

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

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Virginia Kendall State Park Historic District_____

other name/site number: Lake Shelter, Octagon Shelter, Ledges Shelter,
Ritchie Ledges, Property Tracts 119-44, HS-229-45, Happy Days Visitor
Center, Property Tract 119-53, HS-226,7.

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2. Location

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street & number: 701, 801, 1000 Truxell Road, 434 W. Streetsboro_____

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Peninsula_____

vicinity: x

state: OH county: Summit_____

code: ¹⁵³099

zip code: 44321

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public - Federal_____

Category of Property: District_____

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 13 </u>	<u> 9 </u> buildings
<u> 5 </u>	<u> 1 </u> sites
<u> 4 </u>	<u> 3 </u> structures
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 8 </u> objects
<u> 25 </u>	<u> 21 </u> Total

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

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

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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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 Lane - *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.

Richard Bowen _____ 11/18/96
Signature of commenting or other official Date

National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register _____ Patrick Adams _____ 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): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: Recreation and Culture_____ Sub: Outdoor Recreation_____

Current : Recreation and Culture_____ Sub: Outdoor Recreation_____

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Other Description: Other: Rustic_____

Materials: foundation Sandstone_ roof Wood_____
 walls Weather-__ other Concrete__
 board_____

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

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A_____

Areas of Significance: Architecture_____
 Landscape Architecture_____
 Entertainment/ Recreation_____
 Politics/ Government_____
 Social History_____

Period(s) of Significance: 1933 - 1945

Significant Dates : 1933 1936 1938

Significant Person(s): N/A_____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A_____

Architect/Builder: Harold S. Wagner
Albert H. Good

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # CNUMOH1528-31
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Metro Parks Serving Summit County Archives

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately 530 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	17	457370	4564330	B	17	457370	4563620
C	17	457210	4563620	D	17	457140	4562910

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

Beginning at Point A on the southern edge of SR 303 proceed south approximately 1625' to Point B, thence west approximately 490' to Point C, proceed south approximately 3000' across Kendall Park Road to Point D, then proceed west

Boundary Justification: _____ See continuation sheet.

The historic district boundaries are roughly consistent with the park boundaries for the Virginia Kendall State Park as drawn on the 1939 Virginia Kendall Master

Plan. The CCC quarry is a discontinuous element because the intervening space between the boundaries of the master site plan and the quarry is not related to the CCC development of the park nor was it part of the designated recreational area during the period of significance. The Ski Hills off Quick Road were not a part of the 1939 design but were used for recreational purposes associated with Virginia Kendall during the period of significance.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Jeffrey Winstel, AICP____Historian_____

Organization: National Park Service_____ Date: June 1995_____

Street & Number: 15610 Vaughn Road_____ Telephone: (216) 526-5256__

City or Town: Brecksville_____ State: OH ZIP: 44114_____

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The nominated area consists of approximately 530 acres of designed landscape that incorporate the sandstone Ritchie Ledges in Boston Township, Summit County. The area is located south of State Route 303 and north of Quick Road. It is separated by the east-west Truxell Road/ Kendall Park Road. The gently rolling topography is located above the Cuyahoga River valley walls. The four major areas of the district are anchored by the Ledges, Octagon, and Lake Shelters and the Happy Days Day Camp (now Happy Days Visitor Center). The shelter areas are accessed from Truxell Road, which becomes Kendall Park Road. The Octagon and Ledges Shelter areas are located north of Truxell Road/ Kendall Park Road and the Kendall Lake Shelter area is located south of Kendall Park Road and north of Quick Road. The Happy Days Day Camp is located on the south side of S.R. 303. A semi-elliptical shaped run of sandstone ledges is located to the west and north of the Ledges Shelter area, separating it from the Happy Days Visitor Center to the north and the Octagon Shelter to the west.

The land surrounding the shelters includes wooded areas, open meadows, (or "playsteads"), landscaped drives and parking areas, stone guardrails, and a network of curvilinear trails that follow the "natural" terrain. Built features consist of 22 buildings and 18 structures. Each of the principal areas in the district (Happy Days Visitor Center, Octagon Shelter, Ledges Shelter, and the Kendall Lake Shelter) will be described under separate subheadings. This breakdown is consistent with the 1939 Virginia Kendall State Park Master Plan, which includes a site plan for the entire development on a mapping scale, and these separate sections drawn at a design development scale. Excluded from the development site plan are the Kendall Hills. Although this area was not officially a part of the state park, it was used for recreational purposes associated with Virginia Kendall and is considered part of the district. Because it is adjacent to the Lake and Bath House, it will be described in the Lake Shelter section.

The entire nominated area is a highly manipulated landscape, and is considered one contributing site. The 1935 Master Plan depicts a foot trail network designed to flow from one development area to another; triangles of curving arcs connect the different areas rather than angled intersections. This curvilinear quality of the trail network along with the repetition of a kidney-shaped trail pattern that mimics the shape of the ledge outcropping provides a strong sense of design cohesion to the Virginia Kendall landscape. The siting of the principal shelter developments (Ledges, Octagon and Lake) reflect a level of subservience to the larger landscape patterns in the way they seem anchored by the trail network and the large open playsteads. For purposes of organization, more detailed site

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features will be described under the development area subheadings. These features should be considered elements of one contributing resource rather than individual sites.¹

One area within the Master Plan boundary is considered a noncontributing site. The Virginia Kendall Maintenance yard is located approximately where the CCC nursery was -- immediately west of the Octagon access drive on the south side of Kendall Park Road. The yard, which contains gravel access drives and several outdoor storage areas, is masked from the road and surrounding areas by trees.

Happy Days Visitor Center Area

The northern edge of this area is defined by State Route 303. Facing the road, yet concealed behind a growth of trees, is the Day Camp building. This structure is surrounded by an open play field to the north and west, and has a parking area to the rear which is connected to the road by a drive lined with stone block guard rails immediately east of the building. East of the driveway is a Civil War era cemetery. The 1939 "Virginia Kendall State Park Master Plan" shows a circular

¹It should be noted that all the drives and parking areas in the Virginia Kendall State Park were modified in 1979. Many of the trails were modified during the 1960s Akron Metropolitan Park improvements. These modifications do not, however, impact the overall historic integrity of the master site plan design for the park. They are not counted individually as per "Rules for Counting Resource" *Bulletin 16A*, page 17, "Do not count landscape features, such as fences and paths, separately from the site of which they are a part unless they are particularly important or large in size and scale, such as a statue by a well-known sculptor or an extensive system of irrigation ditches." The significance of the trails, parking spaces, and access roads is found in the way these features collectively form a significant designed landscape. For additional discussion see Carr, Ethan. "National Historic Landmark Theme Study on National Park Service Landscape Architecture, 1917-1941: Discussion Paper #1: The Role of the Historical Context in the NHL Theme Study of Park Service Landscape Architecture." Paper presented at the "Landscape Universe" preservation conference at Wave Hill, New York, April 23, 1993.

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turn-around in what is now the parking area. The parking areas and walkways were modified to their current configuration in 1979. Behind the parking area is a shed and further down the hillside is a pump house. Haskell Run cuts through the area in an east-west direction. The 1935 Master Site plan identifies foot trails connecting the west end of the open play field to the rock ledge. More contemporary trails lead from the east side of the parking lot to the ledges. The area is very hilly and wooded. A cultural landscape inventory of the area identified only occasional cultivated species, which suggested that the area is less highly planted than other Virginia Kendall areas.

Significant site features identified in the Happy Days area include several cultivated species, the playfield, driveway, and foot trails that date from the 1935 Master Plan. A 1994 Cultural Landscape Inventory identified the following intentionally planted species in the area: barberry, crab apple, dogwood, honeysuckle vine and *Ajuga*. In addition, the inventory lists various *Viburnum* shrubs and a periwinkle ground cover. The playfield is located west of the visitors center and slopes down to the northwest. According to the 1939 master plan, the playfield is approximately 640' in length and 250' wide. Except for the east edge, which abuts the driveway, the play field is surrounded by trees, as it is depicted on the 1939 plan. The entrance drive has a low slope retaining wall and some ornamentals planted along the adjacent east slope. Currently there are two sets of trails that connect the visitor center to the ledges. The trail that leads from the playfield west of the visitor center to the ledges is the one depicted on the CCC Master Plan. The foot trail around the bottom of the ledges also dates from the period of significance.

Happy Days Day Camp: (Contributing) HS-226

The 11-room Happy Days Day Camp was constructed in 1938. The building is fronted by an open lawn and sits on the crest of a slight hill. The parking turn-around area and paved terrace fronting the building's north elevation that are depicted in the 1938 layout plan are not evidenced. The flag pole is not depicted on any of the site plans from the period of significance and was probably added later, during the 1979 site improvements.

This wormy chestnut Rustic style building has a low profile and horizontal massing. The building is made up of three primary sections: the dormitory (or great hall), the kitchen and lobby area, and the screened-in dining porch which is attached to the north facade. A partial second story contains office space originally used by the camp supervisors -- one of the offices has an interior

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window that looks out over the dormitory area. A concrete foundation supports the building and the walls are covered with board and batten vertical siding. Some gable areas of exterior walls are marked stringcourses and vertical boards with scalloped ends. Clerestory walls with double four-light casement windows run the length of the great room, which comprises the western section of the building. Other windows in the building are six or eight light double or triple casements. Both single and double doors are found in the structure. The south elevation of the great room section contains a large field stone chimney. The roof's large overhanging eaves are supported by triangular knee braces. The intersecting gable roof has a low profile and is covered with wood shingles.

Interior features include flag stone flooring, made from local sandstone, wormy chestnut walls, and exposed king-post rafters in the great room (former dormitory space). A fireplace alcove protrudes from the north wall of the great room. Alterations to the interior have included the installation of a reception counter in the lobby, a rear screen projection booth and stage added at the west end of the great room, and lighting, sound, electrical, and HVAC systems upgrade.

Haskell Run Bulletin Board: (Noncontributing)

The free-standing bulletin board object is covered by a small hip roof and is framed by squared timbers. This structure was built in 1984.

Utility Building: (Noncontributing) HS-227

This small rectangular building is located southeast of the Happy Days Visitor Center. The foundation is concrete and the walls are clad with wood board and batten siding stained dark brown. The vertical boards on the gable ends have scalloped ends. One door is located on the west elevation. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles. The deteriorated asphalt shingles were replaced in 1991. A former CCC foreman stated that this structure was not a part of the relief projects and the building does not appear on a 1939 Master Sites Plan for Virginia Kendall.

002
Mater Delerosa Cemetery Fence (Contributing)

A small run of fence, consisting of sandstone posts and wood rails, is located behind the mid-19th century cemetery located immediately east of the visitor center drive. Several of the wood rails are now missing. This fence was constructed in 1935 as part of the CCC park improvements.

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Pump House: (Contributing) HS-227

This small rectangular building is located along Haskell Run Trail, southeast of the visitor center. The pump house has a concrete foundation, board and batten walls, with scalloped ends in the gable ends, and asphalt shingles covering the gable roof. The door is located on the southeast elevation. The pump house is depicted on the 1939 "Virginia Kendall State Park, Master Plan".

Ledges Area

The ledges area is defined by the kidney-shaped sandstone outcropping and is located south of the Happy Days Visitor Center area and north of Kendall Park Road. The area described in this section is bounded by the northern edges of the ledges, the eastern edge of the octagon driveway and parking area, the northern edge of Kendall Park Road and the eastern edge of the Ledges Shelter drive. Foot trails run along the bottom of the ledges, which contain a stairway to the north and an overlook to the south. The trails connect to the Upper Playstead area, which is surrounded by a picnic area to the west and two sets of toilets, one north and the other south. The Ledges Shelter is located east of the playstead and is flanked by two parking areas and is accessed by a drive connected to Kendall Park Road. Sandstone blocks line the edges of both parking areas.

Noteworthy site elements in this area include the foot trails network, the open playstead area, a designated picnic area and several cultivars. The foot trails in this area, as indicated on the master plans, outline the meadow area, run along the bottom of the ledges, and southeast to northwest, thereby connecting the ledges to the Octagon area. The foot trail that outlines the playstead area is now a compacted gravel access drive for maintenance vehicles. The two concrete aggregate formed benches most likely date from the 1960s and because they are not substantial in size or scale were not included in the resource count. The gravel driveway continues past the north parking area and leads to the foundation and retaining wall of a former stone house. The house was originally to be a museum, but this plan never materialized. The foundation wall and retaining wall of the stone house are still evident. Past the foundation, the gravel drive becomes a dirt foot trail that leads to the Ledges stairs. The foot trail along the bottom of the ledges is intact, but the trail from the ledges area to the Octagon area is no longer evident.

The playstead area still maintains its original form, except for the island of Sassafras trees in the center and small stand of new growth that juts out from the

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northern edge. Picnic tables can still be found in the designated picnic area between the west edge of the Upper Playstead and the rock ledge. The driveway no longer curves in the beginning but now runs straight. Modifications to the drive and parking areas were made in 1979. This new section no longer has the sandstone block guard rail.

Planted vegetation in this area identified during the cultural landscape inventory include several rows of White Oaks that surround the parking areas and the drive. Red and White Oaks are located around the shelter, along with Sassafras, honeysuckle vines and *Viburnum* shrubs. An island of Sassafras trees is located in the middle of the playstead, which does not appear on either the 1935 or '39 plans. The wooded area between the Octagon drive and the ledges contains planted woods in the southern half and mature woods in the northern portion.

Ledges Steps: (Contributing)

A stairway is cut into the sandstone ledges on the trail that runs along the bottom of the rock formation. A semicircular landing is located on the bottom. Three tiered railings with abutment walls flank the bottom landing. The stairs, which have six total landings, curve down to the bottom of the outcropping. Approximately 50 steps comprise this feature. Sandstone for the steps was originally quarried from the Deep Lock Quarry in Peninsula. An additional quarry was cut into the east face of the ledges to produce a closer supply of stone for the steps. This small quarry, which looks like a stage cut into the geologic feature, is outside the nominated area as it was not a part of the master plan design and was not on park owned land.

Ledges North Women's Toilet: (Contributing) HS-231

The L-shaped toilet is located in a stand of trees that serve as the north border for the Upper Playstead. Concrete footings and floor make up the foundation. The walls are constructed of chestnut board and batten siding and contain 11 louvered vent openings, which have been screened, and two door openings. The wood louvers were installed over the screened window opening in 1980. This is true for all the toilets in the Virginia Kendall State Park. Triangular knee braces and exposed rafters with tapered ends mark the roofline. The intersecting gable roof is covered with wood shingles and has two monitors, also with louvered vents, which rest on the roof ridge. The interior consists of 3 rooms and is divided by two frame partitions.

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Ledges North Men's Toilet: (Contributing) HS-230

Located immediately west of the north women's toilet, the men's toilet is identical to the women's toilet, except for the interior plan and fixtures.

Ledges Shelter: (Contributing) HS-229

This one and one-half to two story structure is located on the eastern side of the Upper Playstead in between two parking areas. The northern parking area is labeled as the "Park-Overflow" on the 1939 Master Plan. These original parking areas, along with the entrance drive, are surrounded by sandstone blocks set on end and appear to be spaced 8-15' apart. These stones serve as the guard rails. The northern parking space is somewhat overgrown now and the southern parking area is divided into lanes by modern landscaping. The landscaping islands that separate the parking areas from the drive are evident on the 1939 master plan. Flagstone and asphalt walkways lead from the parking areas to the shelter structure.

The cruciform plan structure is divided into three principle sections: the caretakers dwelling, the central shelter section, and the open pavilion section. The roof line includes two intersecting gables, one marking the caretaker's cottage portion and the other located in the central shelter section. The building has a concrete foundation, random ashlar sandstone or vertical board and batten walls. Original door hardware is evident and the grouped casement windows contain eight, six and four lights.

The two story caretaker residence on the north side has a gable roof, board and batten siding with scalloped vertical boards on the dormer wall at the gable ends. Triangular knee braces are located under the eaves. A sandstone chimney is located on the south slope of the intersecting gable roof. A three room basement is below this section. The ground floor plan consists of two restrooms located in the northern end, followed by the stairwell and central room with a fireplace and the end room which contains a serving counter.

The central portion of the shelter also has triangular knee braces, is constructed of random ashlar sandstone with large stone lintels over the grouped casement window and has chimneys centered on the gable ends. Copper flashing protects all three chimney stacks. Inside the central portion, the fireplaces have segmental arch openings with keystones and stepped voussoirs. The braced king post truss system is exposed and three sets of double doors on the north and south walls lead

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into the caretaker's residence on the north end. The doors are twelve light and have retained the original hardware. Flagstone flooring covers the central shelter area and continues to the outside pavilion area.

The exposed truss system continues outside to the pavilion area. The four rows of seven chamfered posts rest on a raised foundation carved out of flagstone. This raised section functions like a plinth stone for the posts. Scalloped edge vertical board covers the gable ends.

Ledges Shelter Bulletin Board, South Parking Area: (Noncontributing)

Designed to be compatible with the rustic style architecture, this 1984 timber framed structure contains a double-sided bulletin board and is covered with a hip roof.

Ledges Shelter Bulletin Board, Walkway: (Noncontributing)

Although this structure is smaller than the other bulletin boards in the district, it is also compatible with the Rustic style.

Ledges South Women's Toilet: (Contributing) HS-233

The toilet is located south of the Upper Playstead area in a stand of trees. It is the same as the North Women's Toilet.

Ledges South Men's Toilet: (Contributing) HS-232

Identical to the North Men's Toilet, this structure is located adjacent to the South Women's Toilet and approximately 30' feet south of the playstead area.

Ledges Overlook: (Contributing)

Located approximately 600' southwest of the playstead, this rock outcropping creates a clearing in the trees atop the ledges that provides a magnificent vista that extends almost 5 miles. The site is indicated on the 1939 master plan by council ring symbol which is labeled "Over-look". It is not clear whether or not the council ring was ever installed. The plan also shows the area between the overlook and the playstead to be cleared.

Ledges Quarry: (Contributing)

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Although the 30' x 8' sandstone quarry is located in a part of the ledges that is outside the CCC state park master plan, it was established by the CCC to mine stone for construction of the Ledges Stairs. The quarry resembles a small stage cut into the ledges.

Octagon Shelter Area

This large rectangular area is located directly west of the ledges area. The eastern boundary is the Octagon drive and the eastern edge of the Octagon Parking area. Boundaries to the north and west are the same as the northern and western boundaries for Cuyahoga Valley NRA property tract 119-53. The southern boundary for this area is Kendall Park Road. Ritchie Run flows through the northern section and the topography is mostly rolling hills with some steep ravines. An open area identified as the Group Picnic Ground is adjacent to the Octagon Shelter and surrounded by woods. The area is accessed by the drive leading from the Kendall Park Road.

Significant site elements included in the Octagon area include the driveway and parking area, the open lawn around the shelter, ornamentals planted in the understory, the timber line delineating the West Playstead, and the trail network. The entrance drive contains a new non-compatible culvert just north of the entrance. The stones are missing around the culvert. The parking area retains the same overall size and shape evidenced in the master plans. A wooded island separates the drive from the parking area and both the island and the parking area are surrounded by the sandstone block guard rail. The terracing of the parking area and the planted islands that separate the levels are not evidenced on the federal relief project master plans. These modifications, along with the drive re-alignment, were made in 1979.

The trailhead in the southeast corner of the parking area is also a later addition to the landscape, along with the trailhead bulletin board. Ornamentals planted in the understory of the adjacent woods include red stem dogwoods and *Viburnum* shrubs south and east of the lot and barberry and *Euonymus* shrubs, dogwood, crabapple, Scotch pine, red pine, *Arborvitae*, and sugar maples north of the parking area. The Octagon Shelter's gravel patio areas and surrounding ornamental plantings are not depicted on the 1939 site plan, nor the 1979 site plan. They are depicted on a 1982 site plan, suggesting these improvements were made between 1979 and 1982.

The Public Picnic Grounds area remains an open meadow, but the West Playstead area

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now contains planted timber, such as Scotch Pine, Red Pine, and Poplar. The edges of the playstead are evidenced by the obvious change in timber species and size. New cultivars are also apparent along the north of Kendall Park Road and west of the entrance drive.

A comparison of the 1935 Master Plan, a 1961 Akron Metro Park District plan and the current CVNRA map and guide reveal that the trails are, for the most part, in the same location in this area. The exceptions to this would be the section of the trail in the southwest corner. Rather than arcing in a southwesterly concave direction, this segment now turns east and then south, approximately following old timberline, or the original outline of the West Playstead. In addition, the trail extending from the southwest corner of the playstead to Kendall Lake is no longer evident. Although the remaining trails are in the same approximate location, the graceful, curvilinear, naturalistic line of the foot trails that is clearly one of the characteristics of the 1935 plan is not as apparent in the later site plans.

Octagon Shelter (Contributing) HS-234

The shelter is located on level ground but appears to be set into the landscape when viewed from the opposite side of the Grouped Picnic Area. Surrounding the building are sections of ornamental plantings and three gravel patio areas that were added later.

Two rectangular wings flank this eight-sided picnic shelter with a partial basement. The sides of the octagon are approximately 17' wide and each wing measures 17'x 26'-6" in plan. A total of eight rooms are in the building. The octagonal shelter area has a timber framed truss system supporting a conical roof. Three sets of purlins support twenty-four rafters below and five above (except fireplace walls); the end rafters are doubled. The octagonal central post, approximately 18" in diameter, has eight radiating braces which are pegged to the bottom rafters. The post has a simple capital and base is surrounded by an eight sided bench.

There are two sandstone fireplaces, similar to those at the Ledges Shelter. Twelve light fixed windows flank the fireplaces. Four sides of the octagon are open to the surrounding playstead. Wood corbels support large rafters, with a stone one centered above the fireplace. The octagonal cupola has louvered vents and is topped by a squirrel weathervane on an eight sided tapered base. The squirrel weathervane was reconstructed in 1982, replacing the original.

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The appendages have gable-on-hip roof with small louvered vents in the gable openings. Horizontal shiplap siding covers the walls of the wings. The windows are grouped, six light windows or single six-light fixed windows. The walls are vertical board and batten stained dark brown. The structure has a concrete foundation. Structural alterations are limited to the addition of two interior walls in the south appendage.

Octagon Shelter Bulletin Board: (Noncontributing)

This information board is similar to the other two located at the Ledges and Happy Days Day Camp building. It was also built in 1984.

Octagon Trailhead Bulletin Board: (Noncontributing)

Located in the southeast corner of the trailhead, this contemporary but compatible object fits the standard design model for the district.

Octagon Women's Toilet: (Contributing) HS-236

Located immediately south of the foot tail that surrounds the Octagon shelter Group Picnic Ground, the women's toilet is located east of the men's toilet. The structure is the same as the toilets at Ledges and Lake Shelter areas.

Octagon Men's Toilet: (Contributing) HS-235

The men's toilet for the Octagon Shelter area is located west of the women's toilet in the stand of trees that surrounds the Group Picnic Ground. It is the same as all the other Virginia Kendall State Park CCC built toilets.

Kendall Lake Area

The Kendall Lake area is defined as the Virginia Kendall State Park CCC improvements located south of the Kendall Park Road. The majority of this area lies southwest of the Octagon area, but also includes a narrow east-west segment located south of the Octagon and Ledges areas. The area also contains the modern intrusion of the Virginia Kendall Maintenance yard, which contains five buildings and two sheds (structures) of recent construction. The buildings are counted as noncontributing but the site itself is not because it is a part of one continuous unit. Two "Entrance Portal Markers" are located along the southern edge of Kendall Park Road, one west of Kendall Lake and the other east of the Ledges

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entrance drive. The focus of the Kendall Lake development is the lake and bath house. Additional elements surrounding this man-made body of water include toilets, a dam, parking area and remains of toboggan chutes. Near the bath house and alongside the trail leading to the toboggan chutes are the stone foundation remnants of a building. There are no structures indicated in these locations on the 1930s CCC master site maps, nor the 1960s Akron Metro Park site maps. These foundations are not included in the resource count.

Site elements in the area include the parking area, foot trails, several plantings of cultivars, and most importantly, the layout of the park improvements. Sandstone block guard rails and planted trees and shrubs line the parking area and entrance drive. The top planted dividers of the parking area are historic and clearly evident on the 1939 master plan. The four square box plantings are later additions. The section of shrubs and trees between the lake and road is open on the both master site plans from the 1930s, providing a view of the bath house from the road. It is not clear if the hill that is now in this area existed at that time. Planted vegetation identified in the Cultural Landscape Inventory included: lilac, honeysuckle and *Viburnum* shrubs, dogwood, crabapple, hawthorn, Amur maple (*Acer ginnala*), Scotch pine, white pine and red pine trees.

The foot trail around the lake is still in the same approximate location, but some alterations have occurred. The trail follows the 1939 master plan alignment which shows it going over the dam. In addition, stairs were added to a segment north of the lake along a steep slope.

The Kendall Hills, located south and west of Kendall Lake, are rolling hills covered with mown grass. A narrow stand of trees separates the lake from the bottom of the hills and a stand of planted evergreens forms the western border of the hills.

Entrance Portal Sign, West: (Contributing)

This is one of two of the five signs lining the Truxell/ Kendall Park Road that was constructed by the CCC. The sign is located approximately 5 feet from the road, west of the Kendall Lake entrance drive. A stepped base and square pillar, approximately four feet high is constructed of random ashlar sandstone. The crook of the L formed by the base and pillar contains the sign, which is framed by squared timbers mortised at the corners. The identification panel has been replaced or altered, as evidenced by the NPS logo.

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Virginia Kendall Lake Sign: (Noncontributing)

This sign is located immediately opposite the entrance drive to the lake. Although it is constructed of dark brown wood timbers and is consistent with the scale, massing, and materials of the CCC signs, it was not built during the period of significance.

Octagon Shelter Sign: (Noncontributing)

Located on the south side of Kendall Park Road, immediately across from the Octagon Shelter drive, this sign is of recent construction and is considered noncontributing. Like the Virginia Kendall Lake sign, it is compatible with the historic CCC signs.

Ledges Shelter Sign: (Noncontributing)

This identifying sign is located immediately across from the Ledges Shelter access drive along the south side of Kendall Park Road, is of recent construction and is considered noncontributing. It also is compatible with the historic signs.

Entrance Portal Sign, East: (Contributing)

This CCC built sign is located east of the Ledges Shelter entrance drive, approximately 5 feet from the southern edge of Kendall Park Road, and constructed of random ashlar sandstone and wood. A stepped base and square pillar, approximately 4 feet high, comprise the stonework. The sign is set in the crook of the L and framed by mortised wood timbers. The identification panel has been altered as evidenced by the NPS arrowhead logo.

Kendall Lake Bridge: (Contributing) HS-240

The bridge crosses a small stream that runs under the entrance drive to the parking area. The bridge is approximately 22' long and 24' wide and has sandstone abutment walls with flared ends measuring 6' high and 8'4" long. The gravel roadbed rests on a concrete deck and timber railings with sandstone piers are located at each end.

Virginia Kendall Equipment Building: (Noncontributing) BLDG. 1138

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This Virginia Kendall Maintenance Yard building is a long, one-story rectangular metal pole-barn type structure. It is located west of the entrance drive.

Virginia Kendall Maintenance Garage: (Noncontributing) BLDG. 1242

The maintenance garage is located east of the entrance drive and is similar in massing and materials to the equipment building.

Virginia Kendall Carpenter Shop: (Noncontributing) BLDG. 1240

This one-story gable roofed pole-barn type structure has a shed-roofed open storage addition for cut timber on the east elevation.

Virginia Kendall Maintenance Office: (Noncontributing) BLDG. 1241

Similar to other buildings in the yard, the office building is a green metal, one-story, gable-roofed long rectangular pole-barn type structure.

Virginia Kendall Flammable Storage Building: (Noncontributing) BLDG. 2002

Located west of the Carpenter Shop, this metal rectangular plan building is approximately 300 feet square and is 1 story in height with a gable roof.

Virginia Kendall Lumber Storage Shed: (Noncontributing)

This large wood shed-roofed structure is located on the east side of the yard and has a completely open south elevation, providing for truck access.

Virginia Kendall Gravel Storage Shed: (Noncontributing)

Also located on the east side of the yard, the wood gravel storage structure has a shed roof and is completely open on the south elevation.

Kendall Lake Guard House: (Noncontributing) HS-239

This one-room, one-story frame building is located at the point where the entrance drive meets the parking area. The walls are vertical board and batten siding and contain one door and three window openings. The building is capped by a gable roof. This structure was not built by the CCC and dates from outside the period of significance.

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Kendall Lake Shelter Bulletin Board: (Noncontributing)

Constructed in 1984 and built from the same design as the other bulletin boards, this object is considered noncontributing.

Kendall Lake Bath House: (Contributing) HS-237

This symmetrically massed building is located on a stretch of sloping open lawn in front of a wooded hillside. The 2-story shelter faces the Virginia Kendall Lake and pier. The building contains 7 rooms with flagstone and concrete floors and measures approximately 60'x 30'. The majority of the exterior wall area is covered with random ashlar sandstone, but the gable ends are vertical board and batten siding with scalloped ends.

The three-bay first floor is constructed of random ashlar with a central segmental arch with radiating voussiors that are flanked by two rectangular entryways capped by large lintels. On the bottom floor, there is an open area with a fireplace and a segmental arch with a keystone. The lower level was used to rent rowboats, fishing rods, and during the winter, toboggans for use on the nearby chutes. This area behind the fireplace has been recently altered to house year-round restroom facilities.

The second floor has vertical board and batten siding with braced posts that separate the bays. This level includes the overlook and was originally used for clothing check room and two large open changing areas, one for men and one for women. In 1982 this area was winterized by installing removable winter panels.

The shelter has a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles and a chimney stack pierces the roof ridge. Behind the chimney stack are a series of contemporary skylights. The front pavilion has a total of five triangular knee braces and an octagonal window in the apex of the front gable wall.

Kendall Lake Women's Toilet: (Contributing) HS-244

The toilet is located northeast of the shelter and is set at the beginning of the wooded hillside. The structure is the same as the other Virginia Kendall toilets, as described above, found in the Ledges and Octagon areas. Alterations to the structure were done in 1992 to make the toilet handicap accessible. This work included widening a stall and the entry door.

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Kendall Lake Men's Toilet: (Contributing) HS-243

The men's toilet is located south of the shelter and mirrors the location of the women's toilet. It is the same structure as the other Virginia Kendall toilets. The minor alterations, similar to those done on the women's toilet, were done to the structure to make it handicap accessible.

Kendall Lake and Dam: (Contributing) HS-245

The Kendall Lake was created by impounding the Salt Run Creek. This horseshoe shaped lake originally had a 17 acre surface area. A 500 foot dam was built across Salt Run and is of earthen construction with a concrete core wall. In 1939 an additional area of the lake was added -- an inlet along the south shore to increase the overrun for the reconstructed toboggan chutes. By 1980, sedimentation had reduced the surface area to only 13 acres. That year, a rupture in the dam's 60 foot culvert caused the lake to drain. A 1980 park service news release states that part of the lake was to be dredged back to its original depths of 1934 and another section is to be left as a marsh for ecological study. The lake currently has a surface area of approximately 12 acres. The 1930s master plans indicate a beach area along the east shore of the lake, which is also seen in an historic post card. The shores in this area are now grass lawn.

Kendall Lake Fishing Pier: (Contributing) HS-238

Extending out from the east bank of the lake, directly across from the shelter, is a fishing pier that measures approximately 100' x 40'. Wooden posts and a wood boardwalk run around the perimeter of the pier. The pier originally had 20 posts on each side, but now the long sides of the pier have only 8 posts. The wooden portion of pier is a boardwalk that runs around the perimeter of the grass covered peninsula that juts out into the lake. Flared concrete abutment walls with sandstone caps extend out from the shores.

Kendall Lake Toboggan Run Ruin: (Contributing) HS-241

Although the chutes are no longer extant, structural evidence of the toboggan run is still apparent on the hillside south of the shelter. Wood members that resemble railroad ties are arranged perpendicular to the fall line at the bottom of the hill. At the top of the hill there is a concrete base and platform with reinforcement bars and attached strap hinges.

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The original chutes, constructed in 1936, faced a westerly direction and were located approximately 100' yards east of the shelter. This run only had a 600' extension and had to be dismantled every season. It was decided to construct new chutes in 1939. The new chutes had an overrun of 1600'.

The chutes were approximately 420' long and were located in a 25' wide clearing on the hillside which extended down to Kendall Lake. At the top of the hill is a 25' x 13' wood platform with two wood starting gates. The chutes, platform and starting gates were removed in 1991 due to continued visitor safety problems.

Kendall Lake Toboggan Run Tunnel: (Contributing) HS-242

The concrete pedestrian tunnel was constructed underneath the toboggan run hill in 1939, as part of the toboggan reconstruction. The tunnel is constructed of 8" thick reinforced concrete and is 6'x 8'x 68 1/2' long. The tunnel allowed visitors to hike the foot trail without having to cross the toboggan slide.

Kendall Hills First Aid Shelter: (Noncontributing)

This one story building has an intersecting gable roof and T-plan. The building is located at the top of the hills and is currently under construction.

Kendall Hills Shed: (Noncontributing)

A modern small, wood frame structure, is one-story in height. The shed is located adjacent to the First Aid Shelter.

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Contributing

Noncontributing

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Virginia Kendall State Park (site) | |
| 2. Happy Days Day Camp (bldg.) | |
| 4. Mater Delarosa Fence (struct.) | |
| 6. Happy Days Pump House (bldg.) | |
| 7. Ledges Steps (site) | |
| 8. Ledges North Women's Toilet (bldg.) | |
| 9. Ledges North Men's Toilet (bldg.) | |
| 10. Ledges Shelter (bldg.) | |
| | 3. Happy Days Visitor Center
Bulletin Board (object) |
| | 5. Happy Days Utility Building
(bldg.) |
| | 11. Ledges Parking Area Bulletin
Board (object) |
| | 12. Ledges Shelter Walkway Bulletin
Board (object) |
| 13. Ledges South Women's Toilet (bldg.) | |
| 14. Ledges South Men's Toilet (bldg.) | |
| 15. Ledges Overlook (site) | |
| 16. Ledges Quarry (site) | |
| 17. Octagon Shelter (bldg.) | |
| | 18. Octagon Shelter Bulletin Board
(object) |
| | 19. Octagon Shelter Trailhead
Bulletin Board (object) |
| 20. Octagon Women's Toilet (bldg.) | |
| 21. Octagon Men's Toilet (bldg.) | |
| 22. Entrance Portal Sign, West (object) | |
| | 23. Virginia Kendall Lake Sign
(object) |
| | 24. Octagon Shelter Sign (object) |
| | 25. Ledges Shelter Sign (object) |
| 26. Entrance Portal Sign, East (object) | |

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Photographs

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

Name of Photographer: Jeff Winstel

Date of Photograph: 11/92*, 9/94

Location of original negative: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area

1. Happy Days Day Camp area, facing southwest
2. Happy Days Day Camp Play Field, facing northwest
3. Happy Days Day Camp Entrance Drive and Ornamental trees, facing southeast
4. Happy Days Day Camp, north elevation, facing southwest
5. Happy Days Day Camp, south elevation, facing northwest
6. Happy Days Visitor Center Bulletin Board, facing southeast
7. Happy Days Utility Building, facing southeast
8. Mater Delarosa Fence, facing northwest
9. Happy Days Pump House, facing southwest
10. Ledges Area Playstead and Shelter, facing northeast
11. Ledges Upper Playstead, west edge Sassafras tree island, facing south
12. Ledges Upper Playstead, western and northern edges, facing northwest
13. Ledges Upper Playstead, facing northeast
14. Ledges Upper Playstead, White Oaks, facing north
15. Ledges Entrance Drive, east of shelter, facing northwest
16. Ledges Lower Parking Area, facing northeast
17. Ledges Entrance Drive and Parking Area Bulletin Board, facing south
18. Ledges Upper Parking Area, facing southwest
19. Retaining Wall and Partial Foundation of Former House, facing southeast
20. Ledges Steps, facing southwest
21. Ledges Steps, bottom landing, facing southwest
22. Ledges North Women's Toilet, facing northwest*
23. Ledges North Men's Toilet, facing northwest*
24. Ledges Shelter south and west elevations, facing northeast*
25. Ledges Shelter east elevation, facing northwest*
26. Ledges Shelter caretakers apartment, north and west elevations, facing southeast*
27. Ledges Shelter east elevation, central section, facing northwest*
28. Ledges Shelter, pavilion area and exposed truss system, facing north*
29. Ledges South Women's Toilet, facing south*
30. Ledges South Men's Toilet, facing southeast*
31. Ledges Overlook, facing west

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Photographs (continued)

32. Ledges Quarry, facing north*
33. Octagon Shelter area, facing northeast*
34. Octagon Parking Area, wooded island, facing northwest
35. Octagon Shelter, facing northwest*
36. Octagon Shelter, octagonal roof timber framed truss system, detail*
37. Octagon Women's Toilet, facing southwest*
38. Octagon Men's Toilet, facing southwest*
39. Entrance Portal Sign, West, facing east*
40. Virginia Kendall Lake Sign, facing northeast*
41. Octagon Shelter Sign, facing southeast*
42. Ledges Shelter Sign, facing southeast*
43. Entrance Portal Sign, East, facing east*
44. Virginia Kendall Equipment Building, facing northwest
45. Virginia Kendall Maintenance Garage, facing northeast
46. Virginia Kendall Carpenter Shop, facing southwest
47. Virginia Kendall Maintenance Office, facing southeast
48. Virginia Kendall Flammable Storage Building, facing west
49. Virginia Kendall Lumber Storage Shed, facing northwest
50. Virginia Kendall Gravel Storage Shed, facing northwest
51. Kendall Lake Bridge, facing southeast
52. Kendall Lake Guard House, facing southeast*
53. Kendall Lake Parking Area, facing south
54. Kendall Lake Bulletin Board, facing southwest
55. Kendall lake Bath House, northwest elevation, facing southeast*
56. Kendall Lake Bath House, northeast elevation, facing southwest*
57. Kendall Lake Bath House, Second floor central section detail, facing east*
58. Kendall Lake Women's Toilet, facing southeast*
59. Kendall Lake Men's Toilet, facing northeast*
60. Kendall Lake and Dam, facing northwest
61. Kendall Lake Fishing Pier, facing west*
62. Kendall Lake Toboggan Run Ruin, top of the run, facing west*
63. Kendall Lake Toboggan Run Ruin, clearing of run, facing east*
64. Kendall Lake Toboggan Run Tunnel, south entrance, facing north*
65. Kendall Hills, facing north
66. Kendall Hills First Aid Shelter, facing east

* Recent site visits confirm that photographs taken 11/92 represent current conditions

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The Virginia Kendall State Park Historic District is nominated under Criterion "A" for significance in the areas of Social History, Politics/ Government, and Entertainment/ Recreation. The district is also nominated under Criterion "C" for significance in the areas of Landscape Architecture and Architecture, both as important examples of significant design styles and as works of master architect, Albert H. Good, and master landscape architect, Harold S. Wagner. The nominated area is consistent with the property types, significance assessment, and registration requirements established in the Recreation/ Conservation Resources of Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

Chronological History

The nominated district is located in what was Lot 12 on the 1856 Boston Township Summit County Atlas Map which belonged to E. Phelps, Sam Ritchie and D. Ritchie. The 1850 U.S. Census Productions of Agriculture shows William, Anthony, Daniel, Samuel, and John Ritchie farmed land in Boston Township. Daniel and Samuel Ritchie's production records show a high percentage of unimproved land to improved land. Daniel's farm is listed as having 10 improved acres and 70 unimproved acres and Samuel is recorded as having only six improved acres and 74 unimproved acres. The production records show that they were primarily sheep farmers but also grew Indian corn.

The 1870 agricultural production records suggest that Daniel and Samuel had become dairy farmers. Instead of sheep the livestock listings show "milch" cows and swine. Dominant produce listings are for butter, milk, and Indian corn. The ratio of improved to unimproved acreage listed is about 50/50 for this period. The 1874 atlas map shows Daniel and Samuel's land holdings as roughly similar to the outline of the state park. This map also shows a horseshoe shaped line of dots labeled "Ritchie Ledges." William and Samuel Ritchie are still listed as the owners of the same Lot 12 parcels on the 1891 and 1910 county atlas maps.

In 1913, Hayward Kendall, then a young insurance man in his father's Cleveland office, dickered with Farmer Ritchie and bought 15 acres of the ledges.¹ He built a \$500 structure, (described as a shack in a 1933 newspaper article) that he and his friends visited on the weekends. One of his friends, William J.

¹Don Strouse, "Feudal Barony is Akron Playspot: Four Hundred Acres of Wilderness Calling, Half Hour Away." Times Press, 1933.

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Zoul, later became a state representative who co-sponsored the bill to make the Kendall estate a state park. Hayward continued to buy up the Ritchie farm land around the ledges and eventually held 430 acres.

Hayward Kendall acquired his wealth as a coal operator during World War I. He sold his coal at inflated prices to the Canadian government, the Cleveland Illuminating Company and the railroads. He was known as an eccentric man and often wrote magazine and newspaper articles making sardonic remarks about prominent people. Of the Van Sweringen brothers, who developed Cleveland's Terminal Tower and the community of Shaker Heights, he wrote:

They gathered under a sacred sycamore at midnight while the wind moaned softly overhead and set up a prayer and swore a cruel oath to make money and still more money until they would be ashamed and yearn to be poor again.²

Hayward Kendall offered to donate \$1,000,000 to his alma mater, Cornell University, if they would kick out the coeds and abolish fraternities. In a letter to the president of the university he wrote:

The only legacy I am certain I received from your institution of learning was the liquor habit. It took me years to get over it and quite frankly, I could have acquired this same habit in two years at Harvard while it took me four years at Cornell.³

The university declined his offer. In 1927 he died of pneumonia while on a pleasure trip to New York. He willed his 430 acres of Summit County wilderness to his wife Agnes. Mrs. Kendall did not want the property and turned it over to the state in 1929.⁴ The terms of Kendall's will stipulated that following his wife's death, the property should be used perpetually for park purposes and named the "Virginia Kendall Park" in honor of his mother.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

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Acquisition of the Kendall estate by the Akron Metropolitan Park Board (AMPD) was somewhat problematic, since Kendall did not name the Akron park board as a possible recipient. A stipulation of the will provided for the acquisition of the parcel by the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board, if the State of Ohio did not accept the donation.⁵ Akron Metropolitan Park Board Director-Secretary, Harold Wagner, and F. A. Seiberling lobbied the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board and Hayward's widow, Agnes, to support AMPD acquisition of the tract. The Kendall estate was in Summit County and was a part of the AMPD 1925 development plan.⁶ Although the Kendall area experienced a great increase in visitation, the financial circumstances of the state, due to the Depression, prevented the construction of needed improvements to the area. In 1933 the state General Assembly granted AMPD management authority over the Virginia Kendall Park.

On August 7, 1933, H.S. Wagner, the Director-Secretary of the Akron Metropolitan Park District, filed for a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp at Virginia Kendall Park. The application was made to the National Park Service branch of Planning and State Cooperation in Washington, D.C., headed by landscape architect Conrad L. Wirth, who later became the director of the National Park Service.⁷ These applications were quickly approved and the ground clearing for the camp began in September.

One of Wagner's first priorities was the development of Virginia Kendall. The AMPD acquired administration of the land with its attendant trust fund. Wagner saw the eligibility of metropolitan park districts to use CCC labor as an excellent opportunity to develop Virginia Kendall.

The Kendall barracks were located on the south side of Route 303 about a mile south of Route 8, which is the present location of the Happy Days Visitor Center. The Army approved of the site and began construction of the camp in 1933. On December 10, 1933, CCC Company 576 arrived at the camp.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Nick Scrattish, Phd. Historic Resource Study: Cuyahoga Valley
NRA (Denver, United States Department of the Interior, National
Park Service, 1985), 236.

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Early work focused on clearing and grading the land. The Kendall property still showed evidence of having been farmed, but the only recent improvement was the removal of the blighted chestnut trees.⁸ The enrollees spent the first few months clearing the land of debris and cut trees, which was called "flattening." The logs were removed by sleds pulled by horses or mules and taken to the camp sawmill. Other work crews were busy grading roads, laying sewer lines, or constructing fences.

The first visitor facility to be constructed was the Ledges Shelter. After Wagner's application for the CCC camp at Virginia Kendall had been approved, Wagner contacted Akron architect, A.H. Good. Albert Good had designed the Camp Manatoc complex a few years earlier and was later employed as a consultant by the National Parks.⁹ Designs for the Ledges structure at Virginia Kendall were quickly completed and construction began between April and September of 1934.¹⁰ The lack of experience of the typical CCC laborer was considered when the plans were drawn up. As Good was to note in a letter to Wagner dated March 14, 1934, "Reflecting on the lack of organization and skill with which you are confronted in doing the job with the 'unemployed employed' I tried to make the building as simple as possible, leaving off the superfluous and gadgetry."¹¹ The structure was designed by Ab Good in 1933 and construction began in April of 1934. The Ledges Shelter was completed during the sixth work period between October 1935 and March 1936.

Concurrently construction began on the lake and dam. Core wall and earthen fill construction for the dam had been cleared and partial excavation had begun by the end of July 1934. Three months later the core wall was nearly finished. Dirt fill was brought in by wheelbarrow and truck from the excavations to improve and widen Truxell Road. Topsoil from the lake bottom covered the tops and sides of the dam. The dam was completed and the lake filled in time to be

⁸Susan Garland, "The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Cuyahoga Valley," (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, 1979), 7.

⁹Scrattish, 236.

¹⁰Ibid. 240.

¹¹Ibid., 239.

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a popular place during the summer of 1935.¹² Excavation for the bath house began in February of 1936. The site proved to be a problem because the ground was like quicksand and required a greater than usual amount of concrete for the foundation.¹³ A 1935 "State of Completion Map" indicates the progress of the numerous grading, planting and construction projects at Virginia Kendall. (See Illustration 1) Although most projects were reported as being at least 50% completed by April of 1936, the bath house was only 30% completed. Nonetheless, the bath house opened in the summer of 1937.

Between 1935 and 1936, the Akron Metro Park District's second CCC camp, which had worked out of Sand Run Reservation, was shut down. Enrollees were sent to other camps or discharged. Sand Run, SP 6, was closed as part of Roosevelt's consolidation efforts in early 1936. The barracks remained and a caretaker was hired to maintain them. About a year later, SP 5, Virginia Kendall, moved from its barracks to Sand Run and was designated as SP 6. The company continued to do most of its work at Kendall, but also began ground clearing for a lake at the Furnace Run Reservation.¹⁴

In July of 1937, 140 World War I veterans arrived at the Sand Run camp, over the objections of H.S. Wagner. The veterans continued work on the Octagon Shelter, which began during the eighth work period (October 1936 to March 1937). This work was under the direction of Herman Steinbrink from the Cleveland Metropolitan Parks Euclid Camp, which was a veteran camp. Veterans did not complete the Octagon Camp, but did complete a section of Truxell Road improvement before the community around Sand Run complained about their behavior.¹⁵

In December of 1937 a junior company from Brecksville replaced the veterans at Sand Run. This group worked on the Octagon Shelter, which was opened for

¹²Garland, 10.

¹³Leonard H. Tulloch, "Virginia Kendall and the Civilian Conservation Corps", interview by Susan Garland, 1980, transcript, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Brecksville, Ohio, 4.

¹⁴Garland, 12.

¹⁵Ibid, 13.

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picnickers in August of 1938.

The following is a list of CCC work in the Virginia Kendall Park completed between December 1, 1933 and December 31, 1938:¹⁶

Buildings

- 1 Bath House
- 2 Shelters
- 8 Latrines
- 1 Dam

Structures

- 17 Footbridges
- 1 Vehicle Bridge
- 1 Well, water storage 40,000 gallons
- 2 Signs, markers, Entrance portals
- Toboggan, 600 linear feet
- 3 Disposal Systems
- Fences
- Guard Rails

Sites

- 122 Acres field planting, evergreen and hardwoods
- 3210 Man days, nurseries
- 18 Acres landscaping
- 15,588 plants and trees moved for landscape effort
- 24,200 square yards parking areas-4 acres, 900 cars
- 5 Acres camp grounds, graded and developed
- 19 Acres picnic grounds
- 4 Old farm buildings removed
- Seeding and Sodding, 39 acres
- Soil preparation 54 acres
- Survey, 1 mile lineal
- Survey, 22 acres topographic
- 1640 man days, mulch and aeration, tree preservation
- 3 Acres beach improvement

¹⁶Akron Beacon Journal, files, Akron, Ohio, list submitted by
F.E. Smith.

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Fire hazard reduction
6 Miles foot trails
Truck trails, three

Miscellaneous (Furniture, utilities, etc.)

Power lines
Telephone lines
150 Camp stoves
208 table/benches

The last CCC project at Kendall was the Happy Days Day Camp, which was opened in the summer of 1939. The enrollees at the Sand Run camp continued to work on other improvements to the Akron Metro Parks system, such as Firestone Park and Goodyear Heights, until the camp was closed on March 25, 1942.¹⁷

Although not part of the CCC improvements to the Virginia Kendall State Park, the rolling hills located south and west of the lake became a part of the recreational facilities at Virginia Kendall. In February of 1936, Harold S. Wagner, Director-Secretary of the Akron Metropolitan Park District wrote to A. A. Stambaugh, Vice-President of Standard Oil in Ohio, regarding his property along the south and west shores of Kendall Lake. Wagner requested that Stambaugh lease this land to the metro parks because people were using it for "coasting and skiing" whenever the toboggan chutes became crowded. Stambaugh replied that there was no need to lease it, he would be happy to see it used since the land was not under cultivation.

A 1941 Cleveland Press feature "Winter Sports" contains an aerial photograph of the Kendall development that clearly identifies the Kendall Sledding Hills as "Ski Hills." (Illustration 1) Another 1941 article, "Thousands Visit Near-By Beautiful Sports Center", contains the following paragraph:

On the south and west shores of the lake there [sic] hills for novice skiing. These slopes are variable in steepness and length, up to six or eight hundred feet. These hills are abandoned pastures covered with poverty grass and a very small fall of dry snow will make

¹⁷Garland, 16.

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excellent skiing conditions. ¹⁸

Criterion A:

As a Civilian Conservation Corps project and camp site, the Virginia Kendall Historic District represents historically important government policies and periods of public works, has strong association with significant patterns of events that promoted the welfare of society, and is associated with significant trends in the development of recreational activities.

Politics/Government

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt outlined his plans for the Civilian Conservation Corps five days after his Inaugural Address.¹⁹ This federal program had the intention of alleviating the disastrous conditions of the American economy and the American environment. Economic conditions of the Depression created a vagrant population of almost two million American men and women, about 250,000 of which were teenagers.²⁰ Even among those who did not take to the road, unemployment was excessive. It is estimated that one in four people between the ages of 15 and 24 were unemployed in 1932. The need for labor was readily apparent in the condition of the land. By 1933 only one-eighth of America's forested acreage remained. This compounded a critical problem with soil erosion. Wind and water had taken away or was taking away 300 million acres (roughly one-sixth of the continent) by 1934.²¹

The Emergency Conservation Work (EWC) Act was signed by President Roosevelt in

¹⁸Charles Billiter, "Thousands Visit Near-By Beautiful Sports Center", 7 February 1941, unidentified newspaper article located in Virginia Kendall Park Winter Sports File, Metropolitan Parks Serving Summit County, Akron, Ohio.

¹⁹Scrattish, 235.

²⁰John A. Salmond, The Civilian Conservation Corps, (Durham, North Carolina, Duke University Press, 1967), 3.

²¹Ibid., 4.

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1933.²² Within 12 to 18 months the EWC employment program gained the popular name of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Robert Fechner, the vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, was selected as director.²³ Representatives from the War Department and the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Labor acted as an advisory council.²⁴ The Department of Labor was in charge of the selection process. Camp sites were selected by the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, with the cooperation of state park officials. By mid-June of 1933, over thirteen hundred camps had been established. Over 2,000 CCC camps were in operation nationwide by October 31, 1936. Work in state parks occupied 346 of these camps. In Ohio, there were nine camps operating in the state parks between 1936 and 1937.²⁵

The importance of the Civilian Conservation Corps as a government program is reflected in its experimental and innovative nature. As part of the Roosevelt revolution it clearly represented the humanitarian intent of the New Deal program, and the expansion of the federal government as it took on the additional role of providing for the welfare of the citizenry. Although the program was conceived in a politically liberal framework, its administration had many trappings of conservatism. The program was administered by the most conservative of federal agencies-- the Army. As the country entered World War II, it had nearly three million young men who had experienced the military life through the CCC. Moreover, the very concept of young men working with the soil suggests a back to the basics mentality.²⁶ Perhaps the most important aspect of the CCC as a government program is that it marked the first time the federal

²²Cockrell, 19.

²³Garland, 3.

²⁴Ibid., 4.

²⁵Alfred C. Oliver. Jr. and Harold M. Dudley, This New America: The Spirit of the Civilian Conservation Corps (London, New York, Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., 1937), 176. as cited by Carol Poh Miller in "Park Structures in the Cuyahoga Valley NRA Built with Federal Relief Project Assistance 1933-1942", National Register of Historic Places nomination, draft, 1979.

²⁶Salmond, 220.

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government attempted to find specific solutions to the problems of an increasingly urban youth.²⁷

Social History:

Most of the CCC enrollees who arrived at the Kendall camp in 1933 were unemployed, unskilled men in their late teens or early twenties who had never been away from home. In a letter to a National Park Service inspector in 1934, Wagner wrote, "I want you to know that originally I probably saw this program in a much more selfish light than I now see it. I was moved by an interest in securing improvement to Sand Run and to Virginia Kendall. Today, . . ., I have become much more interested in what is undoubtedly the most important element of the program, namely, the future of the enrollees themselves."²⁸ The number of enrollees occupying the Virginia Kendall Camp and later the Sand Run Camp varied from 146-201.²⁹

Young men wanting work with the CCC applied to their local relief agent. Selection was based on the state's relief role quota. Once enrolled, the army transported the young men to army bases for conditioning and vaccinations. This typically took two weeks, after which they were sent to the camps.

The young men who joined the CCC from Cleveland and Akron were looking for adventure as well as employment.³⁰ Many enrollees signed on in the hopes of seeing California and were surprised and disappointed to find themselves near Peninsula. The standard enlistment for a CCC enrollee was six months; however, under certain circumstances men could reenlist. The paycheck for an enrollee

²⁷Ibid., 221.

²⁸Garland., 2-3. citing H.S. Wagner to G.C. Harmon, March 6, 1934, Akron, Ohio.

²⁹Camp Inspection Reports, SP6, 1934-41, Civilian Conservation Corp Collection, National Archives, Washington D.C.

³⁰"CCC Reunion", interview by Susan Garland, August, 1979, transcript, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Brecksville, Ohio, 3.

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was \$30.00 a month.³¹ All the men's needs, including bedding, clothing, one to two pairs of shoes, and a toilet kit were provided by the CCC.³² Subsequently, the War Department sent \$25.00 of the monthly paycheck to the families of the enrollees.³³

The Virginia Kendall camp worked throughout the year despite weather and circumstances such as disease quarantines which occasionally occurred.³⁴ The park service tried to tailor projects to the season's climate for the safety of the men. During the winter camp fires were used to warm the men working in the fields. Occasionally, work was temporarily suspended for inclement weather such as heavy continuous rain or extreme cold.

There were times when some men refused to work claiming unsuitable weather conditions. Punishment for work refusal could range from forfeiture of pay for a specified number of days to dishonorable discharge from the CCC. Camp Inspection Reports show isolated incidents of misconduct, violation of rules, elopements, and refusals to work. Most of the honorable discharges, other than for the end of the term, were for men who found permanent employment elsewhere.³⁵

The demanding daily physical labor of clearing and constructing the parks built healthy appetites in the young men. The average weight increase of enrollees

³¹Carter H. Smith, "A Lump in 100,000 Throats", 5 May 1934, (unidentified newspaper article) Civilian Conservation Corps, Camp SP6., National Archives, Washington D.C.

³²Supplementary Report, Camp SP 6, April 1934, Civilian Conservation Corp Collection, National Archives, Washington D.C.

³³Smith "A Lump in 100,000 Throats", 5 May 1934.

³⁴CCC Reunion, 12.

³⁵Camp Inspection Report, CCC Camp SP5, 20 April 1934, Civilian Conservation Corp Collection, National Archives, Washington DC.

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in their first three months of service was nine to 10 pounds.³⁶ Three meals a day were served to the enrollees at an average weekly cost of \$188.³⁷

There was a group of men in each camp called Local Experienced Men (LEMs). They were considered enrollees, but were hired locally from the relief roll. Hiring LEMs was done to forestall any friction between the CCC camp and the community over jobs being taken from local labor.

The project superintendents and a staff of eight to ten foremen, selected jointly by the NPS and state park officials, worked directly with the enrollees. Virginia Kendall project superintendents included Luman P. Cranz, a construction foreman who supervised the saw mill at the Kendall camp, and Irving "Pick" Humphrey, who taught enrollees how to cut stone. Bernard "Benny" Zurbauch had a construction business in Akron before joining the staff and was in charge of the grading and road work. These men brought knowledge and skills to the work effort and provided an important teaching function. Many enrollees would follow Cranz around, just to watch him work. Foreman Roland E. Arnold was remembered by the enrollees as conducting some of the most popular classes at the camp.³⁸ Often, the relationship between the technical personnel staff and the enrollees was one of the master craftsman and apprentice.

While the Virginia Kendall and Sand Run Camps used Akron's educational, religious, and recreational facilities, the local communities also benefitted from the CCC camps. Beyond developing new parks for the community, enrollees also helped in emergencies such as aiding the town with firefighting.³⁹

During evenings and weekends, enrollees were free to use their time as they

³⁶Camp Inspection Reports, 15 December 1934, 16 July 1935, 31 March 1938, 10 February 1939, and 25 October 1939, Civilian Conservation Corp Collection, National Archives, Washington D.C..

³⁷Camp Inspection Reports, 24 March 1938, 30 March 1939, 16 October 1940, and 4 September 1941, Civilian Conservation Corp Collection, National Archives, Washington D.C.

³⁸Garland., 18.

³⁹Wagner, 14.

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wished. Some traveled home on weekends or had visitors to the camp. Many joined camp sports teams, checked books or magazines out of the camp library, staged plays, wrote or took photographs for the camp newspaper, The Kendallite. Other activities included going to the beach in the summers and to local dance halls and movies in the evenings⁴⁰

The Virginia Kendall and Sand Run camps also had an Army-employed educational advisor on staff.⁴¹ The advisor worked with the state educational system. Enrollees participated at every level of education; some enrollees learned to read while others earned credits toward college diplomas. Some men even went to Akron, by camp truck, to attend night technical school or the University. The Sand Run Camp was unique from other CCC camps in that enrollees constructed a school house for themselves on camp grounds.⁴² Classes available to the Virginia Kendall and Sand Run inhabitants included Journalism, Surveying, Typing, Engineering, and Singing.⁴³ Informal groups also met to study Business English, Penmanship, and Arithmetic, just to name a few.

First Aid was a required course for all enrollees who wanted to advance to the leader position or who wanted to drive a truck. There were also other job-related courses available, such as leader training, teacher training, and foreman training.⁴⁴ The only "educational" event requiring mandatory attendance of all men was a weekly general assembly where lectures on safety, citizenship, and hygiene were given. Occasionally, guest speakers from nearby

⁴⁰Garland, 18-20.

⁴¹Camp Inspection Report, Camp SP6, 10 February 1939, Civilian Conservation Corp Collection, National Archives, Washington D.C.

⁴²Camp Inspection Report, Camp SP6, 22 April 1935, Civilian Conservation Corp Collection, National Archives, Washington D.C.

⁴³Camp Inspection Report, Camp SP6, 13 July 1935, Civilian Conservation Corp Collection, National Archives, Washington D.C.

⁴⁴Camp Inspection Report, Camp SP6, 25 October 1935, Civilian Conservation Corp Collection, National Archives, Washington D.C.

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towns provided informative lectures on these or related topics.⁴⁵

Between the two camps, enrollees were in the Akron area for a period of nine years. The Sand Run Camp closed for the last time in March of 1942. That same year, the national CCC program formally ended due to the need to fill war production jobs.

Recreation/ Entertainment:

The facilities constructed by the CCC are significant to the area of Recreation/ Entertainment because they reflect the trend toward incorporating active recreation into pastoral or natural settings. In this sense, an urban recreation function was designed for a rural naturalistic environment with pastoral qualities.

In the twentieth century, playgrounds and parks began to merge in the form of the reform park. By 1892, Olmsted had designed one of the first urban playgrounds in the U.S., Charlesbank in Boston-- though his intention was still to keep the playground separate from the pastoral. By 1930, recreation was seen as a municipal function by New York City park commissioner Robert Moses. The increasing mobility of the American public during the 1920s, resulting from the automobile, made the function of recreation extend beyond the municipal boundaries out to the burgeoning state park systems.

Whereas the passive enjoyment of pastoral landscapes provided refreshment of the mind and nerves in the late 19th century, activities geared toward acquiring environmental knowledge and skills were the way to refreshment of the mind and soul in the 20th century. Although the park service maintained the provision of recreation remain secondary to the retention of natural surroundings, state parks were more accommodating to recreational uses than reserves. The kinds of activities desired by the 1930s visitor which benefitted from their occurrence in a natural setting included the traditional sightseeing and picnicking; water sports such as swimming and associated beach activities, canoeing, rowing, and fishing; and winter sports such as skiing, ice skating, snowshoeing, sleighing,

⁴⁵Camp Inspection Report, Camp SP6, 3 September 1941, Civilian Conservation Corp Collection, National Archives, Washington D.C.

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and tobogganing.⁴⁶

The CCC projects at Virginia Kendall reflect this trend toward providing recreational facilities in a pastoral naturalistic environment. The types of facilities, such as the manmade lake and beach improvements, the toboggan chutes, along with the overlooks, picnic grounds, and miles of hiking trails all reflect the active recreation uses that bring the visitor in contact with nature.

Criterion C:

The Virginia Kendall State Park Historic District is also nominated under Criterion C for significance in the areas of Landscape Architecture and Architecture.

Landscape Architecture:

The Virginia Kendall State Park derives its overall design inspiration from its naturalistic style landscape architecture. Although there are numerous architecturally significant buildings in the district, it was the landscape design that guided the development of the recreational facilities; the buildings read as elements of the landscape rather than the landscape merely framing the buildings.

More parks were built between World War I and World War II than during any previous period. Aggressive development of parks during this time shaped our perceptions and definition of a park.⁴⁷ The intent of the designed park landscape from this period is to choreograph visitors' experiences and to

⁴⁶"Civilian Conservation Corps Properties in Iowa State Parks: 1933-42", National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 11/15/90. Section E. p.22.

⁴⁷Ethan Carr, "National Historic Landmark Theme Study on National Park Service Landscape Architecture, 1917-1941: Discussion Paper #1: The Role of the Historical Context in the NHL Theme Study of Park Service Landscape Architecture" (Originally presented at the "Landscape Universe" Preservation Conference at Wave Hill, New York, on April 23, 1993), 1.

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mediate between the individual and the terrain, and all it contains. The relationship between wilderness and the designed landscape generates the aesthetic appreciation of landscapes and allows the spiritual communion with nature, which the word "park" has come to imply.⁴⁸

The strong role the natural landscape played in park design is reflected in the design philosophy National Park Service Director Stephen Mather and Assistant Horace Albright outlined for future park development in their 1918 "State of Policy."

In their construction of roads, trails, buildings and other improvements, particular attention must be devoted always to the harmonizing of these improvements with the landscape. . . . All improvements will be carried out in accordance with a preconceived plan developed in special reference to the preservation of the landscape . . .⁴⁹

Designing with the natural landscape rather than designing something to be imposed upon the natural landscape can be traced to the aesthetic of landscape beauty as developed and promoted by English landscape designer Lancelot ("Capability") Brown. Brown's landscapes of pictures composed of rolling meadows and serpentine lakes framed by trees replaced the earlier terraced gardens found on manor house estates. He reversed the relationship between buildings and grounds. Landscapes no longer only extended the architectural space of the manor house. Instead the buildings themselves became sited elements in a much larger, more encompassing work of design-- the landscape park.⁵⁰

The development of an American, naturalistic landscape style was derived from

⁴⁸Ibid., 1-2.

⁴⁹ Richard A. Ballinger. Annual Report (Department of the Interior, 1910) as cited by William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere. and Henry G. Law in National Park Service Rustic Architecture:1916-1942 (San Francisco: National Park Service. Western Regional Office. Division of Cultural Resource Management. 1977), 18.

⁵⁰Carr, 3.

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the principles and practices of American nurseryman and influential 19th century tastemaker Andrew Jackson Downing, and British master gardener William Robinson. Their wild gardens are linked to the back-to-the-woods movement and a progressive philosophy of conservation. The movement for an American style coincided with the growing role of stewardship within the landscape design profession.⁵¹

In the early twentieth century, the idea of an indigenous style derived from the principles and practices of Downing and Robinson was promoted in the United States by the writings of several leading landscape architects and gardeners. Chief among them were the texts of Henry Hubbard, a professor in Harvard's School of Landscape Architecture, and Frank Waugh, professor of landscape gardening at Massachusetts Agricultural College.

Published one year after Congress had established the National Park Service, Hubbard's textbook was probably the single most influential source for national and state park designers in the 1920s and 1930s. Hubbard defined the American style of landscape as follows:

The choice of indigenous plant materials, the study of the arrangement of this material in accordance with its own character and the landscape in which it appeared, is an important consideration in this American style. The . . . "natural" landscape scenes, which this style usually seized upon to enhance and reproduce, are seldom the unhampered work of nature; more usually they are the scenes of pasture and woodlot, shrub-grown wall, and elm-dotted river bottom, which are partly the results of man's activity in the less intensively used farm lands.⁵²

⁵¹Linda Flint McClelland, Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of The National Park Service: 1916-1942, (Washington D.C., U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1993), 34.

⁵²Ibid., 42.

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Hubbard's book An Introduction to the Study of Landscape Design, used Olmsted's Franklin Park as the prototype for naturalistic design. The boulder-lined road and paths, and meandering path with rustic steps leading to scenic overlooks became models for rustic park landscape features. The lessons of Franklin Park were applied to state and national parks and forests, as well as country parks and metropolitan reservations through the 1930s.

Hubbard stressed the development of vistas as the unification of all landscape elements. The single central focal point of a vista was to be framed by trees and other masses so as to screen all objects. Framing a vista eliminated the visual intrusion of undesirable objects in addition to defining the limits of the composition. Hubbard also advocated the use of transitional elements between buildings and natural spaces, such as terraces, steps, and ramps. These features, combined with modest scale trees or shrubs further blend the building and its setting together.⁵³

Frank Waugh's textbook, The Natural Style in Landscape Gardening, suggests that the natural style endeavors "to present its pictures in forms typical of the natural landscape and made vital by the landscape spirit." By landscape spirit, Waugh was referring to the informal order and feeling of vegetation and landscape features found in nature.⁵⁴ Waugh was also noted for advocating mass plantings. Planting trees by the thousands for screens and backgrounds grouped with an understory of shrubs and smaller trees is considered one of the fundamentals of the naturalistic style.⁵⁵

Conrad Wirth, the Assistant Director of the National Park Service during the New Deal era and a former student of Waugh, persuaded Waugh to write a handbook, Landscape Conservation, for the Emergency Conservation Work in state parks. First published in 1935, the book was later added to the Civilian Conservation Corps's Project Training series.⁵⁶

⁵³Ibid., 44-45.

⁵⁴Ibid., 45.

⁵⁵Ibid., 46.

⁵⁶Ibid., 49.

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Incorporation of large-scale concepts such as mass plantings into the design process was done by Park Service landscape architects through the use of the "master plan." The "master planning process" defined the design approach practiced in the 1920s by NPS landscape architects Daniel Hull, Thomas Vint, and the landscape architects they supervised.⁵⁷ The master plans defined the extent, location, and character of all the construction in a specific park. Design proceeded at a planning, or map scale, while more detailed designs for roads, trails and villages were produced for specific developed areas. By working at a map scale, the designers became more aware of the dominant area land forms and the patterns they created. This awareness enabled manmade improvements to be designed to harmonize with these patterns.

The design influences and philosophies that guided the development of the National Park Service units at this time extended beyond the boundaries of the individual parks. Mather helped convene the first National Conference on State Parks in 1921, and he believed that encouraging state and local park development was an important part of achieving a truly national park system.⁵⁸

By the time CCC projects were being designed, the Naturalistic or American style was an established part of the profession's vocabulary. Naturalistic design stresses that all manmade improvements harmonize with the natural setting and land forms by using organic design elements. Arrangement of materials is in accordance with the character of the material. Existing vegetation and rock formations are incorporated into the design. Vistas and viewpoints are opened up, rustic shelters constructed, and stands of native vegetation planted.⁵⁹

The Virginia Kendall Historic District contains many elements of the Naturalistic Landscape Design style and serves as a significant example of this style. The 1935 and 1939 master plans for the park clearly define the extent, location and character of the park. (See Illustrations 3 and 4) Specific insets show more detailed site developments for the shelter areas, but the larger scale master plans, especially the 1935 plan, illustrate how the design of the park

⁵⁷Carr, Discussion Paper #2: The Boundaries of Proposed NHL Districts, 11.

⁵⁸Ibid., 7.

⁵⁹McClelland, 34.

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works as a whole. The master plan shows the pattern of open spaces and wooded areas and the curvilinear network of foot paths that flow into one another and repeat the kidney shape of the rock ledges. These graphics show the character of Virginia Kendall as a designed landscape unit.

Perhaps one of the most dominant characteristics of the naturalistic landscape design movement found in the Virginia Kendall State Park is the planting of large stands of trees. Although it is obvious that the chestnut blight created a need for new trees, period plans for the development clearly show the incorporation of large plantings as part of the design. One master plan from 1934 has areas marked for "Forest Improvements," which now contain stands of white and red pine and white oak. In addition, the Akron Metro parks maintained two tree nurseries, one at Virginia Kendall and the other at Everett, to supply these plantings.

Professional influences of Harold Wagner, director of the metro parks, reflect an emphasis on plantings. After graduating from the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, Harold Wagner worked for Warren A. Manning. Manning worked under both Frederick Law and John Charles Olmsted. He designed planting plans for the Columbian Exposition and the Vanderbilt's Biltmore estate. He served as project foreman for the landscape installation at Seiberling's Stan Hywet Hall in Akron. Manning is noted for having established an approach to planting design that emulates the natural landscape and integrates formal plantings and structural gardens.⁶⁰

During an interview with Harold Wagner, he referred to his former boss as knowing more about plants than the entire Olmsted organization ever knew.⁶¹ The influence Manning's emphasis on planting plans had on Wagner is reflected in the nurseries Wagner maintained. A 1937 site plan shows the Virginia Kendall nursery located across from the West Park Drive (Octagon Shelter) and containing Douglas Firs, heel in beds, seed beds and cold frames. (See Illustration 5) The

⁶⁰William Grundmann, "Warren H. Manning" American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1989), 56-58.

⁶¹Harold S. Wagner, interview with Susan Garland and Nick Scattish, 22 October 1980, transcript Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Oral History Collection, Brecksville, Ohio.

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nursery at Everett contained over 170 rows of trees and was overseen by a year-round caretaker. In 1932 "Forest News" reported that Summit County led the state in forest plantings with a total of 255,610 trees being planted. Of this amount, 101,800 were planted by the park district.⁶²

Additional elements that represent the style include boulder-lined roads, the rustic steps at the ledges, and the scenic overlook at the ledges. More important perhaps than the individual elements is the reflection of the naturalistic design philosophy in the purposeful siting of the shelters and manipulation of landscape elements to achieve the greatest sense of physical harmony between the building and the surroundings.

The "Happy Days" Day Camp building is a long horizontally massed building set in a top corner of a sloping open playstead surrounded by trees. The low silhouette of the building and the rectilinear narrow shape of the open space surrounding it creates a visual harmony between building and setting. The Octagon Shelter is located in a corner of a roughly circular playstead area. The rolling nature of the playstead manipulates the visitor's visual encounter with the building if approached from the woods; as the visitor walks toward the building it seems to rise out of the ground, so effective are the building materials and manipulation of the structure's setting at creating a sense of harmony between the natural and manmade elements of the environment.

The transitional plantings surrounding the shelters -- ornamentals such as the crabapples and dogwoods -- help buffer the transition of open space to building. Elements that might compromise the relationship between the shelters and the open spaces, such as the privies, are screened. At both the Octagon and Ledges areas the privies are located immediately beyond the treeline that delineates the open playsteads.

Perhaps more than other areas of the Virginia Kendall development, the site plan for the Lake Shelter area is particularly refined. A view of the fishing pier, bath house, and toilets set against the wooded hillside from the opposite side of the lake illustrates a sophisticated use of symmetry that maintains a strong sense of a naturalistic setting.

⁶²Harold S. Wagner, The Akronite, April, 1935, Virginia Kendall Files, Akron Metropolitan Park District, Akron, Ohio.

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Architecture:

The rustic style park architecture built by the CCC was wholly consistent with the intent of the federal relief program; it was based on harmony with nature and required extensive amounts of labor. This architectural style was not invented by the CCC but resulted from the culmination of many design influences. The more dominant influences include Andrew Jackson Downing's Country Houses, the Shingle resort architecture of the New England seaboard, the "Great Camps" of the Adirondacks, and Greene and Greene's Arts and Crafts houses. Commonalities among these influences are the relationship to the landscape and use of native materials.

In the Virginia Kendall Historic District, this style was executed by the prominent Akron architectural firm of Good and Wagner. Perhaps the premier architecture firm in Akron when it was the fastest growing city in the country, Good and Wagner designed many leading rubber barons' estates and many prominent downtown commercial buildings. Their work shows a high level of competence executing the popular eclectic revival styles of the 1920s and 30s. Albert Good went on to edit the NPS publication Park Structures and Facilities, which was intended to showcase the outstanding park structures built by the CCC.⁶³ One of the featured structures in this publication is the privy design at Virginia Kendall.

The roots of Rustic can be found in Andrew Jackson Downing's mid-19th century book, Country Houses, which argues for the incorporation of Local Truth in architecture. Downing writes "To give an expression of local truth to a country house, it should always show a tendency to spread out and extend itself on the ground, rather than to run up in the air."⁶⁴ The honesty, or truth, of the relationship between the house and the grounds Downing espoused is an early American articulation of the importance of the relationship between a building and its surroundings.

One of the styles that Downing suggests for the rural setting is the farmhouse or cottage "in the Swiss manner." He writes "Their broad roofs, open galleries,

⁶³McClelland, 256.

⁶⁴A.J. Downing, The Architecture of Country Houses (New York: Dover Publication Inc., 1969), 33.

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and simple and bold construction are significant of strength and fitness . . .
"65 In other designs he describes the use of the truncated gable, (associated with German farmhouses) as "giving the exterior a somewhat more rustic expression" His romantic treatment of vernacular European forms would be one of the chief influences on the late 19th century camp architecture of the New York's Adirondacks, and later rustic architecture of the National Park Service.⁶⁶

A more recent example of Downing's influence is seen in what many architectural historians regard as the two most purely American 19th century styles of the century: Stick and Shingle.⁶⁷ The Stick style's early interpretations were clearly influenced by the Swiss chalet form and were consistent with Downing's concept of "truthfulness" in wooden architecture -- vertical exterior cladding echoing the orientation of the support system. The other purely American architectural form, the Shingle style, was popularized by late 19th century eastern seaboard vacation homes. Its thin skin shaped by an enclosed form "offered a flexible system for massing a building according to interior function and space and the physical and scenic aspects of the site."⁶⁸

Henry Hobson Richardson's rusticated stonework had a profound influence on the development of a "park architecture." His Ames Gate Lodge (1880-81) boldly illustrates the potential for using rough, boulder sized stonework. Richardson and Olmsted collaborated and subsequently influenced each other's work from the late 1870s until Richardson's death in 1886. Richardson's legacy of rough masonry walls and bold arches greatly influenced the design of structures in Olmsted's influential Franklin Park.⁶⁹

The architecture associated with the Adirondack camps of the late 19th century

⁶⁵Ibid., 150.

⁶⁶McClelland, 52.

⁶⁷Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1981), 111.

⁶⁸McClelland, 51.

⁶⁹Ibid., 52.

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was consciously rustic. Their association with their surroundings was not only reflected by the use of native materials. The buildings were designed to withstand the heavy snowfalls and extended periods of rain of the mountain region. Log structures were built up on stone foundations to prevent rot. Heavy timbers had to support roofs that supported heavy accumulations of snow. Large overhangs were needed to keep ice and snow from building up against the foundation.⁷⁰

Considering the climatic conditions of the Adirondack Mountains, it seems logical that the architecture would reference building traditions from an area with similar conditions. Thus, a strong influence on the Adirondack style was, again, Swiss rural architecture. It was not, however, so much the climate that popularized this influence but the four popular camps built by William West Durant that incorporated the Swiss influence. Characteristic features included the two-story gable front form with broad overhanging eaves and a projecting second story balcony.

Another distinctive influence that came from the Adirondack buildings was the use of the Octagon. As with many other naturalistic design influences, the original use of the octagon form for shelters can be traced back to Downing.⁷¹ The multiple sides and lack of a primary elevation afford wide views and help the structure blend into the surroundings.

The architect designed William A. Read Camp was popularized by a 1907 article in House and Garden and the 1906 publication of elevation drawings in American Architect and Building News. The Read Camp established a new standard for rustic architecture that went beyond the early primitive camps or the ornamental embellishments that attempted to create a picturesque quality. The buildings are perfectly integrated into the hillside site. The rustic building elements, (such as the massing, log construction, huge stone chimneys penetrating the roof, and small pane windows) are American instead of Swiss derivations.

Residential architectural movements of the early 20th century also led to a refinement of the Adirondack camp architecture. The Prairie style's emphasis on the horizontal and transition from structure to site tried to unify indoor

⁷⁰Ibid., 55.

⁷¹Ibid., 57.

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and outdoor spaces. California architects Greene and Greene's Craftsman-type bungalows were influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement and their training in manual arts.⁷² Battered foundations commonly associated with this house form create a relationship between the structure and the ground, almost suggesting the building rise up from the ground rather than being set upon it. Architectural historian Marcus Whiffen says that "--it was the bungalow as much as any other kind of house that led to the general adoption of the 'living room' and the 'outdoor-indoor' living space -- of craftsmanship, climatic adaptation, and harmony with the landscape."⁷³

The landmarks survey for the City of Akron does not show that Good and Wagner, the Akron architects who designed the Virginia Kendall structures, did much work in the styles that influenced the development of rustic. A citywide survey identifies 15 Good and Wagner structures, most of which are large residences designed in the Tudor and Georgian Revival styles. The surveyed buildings also show the range of styles they worked with, including Art Deco, Italian Renaissance and Moorish Revival. It is likely that the architects were exposed to the rustic style through popular publications of the period.

By the time Albert Good designed the buildings at Camp Manatoc in the late 1920s, rustic was the accepted style for camp and park developments. Two of the proposed buildings included in their 1931 plans for the camp clearly show an Adirondack camp influence. The Dining Hall building Good designed at Camp Manatoc has Swiss chalet influences, probably indicating the influence of Adirondack camp architecture popularized through contemporary journals.⁷⁴ Good's use of the octagon form for the Indian Village Lodge similarly reflects this influence. Although the Indian Village Lodge was never built, Good later used the form for one of the principle shelters at Virginia Kendall.

The use of Rustic style architecture in the National Park Service dates from the nineteen tens. Between 1915 and 1920, National Park Service landscape architect Daniel P. Hull developed a distinctive, yet non-intrusive park building design.

⁷²Lee and Virginia McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986), 454.

⁷³Whiffen, 221.

⁷⁴McClelland, 256.

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Recommended design features for successful park structures, according to Conrad and Wirth's 1933 publication included horizontal lines and low pitched roofs to create a less conspicuous, low silhouette. Native materials and colors that occur in the surrounding areas are emphasized. Warm browns are suggested to help retire a building in a wooded setting and brown or weathered gray roofs are suggested to blend with the colors of the earth and the tree trunks.

A warm brown, native material was in abundance in the valley, thanks to the chestnut blight. 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.⁷⁵ By the 1920s this blight was killing the Chestnut trees in the Midwest. Wormy Chestnut, which was used for many of the valley's CCC and Camp Manatoc structures, is unavailable now. The Main Dining Hall at Camp Manatoc and the CCC Happy Days Center are reputed to be the largest Wormy Chestnut buildings in the world.

Another native material found in many CCC/WPA structures is sandstone. Berea Sandstone was a source for much of the stone used for the WPA/CCC projects. At one time there were four quarries located in Peninsula. An additional quarry located in the eastern side of the sandstone Ritchie Ledges was started by CCC laborers constructing the winding stairs built into the ledges.

Distinctive design features evidenced by the CCC buildings of Virginia Kendall reflect the general characteristics that are attributed to the development of the rustic style. The shelters' and privies' exposed truss systems, rafter ends, triangular knee braces, and vertical board and batten siding all reflect the "truthfulness" of the structure that Downing advocated. Design elements attributed to the Adirondack camps, such as overhanging eaves, massive stone fireplaces, the octagon form, and small pane windows are found throughout the Virginia Kendall structures. The unity of the outdoor-indoor space associated with Greene and Greene and the Bungalow Movement is apparent in features such as the open field stone pavilions at the Ledges and Octagon Shelters, and ground-level open space at the bath house.

⁷⁵Robert W. Bobel, "Happy Days Visitor Center, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area" Classic Wood Structures Bulletin (New York, NY: American Society of Civil Engineers, 1989).

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Evidence of the Virginia Kendall buildings to convey association with CCC era rustic architecture is apparent in the inclusion of the designs in CCC portfolios and publications, and the role Albert Good played in editing these publications. The first publication Portfolio of Comfort Stations and Privies was commissioned by the CCC State Parks Division head, Conrad Wirth, in 1934 and illustrated by Frank Waugh's daughter, Dorothy. Privies featured in this publication included those built at Yosemite, Glacier, Westchester County parks in New York, and Virginia Kendall.⁷⁶

The 1935 and 1938 Park Structures and Facilities were comprehensive indexes of national park design principles. The seven member editorial committee was responsible for the content of the publication, but Albert Good wrote the apologia and comments throughout the book. Both the 1935 and 1938 publications contained the Virginia Kendall privy and presumably included floor plans and drawings executed by Good.⁷⁷ (See Illustration 5) It is interesting to note that the 1938 later edition, Parks and Recreation Structures, suggests that privies and comfort stations not be "dressed up" and that their subordinate location provides little reason for structural embellishments.⁷⁸ The plate for the Virginia Kendall privy (labeled as toilet in the Master Plans) noted in this publication concedes that "The not inconspicuous ventilators jauntily straddling roof-comb may provoke argument."⁷⁹

It could be argued that not only are the Virginia Kendall CCC buildings good examples of the style, but the privies were influential examples of the rustic style and their architect had an instrumental role in defining the style throughout the country's parks. Although Good felt that the term "rustic" was not adequate to define the architecture that evolved from the naturalistic influenced park design, he did define the style in Park Structures and Facilities as follows:

⁷⁶McClelland, 253.

⁷⁷McClelland, 256.

⁷⁸Good, 129.

⁷⁹Ibid., 135.

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. . .the use of native materials in proper scale, and the thorough avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsman with limited hand tools . . . It achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past.⁸⁰

Historic Integrity

The Virginia Kendall Historic District evidences a high level of integrity. Now being a part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, the park setting, feel and association is also the dominant surrounding land use. The buildings and structures within the district retain a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Alterations to the structures have been minor and were done for the most part to upgrade the utility systems. All this work was cleared through the Section 106 process for adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

A comparison of the existing site plans to the 1939 master plan show only a few alterations to the landscape. Most of the tree lines and foot trails are intact. The exception to this would be the new growth and realignment of the foot trail in the west playstead section near the Octagon Shelter. In addition, some minor infill growth has occurred in the Upper Playstead adjacent to the Ledges Shelter and the toboggan chutes at the lake have been removed. These changes in the landscape do not alter the overall circulation and spatial organization of the park. The extent to which the landscape defines important spaces, creates views and frames visual elements is still readily apparent.

Aerial photographs of the nominated area provide an excellent overview of the changes in the landscape that the CCC projects and subsequent recreational uses park. Aerial Photographs from 1933 show the original farm fields and stands of trees. The Stambaugh property, now the sledding hills, appears in the 1933 aerials as cultivated fields or pasture. (See Illustration 6) The 1992 aerials of the same section reveal stands and coppices of trees delineating the organic shapes of the rolling meadows. (See Illustration 7) Kendall Lake and the surrounding area was also predominately pasture and farm land, with some stands

⁸⁰Albert Good, ed. Park Structures and Facilities (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1935), 4. cited by McClelland, 259.

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of trees along the creek bank, as depicted in the 1933 aerial. The 1992 aerial shows that not only the lake, parking lot, and structures were added, so were all the deciduous hardwoods north and east of the lake and the conifers behind the bath house. A comparison of the 1933 aerial photograph to the 1992 aerials for the Octagon, Ledges, and Happy Days areas reveals an extensive planting of deciduous hardwoods. Although cleared farm fields are apparent in the 1933 photographs, the clearing apparent in the massive planting are much smaller and have a different shape. (See Illustrations 8 and 9)

Period of Significance

The period of significance extends from the initial construction of the park facilities in 1933 to 1944, when the Virginia Kendall State Park continued to actively contribute to the significant trend of incorporating active recreational pursuits in a naturalistic pastoral setting.

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Illustrations

1. "State of Completion Map" 1937 Department of the Interior National Park Service and Summit County, Ohio. Akron Metropolitan Park District Cooperating.
2. Aerial Photograph of new winter sports area and the lake at Virginia Kendall State Park, 28 February 1941 "Winter Sports" Cleveland Press.
3. "Virginia Kendall State Park Master Site Plan", 1935, Department of the Interior, National park Service and Summit County, Ohio. Akron Metropolitan Park District Cooperating.
4. "Virginia Kendall State Park Master Plan", 1939, Akron Metropolitan Park District in cooperation with United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service.
5. "Virginia Kendall Nursery", 1937, United States Department of the Interior National Park Service cooperating with Akron Metropolitan Park District Summit -
- County.
6. "Privy -- Virginia Kendall State Park -- Ohio" Comfort Stations and Privies, Plate R-3. Park Structures and Facilities, 1935.
7. Aerial Photograph, Stambuagh's property, 2 August 1933, Aerial Surveys, Inc. Cleveland, Ohio.
8. Aerial Photograph 4263-12-13, 2 March 1992, Aerocon Photogrammetric Surveys, Inc., Willoughby, Ohio.
9. Aerial Photograph, Octagon, Ledges, and Happy Days areas, 2 August 1933, Aerial Surveys, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio.
10. Aerial Photograph, Octagon, Ledges, and Happy Days areas, 2 March 1992, Aerocon Photogrammetric Survey, Inc., Willoughby, Ohio.

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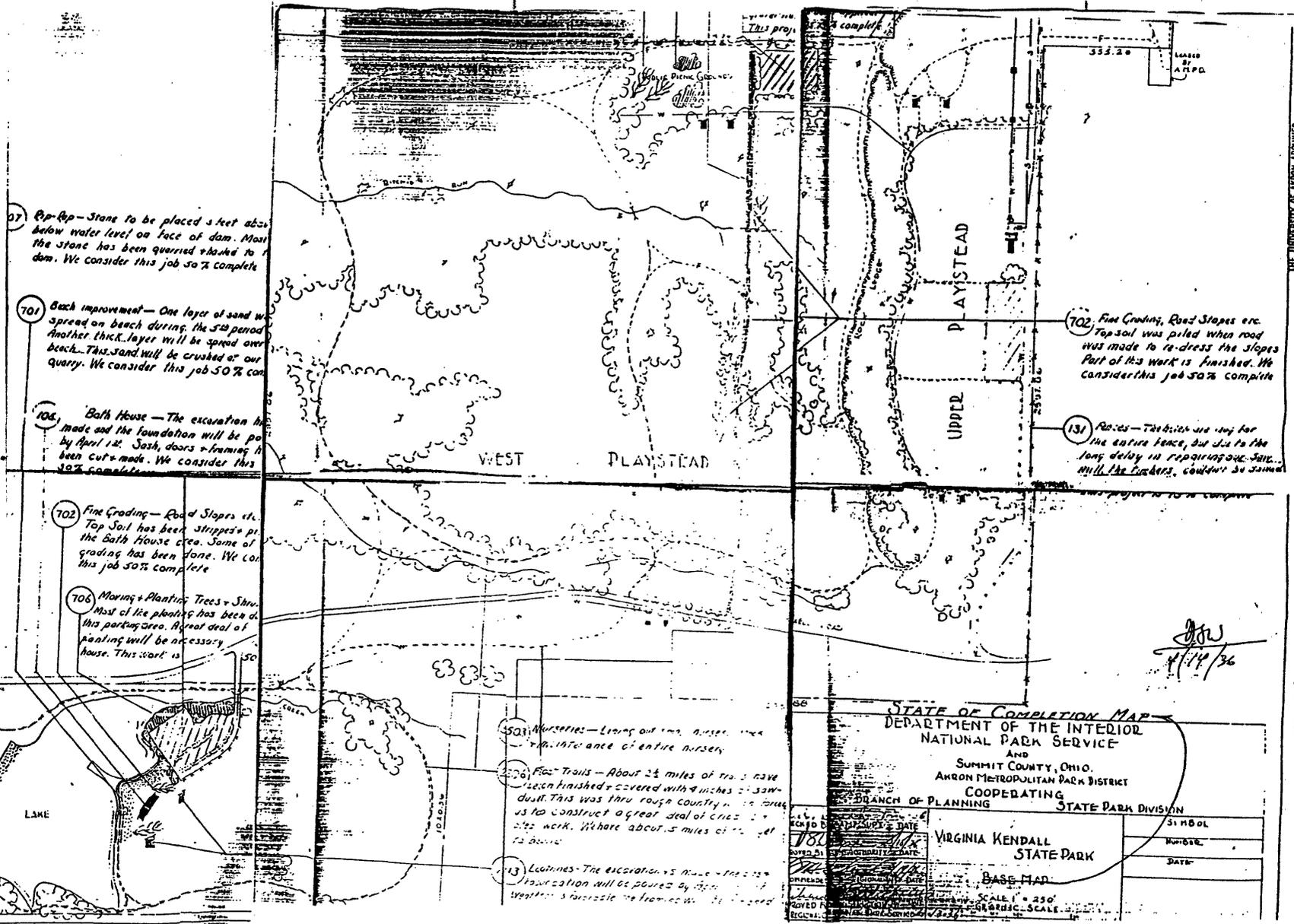
UTM References: (continued)

	Zone	Easting		Northing
E:	17	- 456410	-	4562910
F:	17	- 456410	-	4562590
G:	17	- 456000	-	4562000
H:	17	- 456000	-	4561780
I:	17	- 455280	-	4562600
J:	17	- 455120	-	4562600
K:	17	- 455120	-	4562940
L:	17	- 455900	-	4562960
M:	17	- 456080	-	4563000
N:	17	- 456080	-	4563840
O:	17	- 456960	-	4563840
P:	17	- 456980	-	4564400
Q:	17	- 457380	-	4563340

Verbal Boundary Description: (continued)

approximately 2420' to Point E. From Point E proceed south approximately 1060' to Point F. From Point F proceed west approximately 1470' to Point G. Turn south and proceed approximately 2625' to Point H. From Point H follow the northern edge of Quick Road in a northwesterly direction approximately 3875' to Point I, thence west approximately 300' to Point J. Proceed north 1050 feet to Point K, across Kendall Park Road. Continue along the northern edge of the road approximately 2650' to Point L, thence 700" to Point M. Thence Proceed north approximately 2600' to Point N thence east 2800' to Point O thence 1800' feet to Point P on the southern edge of SR 303, thence east 1300' to the point of origin, Point A. The one discontinuous element, the quarry, is identified as Point Q and located east of the district boundary.

ILLUSTRATION 1
 VIRGINIA KENDALL STATE PARK
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO



707 Rip-Rap - Stone to be placed 3 feet above water level on face of dam. Most the stone has been quarried & hauled to dam. We consider this job 50% complete

701 Beach improvement - One layer of sand will be spread on beach during the 5th period. Another thick layer will be spread over beach. This sand will be crushed at our quarry. We consider this job 50% complete

705 Bath House - The excavation has been made and the foundation will be poured by April 1st. Sash, doors & framing has been cut & made. We consider this job 40% complete

702 Fine Grading - Road Slopes etc. Top Soil has been stripped & piled. Some of the grading has been done. We consider this job 50% complete

706 Moving & Planting Trees & Shrubs. Most of the planting has been done in this parking area. A great deal of hauling will be necessary for the bath house. This work is 50% complete

709 Nurseries - Laying out 200,000 trees & the maintenance of entire nursery

710 Pic Trails - About 2 1/2 miles of trails have been finished & covered with 4 inches of sawdust. This was thru rough country & it took us to construct a great deal of cross & side work. We have about .5 miles of trail yet to build

713 Leatlines - The excavation is made & the 2 1/2" excavation will be poured by 12/15/36. We have 3 favorable frames with 21' of lead

702 Fine Grading, Road Slopes etc. Top soil was piled when road was made to re-dress the slopes. Part of this work is finished. We consider this job 50% complete

711 Fences - The fence is up for the entire fence, but due to the long delay in repairing the gate, will the fences, couldn't be joined

STATE OF COMPLETION MAP
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 AND
 SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
 ARRON METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
 COOPERATING
 BRANCH OF PLANNING STATE PARK DIVISION

VIRGINIA KENDALL STATE PARK

BASE MAP

SCALE 1" = 250'

11/14/36

SYMBOL	
NUMBER	
DATE	

Cleveland Press

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1941

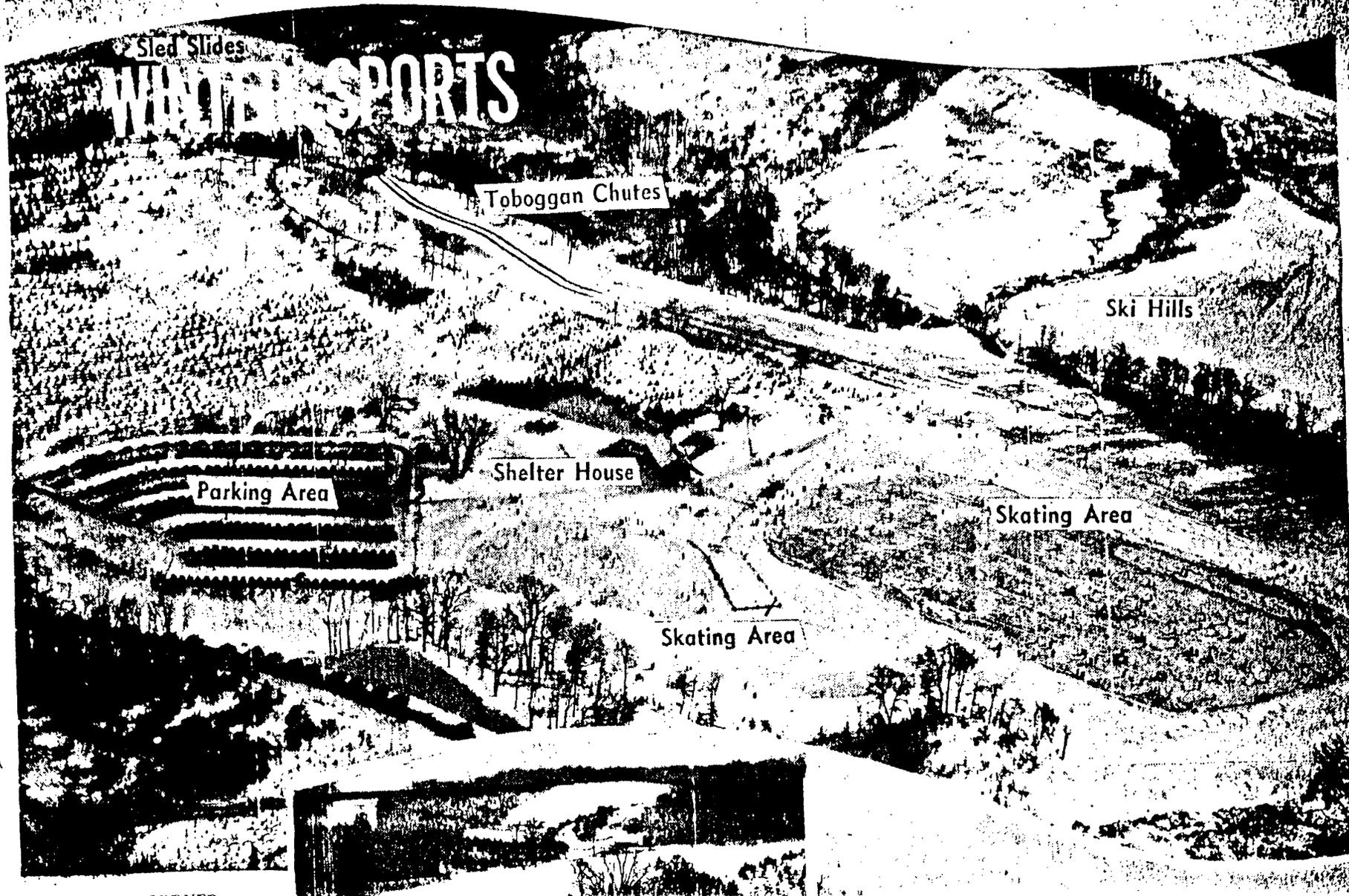
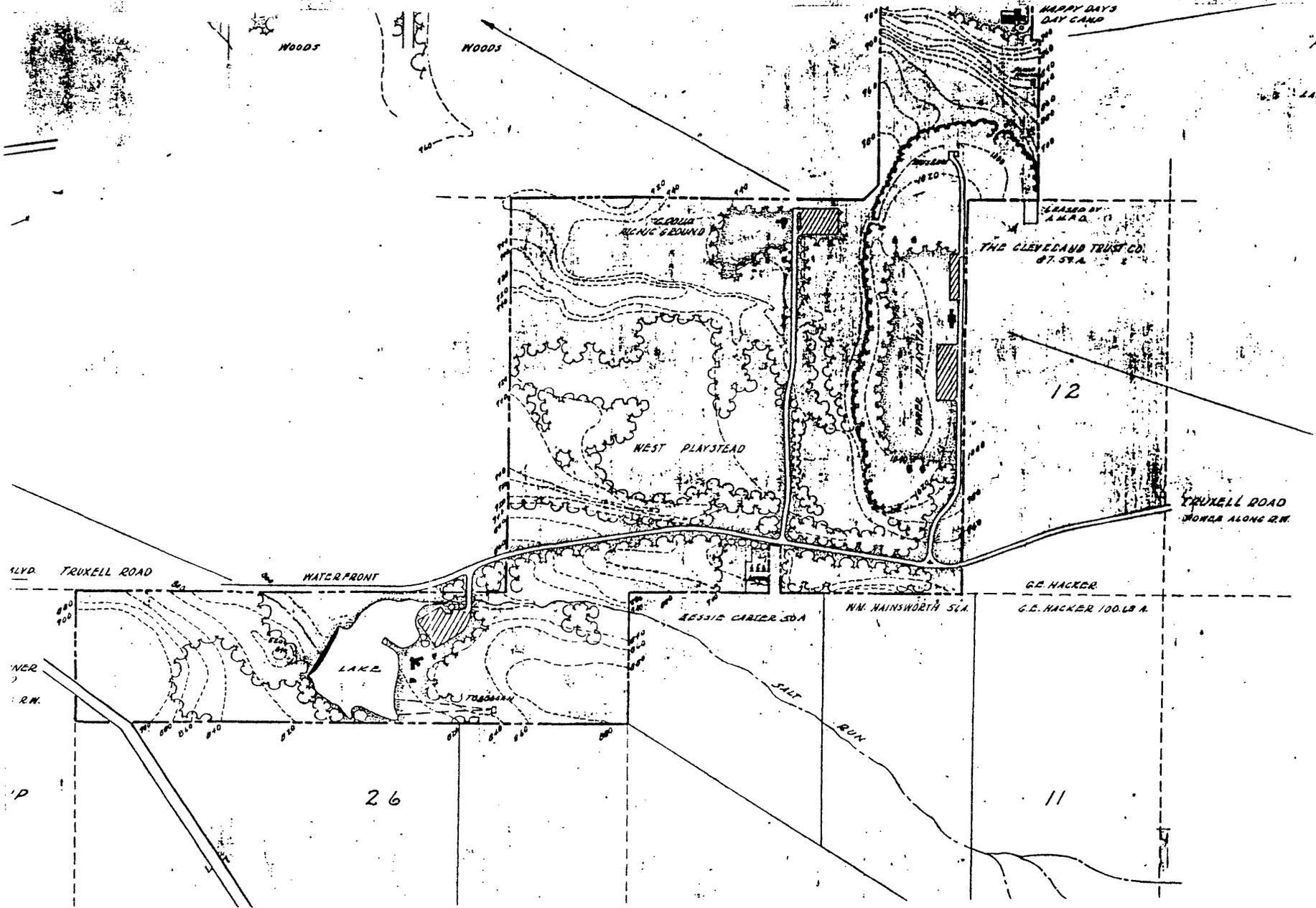


ILLUSTRATION 2
- VIRGINIA KENDALL STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

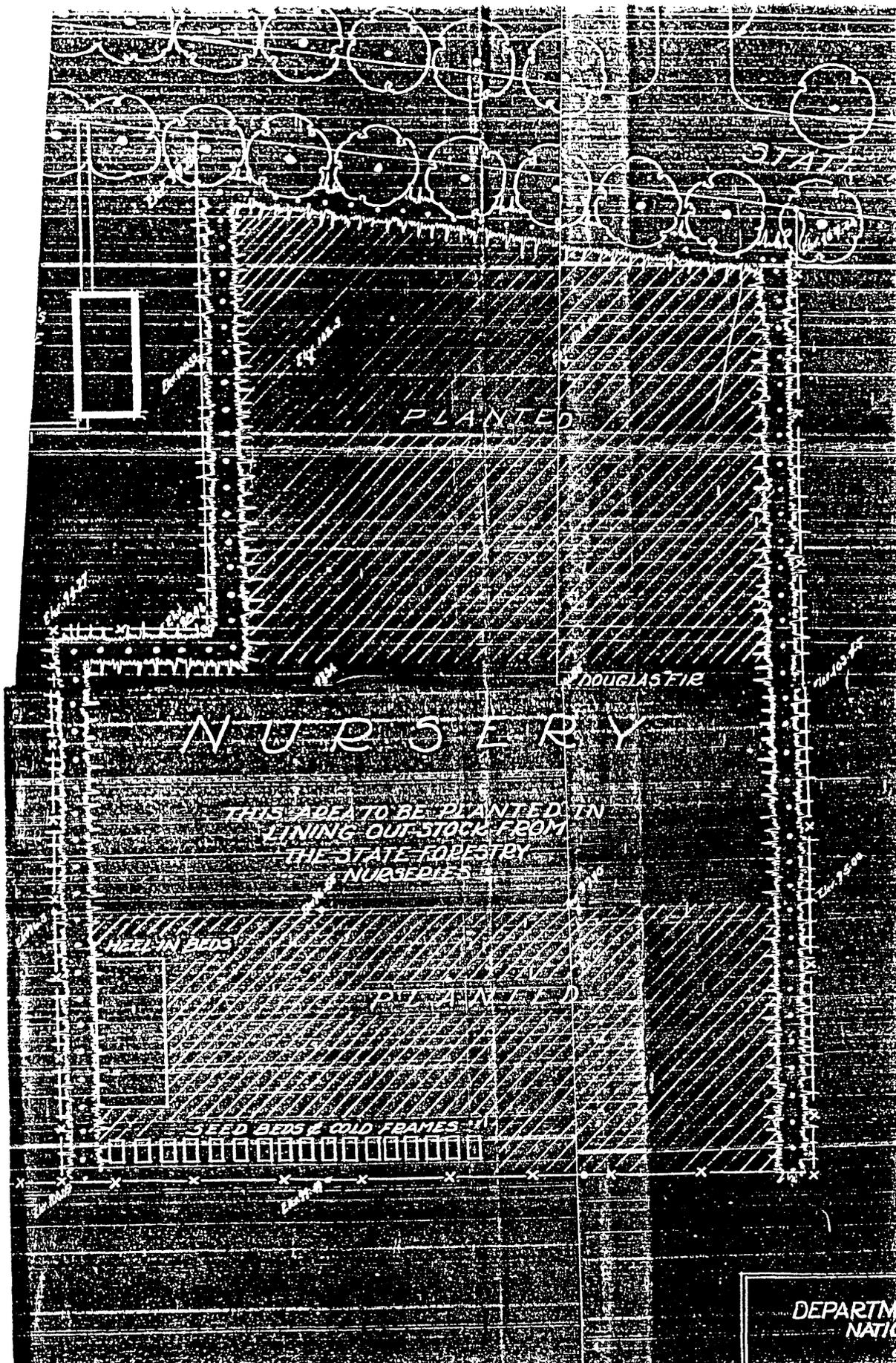
BY ROBERT BODNER

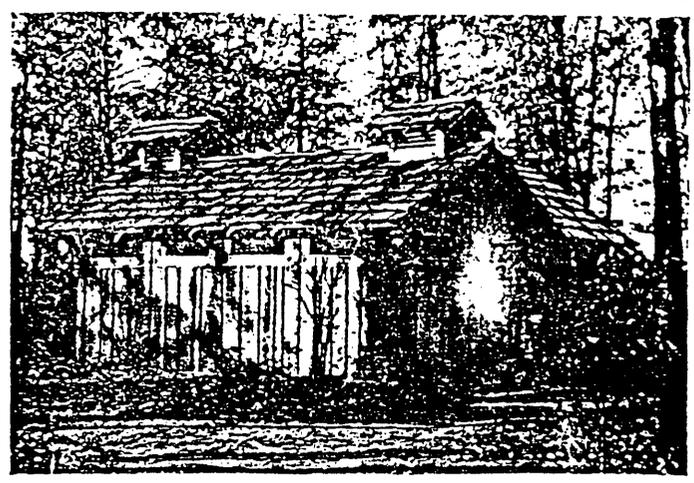
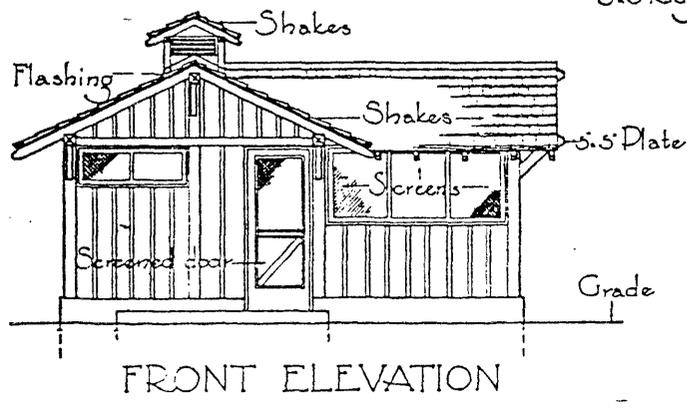
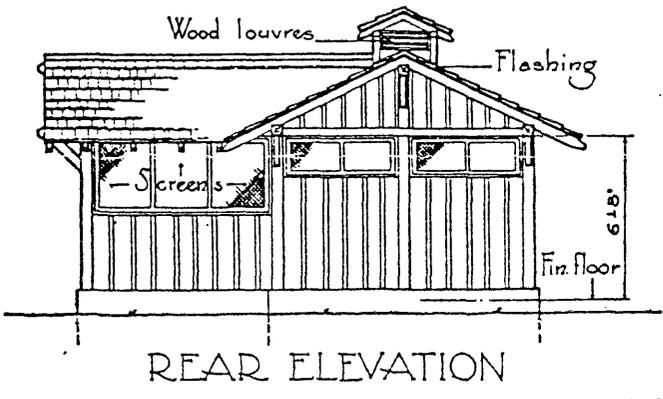
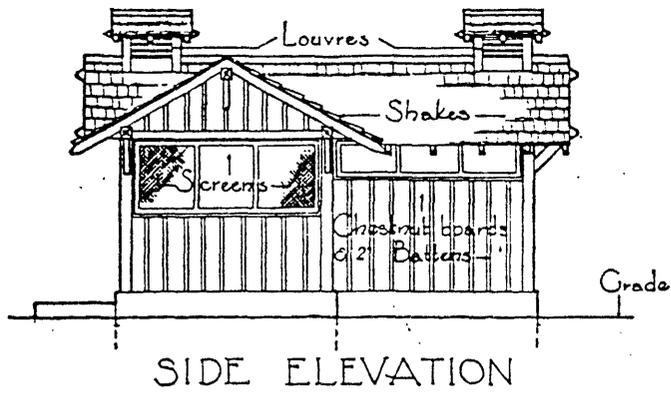
ILLUSTRATION 4
 VIRGINIA KENDALL STATE PARK
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO



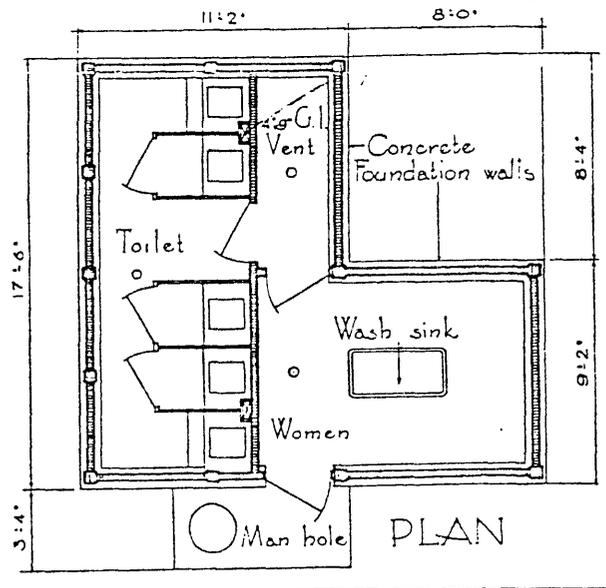
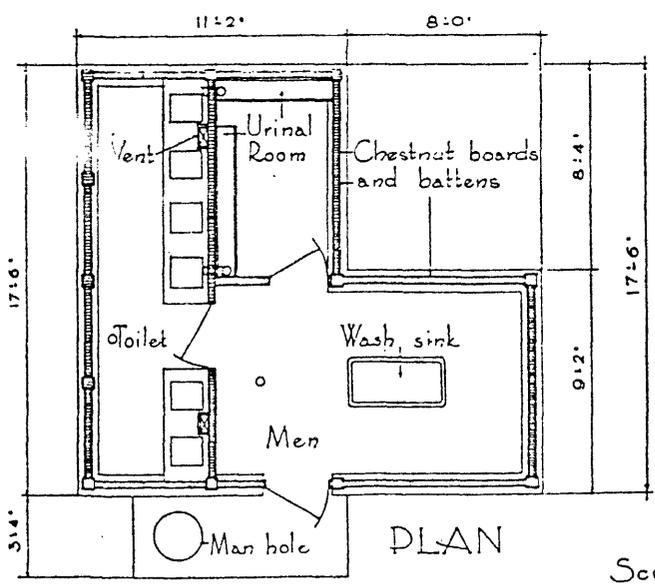
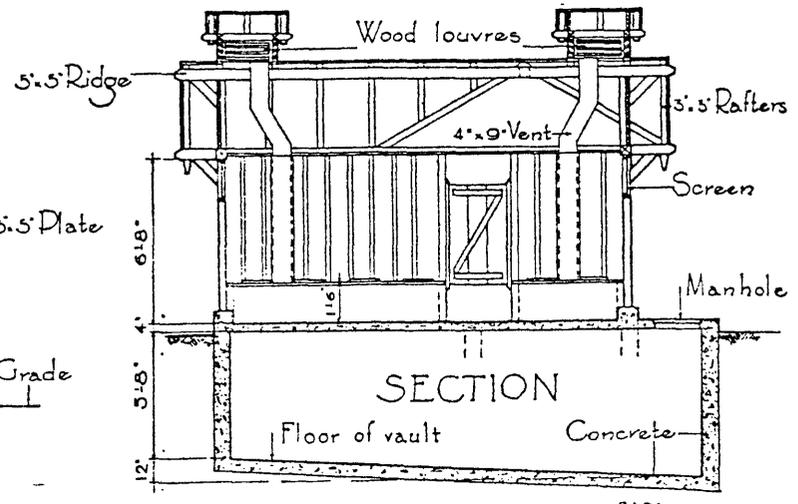
1944
 KENDALL
 STATE PARK

ILLUSTRATION 5
VIRGINIA KENDALL STATE PARK
HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO





Privy - - Virginia Kendall State Park - - Ohio.
 Dit privy that is well-lighted, well-ventilated, and definitely suited to a woodland setting without straining at too primitive 'nativeness'. Men's and women's units are closely similar, except as to plan arrangement. The not inconspicuous ventilators jauntily straddling roof-comb may provoke argument.



Scale 8" = 1'-0"



ILLUSTRATION 7
VIRGINIA KENDALL STATE PARK
HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO



11-500

3-2-92

263-11A-20

KENDALL LAKE AREA

KENDALL HILLS AREA

ILLUSTRATION 8
VIRGINIA KENDALL STATE PARK
HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

500



ILLUSTRATION 9
VIRGINIA KENDALL STATE PARK
HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

ILLUSTRATION 10
VIRGINIA KENDALL STATE PARK
HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

3-2-92

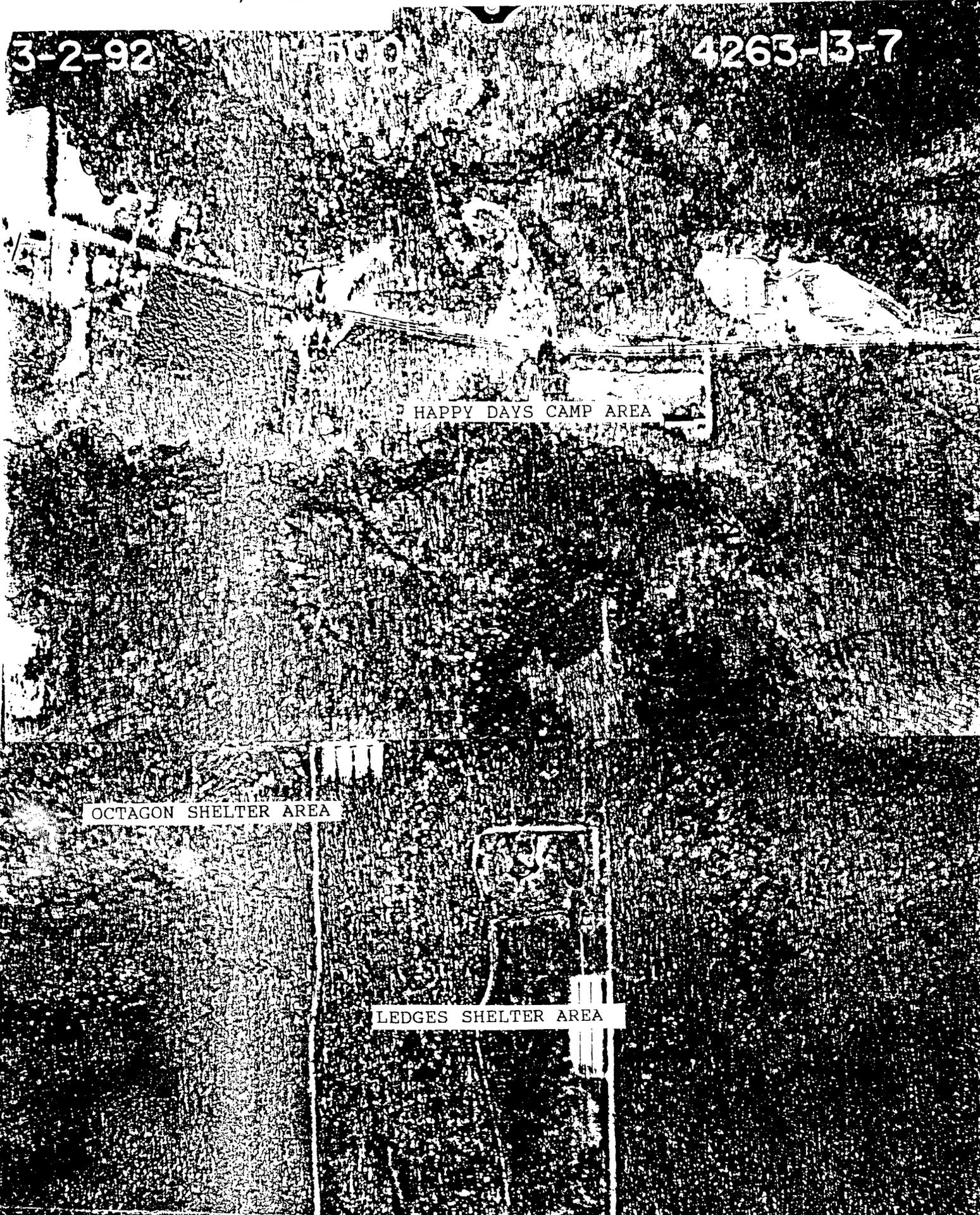
4500

4263-13-7

HAPPY DAYS CAMP AREA

OCTAGON SHELTER AREA

LEDGES SHELTER AREA





9 20 '94



9 20 '94



9 20 '94



9 20 '94



9 20 '94



HASKELL MOUNTAIN

9 20 '94



9 20 '94



9 20 '94



8-28-94



9 20 '94



9 20 '94



9 20 '94



9 20 '94



9 20 '94





9 20 '94



9 20 '94



9 20 94



9/20/94



9 20 '94



9.20'94





















8 20 '94







8-28-94









MEN





Kendall Lake →

↑
Octagon
Ledges

Kendall Lake



OCTAGON



Ledges





Leaving
Virginia
Kendall
Park



9 2 1 '94



92 1'94



9 2 1994





921'94



921'94



92194





ENTER →

ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES
PROHIBITED

ZACK'S BOAT



9 20 '94

MENDALL LAKE

Capehoga Valley



PARK
BROCHURES

9.20'94























9 20 '94



9 20 '94