation. The National Register includes:

- \* All prehistoric and historic units of the National Park System;
- \* National Historic Landmarks, which are properties recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as possessing national significance; and
- \* Properties significant in American, State, or local prehistory and history that have been nominated by State Historic Preservation Officers, Federal agencies, Tribal Preservation Officers, and others, and have been approved for listing by the National Park Service.

The Historic Sites Act of 1935 (Public Law 74-292) established the National Historic Landmark Survey. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) authorized the National Register of Historic Places, expanding Federal recognition to historic properties of local and State significance. The National Park Service in the U. S. Department of the Interior administers both programs. Regulations for these programs are contained in 36 CFR Part 60, "National Register of Historic Places", and 36 CFR Part 65, "National Historic Landmarks Program".

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorizes State Historic Preservation Officers to nominate properties to the National Register of Historic Places and to carry out other preservation activities. Federal Preservation Officers have been designated in Federal agencies to nominate Federal properties and to fulfill other responsibilities of the Act. The Blue Ridge Parkway leadership, acting in concert with the leadership of the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office, are working energetically and enthusiastically to nominate the Blue Ridge Parkway for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic Landmark. We would highly value your support and concurrence on the signature line below. We look

Fig 2-4. Memo to NC SHPO

10/12/2004 10:49 FAX

forward to working closely with your office as we strive to protect the resources and enhance the integrity of the fabulous Blue Ridge Parkway. Please sign on the line below on both copies of this document and return one copy to Parkway Headquarters.

Thanks so much for your assistance and willing cooperation.

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Brown  
Superintendent

\*\*\*\*\*  
The Blue Ridge Parkway clearly meets the eligibility requirements for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic Landmark. The Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer, State of North Carolina, supports and endorses the National Park Service efforts with regards to this listing of the Blue Ridge Parkway in the National Register of Historic Places.

I Concur: Jeffrey Brown, SHPO Date 9 Aug 04

	DIVISION CHIEF, RP & PS	
	LAND RESOURCES SPEC.	
	LAND RESOURCES SPEC.	
✓	CULTURAL RESOURCES SPEC.	
X	ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SPEC.	
	COMMUNITY PLANNER	
	RESIDENT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT	
	CURATOR	
	GEOGRAPHIC INFO. SPEC.	
	ENGINEERING DRAFTSMAN	
	ADMIN. ASSISTANT	
X	FILE: SUBETTE - FILED COMPLIANCE FILE	

(GWB) 8/20

Fig 2-5. NC SHPO Signature

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY  
CONDITION REASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – September 2022**

**Park Information**    **Park:** Blue Ridge Parkway    **State:** North Carolina  
**Counties:** Alleghany, Wilkes (Doughton Park);  
Watauga (Moses Cone); Transylvania, Haywood (Mount Pisgah)

**Cultural Landscape Information**

	<b><u>CLI #</u></b>	<b><u>2022 Condition Reassessment</u></b>
Doughton Park	550140	Fair
Component Landscapes:		
Bluffs Coffee Shop and Service Station	550218	Fair
Bluffs Lodge	550214	Poor
Bluffs Picnic Area	550215	Fair
Brinegar Cabin	550138	Good
Doughton Park Campground	550216	Fair
Doughton Park Maintenance Area	550219	Fair
[Caudill Cabin (CRIS CL #550217 is the one remaining Doughton Park component landscape that is not yet evaluated for cultural landscapes. It will be documented, evaluated, and submitted at a later date.]		
Moses Cone Estate	550140	Fair
Mount Pisgah Developed Area	550145	Good
Component Landscapes:		
Buck Springs Overlook	550222	Fair
Mount Pisgah Picnic Area	550223	Good
Pisgah Inn	550221	Fair
Mount Pisgah Campground	550220	Good

**Park Superintendent Concurrence**

Blue Ridge Parkway concurs with the condition reassessments and the overall findings of the CLIs for the Doughton Park Developed Area, Moses Cone Estate, and Mount Pisgah Developed Area (and their associated component landscapes).

**Concur**       **Not Concur**

**Park Superintendent  
Signature and Date**

TRACY  
SWARTOUT

Digitally signed by  
TRACY SWARTOUT  
Date: 2022.09.16  
11:54:23 -0400

Fig 2-6. Superintendent Signature of Concurrence (2022)

## Chapter 3: Geographic Information

### Area (Acres)

24

### Land Tract Number(s)

34-101, 35-101, 35-102, 35-104

### Boundary Description

The Bluffs Lodge component landscape includes the entry road at Milepost 241.1, the lodge and its parking area, Wildcat Rocks Overlook and its parking area and the open meadow behind the lodge.

### Latitude/Longitude

Seq. No.	Geo-metry	Lati-tude	Longi-tude	Geo-Datum	Eleva-tion (Meters)	Position Source	Positi on Accuracy	Date	Narra-tive
3018	Area	- 81.1766 627237 597	36.4334 142659 688	1927 North American Datum		USGS Map 1:24,000			
3182	Area	- 81.1807 169323 1582	36.4305 052069 79475	1927 North American Datum		USGS Map 1:24,000			
3184	Area	- 81.1760 936015 1376	36.4284 115032 0698	1927 North American Datum		USGS Map 1:24,000			
3189	Area	- 81.1741 893991 1786	36.4299 469323 83956	1927 North American Datum		USGS Map 1:24,000			

## Regional Landscape Context

### *Physiographic*

The Blue Ridge Parkway runs northeast to southwest along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In this region of the Parkway, the roadway is consistently located above 3,000 feet in elevation. Steep narrow ridges form the eastern and western boundaries of the Park. The interior of the Park is further divided by additional ridges and creeks which form valleys and coves. At the southern tip of the Park boundary, the lowest elevations in the Park are found at 1,500 feet above sea level.

The Doughton Park area within the Blue Ridge Mountains is part of the Alligator Back Formation. This formation is composed of metamorphic and plutonic rocks from the Pre-Cambrian and Cambrian periods (Thornbury 1975, 74). Schist, gneiss, and amphibolites are visible in the many rock outcrops within the park, particularly in the open pastures of the Bluffs (Carter, et al. 2001, 8).

Soils in Doughton Park predominately consist of Chestnut Ashe complex. The other predominate soil type is Cleveland-Rock outcrop. In the alluvial areas along waterways of Basin Cove, Greenlee-Ostin complex and Cullasaja soils are common. Lastly, Evard soils are found in very limited quantities at the extreme southern boundary of the Park (Tuttle 1997).

There are six named watercourses in Doughton Park: Wildcat Branch, Caudill Branch, Brooks Branch, Cove Creek, West Camp Branch, and Basin Creek. These creeks and branches drain the steep slopes of Doughton Park. Basin Creek begins in the north central portion of the park just east of Wildcat Rocks Overlook and flows south. The remaining five watercourses converge into Basin Creek before the creek exits the Park along the southern tip of the Park's boundary. Basin Creek empties into the middle prong of the Roaring River near the town of Abshers, North Carolina. This river flows into the Yadkin River which joins the Pee Dee River before entering the Atlantic Ocean.

Climatic conditions in Doughton Park are characteristically humid-subtropical. Average maximum temperatures in January are 43.0° F, with a minimum of 22.1° F. In July, maximum temperatures reach 80.1° F and minimums reach 56.9° F. Precipitation levels range from 5.38 to 3.85 inches. Total rainfall remains relatively even throughout the year with a total annual average of 55.20 inches. The total average annual snowfall is 23.6 inches (Hellmann 2002, 11).

Vegetatively, Doughton Park is composed of nearly all forested slopes with a scattering of managed open areas surrounding its various component landscapes. Most of these open areas are meadows and lawns maintained either via a mowing regime or grazing leases. The forested portions of the Park are dominated by two forest types, High Elevation Red Oak Forest on the ridges and upland slopes and Cove Forest along the lowland streams of the Basin Cove area.

### **Cultural**

The earliest inhabitants of what is now western North Carolina were Paleo-Indians transitioning from nomadism toward more sedentary lifeways (Hellmann 2005, 20). Paleo-Indian culture declined around 8,000 BCE as glaciation led to the extinction of many large game species.

Following glaciation, a new culture associated with the Archaic tradition (8000-1000 BCE) predominated throughout what is now the southeastern United States. Archaic people tended toward sedentarism but also remained somewhat mobile, migrating seasonally as the availability of provisions demanded (Hellmann 2005, 21). Hickory nuts, acorns and some native fruits were key forage crops. Additionally, Archaic people cultivated sunflower, maygrass, and squash and hunted wild game (Scarry and Scarry 1997). Increased reliance on agriculture near the end of this period precipitated a shift toward permanent settlement in regional floodplains (Hellmann 2005, 22).

During the Woodland period (1000 BCE to 1100 CE), the inhabitants of western North Carolina began cultivating corn and beans (Scarry and Scarry 1997). Archaeological evidence suggests more permanent structures were being constructed for housing and that hunting, fishing, and gathering continued to be foundational to the regional diet.



During the Pisgah phase of the South Appalachian Mississippian period (1000-1450 CE) settlements were concentrated in floodplains and included fortified villages and farms with large central mounds (Hellmann 2005, 23). During the Qualla phase (1450 CE – c. 1850 CE), the Lamar culture predominated throughout the Southeast (Hellmann 2005, 23-24).

By the early 1700s, western North Carolina hosted several American Indian tribes including the Catawba, Tutelo, Monoacan, Saponi, and Cherokee. During the eighteenth century, the Iroquois reigned over the northern Blue Ridge Mountains, while the Cherokee ruled the southern Blue Ridge. By this time, Europeans had also begun their first incursions into the region.

Through the late 17th century into the early 1700s, Europeans ventured further into the western Carolinas to trade with local tribes. Soon, Scotch-Irish, Scottish Highlanders, and German immigrants had swelled the population of North Carolina to between 65,000 and 75,000. By the mid-18th century, the predominate group of Europeans to settle in the Blue Ridge were the Scotch-Irish (Hellmann 2005, 25).

Until the late 19th century, the physical resources of Alleghany County remained largely unexploited due to inadequate markets, underdeveloped roads, and a lack of railroad infrastructure. Lumber harvesting remained small-scale, with farming occupying most inhabitants. Farming still left an indelible mark on the landscape, however, with most viable farmland cleared of forest by the early 1900s (Patt 1911).

Common house types in 19th-century rural North Carolina aligned with vernacular architectural trends elsewhere in the upland South. Single pen log cabins predominated, while larger houses tended to be saddlebag in plan (Williams 1991, 26-27). With time, individual homesteads developed into networks of rural communities in Allegheny and Wilkes Counties.

At the turn of the 20th-century, there were still few paved roads in the rural South. Eventually, farmers lobbied for road improvements to ease their ability to bring crops to market (Mitchell 1997, 19). Simultaneously, the growing popularity of automobile travel spurred other

enterprising inhabitants of the region to propose the development of scenic roads to attract tourism (Olson 1998, 54; Quin and Marston 1997, 34).

The ascendant influence of the automobile during the early 20th century raised demand for parkway construction throughout the United States. Simultaneously, road improvements and the greater availability of automobiles to the traveling public precipitated a boom in tourism throughout the South (Firth 1992, 17; Mitchell 1997, 24).

This enthusiasm for the parkway driving experience, stoked by the construction of early parkways like Skyline Drive and the Colonial Parkway, spurred federal funding for scenic roads through the 1920s into the early 1930s. As rural economies struggled amidst the Great Depression, parkway construction continued to be regarded as an economic boon providing both a key recreational amenity and much-needed employment. Subsequently, parkway projects were tailored to leverage funding and labor through Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

### **Political**

Contact between American Indians and Europeans in what is now the Southeastern United States was tumultuous from the start. Between 1539 and 1540, Hernando de Soto's La Florida expedition pillaged several villages in present-day South Carolina before pressing on across the Appalachians in search of gold (Weber 1992, 52).

Further ventures following de Soto's expedition were sporadically recorded. In 1673, James Needham and Gabriel Arthur entered the mountain range in Virginia where they encountered Cherokee tribes, initiating a trading relationship between Europeans and American Indians. Though mutually agreeable for a time, this relationship ultimately benefited Europeans solely (Olson 1998, 4). Throughout the Southeast, increased trade also brought exposure to disease and ultimately warfare, fragmenting numerous tribes and forcing them westward into the Appalachian backcountry (Hellmann 2005, 24).

By early 1700s, the Catawba, Tutelo, Monoacan, Saponi, and Cherokee had settled in the Appalachians. With time, certain tribes established regional dominance. During the 18th century,

the Iroquois reigned over the northern reaches of Blue Ridge, while the Cherokee ruled the southern end. By this time, European colonists seeking to trade with these tribes had also begun venturing further into the western Carolinas. As before, these initial trading relationships soon led to colonization of former Indian lands. Cherokee and Creek tribes revolted against the influx of European settlement, leading to the Yamassee War (1715-1717). By 1750, European settlers had reached the southern Blue Ridge, a region formerly recognized as Cherokee territory by formal treaty (Olson 1998, 4).

During the French and Indian War (1756-1763), European settlers pressed further into Cherokee territory. The British, realizing they could not fight two enemies at once, sought an alliance with the Cherokee, culminating in King George III's Royal Proclamation of 1763, which established a boundary along the edge of the Appalachians intended to discourage further encroachment (Olson 1998, 4).

This agreement was short-lived, however. In 1789, North Carolina became the twelfth state to join the union, nullifying the Proclamation and re-opening the Appalachians to white settlement (Hellmann 2005, 26). Between 1790 and 1830, the population of western North Carolina swelled by 156 percent. Between 1777 and 1823, eighteen new counties, including Wilkes County, were established in the region. In 1859, Ashe County, which had originally been divided from Wilkes, was further divided to form Alleghany County (Hellmann 2005, 26).

On May 20, 1861, the government of North Carolina seceded and aligned itself with the Confederacy. Over the course of the Civil War, neither Confederate nor Union forces were very active in western North Carolina, though 40,000 North Carolinians died as a result of battles elsewhere. North Carolina was re-admitted into the union in 1868.

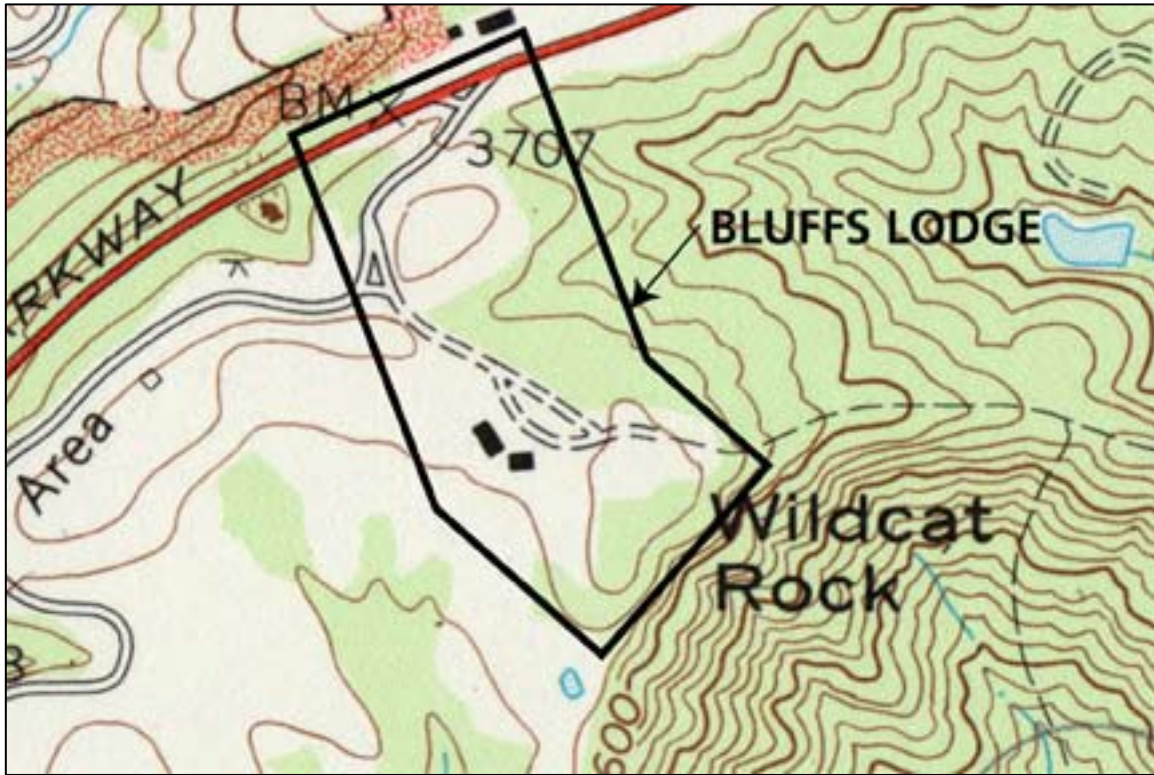
Southern roadways remained largely unpaved at the turn of the 20th century. Organizations of farmers lobbied for road improvements in order to maximize their ability to bring crops to market in what came to be known as the "Good Roads" movement. By the 1910s, there were at least 65 good roads associations active in North Carolina. The movement gained momentum as

the advent of automobile technology attracted lobbyists from beyond the farming community. Lobby groups soon began advocating for the construction of long-distance highways that would enable tourists to reach the rural South (Mitchell 1997, 19-22).

By the 1920s, better rural roads and the wider availability of automobiles sparked a boom in tourism throughout the South – much to the delight of business leaders in Asheville, North Carolina, who had worked for decades to cultivate a tourist industry in the mountains (Mitchell 1997, 24). Around 1928, Eastern National Park-to-Park Highway Association began lobbying for federal funding to join the Shenandoah, Great Smoky Mountains, and Mammoth Cave National Parks with Washington D.C. and the burgeoning historic sites at Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown, Virginia (Mitchell 1997, 31-32).

The economic collapse of the 1930s exacerbated hardships in the rural South, where poverty, isolation, and underemployment had been the norm for many people. Even so, parkway construction projects that could utilize labor provided through President Roosevelt's CCC and Works Progress Administration (WPA) were regarded as economically beneficial to rural constituents, supplying a valuable recreational asset that could attract a flush of tourist dollars while providing much-needed opportunities for employment.

### Location Map Graphic Information



*Fig 3-1. Bluffs Lodge Location Map (Whitehead, NC, USGS Quadrangle - 1968)*

### Counties and States

Alleghany County, NC

## Chapter 4 : Management Information

### Management Category

Must Be Preserved and Maintained

### Management Category Date

05/04/2005

### Management Category Explanatory Narrative

The major features of Bluffs Lodge were planned in the 1930s and early 1940s. The entry road and Wildcat Rocks Overlook were completed by 1938, and, by 1948, the lodge was in place. These features were completed during the first three periods of BLRIs history (1933-1942, 1942-1945, and 1946-1955) as defined by Ian Firth, and thus contribute to the national significance of Blue Ridge Parkway as a potential National Historic Landmark.

### Legal Interests

Legal Interest Type	Fee Simple Reservation Expiration Date	Other Organization/Agency	Legal Interest Narrative
Fee Simple	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Located in a managed wilderness?

No

### Adjacent Lands Information

#### *Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?*

No

#### *Narrative*

The vast majority of the Bluffs Lodge viewshed is contained within the Doughton Park property leading down from Wildcat Rocks into Basin Cove.

## Chapter 5: National Register Information

### National Register of Historic Places

#### ***Documentation Status***

Undocumented

#### ***Documentation Narrative Description***

With the exception of Moses Cone Estate and Brinegar Cabin, none of Blue Ridge Parkway is listed in the National Register. As of 2020, a National Historic Landmark nomination is underway, with a first draft submitted in April 2022.

#### ***Eligibility***

Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

#### ***Concurrence Eligibility Date***

09/08/2004

#### ***Concurrence Eligibility Narrative***

Through BLRI consultation with North Carolina SHPO, the entire parkway property within the state of North Carolina was deemed eligible for listing on the National Register in 2004. A National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination was written for the Parkway by Ian Firth in 2005. This nomination reached final draft stage but was never signed off on by either the Parkway superintendent or the National Register. As of 2020, a new NHL nomination is underway for Blue Ridge Parkway through an Agreement with Public Archaeology Lab, Inc. (PAL). PAL submitted a first draft in early 2022.

#### ***Significance Level***

National

#### ***Contributing/Individual***

Contributing

#### ***National Register Classification***

District

## Statement of Significance

Bluffs Lodge is part of one of the first developed areas to be designed and built along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Two buildings exist at the property: the lodge (Building # 188) completed in 1949, and the pump house (Building # 369) completed circa 1948-1952. The entry road was completed by 1939, along with Wildcat Rocks Overlook and its parking lot and walkway. The final major addition to the site is the Robert L. Doughton Memorial Plaque, which was installed in 1953 at the start of the walkway leading from the parking lot to the overlook.

The rolling mountain laurel and rhododendron meadows, interspersed with patches of forest, figured prominently in this location for the lodge. A 1942 planting plan called for the enhancement of this existing flora, with a few trees suggested for the entry.

As one of the first lodges to be designed and built, the property contributes to the historical significance of the parkway. All major development took place during the first three periods of BLRI history (1936 – 1955) and contributes to the national significance of BLRI as an NHL. These features include the entrance road, Wildcat Rocks Overlook and its parking area and walkway, the water tank, the lodge (Building # 188) and its associated parking and walkways, and trail connecting it to Wildcat Rocks Overlook, the pump house (Building # 369), as well as the existing vegetation, and the views into Basin Cove and the surrounding meadows.

## National Register Significance Criteria

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

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

## National Register Criteria Considerations

G -- A property less than 50 years of age



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

Seq. No.	Start Year/Era and End Year/Era	Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet
3115	1933 CE and 1987 CE	Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Recreation	General Recreation
		Developing the American Economy	Transportation by Land and Air	Carriage Roads, Touring Roads and Parkways
		Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Rustic Architecture
		Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	Protection Of Natural And Cultural Resources

### National Register Areas of Significance

Seq. No.	Category	Subcategory (only for Archeology and Ethnic Heritage)	Narrative
3310	Transportation		
3321	Landscape Architecture		
3334	Architecture		
3351	Conservation		

***Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape?***

No

## Chapter 6: Chronology & Physical History

### Chronology

Seq. No.	Major Event	Major Event Narrative	Start Year of Event	Start Era	End Year of Event	End Era
3269	Built	The lodge entrance road is designed in 1937, and construction is complete by 1938. The end product is the entry road - with a stone-lined gutter on the north side for about 100' - and a parking area near Wildcat Rocks.	1937	CE	1938	CE
3284	Built	The water supply system for the Bluffs development is designed and built. It consists of a dam, and water lines leading to water tanks at the campground and at Wildcat Rocks.	1938	CE	1939	CE
3307	Built	The Overlook at Wildcat Rocks is designed and built. A stone wall is built close to the cliff edge, w/ flagstone & cement mortar joints for 5' followed by flagstone with grass joints. A gravel walk leads from the existing parking lot.	1939	CE	1939	CE
3315	Designed	A 1942 planting plan calls for the addition of a scattering of trees near the parkway entrance to the lodge area - <i>Acer rubrum</i> (1), <i>Pinus pungens</i> (2), <i>Quercus alba</i> (4), <i>Quercus borealis</i> (3), and <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> . The plan is approved in 1947.	1942	CE	1947	CE
3337	Built	Designs for the lodge unit (Building # 188) appear by 1943. Final plans in 1948 call for 2 buildings situated at an angle, built into existing contours, and joined by a patio. Walkways connect it to a new parking lot. The lodge opens 1 Sept 1949.	1943	CE	1949	CE
3364	Explored	Lodge development plans show existing vegetation near the lodge. The area is largely an open meadow, but there are a few mature trees near the lodge - a 20" locust, 30" white oak, and 16" shadblow serviceberry to the east,	1948	CE	1948	CE

**Bluffs Lodge  
Blue Ridge Parkway**

		and an 18" locust 48" red oak, and a 24" apple to the southwest.				
3394	Planned	From the 1940s through to the early 1960s, several plans are drawn for the lodge area expansion. Most call for additional lodge units, along with a dining hall and lounge. Some are approved but none are built.	1943	CE	1962	CE
3412	Built	A pump house (Building # 369) is built near the water tower, a new trail leads from Wildcat Rocks Overlook west of the water tower to the lodge.	1948	CE	1952	CE
3434	Memorialized	A bronze memorial plaque commemorating retired Congressman Robert L. Doughton is installed at the overlook parking lot near the start of the 1939 walkway. Doughton was a longtime supporter of the parkway.	1953	CE	1953	CE
	Planned	In response to high use demand, NPS explores plans for Lodge expansion. Despite numerous iterations of a design for expansion around the Lodge, the project never comes to fruition.	1975	CE	1975	CE
	Built	The existing 1,500-gallon septic tank is replaced with a new 3,000-gallon septic tank installed approximately 75 feet south of the Lodge buildings. Effluent from the tank is directed to a subsurface drain field some 1,00 feet south of the Lodge buildings.	1990	AD	1990	AD
	Built	Replacement lighting standards were installed in the Bluffs Lodge parking area. These standards consisted of timber posts with silver metal light fixtures. The lights were installed in the same location as the previous parking lot lights and are "replicas" of the previous light standards.	2005	CE	2005	CE
	Neglected	Forever Resorts of Scottsdale, Arizona, the concessionaire responsible for operating Bluffs Lodge, decides against renewing	2011	AD	2011	AD

		its contract with NPS. The Lodge complex is left vacant.				
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## Physical History

### 1. Prewar Planning and Construction Era (1933-1942)

In 1937, NPS designed an entry road at MP 241.1, Parkway left. Construction commenced on the entry road in 1938. Features of the roadway included a graceful curve constructed through a rock outcropping with a stone-lined gutter running the length of the curve on the east side. The road ran for approximately 1500 feet before turning east into a parking area (BGH 1938). The road initially terminated in this lot intended to furnish parking for a new overlook area known as Wildcat Rocks Overlook to which a gravel walk was constructed.

The overlook at Wildcats Rock was a feature which showcased the rustic-style stonework used throughout the early Parkway construction. Plans for the overlook were approved in 1939, and the feature was constructed soon thereafter. The plans were specific in the workmanship and details required for the site. Notes on the drawing read:

“Both walls to be located as near cliff edge as practicable. The flagstone for a distance of 5’ behind wall to be layed [sic] in gravel bed with cement mortar [sic] joints. All other flagstone to be layed with wide grass joints on the natural grade. Six half log benches to be placed at advantageous positions on the flagged area. The outline of the flagged area to be staked on the ground by the landscape architect” (Burns 1939).

The intended view out from the overlook was across the valleys of Basin Cove. The pioneer building, Caudill Cabin, was visible from this point agreed upon and funding was not provided for the building in until the late 1940s. The configuration of the Lodge and support buildings were sketched onto development plans. No layout appears more than once on the development plans hinting at the amount of debate that surrounded the site and position of the building within the designated area.

The 1942 PLUM for the Lodge area calls for enhancement of existing flora. Trees suggested for the entrance road include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), Table Mountain pine (*Pinus pungens*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), and northern red oak (*Quercus rubra var. borealis*). Rock ledge areas at the entrance were to include mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), flame azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*), Catawba rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*), rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*), and winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*). “To create a natural rock garden” the following species were recommended along the rock ledges: hairy rockcress (*Arabia hirsuta*), coral bells (*Heuchera americana*), St. Johnswort (*Hypericum spp.*), sedum (*Sedum spp.*), and Virginia spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*).



Fig 6-1. Entry road to Bluffs Lodge Area, c. 1939, Neg. #6114 (586a), Class. #719.5, BLRI Archives.



Fig 6-2. Entry road to Bluffs Lodge Area, c. 1940, Neg. #7359 (759a), Class. #069.75, BLRI Archives.

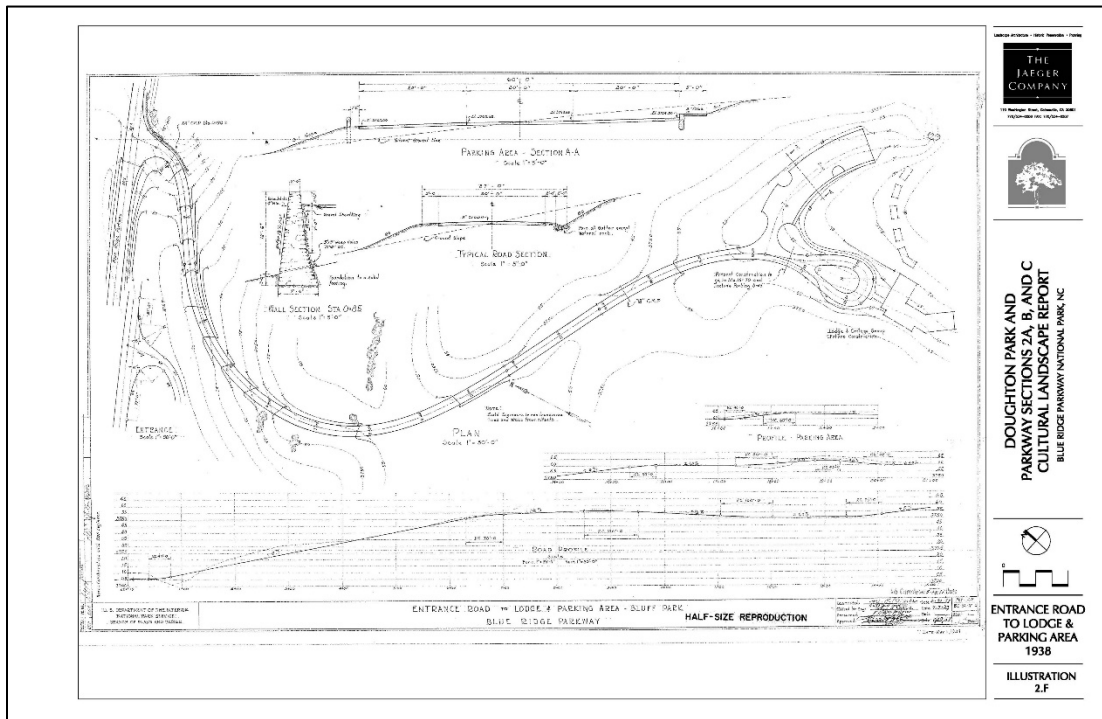


Fig 6-3. C. 1937 drawing illustrating plans for an entry road at MP 241.1 leading to the Bluffs Lodge site. The Jaeger Company, Doughton Park and Sections 2A, B and C Blue Ridge Parkway Cultural Landscape Report (2006), p. 193.





Fig 6-4. Water tower near Wildcat Rocks Overlook, c. 1940, Neg. #6117 (586d), Class. #725.1, BLRI Archives.

## **2. The War Years Era (1942-1945)**

Planning for the Lodge area continued through the War Years Era. A 1943 utility plan indicates that the “Lodge and Cabin Area” would contain one large lodge building with two smaller elongated out buildings. This scheme indicates that a loop road would serve as access to the buildings and additional parking would be added to the Wildcat Rocks Overlook area to serve this amenity. Walkways connect the Lodge, Cabins, overlook, and parking areas in this scheme.

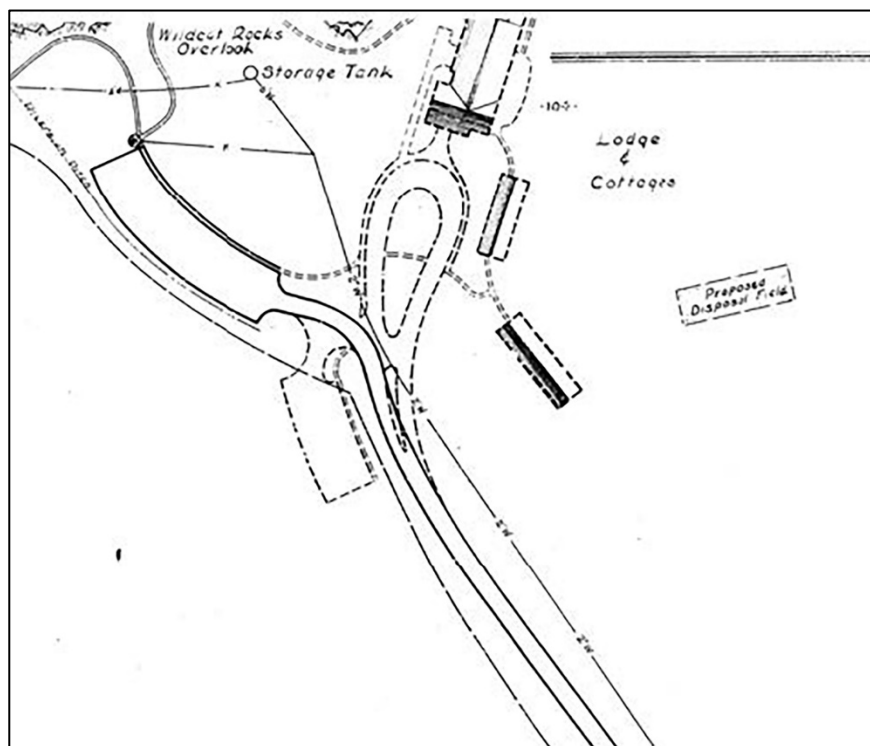


Fig 6-5. Portion of a 1943 Utility Layout Plan showing a proposed Lodge and Cottage configuration, 1943, DSC, TIC.

### **3. Resumption of Construction Era (1946-1955)**

The progression of design for the Bluffs Lodge demonstrated a more drawn-out process than had been in place during the prewar era. Abbuehl stated,

“It is significant to note that at this point in time our country was making a transition in tourist facilities from tourist homes and very simple cabins to the early beginnings of what are now known as motels or motor lodges. The combining of several cabin units together into one building seemed like a good idea and the Washington office prepared a preliminary sketch of such a structure that looked like a two-story army barracks, for 32 units or rooms. When Stan Abbott went to Washington and saw this preliminary plan he was so stunned as to be almost speechless, but he did recover enough to request Vint to allow the Roanoke office to study the project a little further. The Washington preliminary plan was taken to

Roanoke where it was pulled apart at the middle, separated by a patio, the two units bent from a straight line to more nearly fit the topo, and the ground floor on the upper site eliminated to conform to the natural ground slope. The result is the present 24-unit lodge at Doughton Park and with the landscaping it just naturally fits into the scene. Grossman prepared the plans for the building, and it was built by the parkway's organization on a force account basis" (Abbuehl 1980, 4-5).

Early plans for a Lodge at The Bluff call for one large building with two or more smaller cabins situated into the hillside below the Wildcat Rocks Overlook Parking area. By 1948 plans show the Lodge in much the same configuration as it is present day. Two buildings (Building A and Building B) are set at an angle with a patio area between the two, maximizing views from rooms on the back side of the Lodge out toward the adjacent meadow. The front (north side) of the buildings faces a loop single-bay parking lot with drives accessible from the entry road and the entrance to the Wildcat Rocks Overlook parking area. A double bay parking lot was indicated for future expansion. This plan also shows further development of the area with the inclusion of a "Future Lodge Dining Room and Lounge" with an access walk to Wildcat Rocks Overlook and a 24- car parking area (Van Cleve 1948).

An existing conditions plan for the Lodge area from 1948 calls out some of the existing vegetation in the area. The site is largely an open meadow but contains a 20" locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), 30" white oak, 16" serviceberry to the east of the Lodge site and an 18" locust, 48" red oak, and 24" apple to the southwest of the Lodge site. A planting plan for the Lodge area calls for shrubs adjacent to the Lodge buildings including rosebay and Catawba rhododendron, mountain laurel, and flame azalea. Groundcover and vine species recommended include lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), vinca (*Vinca minor*), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*).

One of the most important design decisions associated with the Lodge involved the choice of materials associated with the building. Prewar building materials had been rustic style and hand hewn. In response, the Lodge design referenced previous construction along the BLRI because it was a rustic style; however, it utilized materials such as concrete shingles that were readily

available and less expensive. These modern materials were important in post-WWII Parkway development (NPS 2005, 6). Besides materials, the layout of the Lodge compound represented a modern design sensibility. Hotels of this era were often constructed in a “motor court” layout. Unlike the prewar buildings at Rocky Knob and Peaks of Otter, where NPS constructed individual cabins, NPS laid out the Lodge as long buildings with individual rooms accessed from a consolidated parking area.

According to Jolley, “The lodge at Doughton Park is a good example of the landscape architect’s touch on the Parkway. It was designed shortly after World War II ended, and according to one architect’s opinion, ‘The original design looked exactly like a World War II barracks.’ Luckily, that design was replaced by one that provided the present-day unit which blends so attractively with its surroundings” (Jolley 1987, 23-28).

The 1948 design encouraged mingling between patrons and included a flagstone paved court between the two buildings. A stone retaining wall with a parapet edged the court on the west side providing an ideal location for viewing sunsets across the existing rolling pasture. This court area included a stone fireplace on the south elevation of Building A. Stone steps led down to the lower levels of Buildings A and B. Plantings around the Lodge were minimal and limited to native species. NPS planted specimen rosebay rhododendrons in the grass area between the parking lot and the buildings.

In August 1949, Weems reported that “work at The Bluffs Lodge is moving ahead very well, and September 1 is being given as the opening date for Unit B with Unit A to follow in a few days. The concessioner [sic] will start moving in furniture on August 22” (Weems 1949, 4). On September 1, 1949, the Lodge opened to visitors.

While the construction of the Lodge constituted the largest change in this development area during the Resumption of Construction Era, the area around Wildcat Rocks Overlook was altered as well. NPS constructed a pathway between the Overlook and the newly constructed Lodge. A pump house was constructed in 1952 near the existing water tower. In honor of the renaming of

the park, to Doughton Park, a plaque was erected at the walkway leading to Wildcat Rocks Overlook from the parking area in 1953.

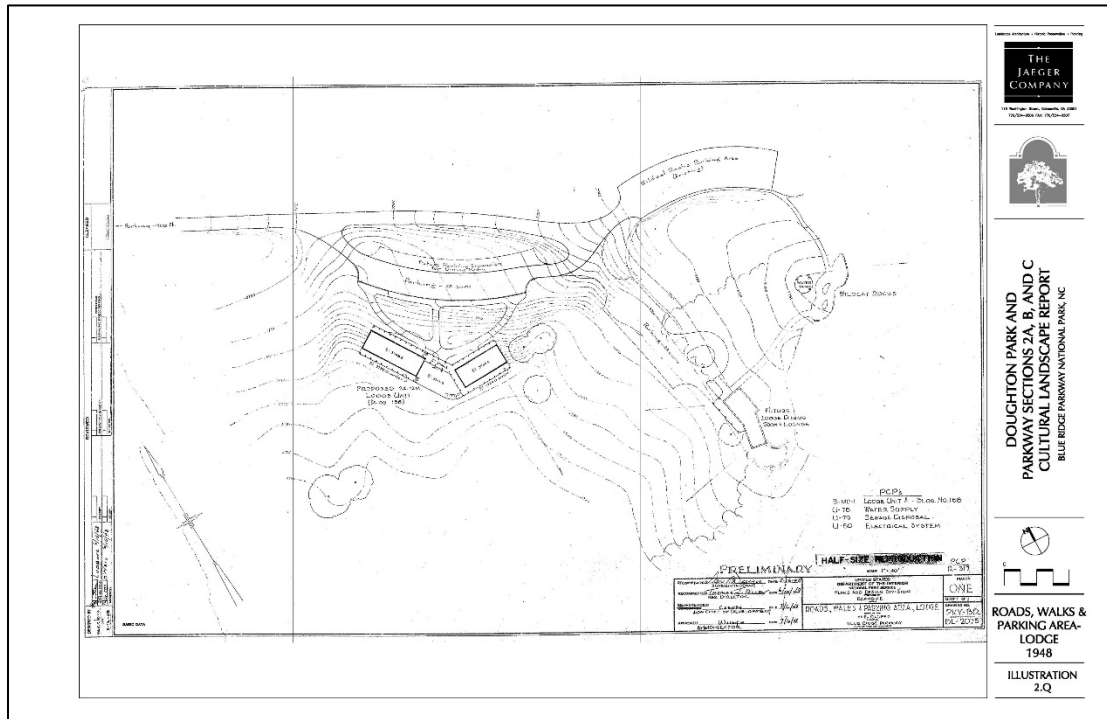


Fig 6-6. C. 1948 drawing illustrating the layout of the Bluffs Lodge complex as well as plans for expanded parking. The Jaeger Company, Doughton Park and Sections 2A, B and C Blue Ridge Parkway Cultural Landscape Report (2006), p. 204.

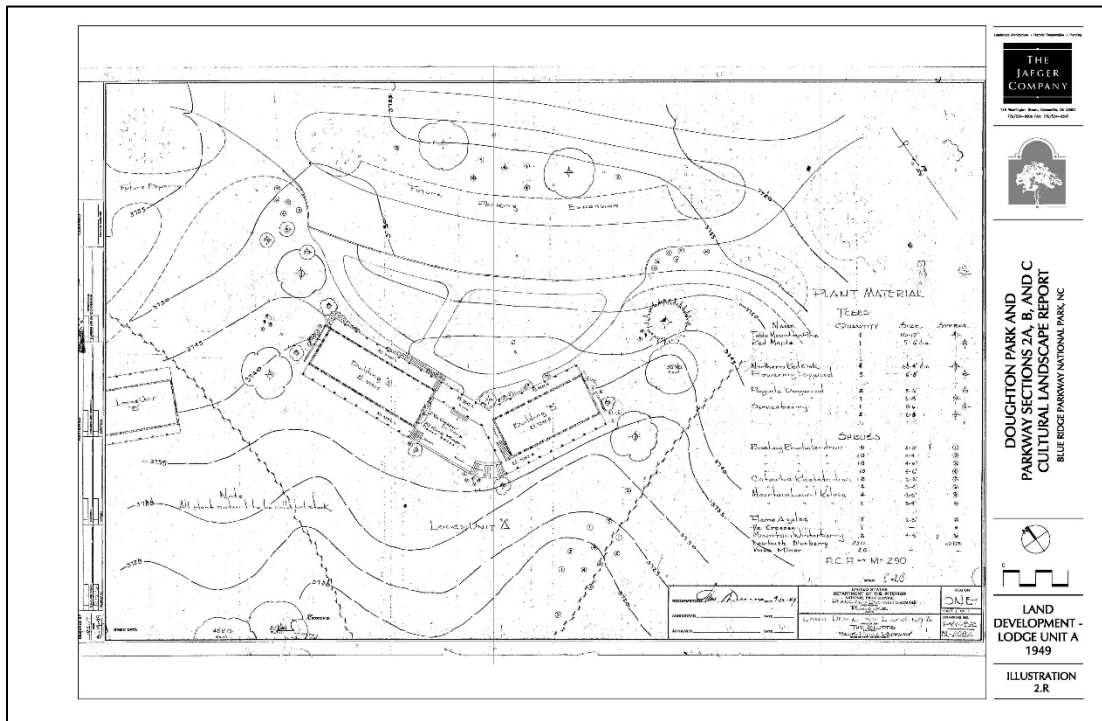


Fig 6-7. C. 1949 planting plan for Bluffs Lodge. The Jaeger Company, Doughton Park and Sections 2A, B and C Blue Ridge Parkway Cultural Landscape Report (2006), p. 205.



Fig 6-8. Construction of Bluffs Lodge, c. 1949, (Orig. Photo not located, provided by SERO from Bluffs Lodge CLI files).



Fig 6-9. Postcard of Bluffs Lodge, c. 1950.

#### **4. 'Mission 66' Construction Era (1956-1966)**

Research does not reveal any changes in this area during this period.

#### **5. Post 'Mission 66' Era (1967-present)**

Due to high use demand, during the mid-1970s NPS explored plans for Lodge expansion. Despite the numerous iterations of design for expansion around the Lodge, this project has never come to fruition.

In the early 1990s, the existing 1,500-gallon septic tank was replaced with a new 3,000-gallon septic tank. This tank was installed approximately 75 feet south of the Lodge buildings. Effluent from the tank flows to a subsurface drain field some 1,00 feet south of the Lodge buildings (Shaw 2006).



In 2005, replacement lighting standards were installed in the Bluffs Lodge parking area. These standards consisted of timber posts with silver metal light fixtures. The lights were installed in the same location as the previous parking lot lights and are “replicas” of the previous light standards (Shaw 2006).

In 2011, Forever Resorts of Scottsdale, Arizona, the concessionaire responsible for operating Bluffs Lodge, decided against renewing its contract with NPS. The Lodge complex has stood vacant and unused ever since.

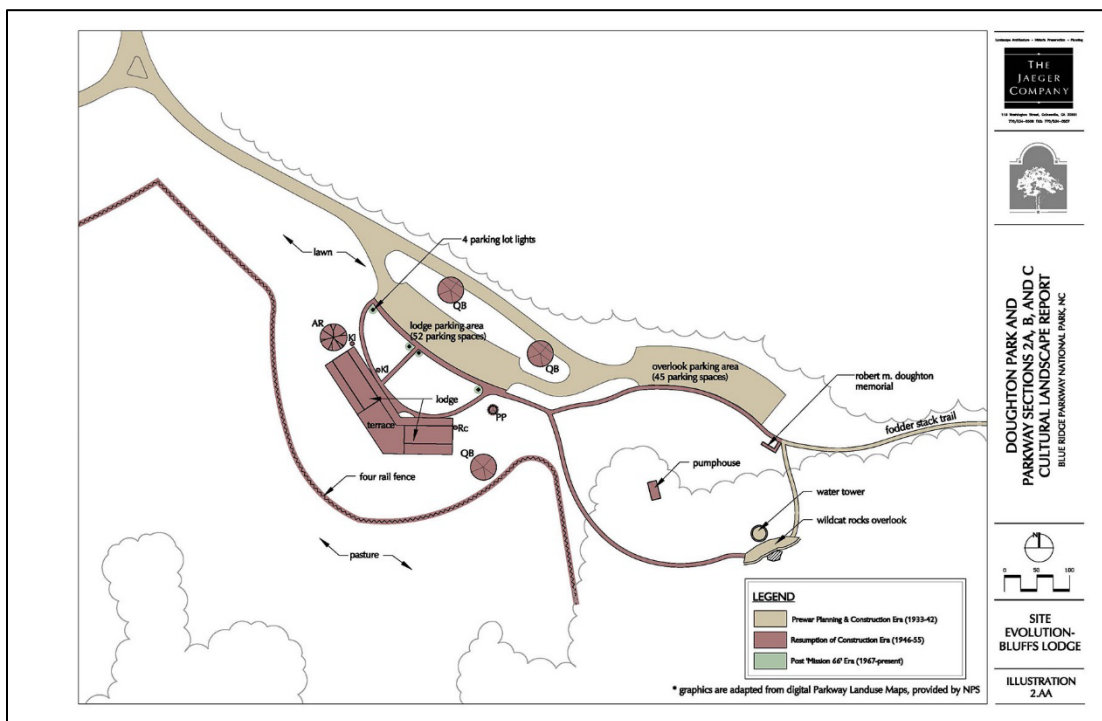


Fig 6-1. Bluffs Lodge Site Evolution. The Jaeger Company, Doughton Park and Sections 2A, B and C Blue Ridge Parkway Cultural Landscape Report (2006), p. 213.

## Chapter 7: Uses

### Functions and Uses

Seq. No. (R)	Major Category (R)	Category (R)	Use/ Function (R, if exists)	Historic (Yes/No)	Current (Yes/No)	Primary (Yes/No)
3066	Domestic (Residential)	Hotel (Boarding House)	Lodge (Inn, Cabin)	Yes	No	Yes
3099	Landscape	Scenic Landscape	View	Yes	Yes	Yes
3110	Transportation	Pedestrian-Related	Hiking Trail	Yes	Yes	No

### Public Access

#### *Public Access*

Unrestricted

## Chapter 8: Analysis & Evaluation

### Analysis and Evaluation Summary

Bluffs Lodge is part of one of the first developed areas to be designed and built along the Blue Ridge Parkway. An entry road starts at parkway road Milepost 241.1, leads past the lodge, and terminates in a parking lot next to the Wildcat Rocks Overlook. Striking views extend out from the overlook into Basin Cove, 1000' below, and from the lodge out into the surrounding meadows.

The lodge area was planned for and partially designed in the late 1930s, with the water storage tank, entry road, overlook and associated parking lot built in 1939. The lodge (Building # 188) and its parking lot and walkways were completed in 1949. A nearby pump house (Building # 369) was in place by 1952. A Parkway Land Use Map (PLUM) called for the addition of several trees at the parkway entrance to the site, enhancing the existing open meadow and scattered forest landscape. In 1953, a bronze plaque was installed to commemorate retired local Congressman Robert L. Doughton and his support of the parkway. No major development has occurred at the site since this time.

As one of the first lodging areas to be designed and constructed on the Blue Ridge Parkway, the property contributes to the Parkway's national significance. All major construction took place during the first three periods of BLRI development (1936 – 1955). Wildcat Rocks Overlook is built with the rustic stone materials and workmanship of early park development. The lodge uses rooflines, pitch, and massing from local architecture, but incorporates materials, like the concrete shingles, that express the parkway's 1940s move to more streamlined and economical development. The overlook and lodge illustrate both facets of development, and both are significant, as they show the evolution of parkway design. Views from the overlook take in the natural scenery, namely second-growth forest in Basin Cove, as well as the historic Caudill Cabin in a clearing 1000' below. Views from the lodge take in the rolling, open meadows, punctuated by isolated trees and stands of rhododendron, mountain laurel and azaleas. The views and scenery

figured prominently in the location of the lodge, and contribute to the overall significance of the Parkway.

Bluffs Lodge retains integrity in six of the seven aspects of the National Register criteria: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The location of all primary features – the entry road, parking areas and walkways, Wildcat Rocks Overlook, Bluffs Lodge (Building # 188), the water storage tank, booster pump house (Building # 369), existing natural and introduced vegetation, and views into Basin Cove and the meadows – is the same today as during the historic period. The design, materials and workmanship of these features largely remains rustic and utilitarian in nature. The feeling is the same as originally intended – a lodge nestled into the existing contours, with views into the meadows, and, from the overlook, views into Basin Cove. The mountain plateau setting, with its open meadow and abundant stands of mountain laurel and rhododendron perched on a dramatic 1000' cliff, remains in place. The property no longer functions as overnight lodging for Parkway guests, however. As such, it no longer retains its prior association. Future renovations may restore this function, however, as has been the case for the restaurant at Bluffs Coffee Shop and Service Station, provided that funding can be procured for this purpose.

## **Landscape Characteristics and Features**

### ***Spatial Organization***

Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

### **Existing Conditions:**

Early plans for Bluffs Lodge call for one unit which, in the words of parkway landscape architect Edward Abbuehl, looked like an army barracks. The designs were modified and the result was a lodge, split into two units that met at an angle in a stone patio. The buildings were set into the existing topography and angled along the existing contours. This modified spatial organization greatly enhanced the quality of the design, allowing the building to sit more unobtrusively in the

open meadow and take advantage of the views. The lodge organization remains unaltered today and contributes to the historical significance of the property.

**Feature Name:** Buildings set into existing topography

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing



*Fig 8-1. View of Bluffs Lodge, south façade, illustrating interplay with surrounding topography, facing north (2021)*



*Fig 8-2. View toward Bluffs Lodge from Bluff Mountain Trail illustrating integration of Lodge into rolling topography (2021)*



*Fig 8-3. View of rolling highland plateau from Bluffs Lodge lawn, facing southwest (2021)*

### **Land Use**

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction.

#### **Existing Conditions:**

There are several land uses associated with the Bluffs Lodge site. Prior to its closing in 2011, the area was primarily used for overnight lodging along the Parkway. Two buildings joined by a common terrace provide 24 rooms for Parkway visitor accommodations during six months of the year. The Lodge features a terrace located between the two buildings. An outdoor fireplace located on this terrace was a gathering spot for many Lodge guests. The Lodge had been in constant operation by a NPS concessionaire since it was opened in 1949. In 2011, the



concessionaire elected not to renew its contract with the NPS. The Lodge complex has remained vacant and unused ever since.

The site continues to function as a roadside attraction, however. Wildcat Rocks Overlook was the first Parkway development in the Lodge area and continues to function as a roadside stop for many visitors. From the overlook visitors survey the undeveloped Basin Cove watershed. The history of this former community and its one remaining building, Caudill Cabin, are interpreted with a wayside interpretative sign located at the overlook.

Another land use which is visible at the Lodge is the agricultural land. When the Lodge was opened for business the meadow area south of the building was leased for grazing. This land use continues today.

Additionally, the site has a recreation function as the Overlook area acts as a trailhead for the one mile long Fodder Stack Trail.

**Feature Name:** Lodging

**Feature Contribution:** Non-Contributing

**Feature Name:** Roadside Attraction

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Recreation

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Agriculture

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Interpretation

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

### **Topography**

Topography is the three dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect).

#### **Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:**

Bluffs Lodge is notable for its location in a rolling highland plateau, with a steep drop to the east down the face of Wildcat Rocks. No changes have been made to this terrain, and it remains a distinctive part of the lodge setting.

**Feature Name:** Rolling highland plateau

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

### **Vegetation**

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

#### **Existing Conditions:**

Bluffs Lodge is located on an open highland meadow dotted with specimen trees and flowering shrubs. The site was chosen in large part for its exceptional vegetation and open, rolling landscape. Parkway plans from the 1930s and 1940s for this area confirm that the existing character is consistent with the original intentions of Parkway planners. The general condition of Bluffs Lodge vegetation is good.

Along the entrance road to the Lodge red maple (*Acer rubrum*), Table Mountain pine (*Pinus pungens*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Q. rubra*) and shadblow serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) were planted in the late 1940s. These species, except for the serviceberry, are still present the along the road. The tree species are represented both by original plantings and progeny of the original plantings. Two notable specimens are a 38" diameter white oak (*Q. alba*) and a 26" diameter red maple (*A. rubrum*) immediately adjacent to the west side of the entry drive.

1940s BLRI planting designs also called for smaller herbaceous species such as coral bells (*Huchera americana*), hairy mountain rockcress (*Arabis hirstuta*) and sedums, specifically Alleghany stonecrop (*Hylotelephium telephioides*) to create a rock garden look along rock ledges. Volunteer populations of coral bells and Alleghany stonecrop may still be found scattered among the prominent rock ledges visible on Parkway left as visitors enter the Picnic Area. Overall, the entrance road vegetation is in good condition.

The Lodge is surrounded on its southwestern side by an expansive pasture bordered by both evergreen and deciduous forest. This pasture is predominantly composed of meadow grasses and summer blooming wildflowers with a scattering of mature specimen trees and bays of flowering shrubs. The specimen trees are dominantly red oaks and Table Mountain pines. The shrub bays are primarily composed of mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*).

The area immediately surrounding Bluffs Lodge consists of well-maintained lawn with a scattering of flowering shrubs and specimen trees. The trees include three specimen northern red oaks, a red maple, and a Table Mountain pine.

The 1949 planting plan specified that the Lodge be graced with a lush and diverse frame of flowering trees and shrubs that had included 3 pagoda dogwoods (*Cornus alternifolia*), 5 flowering dogwoods (*Cornus florida*), 3 serviceberries, 36 rosebay rhododendrons, 16 Catawba rhododendrons, 5 mountain laurels, 5 flame azaleas (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*), and 2 mountain winterberries (*Ilex montana*). A view of the Lodge entryway from a c. 1950 postcard indicates that, at one point, these framing plantings had been a characteristic element of the landscaping at Bluffs Lodge. These framing plantings have since been radically reduced.

The 1949 planting plan also specified lowbush blueberry as groundcover. Further, *Vinca minor* and Virginia creeper were specified for the planting bed adjacent to the outdoor fireplace on the stone veranda. None of these species are present on the site today, and the veranda planting bed

has since been overrun with weeds. The only evidence of any prior plantings is a single small mountain laurel in declining health. Due to the many missing shrubs, the poor health of the existing shrubs, and the missing groundcover species, the condition of the vegetation in and around the Bluffs Lodge complex is fair.

Drawings of Wildcat Rocks Overlook from the late 1930s show a light stand of trees and understory. Today, the historic character of the overlook is largely retained, with an overstory of deciduous trees, an understory of flowering shrubs and an herbaceous woodland groundcover. The canopy is primarily composed of red and white oaks. The understory is dominated by mountain laurel (*K. latifolia*) and rosebay rhododendron (*R. maximum*). The groundcover consists of dense ferns and lawn. This existing vegetation perpetuates the historic feeling and setting of the property and is generally in good condition.

**Feature Name:** C. 1940s entrance plantings

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Open pasture with scattered trees and shrubs

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** C. 1949 flowering trees and shrubs

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** C. 1949 groundcover

**Feature Contribution:** Non-Contributing

**Feature Name:** Specimen trees - northern red oaks, white oak, and table mountain pine

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing



*Fig 8-4. Mature northern red oaks shading Bluffs Lodge parking lot. Historic remnants of 1940s planting plan (2021)*



*Fig 8-5. Mature white oak near southeast corner of Bluffs Lodge. Historic remnant of 1940s planting plan (2021)*



*Fig 8-6. Table mountain pine near northeast corner of Bluffs Lodge. Historic remnant of 1940s planting plan (2021)*



*Fig 8-7. Volunteer Alleghany stonecrop specimen in bloom near entrance to Bluffs Lodge from Parkway (2021)*





*Fig 8-8. Volunteer Coral Bell specimen in bloom near entrance to Bluffs Lodge from Parkway, incorporated as part of rock garden planting (2021)*



*Fig 8-9. C. 1940 white oak planted by CCC along Bluffs Lodge entry road. Camera facing southwest (2021)*

### **Circulation**

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

#### **Existing Conditions:**

Pedestrian circulation is provided with asphalt paths. Located along the southern side of the Overlook Parking area and Lodge Parking area, a 3 feet wide, 780 feet long paved path connects the parking lots and Lodge. Additionally, a 3 feet wide, 770 feet long path loops from the eastern end of the Overlook Parking area to the Wildcat Rocks Overlook then continues west to rejoin the aforementioned parking lot path. A 330 feet long path loops from the eastern end of the Lodge Parking area to the front of the Lodge and then ends at the western end of the Lodge Parking

area. This path is divided by an 85 feet long linear path which connects the center of the Lodge to the center of the Lodge Parking area. The asphalt paths immediately in front of the Lodge are approximately 6 feet wide and are also used as a vehicular lane for luggage drop-off. Most of the paths are worn. Some areas of path are excessively worn with the worst portions missing areas of asphalt and overgrown with turf. The overall condition of the asphalt on these pedestrian paths is fair.

Vehicular circulation at the Lodge is accomplished with a main entrance road which leads from the Parkway past the Lodge and terminates in the Overlook Parking area. The road consists of two traffic lanes and is surfaced with asphalt. On the northeastern side of the Lodge, a parking lot is located south of the entry road. The lot configuration forms a loop with two access points to the entry road. Both parking lots are curbed with stone. The condition of this circulation route is fair. Worn asphalt is evident in many areas and previous asphalt projects have obscured a large portion of the stone curb.

**Feature Name:** Bluffs Lodge entry road (1938)

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Wildcat Rocks Walkway (c. 1938)

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Wildcat Rocks - Lodge Walkway and Parking Area (c. 1948 - 1952)

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Bluffs Lodge Walkways (c. 1949)

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing



*Fig 8-10. Asphalt paths leading to Wildcat Rock Overlook and Fodder Stack trailhead (2021)*



*Fig 8-11. Bluffs Lodge entrance gate, facing northwest (2021)*



*Fig 8-12. Asphalt walkway and stone steps leading to Wildcat Rocks Overlook, facing south (2021)*

### **Buildings and Structures**

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity.

#### **Existing Conditions:**

The current Bluffs Lodge site features four buildings, two of which are conjoined, and one structure: Bluffs Lodge (Building #188), a c.-1952 booster pump house, a contemporary pump house, and a c.-1939 water storage tank.

Bluffs Lodge: The Lodge was mothballed in 2011 after Forever Resorts – the concessionaire who formerly operated the Lodge and its associated restaurant – chose not to renew their contract. The building remains closed to the public and no longer serves as an active lodging site.

Bluffs Lodge is accessed from an asphalt-paved spur road that extends from parkway left and terminates at an asphalt-paved surface lot at the northeast side of the site. The Lodge is adjacent and southwest of the surface lot. Asphalt-paved sidewalks extend from the surface lot to the lodges. A wood worm-rail fence defines the southwest boundary of the site.

The Lodge complex itself is comprised of two separate buildings – Units A and B – sited at a 125-degree angle to one another. These buildings were sited along the existing contours of the property on a moderate slope. Due to this slope, the northeastern building facades are one story tall, and the southwestern facades are two stories tall.

Both Units are attached with a 75-foot-long by 40-foot-wide stone terrace. On the southeastern side of the terrace, a breezeway connects the two buildings. The terrace overlooks the adjacent pasture on the southeastern side of the buildings and features a large stone fireplace. When the Lodge had still been in operation, it had also featured many movable patio tables and chairs. The chairs and tables have since been removed.

One set of stone-clad stairs with wrought iron handrails extends from the terrace to the lower level of Lodge rooms, while another set leads up to the breezeway. In addition to the breezeway, a covered walk protects the room entrances. The covering is provided by a shed roof that ties into the main roofline of the Lodge. A double porch is created on the southwestern facade under the roof overhang with wood decking flooring the second story floor. The massing, rooflines, and pitch of the Bluffs Lodge complex were designed to mimic the native architecture of the surrounding Appalachian region.

Both Units are sided with gray stained wood siding. The gables are covered with wide clapboards while the walls are covered with flush-mounted vertical wooden boards. Large eight-

over-eight sash windows are used for most of the Lodge windows, while smaller six-over-six sash windows are used for bathrooms. Entrance doors to the rooms are wooden six panel construction. The entry doors are covered with white painted wooden louvered screen doors.

The overall condition of Bluffs Lodge is poor. The exterior of the Lodge complex is visibly deteriorated. Several screen doors have fallen off their hinges, and many window screens are broken or have fallen from their frames. The glass panes of many windows are also shattered, with several appearing to be the result of past break-in attempts. These broken windows have exposed the interior of the building to the elements, exacerbating the spread of black mold and other moisture and weather-related damage. Further, there is visible mold on the exterior of the screen doors.

The stone veranda, steps, and outdoor fireplace are also visibly deteriorated. Stones have broken loose, mortar has failed, and weeds have proliferated in the spaces between the flagstones. The stone planting bed adjacent to the outdoor fireplace has been similarly overtaken with weeds. Despite bearing these visible signs of neglect and weather exposure, as well as its extensive interior damage, the building appears to be structurally sound., the building appears to be structurally sound.

Although the building itself has received little attention, the grounds around the building are still actively maintained. Maintenance appears to be limited to mowing of the surrounding lawn, however.

Despite its deteriorating condition, Bluffs Lodge remains a contributing resource that relates to the original design of the Blue Ridge Parkway (WJE 2016, 232-33).

Water Tank: Built in 1939, the water tank is one of the oldest structures in Doughton Park. The tower is located on top of a knoll, just behind Wildcat Rocks Overlook and consists of a steel water tank set atop an approximately 25' tall steel tower. The structure is painted olive green, appears structurally sound, and remains in good condition, albeit with some graffiti and other



minor defacements. As a part of the prewar planning and development of the site, the Water Tank near Bluffs Lodge is a contributing resource.

**Booster Pump House:** The Booster Pump House is a low concrete block utilitarian building with a square plan located directly west of the Water Tank. As a part of the pre-1955 development at the site, the Booster Pump House is also a contributing resource. This late 1940s building is nestled into the landscape with understory vegetation. The building is set four feet below grade with the above grade portion measuring approximately five feet in height. The building has a concrete foundation and concrete masonry walls. A flat concrete slab provides cover for the building. A concrete stair provides access from grade to the steel-framed two-panel main entrance door. The condition of this building is fair (WJE 2016, A-225).

**Pump House:** The Pump House is located approximately 200 feet west of Bluff Lodge in a mown-turf clearing and is surrounded by a wood post-and-rail fence. It is a small one-story wood-framed structure with concrete foundation, board and batten siding, and a wood-framed wood shingle gable roof with exposed eaves. The slope on either side of the gable roof is slightly different, giving the structure an asymmetrical appearance. The main entrance is centered on the front elevation and has a steel door. The Pump House is a non-contributing resource due to its age, which is outside the period of significance for the Blue Ridge Parkway (WJE 2016, A-234).

**Feature Name:** Contemporary Pump House

**Feature Contribution:** Non-Contributing

**Feature Name:** Bluffs Lodge (Building # 188) (c. 1949)

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Wildcat Rocks Booster Pump House (c. 1952)

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Water Storage Tank (c. 1938)

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing



*Fig 8-13. Wildcat Rocks circa 1939*



*Fig 8-14. Wildcat Rocks Overlook (1940)*



*Fig 8-15. Bluffs Lodge during construction circa 1949*



*Fig 8-16. Walkway leading from parking lot to Wildcat Rocks Overlook (1951)*



*Fig 8-17. Wildcat Rocks Overlook (1951)*



*Fig 8-18. Wildcat Rocks Overlook (1952)*





*Fig 8-19. Oblique view of Bluffs Lodge, north facade, facing southwest (2021)*



*Fig 8-20. Fallen branches littering Pump House roof, facing southwest (2021)*



*Fig 8-21. Zoomed-in view of Wildcat Rocks Water Tank, hardwood canopy in background, facing south (2021)*

### **Views and Vistas**

A views is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived.

### **Existing Conditions:**

The Bluffs Lodge area features both an important vistas and views. The Wildcat Overlook was designed and built to feature the vista of the Basin Cove watershed. The overlook faces southeast toward the cavernous Cove below. Cedar Ridge to the northeast and Chestnut Ridge to the southeast define the geographical extents of the vista. Vegetation is maintained at the Overlook to create the desired vista. This maintained vista and associated overlook continue to be a roadside

attraction for many Parkway visitors. Overall this vista is in good condition. In addition to the vista at Wildcat Rocks Overlook, the Bluffs Lodge area also includes a spectacular view from the Lodge. During the design of the Lodge, a major influence in the siting of the building was the pastoral southwestern view from the Lodge site. This view is enjoyed from the central Lodge terrace as well as from the windows and covered porches of the southwestern facing rooms. This view of is composed of grass and wildflower meadow with scattered bays of shrubs and trees. Since the early planning stages for the Lodge, this has been the intended character of the view from the Lodge. The plant material and view are in good condition.

**Feature Name:** Views from Wildcat Rocks

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** View from Lodge terrace

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing



*Fig 8-22. View toward rolling highland plateau from Bluffs Lodge Terrace, facing southwest (2021)*



*Fig 8-23. View #1 of Basin Creek watershed from Wildcat Rock Overlook, facing south (2021)*

### **Small-Scale Features**

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape.

#### **Existing Conditions:**

Historic small-scale features in the Bluffs Lodge area date from the Prewar Planning and Construction Era (1933-1942) and the Resumption of Construction Era (1946-1955). The general condition of small-scale features in the Bluffs Lodge area is good.

One of the first features to be constructed was the stone-lined gutter which runs the entirety of the curved entry road near the distinctive rock outcrop marking the entrance to Bluffs Picnic

Area. The craftsmanship and construction methods utilized for this gutter are consistent with other Parkway construction along Sections 2A, B, and C. This gutter remains in good condition.

NPS constructed the Wildcat Rocks Overlook at the terminus of the curved entry road in 1939. The rustic materials utilized in the construction of the Overlook – including a flagstone standing area with rustic stone walls – were typical of early Parkway development and construction. The flagstone patio and stone walls remain in good condition.

During the Resumption of Construction Era (1946-1955), NPS constructed additional small-scale features at the Bluffs Lodge site. Split rail fences surrounding the rolling pasture adjacent to the Lodge buildings were reconfigured to accommodate Lodge construction. These fences remain in good condition.

In 1953, NPS renamed the park - previously known as Bluffs Park or simply The Bluffs – after North Carolina Representative Robert L. Doughton. A memorial was constructed in Doughton's honor beside the Wildcat Rocks Overlook parking area. Materials employed in the construction of the memorial include a bronze plaque set in stone with rustic stone walls, an integrated wood bench and a stone drinking fountain. Despite the later date of construction, the walls and the fountain were consistent with Prewar Planning and Construction Era materials and construction methods. All elements of the memorial remain in good condition, although the stone drinking fountain no longer functions.

More recent small-scale features of the Bluffs Lodge area include wood routed trail signs, a modern interpretive sign, and parking lot lighting. The locations of the wood routed signs associated with the Overlook and the entry road to the Lodge area date from the Prewar Planning and Construction Era (1933-1942). Given the limited durability of wooden sign boards, these signs are likely in-kind replacements of the originals. One modern interpretive sign, which highlights Caudill Cabin, can be found at the Wildcat Rocks Overlook. The installation date of this sign is unknown. NPS added parking lot lights to the Lodge parking lot in 2005. All signs and parking lot lighting in the Bluffs Lodge area remain in good condition.

All historic small-scale features in the Bluffs Lodge area contribute to the site's historic integrity. Though not the originals, in-kind replacements of wood routed trail signs nonetheless contribute to the site's historic integrity. Additionally, the interpretive sign at the Wildcat Rocks Overlook contributes to the site's integrity as it provides a function originally intended by NPS for the site and does not detract from its surrounding historic materials. The newly installed parking lot lights in the Lodge parking lot do not contribute to the site's historic integrity; however, these minimal, rustic style features do not detract from the historic integrity of the site.

**Feature Name:** Robert L. Doughton Memorial

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Stone Drinking Fountain

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Routed wood trail signs (in-kind replacements)

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Wood worm fencing

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Caudill Cabin Interpretive Plaque

**Feature Contribution:** Undetermined

**Feature Name:** Wildcat Rocks Overlook Stone Wall

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing

**Feature Name:** Wildcat Rocks Overlook Stone Patio

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing



**Feature Name:** Stone-lined Gutters along Bluffs Lodge entry road

**Feature Contribution:** Contributing



*Fig 8-24. Close-up of Caudill Cabin Interpretive Plaque at Wildcat Rock Overlook. Facing south (2021)*



*Fig 8-25. Close-up of stone gutter along Bluffs Lodge entrance road. Heavily obscured by overgrown vegetation and accumulated debris. Facing northwest (2021)*



*Fig 8-26. Partially obscured flagstones at Wildcat Rock Overlook (2021)*



*Fig 8-27. Stone wall at Wildcat Rocks Overlook with view over Basin Creek watershed, facing south (2021)*



*Fig 8-28. Close-up of Robert L. Doughton Memorial plaque, facing southwest (2021)*



*Fig 8-29. Wood bench set into stone wall. Part of Robert L. Doughton Memorial. Facing southwest (2021)*



*Fig 8-30. Rustic-style stone drinking fountain incorporated into Robert L. Doughton Memorial wall (2021)*





*Fig 8-31. Close-up of stone steps leading to Wildcat Rocks Overlook, facing south. Routed wood trail sign in foreground (2021)*



*Fig 8-32. Wood worm fencing south of Bluffs Lodge (2021)*

## Chapter 9: Condition Assessment

### Assessment Interval:

6 years

### Condition

#### **Condition:**

Poor

#### **Condition Date:**

09/01/2022

#### **Primary Inspector Name:**

Chris Robey

#### **Profession/Credentials:**

NCPE Cultural Landscapes GIS Intern

#### **Narrative:**

Bluffs Lodge remained in operation from its opening in 1949 to 2011, when Forever Resorts, its former concessionaire, decided against renewing their contract. Although site still functions minimally as a roadside attraction, it no longer serves visitors seeking overnight lodging.

The Lodge complex today is visibly dilapidated and does not appear to have received consistent maintenance since its closing in 2011. There are numerous shattered windows, loose window screens, and loose or broken screen doors leading into the guest rooms. Out on the stone terrace connecting the two lodging units, numerous flagstones are loose or missing. Further, weeds have proliferated between the flagstones and have overtaken the outdoor fireplace as well as the adjacent stone planting bed. The stone staircases connecting the veranda to the lower levels are similarly dilapidated.

Shattered windows and broken screen doors at Bluffs Lodge suggest prior break-in attempts. These broken windows and doors have further exposed the interior of the Lodge to the elements. Weather and temperature fluctuations, along with intruding moisture, have contributed to the

spread of black mold throughout the interior of the building. Many screen doors leading into the guest rooms have also developed a visible patina of mildew.

The siding and concrete roof shingles of the Lodge are visibly weathered. Further, the blue paint around the foundation of the building has begun to peel and fall away in several places. The asphalt paths connecting the lodge complex to the parking area and Wildcat Rocks have deteriorated as well – in places, the asphalt is crumbling at the edges or has otherwise been overtaken by grass and weeds and is no longer visible.

The exterior of the pump house near Wildcat Rocks Overlook is also well-weathered. The door leading into the building is rusty, while the roof is covered by broken branches and other forest debris. Colonies of moss and lichen have established themselves on the concrete blocks that make up the building. Finally, the water storage tank at Wildcat Rocks Overlook has accumulated a good deal of graffiti, both etched and spray-painted.

## Impacts

Seq. No.	Type	Impact Type – Other	Internal Source?	External Source?	Narrative	Date Identified
xx			Yes/No	Yes/No	1000 Char.	mm/dd/yyyy
	Deferred Maintenance		Yes	Yes	Bluffs Lodge (Building # 188) has become visibly dilapidated and does not appear to have received any consistent maintenance since its closing in 2011. Since then, the exterior of the building and its surrounding grounds has visibly deteriorated. There are numerous shattered	08/06/2021

					windows, loose window screens, and loose or broken screen doors leading into the guest rooms. On the stone veranda connecting the two lodging units, numerous flagstones are loose or missing. Further, weeds have proliferated between the flagstones. Weeds have also overtaken the outdoor fireplace on the veranda as well as its adjacent stone planting bed. The stone staircases connecting the veranda to the lower levels are similarly dilapidated.	
	Exposure to Elements		Yes	Yes	The siding and concrete roof shingles of Bluffs Lodge (Building # 188) are visibly weathered. Further, the blue paint around the foundation of the building has begun to peel and fall away in several places. The asphalt paths connecting the lodge complex to the parking area and Wildcat Rocks overlook are also visibly weathered – in places, the asphalt has either completely crumbled or has been overtaken by grass and weeds.	08/06/2021
	Exposure to Elements		Yes	Yes	The exterior of the pump house near Wildcat Rocks	08/06/2021

					Overlook is visibly weathered and bears a notable patina of age. The door leading into the building is rusty, and the top is covered by broken branches and other forest debris. Colonies of moss and lichen have established themselves on the concrete blocks that make up the building.	
	Microclimate		Yes	Yes	Broken windows and doors have exposed the interior of Bluffs Lodge (Building # 188) to the elements. Weather and temperature fluctuations, along with intruding moisture, have contributed to the rampant black mold problem affecting the interior of the building. Many screen doors leading into the guest rooms have developed a visible patina of mildew.	08/06/2021
	Neglect		Yes	Yes	Evidence of neglect at Bluffs Lodge (Building # 188) coincide with the signs of deferred maintenance previously mentioned. The proliferation of weeds between flagstones, in the outdoor fireplace, and the stone planting bed, as well as the poor condition of many of the windows and doors leading into the	08/06/2021

					guest rooms, is further evidence that the building has not been maintained for quite some time.	
	Poor Security/Lighting		No	Yes	Shattered windows and broken screen doors at Bluffs Lodge (Building # 188) indicate that numerous visitors may have attempted to break into the building since its closing in 2011.	08/06/2021
	Release to Succession		Yes	Yes		09/21/2017
	Visitation		No	Yes	The water storage tank at Wildcat Rocks Overlook has been covered with graffiti, both etched and spray-painted	08/06/2021

## Chapter 10: Treatment

### Approved Treatments

Type	Completed	Approved Treatment Doc.	Doc Date	Narrative	Approved Treatment Cost	Cost Date	Estimate Level	Estimator	Cost Narrative
Rehabilitation	No	Cultural Landscape Report	07/14/2006	Pp. 149-151 of the Doughton Park and Sections 2A, B, and C Blue Ridge Parkway CLR covers specific treatment recommendations for Bluffs Lodge. The CLR is accessible at <a href="https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2185737">https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2185737</a> .	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



## Chapter 11: Bibliography and Supplemental Information

### Bibliography

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	Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc (WJE)	Appendix, Survey and Assessment, Blue Ridge Parkway	2016	Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.		Both Graphic and Narrative		2268418	<a href="https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2268418">https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2268418</a>
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		complete d 17 Dec 1938; approve d 22 Sept 1938						
		5477 "Sewage Disposal System Lodge Unit A" Approve d by Allen 18 February 1949	19 49			Grap hic		
	Abbuehl/ Skillman	3036 "Central Develop ment Plan Doughto n Park" Prepared by Abbuehl, designed by Skillman; signed by Weems 23 June 1960; approve d 31 August by Conrad Wirth	19 60			Grap hic		
	Arnfield and Brownin g	5371 "Water Distribut ion Picnic Area No. 1 - Bluff Park" Approve	19 39			Grap hic		

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	Arnfield and Brownin g	5377 "Drop Inlets – Culvert Headwal ls – Catch Basins – Bluff and Cumberl and Knob Parks" 23	19 39			Grap hic			

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	Batten	5392 “Utility Layout Lodge, Sandwich Shop & Picnic Areas – Bluff Park – Part of the Master Plan – Blue Ridge Parkway ” 1 Jan 1943, drawn by Batten	19 43			Graphic		
	BGH	2002 “Entranc e Road to Lodge & Parking Area – Bluff Park” 1 May 1937; designed by BGH;	19 38			Graphic		

		approved 10 July 1937; job completed 14 May 1938						
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	D. S.	2073 "Lodge Group" Designed by D. S. 14 February 1943; recommended by Vint 24 March 1948; approved by Demaray 24 March 1948	19 48			Graphic		
	Huddleston	2050 "Coffee Shop, Lodge & Picnic Areas – Bluff Park – Part of	19 43			Graphic		

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	Kearney	2174 B "Road System Plan - Part of the Master Plan" 18 March 1948; Designed	19 48			Graphic		

		by Kearney						
	Lewis	2386 B "Road System Plan – Part of the Master Plan" April 1952; drawn by Lewis and checked by Abbuehl	19 52			Graphic		
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	Newcom b	5480 "Water Supply – Lodge Unit A & Service Center" Designed by Newcom b 4 March 1949; approve d by Elbert	19 49			Graphic		

		Cox 16 March 1949						
	Newcom b	5481 "Water Piping Diagram - Lodge Unit 'A'" Designed by Newcom b 22 March 1949; approve d by Thomas Allen 7 April 1949	19 49			Grap hic		
	Newcom b and Batten	5473 "Roads, Walks & Parking Area, Lodge" Designed by Newcom b and Batten 30 August 1948; recomme nded by Weems 1 Septemb er 1948; approve d by Lisle 20 Septemb er 1948	19 48			Grap hic		
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		al and Economic Survey, Bulletin No. 23: Forest Conditions in Western North Carolina		Agriculture					
	Mark Carter, et al	A Geographic Adventure Along the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina: Bulletin 98	2001	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, North Carolina Geological Survey Section	Raleigh, NC	Narrative			
	Michael Ann Williams	Homeplace: The Social Use and Meaning of the Folk Dwelling in Southwestern North Carolina	1991	University of Georgia Press	University of Georgia Press	Narrative			
	Ray Shaw	11.2.2006 email to Bambi Teague	2006			Narrative			
	Richard Quin and Christop	Blue Ridge Parkway Historic	1997	US Department of the	Washington, DC	Narrative			

	her Marston	America n Engineer ing Record, HAER No. NC #42		Interio r, NPS, HABS/ HAER					
	Robert Hellman n	Archeolo gical Investiga tions Conduct ed at Blue Ridge Parkway	20 05	Southe ast Archeo logical Center	Jacksonv ille, FL	Narr ative			
	Sam Weems	Monthly Report, August 10, 1949	19 49		BLRI Archives , Superint endent's Monthly Reports, BLRI 1941- 1950, Box 2 of 2, RG-1, Series 2, Box 59	Narr ative			
	Ted Olson	Blue Ridge Folklife	19 92	Univer sity Press of Mississ ippi	Jackson, MS	Narr ative			
	US Departm ent of the Interior, NPS	CLI Coordina tor Review Report Bluffs Lodge	20 05	USDI, NPS	Washing ton, DC	Narr ative			
	William D. Thornbur y	Regional Geomorp hology of the	19 65	John Wiley & Sons	New York	Narr ative			



**Bluffs Lodge  
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		United States							
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	Vegetation										
	C. 1940s entrance plantings	Contributing	194865								
	Open pasture with scattered trees and shrubs	Contributing	194871								
	C. 1949 flowering trees and shrubs	Contributing	194872								
	C. 1949 groundcover	Non contributing	194873								
1	Specimen trees - northern red oaks, white oak, and table mountain pine	Contributing	183703								
	Circulation										
3435	Bluffs Lodge entry road (1938)	Contributing	95931								
3450	Wildcat Rocks Walkway (c. 1938)	Contributing	97243								
3460	Wildcat Rocks - Lodge Walkway and Parking Area (c. 1948 - 1952)	Contributing	95933								

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3472	Bluffs Lodge Walkways (c. 1949)	Contributi ng	95932								
	Buildings and Structures										
	Contemporary Pump House	Non contributi ng	194859								
3159	Bluffs Lodge (Building # 188) (c. 1949)	Contributi ng	95928								
3184	Wildcat Rocks Booster Pump House (c. 1952)	Contributi ng	95930								
3192	Water Storage Tank (c. 1938)	Contributi ng	95929								
	Views and Vistas										
1	Views from Wildcat Rocks	Contributi ng	183709								
2	View from Lodge terrace	Contributi ng	183711								
	Small-Scale Features										
	Robert L. Doughton Memorial	Contributi ng	194860								
	Stone Drinking Fountain	Contributi ng	194861								

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	Routed wood trail signs (in-kind replacements)	Contributing	194862								
	Wood worm fencing	Contributing	194863								
3149	Caudill Cabin Interpretive Plaque	Undetermined	97927								
3181	Wildcat Rocks Overlook Stone Wall	Contributing	97930								
3207	Wildcat Rocks Overlook Stone Patio	Contributing	97929								
3210	Stone-lined Gutters along Bluffs Lodge entry road	Contributing	97928								