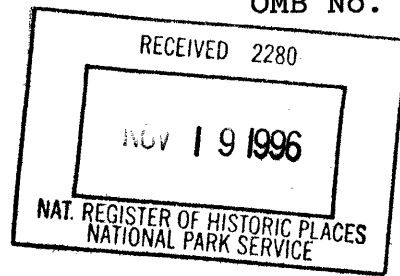


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Camp Manatoc Dining Hall_____

other name/site number: N/A_____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: Camp Manatoc, Truxell Road_____

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Peninsula_____

vicinity: X

state: OH county: Summit_____

code: 153

zip code: 44264

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: private_____

Category of Property: building_____

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Recreation/ Conservation Resources of Cuyahoga Valley

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Barbara Pave - Dept. Head - Planning, Inv. & Reg. 10-7-96
Signature of certifying official Date

Ohio Historic Preservation Office -- OH SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Kenneth J. Bower 11/18/96
Signature of commenting or other official Date

National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 1-2-97
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

for Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: Domestic_____ Sub: Camp_____

Current : Domestic_____ Sub: Camp_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century American Movements

Other Description: Other: Rustic_____

Materials: foundation Concrete__ roof Asbestos__

walls Wood_____ other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local .

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Recreation_____

Social History_____

Architecture_____

Period(s) of Significance: 1931_____ 1945_____

Significant Dates : 1931 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A_____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A_____

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

The nominated area encompasses the entire resource and surrounding area that contributes to the property's historic significance.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Jeffrey Winstel, AICP Historian for the Boy Scouts of America,
Great Trail Council, Inc.

Organization: National Park Service_____ Date: June 1995_____

Street & Number: 15610 Vaughn Road_____ Telephone: 216/526-5256_____

City or Town: Brecksville_____ State:OH_ ZIP:44141_____

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Camp Manatoc Dining Hall
Summit County, Ohio

A low horizontal building with irregular massing, the Camp Manatoc Main Dining Hall is the largest building in the camp. The building consists of kitchen facilities, upstairs cook's quarters, and a large open dining area. To the south and east of the building is a wooded area. The north and west elevations front a large open grassy meadow, which slopes down from the building.

The structure's roof is covered with asbestos shingles. The roof profile combines intersecting gables and the dining area's gable-on-hip roof. The hip portion of the gable-on-hip roof marks the location of the former screened-in porch, which is now sided. Two small gables that pierce the west slope of the hip roof provide canopies for the double door entries into the dining area. A tall brick chimney stack and two pyramid-roofed louvered ventilator copulas pierce the roof ridges.

Elements common to all the elevations include the vertical board and batten wormy chestnut siding covering the exterior walls. Knee brace brackets are located under the overhanging gable eaves. Continuous horizontal boards run above and below the paired six-light casement windows.

The north elevation of the building consists of three sections: the eave-oriented kitchen storage room, the gabled, central two-story section which contains the cook's apartment and the dish room, and the hip-on-gable section of the large dining area. The kitchen storage section contains a single entry door with a cement stoop. A wooden accessibility ramp runs perpendicular to the door. This entry is located behind an exposed flight of stairs and runs parallel to the elevation and provides access into the cook's apartment. The central section's second story apartment is cantilevered and supported by triangular knee braces. A large "Dining Hall" sign hangs underneath the two paired second story casement windows. The hip-on-gable section contains two paired casement windows centered under the gable apex and a continuous row of paired casement windows. Centrally placed double entry doors are fronted by a concrete stoop, a concrete landing platform and a run of five concrete steps. To the east of the landing platform is a concrete accessibility ramp.

The west elevation of the building is dominated by the roof slope. The wall elevation consists of a continuous band of paired casement windows separated by symmetrically placed double entry doors. The doors contain a glazed top panel over three horizontal blind panels and are flanked by single six light casement windows. Concrete steps front these two entries.

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The southern elevation consists of two sections. The dining area's south elevation mirrors the dining area's north elevation. Separate gable roofs cover the kitchen area and kitchen storage area. The storage area set back from the kitchen section. The large square brick chimney stack pierces the roof slope of the kitchen area. A cement loading dock is situated at the junction of the storage area and kitchen.

Interior spaces in the dining hall retain the rustic feel with exposed wood truss systems and wood paneling and floor boards. The storage room consists of rows of centrally placed wood shelves for equipment and supplies. The kitchen is in a large open area. Rafters and beams define the open ceiling and vertical bead and board siding with wainscoting characterizes the walls. Other features include built-in shelves, the large chimney stack with adjacent stoves and ovens, and a built-in wood refrigerator unit with eight doors. A serving counter with warmer fronts a row of overhead solid doors that separate the kitchen from the dining area.

The dish room is located north of the kitchen area and consists of a long narrow room with whitewashed woodwork. An interior stairway to the caretaker's apartment is located off the kitchen. The apartment consists of a small living area/kitchen, bedroom and bathroom.

The main dining area occupies most of the space in the building. Exposed wood rafters and beams characterize the ceiling, and tie-rods bolted to corner plates form the roof truss system for this large open area. Also suspended from the ceiling is the central chandelier, made from lanterns suspended from notched round logs. A row of bracketed square posts lines the south and west edges of the room. These vertical supports mark the former porch area, which is now completely open to the main room. A continuous band of casement windows runs along the south, north and west walls of the dining hall. These windows flip up and their bottom rails are hooked to a wood strip that runs perpendicular to the rafters. A dominant characteristic of this space is the collection of totems from the various troops associated with the camp. Symbols such as a skull and crossbones (labeled "Gizmo") and a tornado symbol with troop member names hangs from the ceilings and walls throughout the dining hall. Much of the history of the camp is most likely contained in the scout, troop, and staff names listed on these colorful symbols.

The major alterations to the Dining Hall occurred in 1939. A winterization of the building included building a solid foundation wall under the building, instead of having only the brick piers, and replacing the screened sides of the dining area

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(west and south elevations) with permanent wood and glass walls. (See illustration) The exterior stairway to the cook's apartment was added in the 1960s and in 1986 a concrete ramp was added to the south elevation landing. This ramp did not meet 1990 federal ADA standards and an additional wood ramp was added to the south elevation entrance to the kitchen area. Other alterations include widening the employee restroom entrance and stall and laying vinyl flooring on the wood flooring in a section of the dish room.

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Photographs

The following information is the same for all the photographs unless otherwise noted:

Property location: Summit County, Ohio
Photographer: Jeffrey Winstel
Negative location: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area
Date of photographs: Photographs 1-6, 2/92*
 Photographs 7-15, 8/94

1. East elevation, dining hall area, facing west
2. South elevation, dining hall and cook's apartment, facing north
3. South elevation, cook's apartment and kitchen storage area, facing north
4. West elevation, kitchen and dining hall are, facing east
5. North elevation, dining hall and kitchen area, facing southwest
6. North elevation, dining hall, facing south
7. Kitchen Storage Room interior, facing west
8. Kitchen interior, facing west
9. Kitchen ceiling, facing north
10. Dish room interior, facing east
11. Kitchen serving counter and overhead doors, facing east
12. Dining area interior, facing north
13. Dining area interior, facing south
14. Dining area interior, north and east walls, facing, southwest
15. Dining area interior detail, east wall windows, facing northwest

*Recent site inspection verifies that 1992 photographs continue to represent current conditions.

Property Owner:

Great Trail Council
Boy Scouts of America
P.O. Box 68
Akron, Ohio 44309

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The Camp Manatoc Dining Hall is being nominated under Criteria A for significance in the areas of Recreation and Social History. Built in 1931, the dining hall is the only remaining pivotal structure from the initial camp design. It has strong association with the troop-oriented recommendations of the original camping committee that decided the layout of the camp. The Rustic style building is also eligible under Criterion C for Architecture. Designed by prominent Akron architect A.H. Good, the dining hall's elements reference Swiss chalet architecture, which was a chief influence on the development of the Rustic style.

Historical Development

When Akron industrialist and Boston Township landowner Karl Butler died in 1926, he bequeathed his farm and the options on the land he acquired to the Akron Area BSA Council. His bequest was conditional in that the BSA had to raise \$100,000 in five years to purchase additional property and build a first class Boy Scout camp.¹ Shortly thereafter, a camping committee was formed. The five committee members included Dr. H. I. Cozad, president of the Akron Area Council, and H. S. Wagner, Executive Director of the Akron Metropolitan Park District. Over the next four years, using their own time and money, they visited over 30 Boy Scout Camps in the Eastern United States, studying new trends in camp design. In addition, the facilities of the National Camping Department were used extensively to truly represent the latest in camping trends.²

The 1931 Good and Wagner architectural renderings of the proposed buildings include a two-story administration building, a central kitchen and divisional dining hall, and a hospital clinic building. A 1932 promotional brochure shows the dining hall and a two-story waterfront building. The 1935 camp map depicts the dining hall, a bath house at the former Lake Marnoc, an administration building and a trading post building. The administration building and the hospital clinic have been replaced by newer buildings and the other buildings, except the Dining Hall, have been razed. The dining hall remains the only principal structure from the original camp design.

¹"Part I. Where we've been: History of the Manatoc Reservation" (Akron, Ohio: Great Trails Council, BSA, 1966), 1.

²"The Story of Camp Manatoc" (Akron, Ohio: Great Trail Council BSA, 1931).

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A 1932 promotional brochure describes the dining hall as housing the central kitchen and a divisional dining unit. Two of the troop units were to eat in this building and the porch was to accommodate 100 members of service clubs or visiting groups. Food for the entire camp was prepared in the central kitchen and the remote troop units had the food transported to them. The 1931 "New Camp Manatoc" brochure describes the building as follows:

This Central Dining Hall: A treat to see; A building with spacious floor space where 200 Scouts may be seated comfortably, and a porch on three sides, overlooking the Cuyahoga Valley. The equipment is modern and complete. The Stoves and Refrigeration, assure well cooked meals, the green stuff and dairy products always fresh. A trained dietitian and expert cook assure plenty of wholesome food to meet the needs of the growing boy. The new dish washing machine provides a most sanitary method for cleaning the dishes and will give the Scouts more time for Scoutcraft activities.³

The 1934-35 Camp Manatoc Yearbook describes the dining hall as having modern and complete equipment that assures the best meals. The Dining Hall was winterized in 1939 with the addition of a wall foundation all around the building and the replacement of the screen sides with permanent wood and glass walls.

Criterion A: Recreation and Social History

The dining hall is eligible under Criterion A for its association with significant trends in recreation and reflection of efforts to promote the welfare of society. The goals of the scouting program, since its inception, have been character development, citizenship training, and physical fitness. The activities and methods used to accomplish those goals include outdoor programs, learning Indian lore (which includes the high ideals of Native American cultures), and association with adult role models.

Scouting was seen as a means of recapturing the adventure of pioneer life that was lost to the young man in an industrialized society. References to the lore of the

³"The New Camp Manatoc" (Akron, Ohio, Great Trails Council, 1932).

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pioneer and western frontier are found in the names of summer troop season units.⁴ For example, "Indian Week" includes dressing up in breech clouts and feathers. Related activities were making bows and learning archery, and the night "Red Men" ceremonial dances.

Scouting was also perceived as an important step toward becoming a man. Promotional literature for the camp stresses the need for the camping experience to develop strength and self-reliance. Brochures for the camp that date from the World War II period stress the relationship between attending boy scout camp and wartime training.

The design of Camp Manatoc and the central function of the dining hall supported the idea of troop camping. Promotional literature stated:

The greatest values to be derived from a camping experience are those realized in the close association of the Scout and his Scout Leader.⁵

Troops typically consisted of 15-20 scouts. The camp actively encouraged Troop camping by offering training courses in Troop Camp Leadership and "Parent's Night" to "enable parents to more readily appreciate the value of this type of camping experience."⁶

Facilities such as the centralized kitchen and dining hall helped the camp maintain the type of decentralized operation that was necessary for troop camping. By having a central facility prepare food for the entire camp and even transporting the food to remote troops, the camp committee hoped to encourage troop camping by relieving the troops of this responsibility, allowing more time to be spent on other activities.

⁴Camp Manatoc Yearbook, 1934 - 1935 Season (Akron, Ohio: Great Trails Council BSA, 1934).

⁵"Summer Troop Camping Season" Camp Manatoc, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Historic Research Files, Camp Manatoc, Brecksville, Ohio.

⁶Ibid.

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The importance of Camp Manatoc to the Akron community is reflected by the amount of corporate sponsorship that went into the construction and maintenance of the facility. Firestone Corporation even sponsored a scholarship program for scouts who couldn't afford to go to camp. Fraternal organizations also constructed camp facilities, such as the Legion and Kiwanis Lodges, and many help maintain camp structures.

Criterion C:

The Camp Manatoc Dining Hall is architecturally significant as an important example of the Rustic style that not only contains the dominant features of the style, but also shows a strong stylistic influence associated with the development of rustic architecture. In addition, this building can be regarded as the precursor to the CCC structures at the Virginia Kendall State Park.

Architectural features associated with the style that are evidenced by the dining hall include the use of warm-colored native building material and its low horizontal silhouette. Other defining elements include the honesty of its construction, characterized by the board and batten siding, knee brace brackets, and exposed rafters and beams, and the horizontal bands of casement windows.

Designed by prominent Akron area architect A.H. Good, the dining hall is reputed to be one of the two largest wormy chestnut structures in the world, the other being the Happy Days Day Camp building, which was also designed by Good. The American chestnut is known for resisting most forms of decay, such as rot and fungus, and for its workability. This once abundant hardwood was wiped out by fungus imported from the Orient in the early 20th century. By the 1920s this blight was killing the chestnut trees in the Midwest. When construction began on the new camp, the valleys and ravines of the Camp Manatoc area were full of the blighted chestnut trees, waiting to be sawn into lumber. The Wormy Chestnut used to construct the buildings at Camp Manatoc is unobtainable now. The Dining Hall at Manatoc and the later CCC Happy Days Center, 1938, are reputed to be the two largest Wormy Chestnut buildings in the world.

The Akron Historic Landmark Survey describes the firm of E.D. Wagner and A.H. Good as the foremost architectural firm in Akron during the 1920s. They designed many prominent structures, such as the Municipal Building, the Art Deco YMCA, and the Portage Country Club. They also designed the residence of P.W. Litchfield, the main instigator behind the 1929 corporate fund drive for the camp.

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The firm's designs for Manatoc resulted in A. H. Good being chosen to design the CCC structures for the Akron Metropolitan Park District. In order for metropolitan park districts to qualify for CCC labor to build visitor centers, they had to produce their own construction drawings and they had to be in the Rustic style. Dr. Nick Scrattish notes in his Historic Resource Study: Cuyahoga Valley:

Director-Secretary Wagner of the AMPD was in a good position to take advantage of the Park Service's screening process for construction drawings. For some years, he had known and had come to esteem A.H. ("Ab") Good, a versatile Akron architect . . . Ab Good designed the Manatoc complex, located only several hundred yards north of the area converted to Kendall Lake. The complex itself was built in 1931-32. All of its structures are rustic.⁷

An additional aspect of the building's design is its relationship to the influences that helped define the Rustic style. In Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of The National Park Service: 1916 to 1942 Linda Flint McClelland refers to the Camp Manatoc Dining Hall as Swiss chalet inspired.⁸ The use of Swiss chalet architectural elements were popularized by the Adirondack camps in upstate New York and a 1913 publication, The Swiss Chalet Book.⁹ Characteristics of the dining hall associated with this stylistic influence include the horizontal bands of small pane windows, the gable fronts, and the cantilevered second story cook's apartment.

Historic Integrity

The Dining Hall retains a high degree of integrity of materials, design, and craftsmanship. The major alterations to the structure occurred during the period of significance. The addition of accessibility ramps does not significantly

⁷Dr. Nick Scrattish, Historic Resource Study: Cuyahoga Valley NRA (Denver: Department of the Interior, NPS, 1985), 238.

⁸Linda Flint McClelland, Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of The National Park Service: 1916 to 1942 (Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, NPS, 1993), 256.

⁹Ibid., 55.

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impact the massing and scale of the building. The building retains its original setting and location, and still functions as the main dining hall for the Boy Scout camp.

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McClelland, Linda Flint. Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of The National Park Service: 1916 to 1942 Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior NPS, 1993.

"The Story of Camp Manatoc" Akron, Ohio: Great Trails Council BSA, 1931.

Scrattish, Nick. Historic Resource Study: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. Denver: U.S. Department of the Interior NPS, 1985.

"Summer Troop Camping Season" Camp Manatoc, Historic Research Files, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Brecksville, Ohio.

CAMP MANATOC

DINING HALL

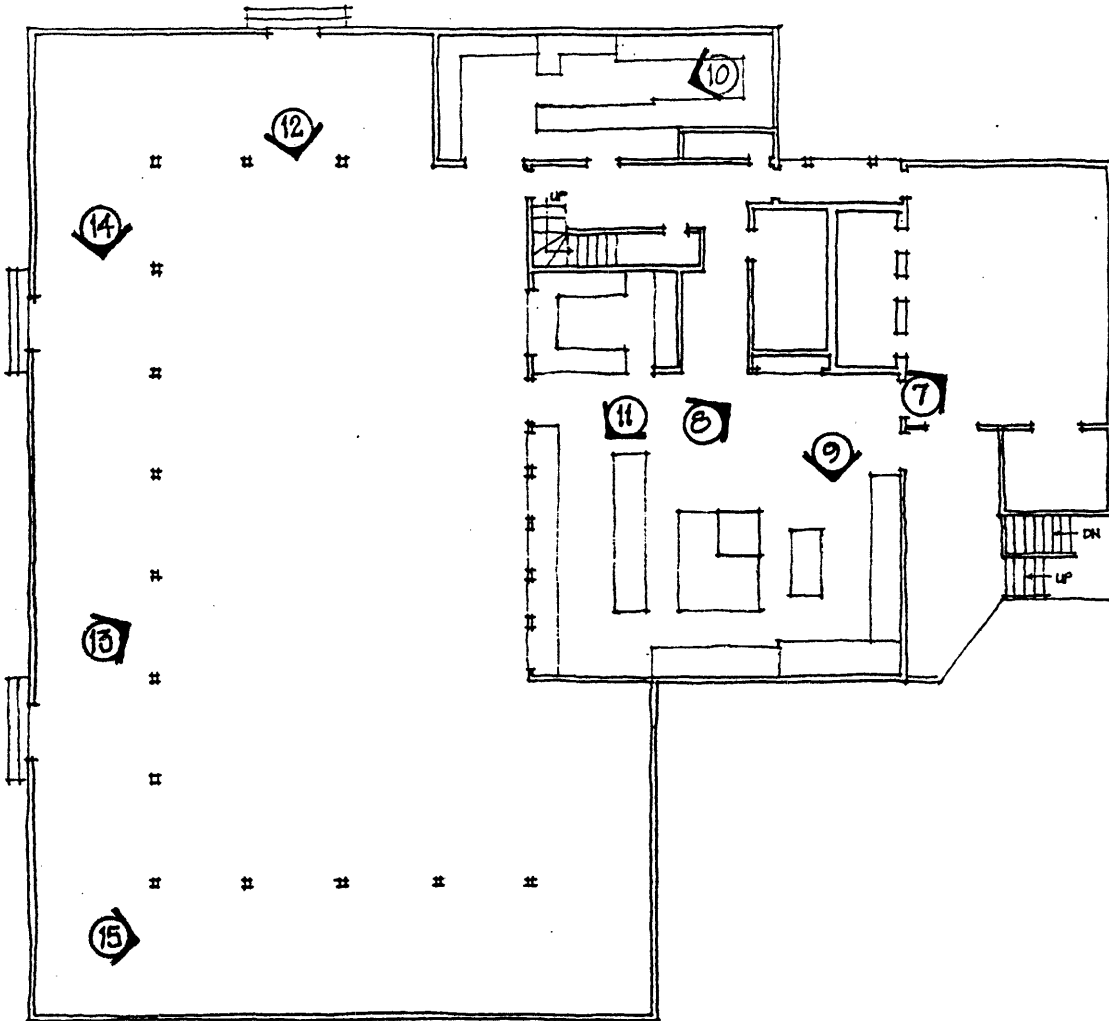
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

PHOTO MAP

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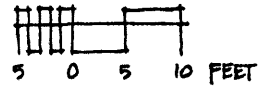
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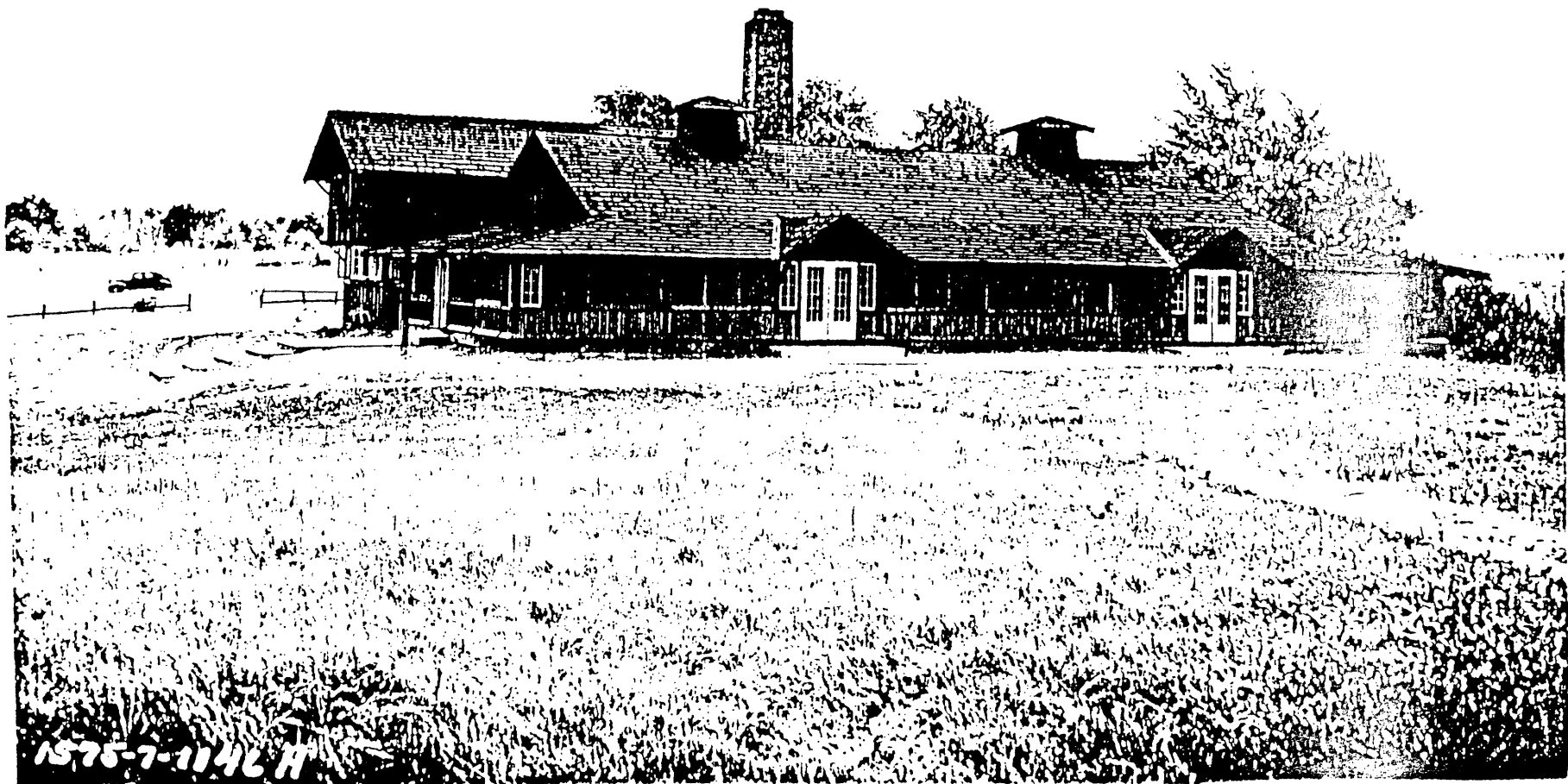


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CAMP MANATOC DINING HALL, C. 1930s
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO





DINING HALL



DINING HALL







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