
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory



Appalachian Trail - North District
Shenandoah National Park

Table of Contents

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

The Appalachian Trail–North District in Shenandoah National Park (NP) is one of three component landscapes, together with the Central District and South District, that comprise the 103-mile long Appalachian Trail (AT) landscape within the 196,000-acre Shenandoah NP. The portion of the AT in Shenandoah NP is part of the 2,175-mile trail that follows the Appalachian Mountains from Georgia to Maine as conceived in 1921 and developed and opened as a continuous trail in 1937. The North District includes twenty-four miles of trail from Possums Rest Overlook, accessed from Skyline Drive at Milepost (MP) 10.4 at the north end of the park near Front Royal, to Thornton Gap at MP 31.3 at Route 211. From the southern end of the North District, the AT continues for another seventy-seven miles south through the Central and South Districts to MP 105.4 on Skyline Drive.

The study boundaries of the CLI for the Appalachian Trail (AT)–North District include a twenty-foot wide corridor, ten-feet to either side of the trail’s centerline. This distance was selected because it generally encompasses the constructed features associated with the trail such as retaining walls and signs. Features beyond this corridor were inventoried if they were associated with the construction of the AT, were easily viewed from the trail, or if they were part of the hiking experience (i.e. shelter or view). The trail corridor intersects Skyline Drive, numerous named side trails, and unnamed spur trails that lead to Skyline Drive overlooks, parking areas, rock outcrops, and views. Other trail junctions provide access to historic and non-historic cabins for day or overnight use.

History Overview – North District:

This area of the Blue Ridge Mountains was known and used by Paleo-Indians for many centuries, with the first human presence beginning about 6,000-7,000 years ago, sometime after the last Ice Age. The first recorded European exploration of the area took place in 1669. After the arrival of European settlers, the local Native Americans were dying of introduced disease, and by 1800 they had disappeared completely or had moved away (Resource Management Plan, 1998:23). As the better farmlands were taken, the new settlers moved into the mountain hollows where they hunted, farmed, grazed livestock, and cleared the land of timber. Farming continued, including raising livestock, growing corn, and planting orchards but slowed during the droughts of 1929-1930. In 1926, Congress authorized Shenandoah NP in Virginia’s Blue Ridge area to provide a large, western-type park accessible from the population centers of the East Coast.

In 1921, the idea of the AT was born when Benton MacKaye published “An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning.” It was a synthesis of ideas of the recreational movement and growing interest in regional planning and ignited a volunteer effort to build the AT from Georgia to Maine. MacKaye organized and convened the Appalachian Trail Conference in 1925, which later became the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. In 1927, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) was organized by Myron H. Avery, and in 1928 construction of the AT in Shenandoah began (Lambert, 1979:159). By 1930, the last portion of the AT in Shenandoah NP was completed and its alignment generally followed the ridgeline in a north-south direction.

In 1931, the construction of Skyline Drive along the ridgeline in Shenandoah NP began, and between 1931 and 1938 the PATC worked to rebuild portions of the AT that were supplanted by the drive. In

1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) arrived in Shenandoah to work on the drive, the AT relocations, and other projects. The CCC improved old roads for the trail and constructed new trail using the National Park Service (NPS) Rustic style design guidelines, often employing stone retaining walls and trail edging to support the trail bed. The CCC also built stone and log cabins and shelters, and developed compatible yet more modern zinc-banded concrete trail markers. With the entry of the United States into World War II, the CCC was disbanded and park visitation slowed, although hiking continued. After the war, recreational interests increased nationwide and visits to the park rose along with hiking of the trail.

In 1956, NPS Director Conrad Wirth launched the “Mission 66” program, which anticipated high use of the parks, and planned improvements and expansion of facilities accordingly. In Shenandoah NP, a new highway overpass was constructed at Route 211 in 1960-61 and this area of the AT was relocated west. Visitation to Shenandoah NP and hiking the AT continued to increase in the 1970s, but the trail was showing signs of wear after so many years of heavy use. It had become more enclosed with vegetation, and erosion had changed the pitch on the trail bed requiring interventions such as log water bars.

Visitation was also on the rise on the entire AT. Recognizing the ever-increasing outdoor recreational needs of an expanding population and the promotion and preservation of outdoor areas and historic resources, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Trails System Act in 1968 designating the entire AT as the first National Scenic Trail on the East Coast. At this time, the PATC became a partner of the NPS. Developmental pressures also began to emerge along the trail. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the Appalachian Trail legislative amendments (Foster, 1987:149). These laws provided new tools and funding for land acquisition and additional lands were acquired along the trail corridor. That same year, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail was designated as a unit of the National Park system.

In 1981, the NPS Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan was developed and outlined how the AT was to be managed and maintained in light of its growing use and various outside pressures. In 1983, the Appalachian Trail Conference and PATC entered into a cooperative agreement with the NPS for the management of the AT in Shenandoah NP. The gypsy moth epidemic of the 1980s and the start of the hemlock woolly adelgid infestation of the 1990s changed the character of some portions of the trail as trees succumbed to the diseases, leaving behind open areas and changing the scenic views.

Significance Summary for the Appalachian Trail—North, Central, and South Districts:

The AT in Shenandoah NP is significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of landscape architecture, architecture, community planning and development, politics/government, and entertainment/recreation. Under Criterion A, it is significant for its association with the early regional planning effort to establish a linked pedestrian greenway corridor on the East Coast. It also derives significance for its role in the history of park development to develop national parks for public enjoyment and to preserve natural features and scenic areas, by creating a pedestrian spine which parallels, both conceptually and geographically, the vehicular spine of Skyline Drive. Under Criterion C, the AT is significant as an example of trail design and methods of construction established by the NPS and implemented by the

CCC. Now known as the NPS Rustic style, its principles and practices endeavored to harmonize development with the natural environment and enable the visitor to experience scenic features and views.

The period of significance for the AT in Shenandoah NP is from 1928 to 1942. In 1928, the PATC, made up of volunteer members, began construction of the trail in Shenandoah NP, which had been authorized as a national park in 1926 but would not be fully established until 1935. The period extends until 1942, encompassing the completion of the AT by the PATC in 1930; the relocation and reconstruction of portions of the trail caused by the building of the Skyline Drive, done by the CCC using NPS trail design and construction methods from 1933 to 1938; and the completion of the trail refinements by the CCC as the program came to a close, they disbanded, and the United States entered World War II. Today, the AT in Shenandoah NP retains sufficient integrity to convey its fourteen-year period of significance.

Integrity Summary – North District:

The AT–North District in Shenandoah NP retains the seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The AT still travels a north-south alignment over the ridgeline although there have been some realignments since the historic period. The trail continues to display the harmonization of NPS Rustic style design elements with the natural character, and overall there are few modern intrusions along the trail corridor. Materials have been maintained, are evident in the constructed features, and are generally in good condition. Although the trail is more wooded today than it was historically and views are more limited, the feeling and setting of a wilderness trail are still intact, as originally envisioned by Benton MacKaye. Lastly, there remains a strong association of the PATC, CCC, and the NPS with the AT.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Appalachian Trail - North District
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	975386
Parent Landscape:	300129

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Shenandoah National Park -SHEN
Park Organization Code:	4840
Park Administrative Unit:	Shenandoah National Park

CLI Hierarchy Description

The trail sections corresponding to the North District, Central District, and South District of Shenandoah NP are component landscapes of the 103-mile Appalachian Trail landscape in Shenandoah NP. The park also includes the following landscapes and component landscapes:

- Rapidan Camp landscape
- Headquarters landscape
- Mt. Vernon Iron Furnace landscape
- Skyline Drive landscape with component landscapes: Big Meadows, Dickey Ridge, Elkwallow, Lewis Mountain, Piney River, Pinnacles, Skyland, Simmons Gap, South River Picnic Grounds

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	08/27/2007
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/19/2007

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Office of Review and Compliance concurred that the Appalachian Trail is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and with the categorization of the Appalachian Trail landscape features at Shenandoah National Park, as contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Appalachian Trail-North District
Shenandoah National Park

Shenandoah National Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Appalachian Trail - North District including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Appalachian Trail-North District is hereby approved and accepted.

Chas Cartwright 8-27-2007
Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park Date

Concurrence Form from Shenandoah National Park.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Appalachian Trail-North District
Shenandoah National Park

The Appalachian Trail Park Office concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Appalachian Trail – North District, Shenandoah National Park, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

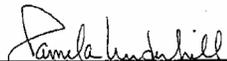
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Appalachian Trail-North District is hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, Appalachian Trail Park Office

8/28/07
Date

Concurrence Form from Appalachian Trail Park Office.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The inventory boundary of the Appalachian Trail–North District in Shenandoah National Park (NP) is defined by a twenty-foot wide corridor, ten-feet to either side of the trail's centerline. This arbitrary distance was selected because it generally encompasses a majority of the constructed features associated with the Appalachian Trail (AT) such as retaining walls and signs. The boundary occasionally expands outward from the twenty-foot wide corridor to include features that were associated with the construction of the AT, were easily viewed from the trail, or were part of the hiking experience, such as a shelter or view.

Appalachian Trail - North District
Shenandoah National Park

The North District includes twenty-four miles of trail from Possums Rest Overlook accessed from Skyline Drive at Milepost (MP) 10.4 at the north end of the park near Front Royal, to Thornton Gap at MP 31.3 at Route 211.

State and County:

State: VA
County: Page County
State: VA
County: Rappahannock County
State: VA
County: Warren County

Size (Acres): 58.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point: Line
Datum: NAD 83
UTM Zone: 17
UTM Easting: 746,295
UTM Northing: 4,503,530
Boundary Datum Other: Start points

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point: Line
Datum: NAD 83
UTM Zone: 17
UTM Easting: 732,903
UTM Northing: 4,282,474
Boundary Datum Other: end points

Location Map:

Appalachian Trail - North District
Shenandoah National Park

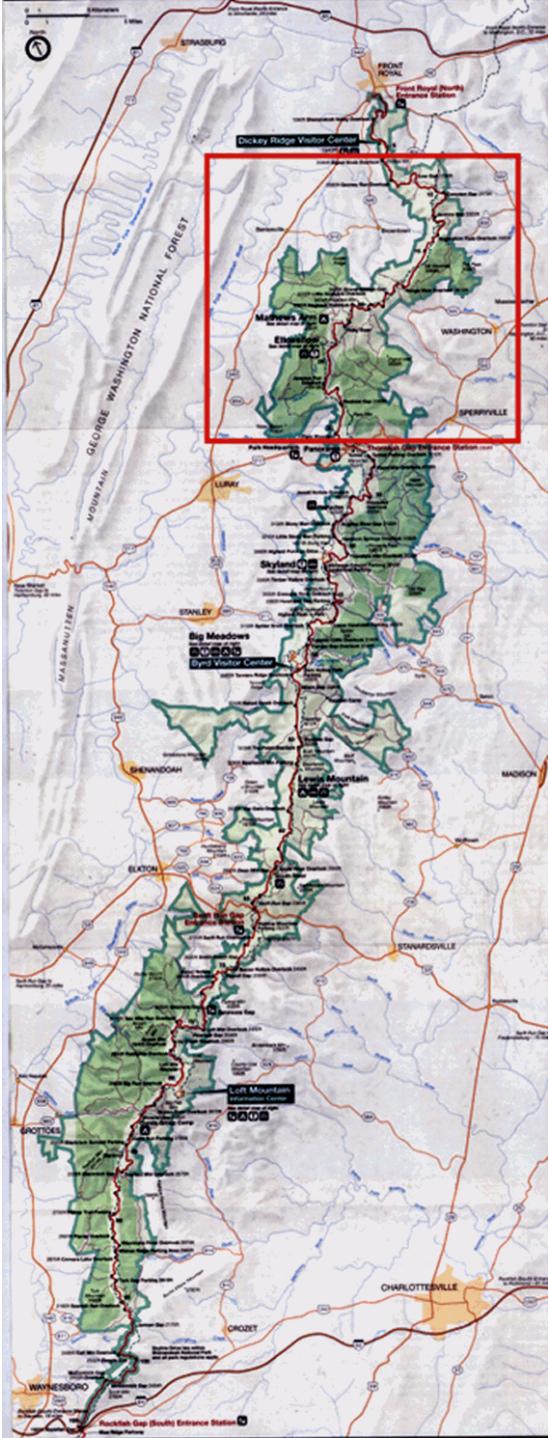


Figure 1: North District, Shenandoah National Park (NP) with Appalachian Trail (AT) (dashed green line) and Skyline Drive (red line). (Shenandoah NP, 2006 and State University of New York [SUNY], 2006)

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The Appalachian Trail–North District is part of Shenandoah NP, where recreation is the primary cultural use. Part of the park includes many thousands of acres of federally-designated wilderness. In the surrounding region, tourism is a significant industry. Agriculture, particularly poultry production, is the main industry to the west, with convenient north-south access via Interstate 81 and Route 340. Suburban development in the Washington D.C.-Baltimore metropolitan area dominates the east, with east-west access via Interstate 66 and Routes 7, 50, and 211. The northern end of the AT–North District can be accessed from Route 522, east of Front Royal. The southern end of the AT–North District can be accessed from Thornton Gap and the junction of Skyline Drive and Route 211, between Luray and Sperryville.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Appalachian Trail–North District in Shenandoah NP is located along the ridgeline of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The highest elevation on the AT–North District is at the second peak of Hogback Mountain at 3,475 feet and the lowest elevation is at the junction of Jeremy’s Run Trail at 2,100 feet. The trail still follows much the same route as it did when first constructed between 1928 and 1938. It climbs peaks such as Compton, the Marshalls, the Hogbacks, and Pass Mountain among others and descends into the gaps of Compton, Jenkins, Gravel Springs, Elk Wallow, Beahms, and Thornton. Stone retaining walls constructed by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the National Park Service (NPS) allow portions of the AT to negotiate steep slopes.

Beginning in 1931, the construction of Skyline Drive, also along the ridgeline, necessitated relocating portions of the AT, and much of this work was undertaken by the CCC. The AT connects with Skyline Drive at eleven points in the North District. The AT also intersects with networks of side trails built by the PATC and CCC that are still used by hikers to reach other high peaks and to follow descents into hollows along streams and waterfalls.

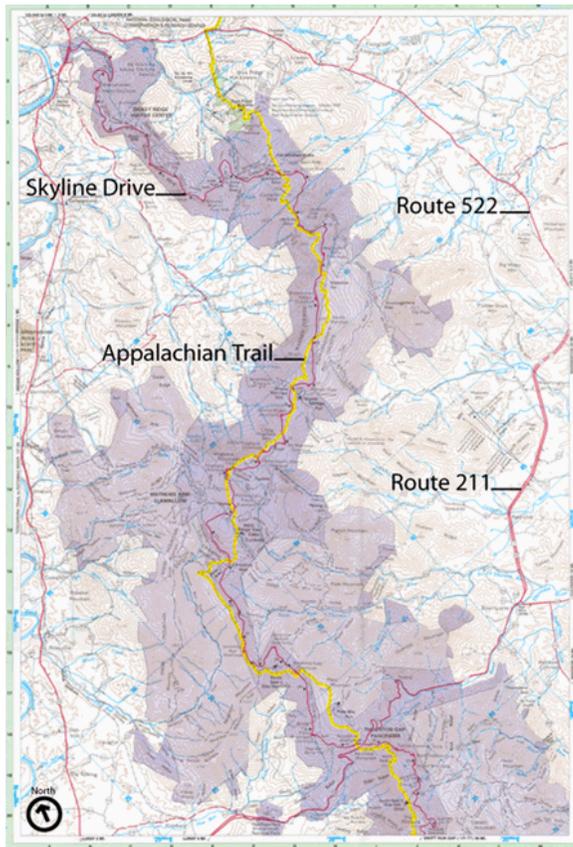


Figure 2: AT–North District in Shenandoah NP. Skyline Drive is in red, and the AT is in yellow. (Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Map 10)

Type of Context: Political

Description:

The Appalachian Trail–North District is located in Page, Rappahannock, and Warren counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Shenandoah NP is managed by the NPS and the AT–North District is cooperatively managed and maintained by the NPS and PATC.



Figure 3: Shenandoah NP is located in northwest Virginia. (Courtesy Great Outdoor Recreation Pages)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/01/2007

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Appalachian Trail (AT) in Shenandoah National Park (NP) is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of regional planning and recreation, and under Criterion C for its design and construction and its association with National Park Service (NPS) Rustic style. According to the management category definitions, the AT–North District meets several criteria listed for “Must Be Preserved and Maintained”: the inventory unit is related to the park’s legislated significance and the inventory unit serves as the setting for a nationally significant structure or object.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding

Expiration Date: October 2004, under revision by ATPO

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO-NPS), Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), and Shenandoah National Park “4-way” (#MU-2490-99-008).

Type of Agreement: Other Agreement

Expiration Date: February 2012

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

“General Agreement Between Shenandoah National Park and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club for Maintaining Certain Trails, Huts, and Maintenance Buildings” (#G4840070001).

Type of Agreement: Other Agreement

Expiration Date: August 2012

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

“General Agreement Between Shenandoah National Park and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club for Trail Patrol and Ridgerunner Programs” (#G4840070002).

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Expiration Date: March 2011

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

“Cooperative Agreement Between Shenandoah National Park and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club: Interpretive Demonstration Way Station, Primitive Cabins at Shenandoah NP” (#4840060004).

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Type of Access: Other Restrictions

Explanatory Narrative:

Reservations are required at the cabins.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Adjacent lands contribute to the significance of the AT in Shenandoah NP as they are a key part of the viewsheds from the trail. Along the AT–North District, vegetation limits many views. There are broad views from North Marshall Mountain and a view to the west and to the valley below from the trail just below Little Hogback Overlook. Currently, there is a non-contributing southwestern view into the park from the AT’s northern entry at Possums Rest. Over time, hikers have created short spur trails that lead to openings in the canopy or to rock outcrops.

National Register Information

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Skyline Drive Historic District
NRIS Number:	97000375
Primary Certification Date:	04/28/1997
Name in National Register:	Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase)
NRIS Number:	97001112
Primary Certification Date:	09/19/1997
Name in National Register:	Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase)
NRIS Number:	03001251
Primary Certification Date:	12/05/2003

Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1928 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works
Time Period:	AD 1928 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Regional Planning
Time Period:	AD 1928 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Recreation
Facet:	General Recreation
Time Period:	AD 1928 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Conservation of Natural Resources
Facet:	Origin And Development Of The National Park Service
Time Period:	AD 1928 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Conservation of Natural Resources
Facet:	The Great Depression And Conservation
Time Period:	AD 1928 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Conservation of Natural Resources
Facet:	Scenic Preservation
Time Period:	AD 1928 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Conservation of Natural Resources
Facet:	The Conservation Movement Matures 1908-1941

Time Period:	AD 1928 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Conservation of Natural Resources
Facet:	Range And Forest Protection
Time Period:	AD 1928 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Conservation of Natural Resources
Facet:	Wilderness System
Time Period:	AD 1928 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Historic Preservation
Facet:	The Federal Government Enters The Movement
Time Period:	AD 1928 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	Political and Military Affairs 1865-1939
Facet:	The Great Depression And The New Deal, 1929-1941

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Community Planning and Deve

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Entertainment - Recreation

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Politics - Government

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Social History

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Statement of Significance:

Within all three districts of Shenandoah NP, the AT is significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of landscape architecture, architecture, community planning and development, politics/government, and entertainment/recreation. It is significant under Criterion A for its association with the early regional planning effort to establish a connected pedestrian greenway and recreational corridor on the East Coast. The AT also derives significance under Criterion A for its association with the twentieth century movement to develop national parks for public enjoyment, to conserve natural features and scenic areas as public parks, and develop natural areas, including sub-marginal lands for public recreational use. The planning and building of the AT was significant in the history of the park's development, creating a pedestrian spine that paralleled, both conceptually and geographically, the vehicular spine of the Skyline

Drive. The AT is also significant under Criterion C as an example of trail design and method of construction intended to harmonize with the natural environment and enable the visitor to experience scenic features and views. The initial AT established by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) was built by club volunteers who used their own tools. They followed the trail line scouted and set by Myron H. Avery, the club's president, and cut away brush and tree limbs and marked the trail with painted blazes on trees to create a narrow footpath through the wilderness. In the portions of the AT that were relocated and reconstructed by the National Park Service (NPS), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) implemented authorized trail construction guidelines that were developed in the west coast national parks and adapted to the specifics of the east coast landscape. They included a four-foot-wide trail bed and followed principles and practices of NPS design, now characterized as NPS Rustic style.

The period of significance for the AT in Shenandoah NP is 1928-1942. It begins in 1928 with the PATC's initial development of the trail that extended through 1930, as is still evident in sections along the high ridges. The period continues when almost immediately upon initial completion, the PATC began relocating and reconstructing portions of the AT because of the construction of Skyline Drive. While it is not known for certain how much of the trail remains intact from the 1928-1930 period, the overall location of the trail and its connection to the larger AT remains from this time. In 1933, the PATC's work on the trail was assisted by the CCC who arrived to work on the AT, Skyline Drive, side trails, cabins, and shelters, and to plant vegetation. By 1938, the majority of the relocations and reconstructions of portions of the AT were finished. The period of significance extends to 1942 when the last of the CCC trail refinements, including side trails, cabins and shelters, and plantings, were completed and the CCC at Shenandoah NP was disbanded because of World War II. By this time, the AT within the park was well-established and connected north and south to the rest of the AT as a regional and recreational trail that stretched 2,175 miles from Georgia to Maine, which was hiked by thousands. Today, the AT in Shenandoah NP retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance during the fourteen-year period of significance.

Sections of the AT in Shenandoah NP, primarily its crossings along Skyline Drive, are listed in the National Register as a contributing resource in association with Skyline Drive, but the trail itself is not separately listed. The entire Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah NP is eligible for the National Register and may be considered a separate historic district, as part of the Skyline Drive Historic District, or as a district under the multiple listing, "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks (1993)." Other areas contemporary to the AT in Shenandoah NP have been listed in the National Register such as Skyland, Big Meadows, Park Headquarters, Piney River, Simmons Gap, and Lewis Mountain.

The 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail, in its entirety, has not been formally evaluated for its eligibility to be listed in the National Register. However, outside of Shenandoah NP, several other sections of the AT have been determined to be eligible or are listed in the National Register. The entire AT corridor in New Jersey, including sections in Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties, was determined eligible for the National Register in 1978. A section of the AT in Massachusetts was listed as part of the Mount Greylock National Historic District in 1998, which recognizes and preserves the work of the CCC. A section of the original trail in Vermont that crosses the Pico/Killington range was determined eligible for

Appalachian Trail - North District

Shenandoah National Park

the National Register by the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer. Similarly, the section of trail through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Pennsylvania was determined eligible for the National Register by the NPS.

National Register Criterion A:

The AT in Shenandoah NP is significant under Criterion A for its association with early regional planning to establish a connected greenway corridor on the East Coast. In October 1921, the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects* published Benton MacKaye's article "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning." MacKaye called for the creation of a continuous wilderness footpath along the Appalachian Range from Maine to Georgia to provide respite from encroaching civilization. MacKaye envisioned the trail as the backbone of an entire wilderness system of wild reservations and parks, which linked together by side trails, would be a reservoir for maintaining the primeval and rural environment of the Appalachians. In 1928, MacKaye, who had become a highly respected member of the American Regional Planning Association of America founded in 1923, published *The New Exploration: A Philosophy of Regional Planning*. The text expanded his theory of controlling the growth of metropolitan areas in the eastern United States and drew attention to the critical importance of preserving the Appalachians as an "indigenous" environment (Maddux, 1997).

MacKaye inspired the growing number of hiking and outdoor recreational enthusiasts throughout the eastern United States. They seized upon his idea of the connected trail and started to develop the trail through previously-established and new trail clubs. The trail's supporters instantly recognized the scenic and recreational value of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, and thus the area became an early focus of trail planning. In March 1925, the first Appalachian Trail Conference was held in Washington, D.C., and a committee formed that represented the numerous geographical regions crossed by the proposed trail. William A. Welch, manager of the Palisades Interstate Park in New York and New Jersey and a member of the Southern Appalachian National Park Commission, was appointed chairman of the committee. (Maddux, 1997:96)

In November of 1927, the PATC was organized in Washington, D.C. by Myron H. Avery, who was elected PATC president and held the position until 1940 when the former naval officer, an expert of maritime and admiralty law, was called again to war. It was during his tenure that work on the AT in Shenandoah NP began in 1928. Avery was also chairman of the Appalachian Trail Conference from 1931 to 1952. The hard-driving Avery was devoted completely to the development of the AT in Shenandoah NP and rallied AT hikers and volunteer trail-builders to work on establishing the trail and its side trails starting in 1928. Using their own axes and pruning tools, the PATC began to clear the trail and build numerous side trails which provided access to other peaks and hollows. The alignment of the AT, generally along the ridgeline in a north-south direction, was completed in Shenandoah NP in 1930. The PATC's early construction of the AT founded a tradition of volunteer management and maintenance of the entire AT that continues today.

In 1931, when construction of the Skyline Drive along the park's ridgeline began, Avery chose to work with the NPS to align and improve portions of the trail where the trail and Drive conflicted. Others, such as George Pollock Jr., founder and manager of Skyland and a founder of the PATC, hosted

meetings at the resort to participate in laying out the new road and revised portions of the trail and also to promote the interests of the resort. MacKaye, however, never could reconcile his vision of a “footpath through the wilderness” with the proximity of the Skyline Drive motorway and developed areas in Shenandoah NP, and he had a permanent falling out with Avery because of it (Schaeffer, 1999). MacKaye left the ATC and went on to found the Wilderness Society.

The AT in Shenandoah NP is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of Shenandoah NP, one of the first and largest national parks established in the eastern United States. By the 1920s, most of the national parks had been established in the West, but were largely inaccessible to the large population centers of the East. In annual reports of 1919 and 1923, NPS Director Stephen P. Mather pointed out the need for eastern national parks. A growing concern among private citizens, planners, politicians, and conservationists raised interest in developing a national park in the Southern Appalachians close to the nearby metropolitan areas. In February 1925, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to determine park boundaries in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Great Smoky Mountains, and Mammoth Cave region of Kentucky, and to accept offers of land donations to create such parks. By April 1926, the volunteer Shenandoah Appalachian National Park Committee had reported pledges of more than one million dollars to purchase lands for the proposed park (Engle, 2006:17). In May 1926, Congress and President Calvin Coolidge authorized the establishment of Shenandoah NP, although no funds were allocated for land purchases. Private citizens and the Commonwealth of Virginia were charged with acquiring the land (Maddux, 1997). In December 1935, Congress formally established the park when Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes accepted 176,430 acres from the state (Schaeffer, 1999). On July 3, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated Shenandoah NP in a ceremony held in Big Meadows.

From its beginning as a collection of privately-owned and state lands within the proposed national park boundaries, a key feature of Shenandoah NP was the AT, which formed the pedestrian spine of the park. The AT took advantage of the park’s spectacular natural setting, following the crest line of the Blue Ridge and providing panoramic views of the Piedmont Plain to the east and the Shenandoah Valley to the west. Almost as soon as it was done, the trail and the PATC had to contend with the growth of the new park, and in particular with the development of what would become the park’s vehicular spine, Skyline Drive. The first section of Skyline Drive was originally envisioned to connect President Herbert Hoover’s Rapidan Camp to Skyland but later evolved to extend over 100-miles from Waynesboro to Front Royal. Like the AT, the route of Skyline Drive followed the ridgeline. The PATC had to negotiate to keep the trail where it was already established, but in the places where the trail and drive overlapped, the PATC was required to shift the AT away from the road (Schaeffer, 1999).

By 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal programs brought an unprecedented infusion of professionals and laborers to generate improvements in state and national parks. Federal programs provided economic relief in the form of employment for both skilled and unskilled laborers. The AT within Shenandoah NP was just one focus of the New Deal labor that improved the park’s circulation systems, which gestured to the characteristics of nineteenth-century urban parks as developed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. The motorway, Skyline Drive, was developed along the ridgeline and served as the park’s main “spine.” The AT also traced the linear ridgeline in the park and was

multi-use, forming the primary pedestrian and equestrian-way. A far-reaching network of side trails were blazed to link with the AT and Skyline Drive and became secondary pedestrian routes for hiking to waterfalls, springs, ridge-tops, and rock formations. Some of the pre-existing roads were upgraded into a system of “truck trails” and used for fire and service roads, also connected to the AT and Skyline Drive (McClelland, 1998:181). The development of roads and trails benefited from the teams of NPS landscape architects, architects, and engineers, as well as the craftsmanship of the CCC, all of which contributed to the construction of Skyline Drive and the relocation and reconstruction of considerable portions of the AT.

National Register Criterion C:

The AT in Shenandoah NP is significant under Criterion C for illustrating American park design and in particular for reflecting the NPS Rustic style (1916-1942) that had been developed and refined in national parks in the West and implemented by the CCC. The historical underpinnings of the NPS Rustic style have their origins in the American landscape design profession’s principles and practices, which derived from the nineteenth-century ideas about landscape preservation and harmonization of built features. The origins of these tenets reach back to Andrew Jackson Downing’s writings in the *Horticulturist* magazine and his seminal *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (1841), which were influential in establishing the concept of the pleasure ground and urban park. According to Downing, a visitor, while moving along a walk, path, or trail, experienced a carefully designed sequence. The pathway or trail was not merely a conduit, but integral to the created structure of the landscape. Scenic views, topographic changes, and natural features such as vegetation, streams, and rock outcroppings were revealed, modified, or enhanced to inspire an awe and reverence for nature and a rejuvenation of the visitor’s spirit. This philosophy carried through to the design details for using native construction materials, naturalistic plantings, and incorporating vernacular forms of construction derived from traditions of pioneer settlers. On an immense scale, the national parks were very large pleasure grounds created for the American public to experience wilderness and restore their connection to nature. Downing’s concept was codified in the March 1, 1872, law that established Yellowstone NP, the nation’s first “public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people” (McClelland, 1998:34).

One of Downing’s most avid twentieth century followers, Frank A. Waugh, landscape architect with the U.S. Forest Service and author of *The Natural Style in Landscape Gardening* (1917), also was important to the NPS’s design of parks, particularly with the use of native vegetation, and road and trail development (McClelland, 1998:184). Waugh appreciated Downing’s verve for native plants and encouraged the American public to celebrate indigenous plants, not only for the beauty of their flowers and foliage, but also for their character-enhancing abilities when applied to a rustic style landscape. Waugh used Downing’s plant theory as a base for his own and expanded it to the larger context. Waugh saw trails (and roads) as providing the framework for the entire design of the recreational area within national parks. By 1915, trail-building methods had been established in western national parks such as Yosemite. However, with site conditions varying greatly between different national parks, additional techniques were developed in order to implement the latest design ideas across the country. In the next fifteen years, improvements were made and in 1934 the NPS published the first standards in trail construction, which were employed in constructing the AT in Shenandoah NP. NPS landscape

architects located trails, revealed scenic features and views, and preserved significant vegetation, rockwork, and other natural features (McClelland, 1998:242). They were concerned with camouflaging the trail's structure and erasing signs of construction for an overall harmonious effect. Engineers worked to maintain a grade not exceeding eight percent and used switchbacks only when necessary. Their standard was a refined four-foot-wide trail bed built on a gravel base, with tree stumps, rocks, and roots removed (USDI, 1937).

PATC and NPS trail construction exhibited distinct techniques. In the late 1920s, the PATC worked to cut and mark the trail, and created a footpath by clearing brush and branches to allow for easy passage (PATC, 1929:1-2). The two-foot-wide tread way was not graded or surfaced. The NPS development of the AT within Shenandoah through the 1930s reflects the NPS principles and practices of park landscape design implemented in state and national parks through federal work-relief programs of the 1930s, primarily the CCC. Designed through the NPS Branch of Plans and Design, the development of the trail according to the NPS Rustic style offered the hiker and recreational enthusiast an experience of nature that was both romantic and wild. The CCC protected and preserved the natural scenery and features by routing the AT around large rock outcrops and ancient trees, and by prohibiting use of exotic plants. Along the trail, the CCC revealed scenic vistas at key intervals and developed overlooks. They avoided right angles and straight lines in the trail and created a sinuous line that provided a sense of mystery and surprise. The CCC used native plant materials, such as oak, mountain laurel, witch hazel, and Virginia creeper. The CCC also transplanted existing and planted new native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers to erase the scars of construction and earlier land uses such as grazing and farming. Buildings and structures, such as retaining walls and trailside shelters and huts, were constructed of local materials such as chestnut and stone, and were designed in a romantic evocation of pioneering building techniques through the use of dry-laid masonry and log construction. At the same time, trail markers were created in a modern, stylized design using concrete and stamped metal that was readily recognizable within the natural setting (McClelland, 1998:242).

The NPS Rustic style is still evident in the AT's landscape features, including twelve cabins and shelters that date from the historic period. Skilled stonework can be seen in the more than 15,000 linear feet of retaining walls that still support the trail and integrate it into the rocky landscape. So too is the graceful alignment of the trail that sweeps around the shoulders of mountains and highlights such natural features as looming rock outcrops or the sound of nearby splashing stream.

State Register Information

Identification Number:	DHE 069-00234-0019
Date Listed:	07/03/1997
Name:	Skyline Drive Historic District

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Outdoor Recreation-Other

Primary Current Use: Outdoor Recreation-Other

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Recreation/Culture-Other	Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Appalachian Trail	Both Current And Historic
App. National Scenic Trail	Current

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
7000 - 1600 BC	Settled	First human presence in the Blue Ridge Mountains as seasonal encampments.
AD 1000	Farmed/Harvested	Farming develops in the valleys.
AD 1669	Explored	Dr. John Lederer, first European to record exploration in this area of the Blue Ridge Mountains, describes a forest full of game and a large open area believed to be Big Meadows.
AD 1700 - 1799	Settled	Immigrants from Tidewater area come to Piedmont region and from Pennsylvania to Shenandoah Valley, leading to disappearance or departure of Native Americans from area.
AD 1750 - 1830	Settled	Settlers move from lower elevations into the Blue Ridge Mountain hollows, where they pursue farming, grazing, timbering, and hunting game.

Appalachian Trail - North District
Shenandoah National Park

AD 1830 - 1888	Built	Recreational use of the Blue Ridge Mountains begins around 1830 with the opening of Black Rock Springs Hotel, south of current Route 33. The first recreational summer outing at Skyland is led by George F. Pollock, Jr. in 1888.
AD 1921	Established	Benton MacKaye publishes “An Appalachian Trail: A Project of Regional Planning,” establishing the vision for the Appalachian Trail.
AD 1925	Established	Benton MacKaye establishes Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC).
AD 1926	Established	May 22: Congress authorizes Shenandoah National Park (NP), but without funds for land purchases.
AD 1927 - 1928	Established	Myron H. Avery organizes Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC).
AD 1928	Built	PATC begins building the Appalachian Trail (AT) from Thornton Gap to Skyland resort.
AD 1929	Built	PATC continues the AT from Chester to Thornton Gap in the North District.
AD 1929 - 1939	Built	PATC builds side trails that connect the AT to the tops of other peaks and down into hollows.
AD 1930	Built	PATC completes the building of the AT in Shenandoah NP.
AD 1931	Moved	Contractors hired by the Bureau of Public Roads begin construction of Skyline Drive. It causes the PATC to begin relocating portions of the AT from Thornton Gap to Skyland.
AD 1933	Built	PATC, and possibly CCC, build Range View Cabin along the AT.
AD 1933 - 1942	Built	Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) arrives in May and helps with Skyline Drive construction as well as relocation and reconstruction of portions of the AT which includes building stone retaining walls, culverts, edging, and spring heads.

Appalachian Trail - North District
Shenandoah National Park

	Planted	CCC plants native species such as mountain laurel, witch hazel, and oak along the AT.
AD 1935	Established	December 26: Secretary of the Interior accepts deeds for park lands from the Commonwealth of Virginia.
AD 1936	Established	July 3: President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicates Shenandoah NP.
	Reconstructed	CCC completes relocation and reconstruction of portions of the AT in the North District from Chester to Thornton Gap.
AD 1937	Built	Last mile of the entire AT completed at Mt. Sugarloaf, Maine.
AD 1938	Built	Most trail relocations and reconstruction through Shenandoah NP completed by this time. At this time, trail management is under the direction of the National Park Service (NPS).
	Established	Appalachian Trailway agreements signed with NPS, U.S. Forest Service, and ATC.
AD 1939 - 1940	Built	CCC builds Pass Mountain Shelter.
AD 1940	Built	CCC builds Indian Run Shelter and Gravel Springs Shelter.
AD 1941	Built	CCC builds Elk Wallow Shelter.
AD 1942	Abandoned	CCC camps close and the program is ended because of World War II.
AD 1945	Established	Myron Avery notes that graded trails have matured with vegetation and mosses.
AD 1948	Established	Earl Shaffer completes first thru-hike of the AT.
AD 1950	Naturalized	Old farm fields along the AT return to forest from earlier years of clear-cutting and farming.

Appalachian Trail - North District
Shenandoah National Park

AD 1955	Established	Emma Gatewood is the first woman to complete an AT thru-hike.
AD 1960 - 1961	Moved	AT is relocated west of the Panorama facility with the construction of the Lee Highway/Route 211 overpass.
AD 1968	Established	AT becomes the first National Scenic Trail on the east coast with the signing of the National Trails System Act, Public Law 90-543. Appalachian National Scenic Trail Advisory Council (ANSTAC) charged with right-of-way selection, marking and maintenance, and general administration of the AT. PATC becomes a partner with the NPS.
AD 1970	Established	Master National Park Service/Appalachian Trail Conference cooperative agreements signed. Relocations within twenty feet of the centerline do not require pre-approval.
AD 1974 - 1975	Moved	AT relocated west from Chester Gap to Lake Front Royal. The route changes where the AT exits the Park near Possum's Rest in the North District.
AD 1976	Conserved	Congress sets aside 80,000 acres in Shenandoah NP as wilderness, or approximately 2/5 of the total parklands. The AT travels through the wilderness area in the North District by Mt. Marshall and Pass Mountain.
AD 1978	Established	President Jimmy Carter signs into law AT legislative amendments including a \$90 million commitment in funds to protect the AT. The law allows for the purchase of lands adjacent to the South District of Shenandoah NP where the AT travels in and out of the park. Appalachian National Scenic Trail designated as a unit of the National Park system.
AD 1980 - 1990	Altered	Gypsy moth epidemic destroys foliage in Shenandoah NP and begins to change the vegetative character of the AT.
AD 1981	Established	Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan passes as Public Law 95-625 and outlines how the AT is to be managed and maintained.

Appalachian Trail - North District
Shenandoah National Park

AD 1983	Established	Appalachian Trail Conference enters into a cooperative agreement with NPS for management of the AT. Shenandoah NP and PATC continue their partnership in managing and maintaining the trail .
AD 1995 - 2000	Altered	Hemlock wooly adelgid begins to devastate the hemlock populations in Shenandoah NP. The AT's character impacted by loss of hemlocks.
AD 2006	Moved	PATC relocates AT east, away from the power tower complex near Hogback Overlook in the North District.

Physical History:

8,000-9,000 YEARS AGO to 17TH CENTURY: NATIVE AMERICAN USE

This area of the Blue Ridge Mountains was known and used by Paleo-Indians for many centuries, with the first human presence beginning about 9,000 years ago, sometime after the last Ice Age. The Paleo-Indians were hunters and gatherers who used the mountains for seasonal camps. With the development of farming in the valleys by 1000AD, Native American use of the mountains focused on game hunting (Resource Management Plan-hereafter called RMP, 1998:23). The Manocan and Manahoac tribes used this area, and a buffalo path is said to have passed through Rockfish Gap at what is now the southern most end of Shenandoah National Park (NP) (Writers Program of the WPA, 1940).

1669 to 1926: EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT, SUBSISTENCE FARMING, MINING, AND RECREATION

The first recorded European exploration of this area of the Blue Ridge Mountains took place in 1669. Dr. John Lederer, who led the party, described the woods as wild and full of game. In 1716, Alexander Spotswood, Governor of Virginia, led an expedition across the Blue Ridge to encourage settlement in the area, likely crossing at Swift Run Gap or Big Meadows (Lambert, 1989:32-33). English, Scots-Irish, and Germans then immigrated to the area from the Tidewater to the Piedmont, and from Pennsylvania to the Shenandoah Valley (Maddux et al., 1992:7-2). Throughout this time, the local Native Americans were dying of introduced disease, and by 1800 they had disappeared completely or had moved away (Lambert, 1989:21-22; RMP, 1998:23).

As the better farmlands were taken, new settlers moved into the mountain hollows where they relied on hunting, farming, grazing, and timbering that led to clearing of the land (RMP, 1998:23). The openings in the forest were later advanced by the arrival of the chestnut blight in the early part of the 1900s, which killed the chestnut trees and left “ghost forests” of their sculptural remains. The blight also robbed the local people of nut crops and rot-resistant wood that was suitable for construction (Engle, 1999:67).

At some sites, industrial uses also developed in the 1800s. In the Stony Man Mountain Tract, from 1845 to 1850, copper was mined and charcoal was produced for smelting. Copper mining continued in the mountains into the 1920s. Iron and manganese also was mined in the Blue Ridge (Lambert, 1989:77-85). Recreational use of the mountains began around 1830 with the opening of Black Rock Springs Hotel, south of current Route 33. The first recreational summer outing was held in 1888 on the Stony Man Tract Skyland, led by George Pollock, Jr., who recognized the area’s recreational potential. This outing eventually led to the establishment of a permanent mountain resort that would later be known as Skyland. In other areas, farming continued including raising livestock, growing corn, and planting orchards but slowed during the droughts of 1929-1930.

In 1921, Benton MacKaye published “An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning.” The document was a synthesis of ideas from the recreational movement and from the growing

interest in grappling with the modern day urban, suburban, and rural issues of regional planning. MacKaye, in his 1922 follow-up article, "Progress Toward the Appalachian Trail," in Appalachia, said he hoped "To open the great eastern playground. Our ultimate aim is more than just a trail – it is a whole system of them, a cobweb planned to cover the mountains of the eastern country" (MacKaye, 1922: 244).

1926 to 1931: INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARK AND APPALACHIAN TRAIL

In 1926, Congress authorized Shenandoah National Park (NP) in Virginia's Blue Ridge area to provide a large, western-type park accessible from the population centers of the East Coast. However, the act did not provide federal funding to acquire land. Until it was officially established in 1935, park acreage was donated in its entirety by the Commonwealth of Virginia, which had purchased most of the land through condemnation (RMP, 1998:23). These transactions resulted in the removal of homesteads, farms, and previous uses from those lands (McClelland, 1998:290).

In 1927, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) was organized by Myron H. Avery, and in 1928 construction of the Appalachian Trail (AT) in Shenandoah NP began (Lambert, 1979:159). Club members brought their own axes and pruning tools and began to clear the trail and by later that year had built the trail from Thornton Gap to the Skyland resort (PATC Bulletin #5, 1928; Engle, 2006: 159). Work continued into 1929 and a section south from Skyland to Fishers Gap was completed in the spring and by the fall the trail extended to Swift Run Gap. At the same time, another PATC crew was building the AT in the northern part of the Blue Ridge, from Chester Gap to Thornton Gap (PATC Bulletin #21, 1930). In addition to work on the AT, the crews also built numerous side trails that provided access to the tops of other peaks and down into hollows. By 1930, the PATC completed the southern portion of the AT from Swift Run Gap to Rockfish Gap, often using old roads. This marked the completion of the AT in Shenandoah NP.

1931 to 1942: SKYLINE DRIVE CONSTRUCTION, APPALACHIAN TRAIL RELOCATION AND RECONSTRUCTION, CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS, AND TRAIL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

President Franklin Roosevelt officially dedicated Shenandoah NP on July 3, 1936, but many park developments had already been underway. By this time, portions of the AT's initial route had been relocated and reconstructed to accommodate what was envisioned as the park's most important asset. As described in the Report of the Southern Appalachian National Park Committee from June 30, 1931: "the greatest single feature, however, is a possible skyline drive along the mountaintop, following a continuous ridge and looking down westerly on the Shenandoah Valley...and commanding a view [to the east] of the Piedmont Plain...Few scenic drives in the world could surpass it (Engle, 1999:15).

In 1931, the National Park Service (NPS) announced intentions to build Skyline Drive along the ridgeline. Construction was accomplished by private contractors, and the first road section was to be from President Herbert Hoover's Rapidan Camp to the Skyland Resort, around twenty miles, but evolved into a thirty-four mile segment from Swift Run Gap to Thornton Gap. This

section, called the Central District, was completed by 1934. The thirty-two mile North District section, from Thornton Gap to Front Royal, opened to the public in October 1936 and the thirty-two mile South District section, from Swift Run Gap to Rockfish Gap, opened to the public in August 1939 (Maddux, 1995:8-9,10,11).

As Skyline Drive was also routed along the ridgeline in Shenandoah NP, from 1931-1938 the PATC worked to relocate and reconstruct portions of the AT that were supplanted by the drive. In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) arrived in Shenandoah NP to work on the drive, the AT relocations, and other projects. The CCC program was created during the Depression as an economic stimulus aimed at improving and supporting national parks and forests. CCC projects in Shenandoah NP included the construction of fire roads, trails, shelters, and comfort stations, removal of dead chestnut trees, and cultivation of native vegetation for replanting (Figs. 4-6). Work also included installation of utilities, eradication of white pine blister rust, and improvements to streams (Engle, 2001).

The CCC worked under the direction of NPS landscape architects and engineers who had established general design guidelines in the 1918 NPS park design and planning policy. According to the policy, roads, trails, buildings, and other improvements were required to harmonize with the landscape (McClelland, 1998:135). By the late 1920s, the NPS focused on designing and building trails that could “serve both the horseback rider and the hiker” (McClelland, 1998:87).

By 1934, the CCC was at work on the AT in all three sections (North, Central, and South Districts), with work in the Central District nearing completion. Skyland’s George Pollock Jr. went so far as to publicize “a through bridle path built along the crest of the ridge, superseding the old Appalachian Trail” (Lambert, 1979:163). In October 1934, the NPS Engineering Division published its first set of standards for foot and bridle trails, which guided the CCC’s work on the AT:

“...Specifications for trail building called for a four-foot standard width, which could be developed by cutting into the slope or by benching the supporting ground with a dry-laid wall of large stones when the slope was very steep. Dry random rubble walls could be built down hill to retain soil and rocks on steep slopes or uphill to retain material above the trail and prevent slides” (McClelland, 1998:242). The CCC’s work was guided by these standards.

By 1935, the CCC had progressed with the work on the AT, with some portions relocated and reconstructed and others reconstructed in place in the Central District from Thornton Gap to Swift Run Gap and a portion in the South District from Brown’s Gap to Black Rock Gap. In 1936, work on the North District section of the AT was finished (CCC Progress Chart 4/1/35; Shenandoah NP Master Plan text, 1936). A milestone was reached for the entire AT in 1937 when the last mile of the AT from Georgia to Maine was opened at Mount Sugarloaf, Maine.

In 1937, CCC trail design and construction was articulated in project-training manuals developed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, such as Emergency Conservation Work, Project Training – Brick and Stone Work and Emergency Conservation Work, Project Training – Construction of Trails. These particular manuals included straightforward text and simple line

drawings showing how-to and how-not-to examples of construction (Fig. 7). These standards were already used in practice and were used in developing the AT–North District in Shenandoah NP. Drawings showed how to cut a trail out of a steep slope, on a gentle slope, and across flat ground. On slopes, the recommended cross-pitch was ½" per foot or 2" in the typical trail width of four feet (Fig. 8). The Construction of Trails manual detailed the level of work required in trail construction and advocated a team approach:

“using the best trail builders to lead the line...starting construction from a flagged location and approval from all Branches interested in its construction...the landscape architect who is charged with utilizing the scenic features and blending the trail with the landscape; the engineer who is concerned with problems of construction; the forester whose duties involve the protection and propagation of natural cover; the geologist who will assist in locating the trail so as to take advantage of geographic and geologic features and protect them from destruction; and the wildlife technician in whose care the zoological and botanical values are entrusted” (USDI, Construction of Trails, 1937:2).

Natural features were acknowledged and carefully considered in trail construction. As seen with the AT–North District, trails were often located to pass rock outcrops that were very large, displayed local geologic history, or had curious formations. According to the Construction of Trails manual:

“If the trail passes a rock face or has been of necessity cut into a rock exposure, the only work required is the removal of loose rock which might endanger users of the trail...exposures of the bare rock often contain important stories which enhance the value of the trail. This is also true of some cut banks of unconsolidated material” (USDI, Construction of Trails, 1937:6,8)

Trails were built to preserve as much of the existing plantings as possible, which followed the developing program of landscape naturalization. By 1930, the NPS had established policies which excluded all exotic seeds, plants, and animals from the national parks (McClelland, 1998:97). Each area to be developed was first carefully studied to understand the local plant ecology and then planted accordingly.

“Some planting may be done by the foreman (during his construction) with the material he takes out of the right-of-way when he is clearing. Good plants should be carefully taken up when clearing and planted naturally in places that are bare or they may be used to conceal construction. In all the planting policy should be to create a condition that is as natural as possible” (Fig. 9) (USDI, Construction of Trails, 1937:25).

Trees also were considered an asset and preserved wherever possible:

“Where trails pass close to large trees and the location is kept below the tree, the type of construction shown in Sketch No. 16 should be adopted. This will make it possible to build the trail to the proper grade and location without injury to the tree roots” (USDI, Construction of Trails, 1937:11) (Fig. 10)

CCC work also improved the infrastructure of the portions of the trail that were relocated and reconstructed through the use of naturalistic local stone retaining walls, culverts, edging, and springheads. In the Brick and Stone Work manual:

“Rubble masonry may be laid coursed or uncoursed....Most of the low retaining walls, slope

walls, and miscellaneous structures in park projects are laid up in rubble masonry. It fits into the surroundings better than more formal kinds of masonry, and is usually built of stones found nearby. For these projects, it is the most attractive masonry when well built, and satisfies all of the requirements of such field structures. More than that, rubble masonry is a thing of beauty when well done, and its composition and pattern call for good judgment and imagination. . . Rubble masonry is one of the best things that an enrollee (CCC) can learn to handle, for experts in this trade are in demand, and architects and landscape architects always have need of men who can lay up this type of masonry in an artistic manner. The thing we find most beautiful is that which satisfies our sense of proportion and of suitability of materials, and our feeling of good taste in design. It will be simple and appropriate, in a pattern pleasing in its variety and balance, and having unity with its surroundings” (USDI, Brick and Stone Work ,1937:9,11) (Figs. 11-12).

In 1938, the CCC concluded its work on relocating and reconstructing portions of the AT within Shenandoah NP (Lambert, 1979:181). Around this time, the number of CCC enrollees decreased as more jobs became available elsewhere (Lambert, 2001:263). However, they continued to work with the PATC on the park’s trail system where it connected the AT to many side trails. The CCC built cabins and shelters along the AT–North District including Range View Cabin (primarily built by the PATC, 1933), Pass Mountain Shelter (1939-1940), Indian Run and Gravel Springs Shelter (1940), and Elk Wallow Shelter (1941) (PATC Guide, 1959: 21-28). In 1942, with the United States’ attention on World War II, the CCC was disbanded.



Figure 4: Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) photo showing two men staking the alignment of the AT near Range View Cabin, circa 1935. (Shenandoah NP Archives)



Figure 5: A CCC crew constructing a retaining wall for the AT, which will be surfaced with a gravel walking tread, circa 1935. A string line is used to guide stone placement (location of photo unknown). (Shenandoah NP Archives)



Figure 6: CCC photo showing a completed section of the AT with a bench cut into the natural slope, a lower retaining wall, and graded gravel tread at an even grade and width, circa 1935 (location unknown). (Shenandoah NP Archives)

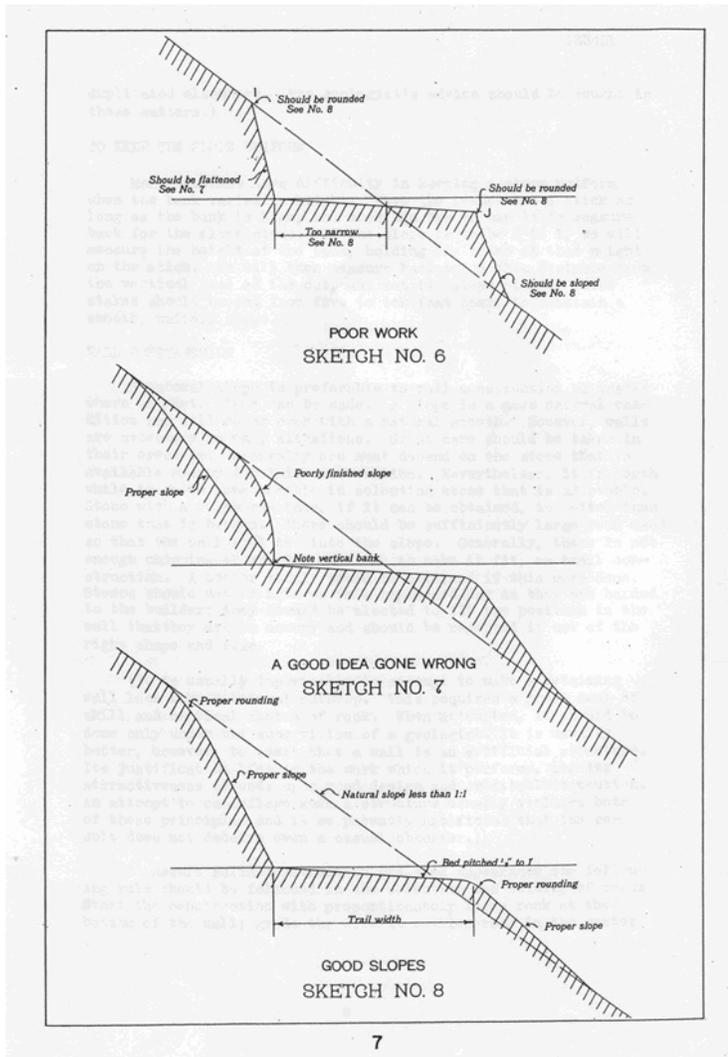


Figure 7: U.S. Department of the Interior 1937 manual, *Construction of Trails*, used by the CCC. Diagram illustrates proper construction of bench cuts for side-hill trails, such as the trail section in Figure 6. (Shenandoah NP Archives)



Figure 8: CCC photo showing completed Neighbor Mountain side trail, circa 1935. The trail has a width of 42-48 inches, is edged with stones, and is surfaced with gravel. (Shenandoah NP Archives)

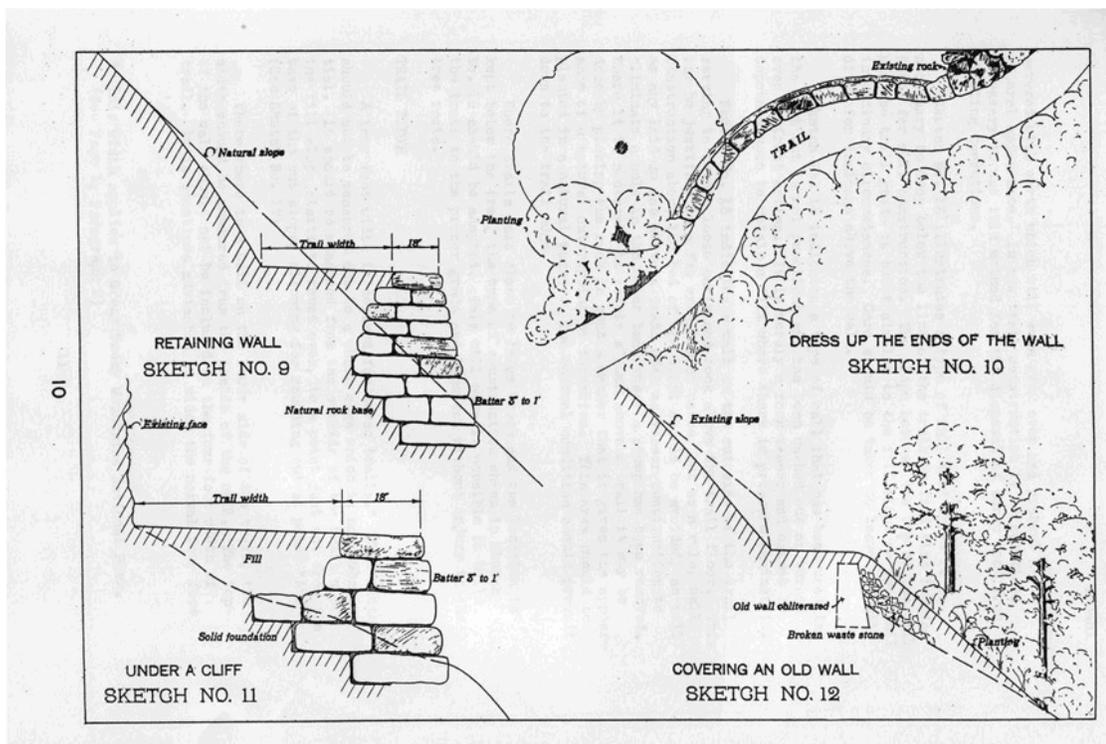


Figure 9: U.S. Department of the Interior 1937 manual, *Construction of Trails*, illustrates proper construction of retaining walls. The structure widens under the tread for durability and drainage. (Shenandoah NP Archives)

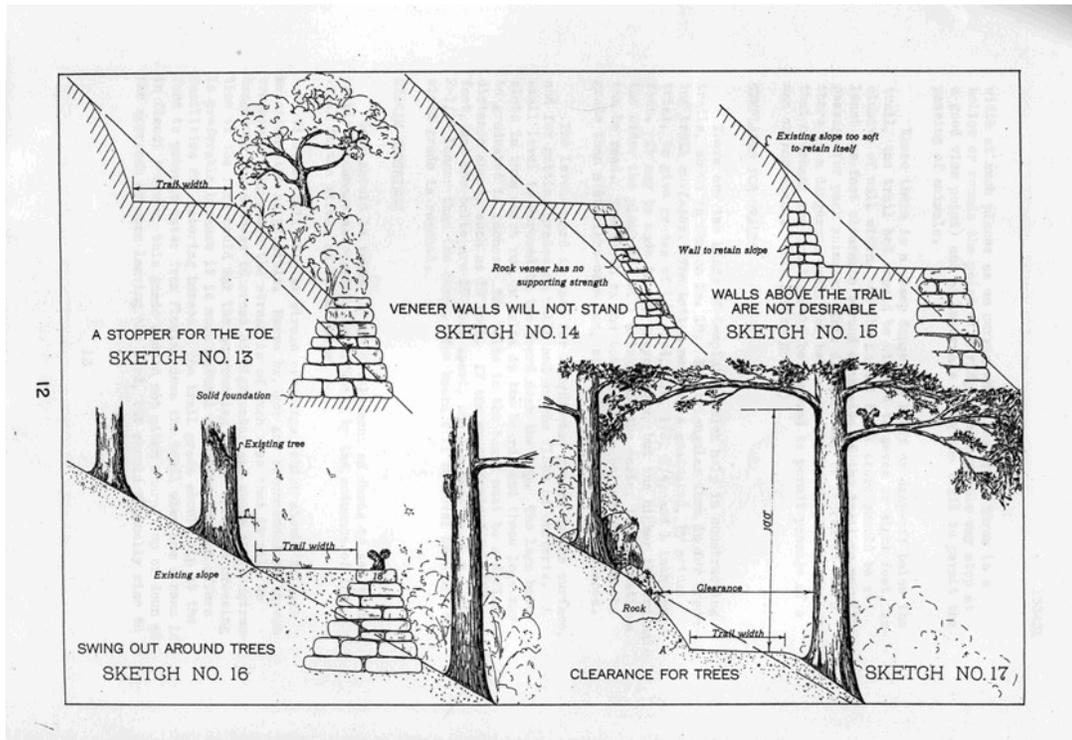


Figure 10: The 1937 manual, *Construction of Trails*, shows proper construction of retaining walls around trees, dissuades use of walls above the trail, and suggests a 10-foot clearance for horses. (Shenandoah NP Archives)



Figure 11: CCC photo showing heavy hauling during the construction of the AT south of Mt. Marshall Trail, circa 1935. The CCC used wheelbarrows to bring in material from borrow pits for surfacing the trail tread. (Shenandoah NP Archives)



Figure 12: CCC photo showing rubble walls along AT near Mt. Marshall, circa 1935. The trail ascends at an even grade and width, with a substantial amount of gravel added for a durable tread. (Shenandoah NP Archives)

1942 to 1956: WORLD WAR II AND RENEWED RECREATIONAL INTEREST

With the departure of the CCC, the NPS assumed “the whole weight of the park work” (Lambert, 2001:263). The war brought rationing of gas and tires, and motoring through Shenandoah NP virtually stopped. Yet hiking continued, although somewhat less so, and skiing the trails became a new, albeit occasional, use. Although skiing focused on the Pinnacles area, one ranger reported, “there was also skiing on “many” open areas...with varying slopes and on graded trails with their standard four-foot width because of the variety of scenic beauty which they offer” (Quoted in Lambert, 1979:184). Park Superintendent Freeland, in a 1940s letter to Jean Stephenson, Appalachian Trail Conference newsletter editor, emphasized: “...There are many groups making three to ten day trips, utilizing the lean-tos. Apparently, the curtailment of normal vacations and normal living has resulted in a greater urge to seek the mountains. After all, the conception of the Appalachian Trail was needed immediately after the last war, and to meet a greatly felt need; and we feel that if it can be done we should see it is maintained, not only for use now, but so it will be available when the war is over and the men returning” (Quoted in Lambert, 1979:185).

In 1945, Myron Avery returned to Shenandoah NP from Navy service in the war and saw that the years had weathered the trail, vegetation had filled in, and moss started covering the rocks. He remained concerned about the park’s combined use of horse and foot trails, and in time equestrian use of the AT was eventually banned: “The war...has brought a real gain to the Park Service trail systems in the East...But the gains of this maturity may yet prove all too transient. It is a gain, which should be preserved at all costs. This factor presents, to my mind, one of the most serious problems of post-war planning...The Park Services does not recognize any distinction between trails for foot and horse travel. Presumably, its western experience has not indicated that combined use brings serious problems. It requires little observation, however, to make clear that all this maturity will be speedily and totally lost by any horseback travel. The moss and vegetation will be speedily chopped up. Drainage will wash off the soil, leaving only a small bed of rocks so unpleasant for foot travel. ...Superintendent Freeland declined to exclude horses from the graded trails” (Lambert, 1979:186).

After the war, visitation to the park eventually rebounded. By the 1950s the NPS was planning construction projects under a program called “Mission 66” that would help plan for an expected increase in visitation to national parks across the country.

1956 to Present: LEGISLATION, TRAIL ALIGNMENT, BUILT FEATURES, AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

NPS Director Conrad Wirth launched the ten-year Mission 66 program in 1956. For the AT–North District this translated to developing a highway overpass at Route 211 in 1960-61 and relocating the AT in the North District west away from its original location near the old Panorama lodge and hotel. The trail emerged from the woods and crossed the new four-lane highway before continuing into the Central District and around the new Panorama facility.

The 1960s and 1970s continued to see an increase in visitation to Shenandoah NP and hiking of the AT. Use became increasingly multi-purpose throughout the park:

“Groups of day-hikers shepherded by leaders from different trail clubs had become common. Hikers also came as individuals, couples, and in family groups, and there was a surge in backcountry campers as well. Bicyclists and motorcyclists had definitely increased, and there were birders, wildflower enthusiasts, observers of ecology and the environments, fishermen, horseback riders, sunbathers, rock climbers, and seekers of old sites or cemeteries and legends of people who roamed or dwelt here...” (Lambert, 2001:273).

During this same period, a series of laws and agreements were introduced to help protect the AT and its environs. In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Trails System Act which designated the AT as the first National Scenic Trail on the East Coast. The act stated that National Scenic Trails were for “recreation and for the conservation and enjoyment of the areas through which the trails would pass” (Foster, 1987:15,16). The law charged the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Advisory Council (ANSTAC) with right-of-way selection, marking and maintenance, and the general administration of the AT (Foster, 1987:17). ANSTAC and the NPS signed cooperative agreements that permitted relocations of less than twenty feet from the centerline without going through an approval process. This allowed maintenance crews to shift the trail slightly when necessitated by erosion.

In 1976, 80,000 acres of Shenandoah NP were designated as wilderness area in order to protect the overall wild character of the park. The AT–North District benefited from this protection and retained its naturalized forests in the North District areas along North Marshall, the crest line east of Jeremy’s Run, and through Pass Mountain (Fig. 13). In 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the Appalachian Trail legislative amendments (Foster, 1987:149). These laws provided new tools and funds for land acquisition and additional lands were acquired along the trail corridor. In the AT–North District, it allowed for the purchase of land northwest of Possums Rest Overlook. In 1981, a NPS Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan outlined how the AT was to be managed and maintained in light of its growing use and various outside pressures, and in 1983 the Appalachian Trail Conference and PATC entered into a cooperative agreement with the NPS for the management of the AT.

A significant relocation of the trail in the North District occurred in 1974 when the AT was shifted west from Chester Gap to Lake Front Royal and Route 522 because of the development of the housing subdivision, Blue Ridge Mountain Estates accessed from Route 610. This changed where the AT exited the park at Possums Rest, yet retained the wilderness aspect of the trail and possibly anticipated future land acquisitions in the area to protect the AT. The most recent relocation was in the summer of 2006. The PATC moved the AT in the North District at Hogback Mountain. Originally, the trail passed along the western edge of the ridge and had wide views of the valley below and the radio tower over one’s left shoulder when hiking north to south. The valley still is seen along the initial approach and then takes a turn east and travels through the cooler, darker woods. Some shelters in the North District were removed due to easy access and over use such as Elk Wallow Shelter, or due to changes use such as Indian Run, which now is a PATC maintenance facility. New cabins and shelters have also been added to accommodate the needs of hikers such as Tom Floyd Wayside Cabin just outside the park and Byrd’s Nest 4 Shelter. Range View Cabin, and Gravel Springs and Pass Mountain Huts (formerly called shelters), are maintained by the PATC and enjoyed by hikers.

With the constant increase in use, much work has been accomplished to maintain the condition of the AT in Shenandoah NP. Over the years, some treadway surfaces have lost some of their layered material due to erosion and direct and recurring impacts on the surface. While the trail in the past was designated for both horse rider and hiker, only Possums Rest Overlook to Springhouse Trail in the North District is currently designated for both. Wood waterbars that divert water off the trail have been replaced and new waterbars installed, and check dams that contain erodible soils have also been constructed. Corrugated metal culvert pipes have been added when there was more water than a check dam or waterbar could handle. Stone edging and retaining walls have been repaired if needed, but some stone edging has become partially buried from the accumulation of leaf duff and soils dislodged by erosion. New signs have been added to improve communication with hikers and in the North District include signs that mark the boundaries of the designated wilderness area, registration boxes and maps under plexi-glass, and metal utility markers.

The character of vegetation has also changed along the trail. Since the 1930s, Shenandoah NP has witnessed the gradual succession of open areas into secondary growth hardwood forests as well as the maturation of plant material installed by the CCC, and as intended by the NPS Rustic style. Mountain laurel proliferated and oaks, maples, and pines multiplied, vines crawled over rocks and up trees, and perennials spread into drifts. Bare mountainsides became covered in spring bloom and then fall color. As a full palette of native plant material has taken over, the AT has exchanged wide-open views for more selective ones.

In the 1980s, the gypsy moth epidemic devastated Shenandoah NP. The moths defoliated many of the deciduous trees, changing the character of the vegetation along the AT at the time. New plant growth replaced those that could not tolerate the successive defoliation. In the 1990s, another devastating infestation occurred with the arrival of the hemlock wooly adelgid. The loss of the hemlocks changed the character of some segments of the AT, whether walking along the trail or looking at a view in the distance. A hiker, while in the woods with hemlocks, would feel the density of the evergreen foliage and coolness from the shade. This darker and denser forest provides a significant contrast for the hiker when the AT would open up to a clearing. With the hemlocks mostly gone, the woodlands in some areas are lighter and hikers can see around and through the deciduous and understory trees. A rock outcrop may be revealed or a new view opened up. The hemlocks that survive are propagating and starting new stands, giving hope that resilient strains may yet develop. However, the wooly adelgid has destroyed some very old, large hemlocks.

Wilderness

In 1964, the United States Congress passed a law known as the Wilderness Act which created a National Wilderness Preservation System. The Act defined wilderness as “an area where earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” Today over 100 million acres throughout the United States are protected as wilderness for present and future generations to explore and enjoy.

Shenandoah National Park contains nearly 80,000 acres of federally designated wilderness. Help protect this wilderness and other wild places by practicing the principles of *Leave No Trace*.

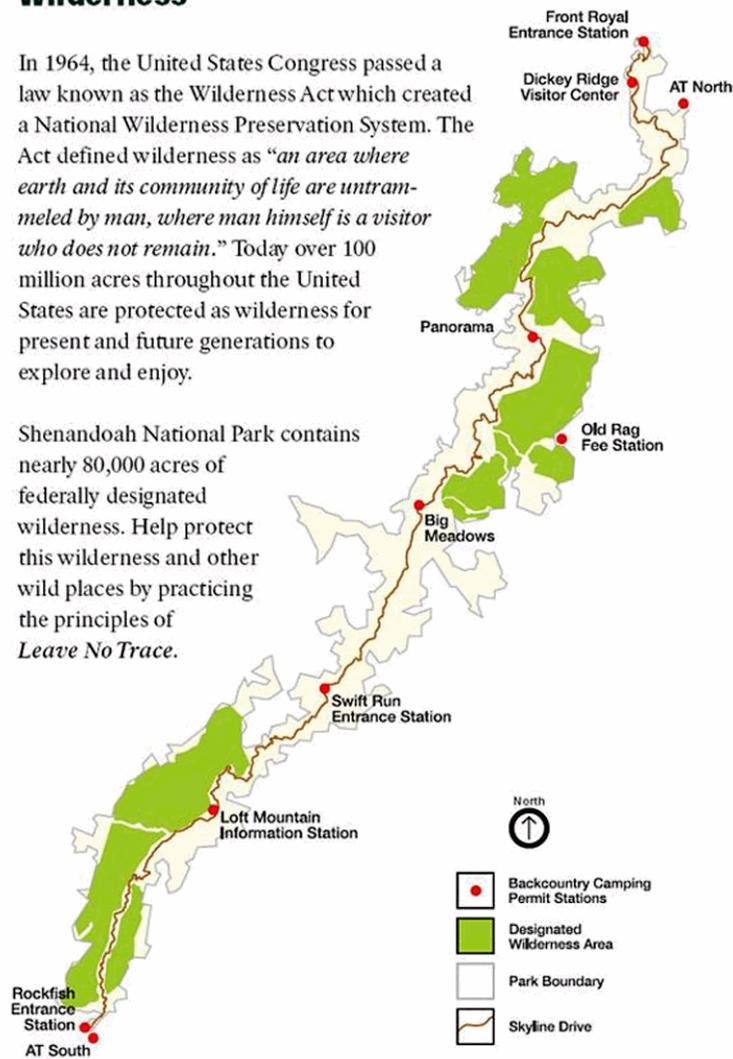


Figure 13: Shenandoah NP Wilderness Area map. (Shenandoah NP, 2006)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The physical integrity of the Appalachian Trail (AT) landscape in Shenandoah National Park (NP) is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1928-1942) with current conditions. The North District portion of the AT retains integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to its development during the historic period. The features that convey this significance include the linear trail corridor as it rises and falls with the ridgeline, hugs side slopes on the built out trail bed and terraces, and engages natural features such as rock outcrops, streams, and aged trees; remnant and intended successional vegetation; and views to the valleys to the east and west. Additional features that convey significance include historic trail edging, retaining walls, cabins, shelters, huts, and trail markers. The reconstruction of portions of trail during the 1930s to move it away from Skyline Drive and build it to National Park Service (NPS) standards was undertaken through the collective efforts of the NPS, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) within the period of significance. The overall historic character of the Appalachian Trail (AT)–North District has not changed dramatically since the end of the period of significance.

Post-1942 changes and additions to the AT in Shenandoah NP do not reflect the significance of the trail as described under National Register Criteria A and C and are considered non-contributing. These changes include the building or removal of shelters, trail realignments, culvert and waterbar work, and wall reconstruction. Some shelters were added in the AT–North District in the 1960s and 1970s such as Byrd’s Nest 4 Shelter, and some were removed such as Elk Wallow Shelter. Major trail realignments, such as the move west from Chester Gap to Possums Rest are considered non-contributing segments but are included as part of the linear trail resource. Sections of trail bed have worn away in some places from years of use and erosion, which has damaged some stone walls and edging. There have also been additions of unplanned spur trails or “desire lines” from the AT to reach vantage points for views or makeshift campsites. Part of this is due to encroaching vegetation, which represents perhaps the most conspicuous change to the AT corridor landscape since the historic period. The trail’s spatial character, which historically was generally open, has filled in with secondary forest growth and has created the so-called “green tunnel.” This change, however, is a result of maturing CCC-planted vegetation and natural succession from old fields to forest and largely represents historic intent.

Historic trail segments that were either abandoned or removed from the AT after the historic period (1928-1942) and which retain integrity, such as the Passamaquoddy Trail near Skyland or the section west of Loft Mountain Campground, may be significant as part of the historic development of the AT. These sections, however, were not inventoried for this report.

Methodology:

Nine landscape characteristics have been evaluated for the AT–North District: natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, and small scale features. Of the nine landscape characteristics, the four most

important today are natural systems and features, spatial organization, circulation, and buildings and structures. The four characteristics and their associated features shaped the design of the trail and are fundamental to the historic character of the trail landscape.

The study boundaries of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for the AT–North District include a twenty-foot wide corridor, ten-feet to either side of the trail’s centerline, that generally encompasses the most of the trail’s constructed features such as retaining walls and signs. Features beyond this corridor were evaluated if they were associated with the construction of the AT, were easily viewed from the trail, or if they were part of the hiking experience (i.e. shelter or view).

The discussion of each landscape characteristic’s historic and existing conditions is followed by a table of landscape features recorded within the twenty-foot trail corridor. The feature name is followed in parentheses with the PATC Route number and a feature number (e.g. “411002.5, 0.365”). PATC Routes in the North District begin with 411 and are used by the park for management and maintenance activity. Feature numbers are based on the mileage point or points along the trail as they were inventoried in the field. Each feature is evaluated as to whether or not it contributes to the historic character as defined by the period of significance. Features are evaluated as undetermined if historical research and field survey work did not provide adequate information to make a determination.

Existing conditions maps for the AT–North District are graphic representations of the trail. As such, symbols representing specific features are shown in proximity to the trail and are not to be interpreted literally. Loop trail connections with the AT were inventoried. However, loop trails themselves were not evaluated beyond the twenty-foot corridor and are not graphically highlighted on the maps.

ASPECTS OF INTEGRITY

Location:

Location refers to the place where the trail was built, and generally corresponds to the trail alignment. The AT as initially built by the PATC followed the north-south ridgeline in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and connected to side trails. From 1931-1938, portions of the trail were relocated and reconstructed to accommodate the construction of Skyline Drive, and the trail was shifted wherever the two converged. However, the trail maintained its general north-south alignment and traced ridgeline topography, connecting to side trails, and integrating the natural features into the trail corridor. Although there have been some changes since the period of significance such as the approximately 2,000-foot move west from Chester Gap to Lake Front Royal at the northern most point of the AT in the park and the approximately 1,500-foot move east away from the radio tower at Hogback Mountain, the realignments represent only a fraction of the total mileage of the AT–North District.

Design:

Design refers to combination of elements that characterize the built landscape of the AT, recognized today as the NPS Rustic style. This historic design is evident today through the trail’s winding alignment, naturalistic materials, and vernacular building techniques, and reflects a philosophy of a

romanticized natural environment that was executed through the 1930s in the improvement of the AT-North District in Shenandoah NP. The design incorporated native materials in planting, rock work, and log work to harmonize the trail with the natural surroundings. An important element of the design was to assist and allow nature to take its course and let transplanted native material reseed or colonize to erase scars of construction and former land uses. Over time, plants matured into large masses, obscuring rock excavations or blending an orchard into the woods. Stone walls and edging comprised of native rock support and delineated the trail bed and display vernacular building techniques.

Shelters and cabins, usually built on spurs off the main trail, were also character-defining design features of the AT and were an integral part of the hiking experience. They were often place-specific with names that evoked the lore or specific feature of the site and were built with native stone and local timber such as chestnut. Indian Run Shelter became a PATC maintenance building and the Elk Wallow Shelter was removed in the 1970s, and a new shelter, Byrd's Nest 4, was added in the 1970s. Cabins, shelters, and huts, however, are still distinguishing features on the AT-North District. Historic structures that continue to display their original design within the North District include Gravel Springs Hut, Range View Cabin (built by the PATC), and Pass Mountain Hut.

In somewhat of a departure from the NPS Rustic style, stylized concrete-post trail markers, reminiscent of hitching posts, with stamped zinc bands were installed as a standardized identification system throughout the trail within Shenandoah NP. The different design (many parks at the time were using rustic logs for signs) was most likely intended to enhance visibility and increase durability. Since the end of the historic period in 1942, the trail has been managed to maintain its historic rustic design, and the concrete trail marker posts continue to be maintained as the standard trail marker. While some aspects of the trail's historic design have changed, such as the introduction of metal culverts or the addition of asphalt in limited high-use areas, the AT-North District overall continues to exhibit integrity of design.

Setting:

Setting refers to the physical environment of the AT-North District Shenandoah NP. As initially conceived by Benton MacKaye, the AT was to function as pedestrian spine in the wilderness that connected to side trails and brought hikers to peaks with views and into glens with streams and waterfalls. The AT, as constructed by the PATC, passed through forests, open farm fields, and orchards; skirted the edges of woods; and traveled along old dirt farm roads. The AT also occasionally encountered cabins and shelters. Along some trail sections, however, the backcountry wilderness experience was momentarily suspended. With the construction of Skyline Drive, portions of the AT were relocated and reconstructed and in several locations crossed the road corridor that was comprised of mowed shoulders, parking areas and pullouts, and asphalt pavement. There were also structures and circulation features associated with the occasional developed rest or concession area.

Segments of the trail that historically passed by or through open fields and orchards have become more enclosed as vegetation has filled in, creating the so-called "green tunnel," yet traces of these open spaces remain as evidenced by massive trees, called wolf trees, and by changes in forest composition. The AT-North District also winds through two areas of pine plantations likely planted by the CCC and

is evidence of previous natural resource conservation efforts on worn-out agricultural land. While the setting of the trail has become more enclosed since the end of the historic period, this was an intended change to the setting. Overall, the AT-North District retains its natural setting, with only limited exposure to non-trail features – namely Skyline Drive, trailhead parking areas, and other infrastructure elements – evident in its immediate setting (other modern development is visible in some distant views).

Materials:

Materials are the elements used to construct the trail, including stone, wood, plants, concrete, and zinc bands. Stone work from the 1930s CCC construction is still evident in the retaining walls, trail edging, steps, cabins, and shelters. Concrete and zinc trail markers designed and constructed in the period of significance are used at AT junctions and have been replaced in-kind when necessary. The CCC planted a large variety of native oak (*Quercus* spp.), pine (*Pinus* spp.), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.), apple (*Malus* spp.), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginia*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). Ferns, vines, and perennials also remain and many have naturalized. Large wolf oaks, remnants from old agricultural fields, are indications of past land use. Secondary growth includes more oaks, hickory (*Carya* spp.), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), cherry (*Prunus* spp.), and flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), which have filled in the open spaces. Invasive plants such as tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), and oriental lady's thumb (*Polygonum caespitosum*) have entered the landscape. For building materials, the introduction of non-historic materials to accommodate heavy use and reduce maintenance include the use of metal on roofs and metal signs at trail entrances. Because these are limited in extent, overall the AT–North District retains integrity of materials.

Workmanship:

Workmanship refers to the physical evidence of the construction techniques on the AT. Although sometimes obscured by vegetation, the stone retaining walls continue to illustrate the dry-laid construction workmanship of the CCC. Stone trail edging also remains, yet is sometimes partially buried because of wear on the treadway from intensive visitor use. In some areas, erosion has reduced some treadway surfaces to the rocky base and has reduced the original four-foot width. Historic cabins and huts still exhibit the original stone work and some of the log work although there have been additions of metal roofs and changes to the interiors. The concrete trail markers with zinc banding are in good condition and are replaced in-kind as necessary. Overall the AT–North District trail corridor retains integrity of workmanship.

Feeling:

Feeling refers to how the AT communicates a particular time period. The trail was designed and constructed to provide a feeling of romanticized and picturesque wilderness. Although the trail still traces the ridgeline and provides the same level of difficulty, many of the sweeping panoramic views have been lost due to the overgrowth of vegetation. Although the intention was for the trail's setting to naturalize, fewer open areas remain and the winding trail passes mostly through thick woods, which have created what is known as the "green tunnel." The trail, however, still opens up at the crossings

of Skyline Drive as it did in the period of significance. Despite the much more enclosed conditions of the trail, the AT–North District continues to strongly evoke a wilderness feeling.

Association:

Association is the connection between the historic events and the distinct methods of design and construction of the AT. The AT–North District continues to exhibit its historic associations with the PATC, CCC, and NPS. The trail still links to the side trails, fire roads, and the Skyline Drive. The trail also connects to the north and beyond the park to the northern terminus of the AT in Maine, and to the park’s Central and South Districts through the rest of Shenandoah NP and beyond the park to the southern terminus of the AT in Georgia. Historic retaining walls, stone edging, cabins, and huts designed in the NPS Rustic style as implemented by the CCC through the New Deal programs accommodate AT hikers today. In the two locations where the trail has been realigned at Chester Gap to Lake Front Royal and at Hogback Mountain, the original trail alignments remain, but have lost their historic association with the AT. Despite these changes, overall the AT–North District retains integrity of association.

Landscape Characteristic:

Natural Systems and Features

Historic and Existing Conditions:

The natural systems and features of the AT–North District include the mountains, valleys, watersheds, rock outcrops, and native vegetation. The trail corridor lies astride the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, a part of the Appalachian Range that stretches from Georgia to Maine. In his 1921 article, “An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning,” Benton MacKaye envisioned “a long trail over the full length of the Appalachian skyline from the highest peak in the north to the highest peak in the south” (MacKaye, 1921:328). The Blue Ridge Mountains separate the Shenandoah Valley to the west and the rolling hills of the Piedmont Plain to the east. It was this natural setting that established the fundamental character of the trail as well as the larger park, preserved for the enjoyment of the public who mostly traveled from nearby metropolitan areas.

The trail corridor within the North District traverses named peaks such as Compton, North and South Marshall, Hogback, and Pass Mountains, and passes through Compton, Jenkins, Hogwallow Gap, Gravel Springs, Elkwallow, Beahms Gaps, and then enters Thornton Gap. In the North District, Hogback Mountain is the highest peak at 3,475 feet, while the lowest elevation is at Jeremy’s Run Trail at about 2,100 feet. The AT travels along very old rock from the volcanic greenstone starting at Possum’s Rest to Hogback Mountain, where the rock type transitions to one-billion-year-old gneiss. From Hogback Mountain, the rock becomes greenstone again until Elkwallow Gap where it meets a band of quartzite that continues onto Byrd’s Nest 4 Shelter. The rock type then again becomes greenstone through to Thornton Gap (Chew, 1988: 86,87,92).

In accordance with the U.S. Department of the Interior 1937 manual, Construction of Trails, it appears the trail was routed to run along the side of rock outcrops to reveal the local geologic history. Two particularly noteworthy rock outcrops are on the way to Compton Peak (Route

411002) that extends twenty-five-feet above the trail and close to Beahms Gap Overlook (Route 411012) which is broad and long, beginning low and then increasing in size until a very large expanse twenty-feet from the trail extending for 225 feet.

The AT–North District lies within three major river systems of the mid-Atlantic region, the Shenandoah/Potomac, James, and Rappahannock. Each flows into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Within park boundaries there are seventy watersheds, forty-two on the west side and twenty-eight on the east side of the ridge. Seventy springs occur near the park’s ridge line (Shenandoah NP staff, 2006). Although the AT runs mostly along the dry ridgeline, it was also designed to connect through side trails to the lower valleys, streams, and waterfalls. The trail encounters three small streams: on the south slope of Compton Peak and the west side of the trail (Route 411002.5), on the east side of the trail close to Thornton Gap (Route 411014), and the trail crossed south of Elkwallow Gap (Route 411010).

Oak (*Quercus* spp.), hickory (*Carya* spp.), and American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) once covered the mountains, but by the time the trail was being built in the late 1920s and 1930s, few living American chestnut trees remained because of the chestnut blight, a tiny fungus (*Endothia parasitica*) introduced probably from Asia (Connors, 1988:62). The 1931 PATC Guidebook wrote of groves of locust and scrub oak, dead chestnut, and good timber (PATC, 1931:53-57). Such groves provided transitions from woods to clearings or fields. They also exposed some of the summit areas as seen in this description, “This road (the AT) ascends to left of lower wooded third summit of The Hogback (14.19 m.) and after slight descent reaches, through area partly open and partly covered by dead chestnut, summit of fourth peak of The Hogback (3,433 feet) at 14.49m (PATC, 1931:56).

Since 1942, natural systems and features have remained largely unchanged, with the exception of natural succession and reforestation as intended by the work of the NPS and the CCC. Chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*) and northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) are common along the ridge line today although their numbers have declined. By 1990, fifty-nine percent had been affected by the gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) (Shenandoah NP staff, 2006). Many hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) have been killed by the hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) which has reduced the evergreen canopy along portions of the trail. Secondary growth includes hickory, black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), pine (*Pinus* spp.), and black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) with an understory of striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*), sumac (*Rhus* spp.), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.), ferns, and various perennials and vines. By 1990, the number of tulip poplars had increased to sixteen percent and cove hardwoods to fifteen percent (Shenandoah NP staff, 2006). Masses of hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) line portions of the trail adding interest and softening the woodland character (Figs. 14-15).

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Rock outcrop (411002, 0.216—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122541
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stream (411002.5, 0.365—0.410)

Feature Identification Number: 122543

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Massing, plant (411007, 0.780—0.866)

Feature Identification Number: 122545

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Stream (411010, 0.593—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122547

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Rock outcrop (411012, 0.940—0.983)

Feature Identification Number: 122549

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stream (411014, 1.208—1.212)

Feature Identification Number: 122551

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 14: The AT passes an old tree and rock outcrop near Neighbor Mountain Trail. The 1937 manual, Construction of Trails recommended that trails pass rock outcrops to display local geological history. (SUNY, 2006)



Figure 15: The AT crosses a stream near Elkwallow Gap. A collapsed abutment suggests the CCC may have constructed a small bridge over the stream to provide an even walking tread. (SUNY, 2006)

Spatial Organization

Historic Conditions:

In 1930, when the PATC had completed the AT in the North District, the spatial character of the trail was defined by a series of enclosed forested areas, open meadows, and rock outcrops. In its 1931 Guidebook, the PATC described the spatial character:

“At edge of open field take center road of three-forking roads, to follow line of cairns (commencing at junction of the three roads) down slope of open field in Jenkins Gap and straight up opposite slope. Line of cairns crosses road at 5.69 m. and enter well-worn dirt road at edge of woods. (5.82m.). Turn left into this road, which passes through gate at 6.18 m. near top of hill and skirts left side of open field. Pass road on left of 6.47 m. and at 6.71m. go through gate into orchard” (PATC, 1931:54).

This description detailed the spatial sequence the hiker entered in and moved through, from a node of intersecting roads, into an enclosing glen, on top of a hill, along a partially enclosed area, walled off on one side by woods and open to the sky on the other side by a field, and into an orchard partially enclosed vertically and overhead by the grid of trees. The AT experience was a variable one which included many open areas.

Although the construction of Skyline Drive required the relocation and reconstruction of portions of the AT by the CCC, the spatial character of the trail remained largely unchanged. It

still traced the ridgeline while taking advantage of open areas and views and then traveled through woodlands. The trail sometimes continued to follow old roads that provided for a wider and more open trail. The AT–North District crossed Skyline Drive in eleven places and was aligned to cross the road and then lead away from the road corridor. Where the AT paralleled the road, it ranged in distance from 3,200 feet at its greatest distance along the Route 411014, Pass Mountain Hut Trail to Thornton Gap, to 100 feet where it traveled closest to the road at Route 411008, near Hogback Overlook.

Existing Conditions:

Since 1942, woods have enclosed the majority of the trail corridor. Many of the once open fields are now filled with successional growth. The variety and rhythm of the open and enclosed areas has diminished and the AT is now often described as a “green tunnel.” It appears, however, that this change in the spatial character was at least in part intentional, as many old fields were not maintained during the historic period, and so subsequently grew into woods. Secondary growth of trees and shrubs have obscured many broad and long views. In places, the “green tunnel” opens up where views remain because of rock outcrops or intentional clearing by park management. The AT still crosses Skyline Drive in eleven places, which act as open areas between the wooded parts of the trail. However, these crossings are inventoried as circulation features (Fig. 16).

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Hogback Clearing (411007, 0.662—0.681)
Feature Identification Number: 122553
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

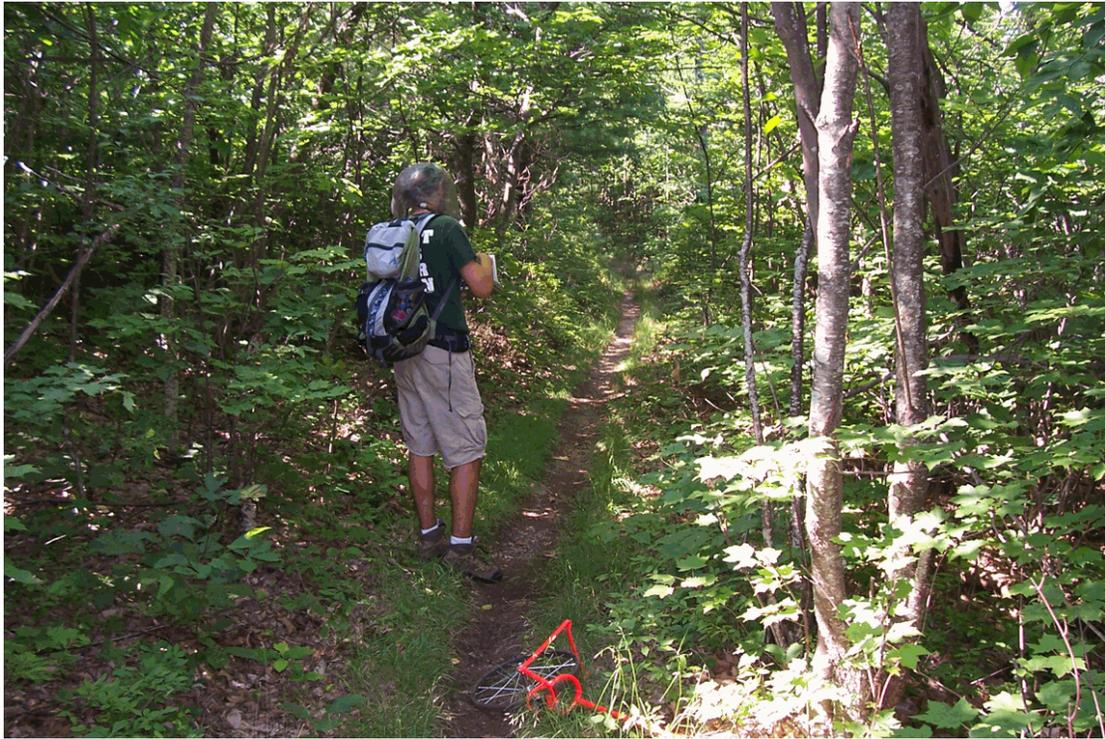


Figure 16: The typical “green tunnel” enclosed character of the AT in the North District as seen in this photo near Jeremy’s Run Overlook. (SUNY, 2006)

Land Use

Historic Conditions:

The AT–North District in Shenandoah NP was primarily an area of farms. Some holdings had been abandoned long before the AT and park were developed, and others had been sold willingly or not, as described to hikers in the following three entries in the 1931 PATC Guidebook (PATC, 1931:54,56):

“Follow line of cairns close to edge of woods on left edge of field to come at 4.9 m. to spring in sag of ravine near ruins of old house.”

“The Trail follows well-worn wood road with wire fence on right. At 7.3 m. pass tumbledown shack on left.”

“AT 15.84 m. road passes orchard, old house, and stone foundation on left.”

Hikers passed farmyards that once had or still had chickens, pigs, and goats, and vegetable gardens, orchards mostly of apple, some of peach with fruit for eating or making moonshine, pastures for cattle and sheep, and woods for timbering and stripping chestnut and hemlock bark for tanning. Shenandoah NP land records and park establishment history indicates that the mountains were still actively being used until well after 1936, and the NPS and the Department of Agriculture’s Resettlement Administration had to relocate close to 500 families from the park (Shenandoah NP staff, 2007). After that time, land uses were primarily recreational. According to the U.S. Department of the Interior 1937 manual, *Construction of Trails*, the AT was constructed to carry both horses and hikers. This multi-use activity continued until well

after World War II.

Existing Conditions:

Since 1942, the AT has continued to function as a recreational trail for the hiker whether trekking on a through-hike from Georgia to Maine or hiking smaller segments of the trail and associated side trails. Traces of old farmsteads are disappearing, but are still revealed in extant wolf trees in old farm fields or in remnant orchards that the trail passes through (Fig. 17). The limits of old fields can also be discerned by the age of the woods. Today only the approximate two-mile northern-most segment of the AT in Shenandoah NP is a combined horse and hiker trail. Horse riding is excluded from other AT segments, as are bicycles and other wheeled vehicles.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Orchard (411002.5, 0.295—0.425)

Feature Identification Number: 122555

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Orchard (411003, 0.149—0.219)

Feature Identification Number: 122559

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Orchard (411003, 0.677—0.823)

Feature Identification Number: 122561

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Orchard (411003, 0.994—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122563

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 17: The AT travels through a remnant orchard near Hogwallow Gap. (SUNY, 2006)

Topography

Historic Conditions:

The AT–North District in Shenandoah NP generally followed a north-south orientation as it traced the ridgeline terrain of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Topographical considerations influenced the design and construction of the AT. In some cases, old roadbeds were graded to a maximum of fifteen percent and improved for trail use. Wherever possible, trails were designed with long sweeping curves. In rocky or steep sections such as those on the north side of Compton Peak and ascending the north side of the second peak of Hogback, switchbacks were built to ease the hike. Retaining walls were constructed to support the trail bed and maintain the grade, which was not to exceed fifteen percent (NPS Shenandoah NP Master Plan, 1936).

Existing Conditions:

Since 1942, there have been some changes to the built topography of the AT–North District. In general, the graded trail has not retained the three-percent cross pitch due to erosion, and in some places drainage ditches have been installed to divert water from the trail (Figs. 18-19). The relocation west from Chester Gap to Lake Front Royal, where the trail leaves the park at Possum’s Rest, made for a bit steeper slope. At Hogback Mountain, the recent move east away from the radio tower has bypassed what was once the highest elevation of the AT in the North District. The move west to make way for the new entrance station, Panorama Restaurant, and overpass at Thornton Gap shifted the trail down the slope. The trail’s general

north-south orientation is still consistent with the ridgeline terrain.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Drainage ditch (411001, 0.559—0.625)

Feature Identification Number: 122565

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Drainage ditch (411004, 1.139—1.153)

Feature Identification Number: 122567

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

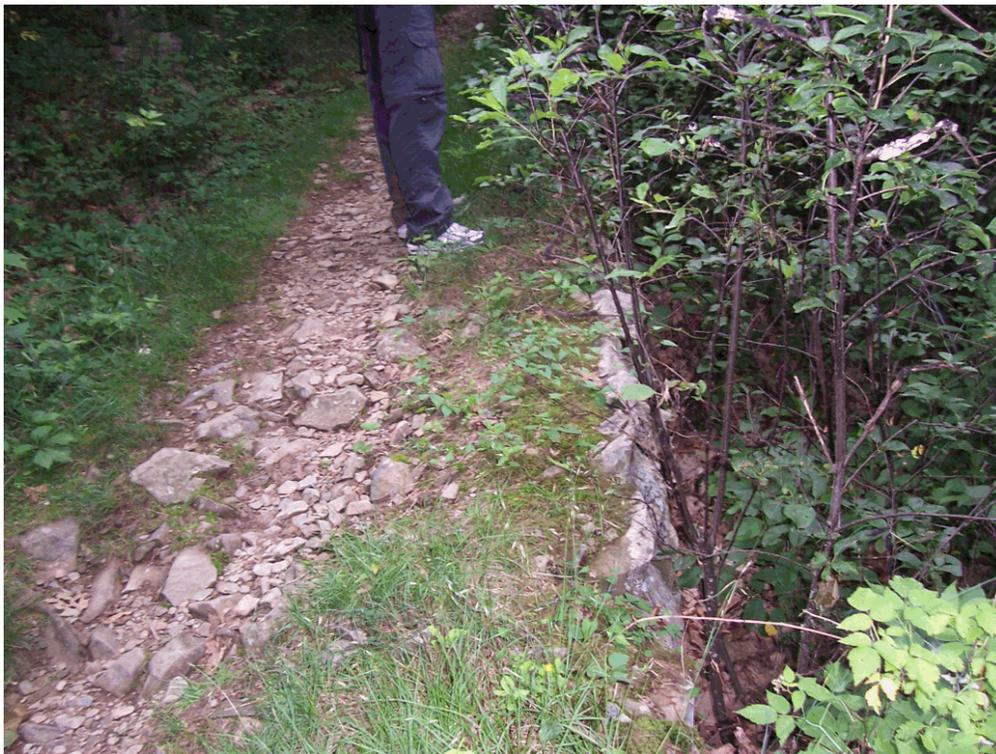


Figure 18: A CCC-built stone retaining wall supports the AT treadway near Compton Peak. (SUNY, 2006)



Figure 19: In accordance with the 1937 manual, Construction of Trails, this section of the AT passes an exposed rock outcrop of geological interest near Compton Peak. The tread is evenly graded along the ridgeline. (SUNY, 2006)

Vegetation

Historic Conditions:

Vegetation refers to the indigenous and introduced plant materials along the trail corridor. The PATC's 1931 Guidebook of the AT–North District described a trail corridor that passed through native woods, fields, and abandoned agricultural lands (PATC, 1931:53-57). The farm fields often had a few large trees to provide shade for livestock and farmer.

The CCC's post-construction work on Skyline Drive and the relocation and reconstruction of portions of the AT required the preservation of as much native plant material as possible. When plants had to be removed for construction, the CCC transplanted many native trees, shrubs, perennials, and vines as prescribed by the principles of the NPS Rustic style. Additionally, native plants were grown in nurseries at the CCC camps or brought from commercial nurseries or other national parks and then planted along the trail. Many pines were started from seed or grown from seedling stock in pine plantations. Some plantings were intended to naturalize with mixed plantings and others to reforest former agricultural fields (Engle, 1999, 85-87). The CCC planted species such as oaks (*Quercus* spp.), pines (*Pinus* spp.), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), sumac (*Rhus* spp.), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) among others to harmonize the newly constructed trail with its surroundings and allow for naturalization.

Existing Conditions:

Since 1942, vegetation within Shenandoah NP's North District, and along the AT, has matured and filled in. Many of the open fields, rocky mountain tops, and bare slopes that the trail once encountered have transitioned to secondary growth hardwood forest comprised of oak, hickory (*Carya* spp.), cherry (*Prunus* spp.), maple (*Acer* spp.), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) along with sumac, witch hazel, mountain laurel, upland low blueberry (*Vaccinium pallidum*), fern (*Dennstaedtia* spp.), and Virginia creeper.

Both the park and the trail corridor display a large variety of perennials. Common species include rose azalea (*Rhododendron prinophyllum*), black cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), and fly-poison (*Amianthium muscitoxicum*). More unique species include trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*), wild bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*), twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), and cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), which provide interest throughout the seasons. Invasive exotic plants have arrived such as tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), and oriental lady's thumb (*Polygonum caespitosum*). The invasive exotics have proliferated and changed the character of the vegetation along the trail.

Wolf trees, which are field trees with low branches around which younger woods have grown up, are numerous and recall the farm fields that once existed. They're usually large in diameter and height and contrast with the younger woods that surround them (Fig. 20). These ancient trees stand out along the trail corridor and recall the rich history of the park and the trail.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Tree, specimen (411002.5, 0.359—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122571

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tree, wolf (411003, 0.855—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122573

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tree, wolf (411009, 0.206—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122575

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Plantation, pine (411013, 1.780—1.969)

Feature Identification Number: 122577

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tree, wolf (411014, 0.106—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122579

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tree, wolf (411014, 0.156—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122581

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tree, wolf (411014, 0.225—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122583

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Plantation, pine (411014, 0.335—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122585

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tree, wolf (411014, 0.495—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122587

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

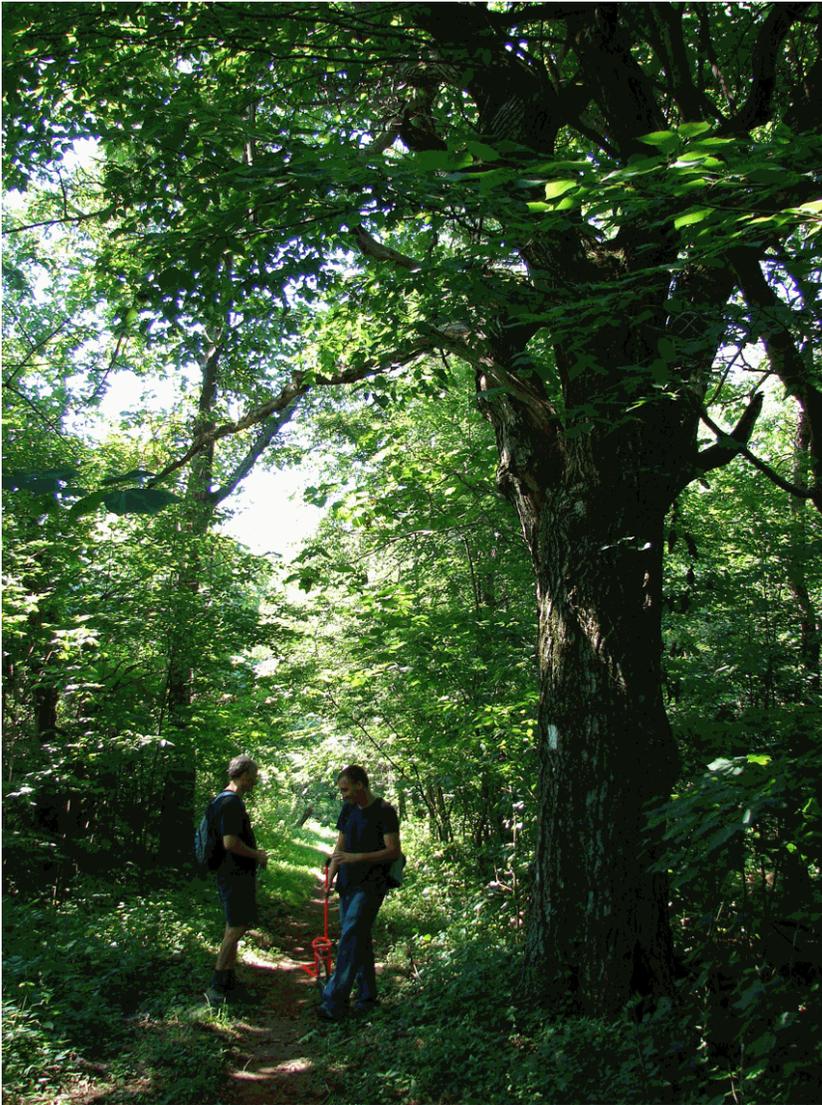


Figure 20: A red oak wolf tree along the AT indicates an old field near the junction with Pass Mountain Hut Trail. (SUNY, 2006)

Circulation

Historic Conditions:

By 1930, the PATC had completed the AT within the North District, cobbling together a route comprised of old farm and logging roads and new construction. At the same time, they were marking and developing a system of side trails off the AT to springs, into hollows, and to scenic natural features. As described by the PATC Guides, these side trails opened areas to hikers:

“...the overgrown wood road, which leads approximately 1.25m to the Devil’s Staircase, magnificent wild ravine, one of the principal scenic attractions at the north end of Shenandoah National Park” (PATC, 1931:55).

The Piney Branch Trail

“leads up a splendidly forested ravine with beautiful waterfalls” (PATC, 1933:1).

In 1933, when the CCC began their work on Skyline Drive and relocating and reconstructing portions of the AT, they improved old roads for the trail and constructed new trail using the NPS Rustic style principles and design standards that were eventually articulated in the U.S. Department of the Interior’s 1937 manual, *Emergency Conservation Work, Project Training – Construction of Trails*. Specific standards were set for trail construction to accommodate both hiker and horse:

“...four-foot-wide tread with natural soil and gravel to a depth of three inches with stone edging as necessary, maximum fifteen percent grade and three-percent pitch, long-sweeping curves instead of long tangents or sections of a circle, switchbacks only when necessary and with long sections, and retaining walls only in rocky, steep terrain where necessary to maintain the required grade and reach certain elevations and objectives” (NPS Master Plan, 1936).

The CCC also improved many of the old roads for use as side trails and as fire roads (formerly known as truck trails), for example the Jinny Gray. The AT relocations and reconstructions were completed by 1938 and the last segment of Skyline Drive was opened in 1939. The AT and Skyline Drive intersected eleven times.

Existing Conditions:

The AT–North District in Shenandoah NP retains much of its historic alignment, stone edging, and natural soil/gravel base (Fig. 21). Since 1942, however, some areas of the trail have narrowed and eroded, resulting in loss or concealment of stone edging and loss of soil base. The trail has been relocated in some places, including approximately 2,000-feet from Chester Gap to Possum’s Rest (the old AT is now Compton Gap Trail), approximately 1,500-feet east from Hogback Mountain, and approximately 1,000-feet west at Thornton Gap to make way for the new Route 211 overpass, entrance station, and Panorama Restaurant. The trail in these realigned sections is narrow with a hard-packed soil treadway and some runs of stone edging.

The AT continues to provide access to the side trails that were constructed in the historic period, such as the Piney Branch Trail and Devil’s Staircase that is currently known as Big Devil’s Staircase, as well as the fire roads such as the Jinny Gray and known today as the Keyser Run Fire Road. However, short unplanned and unmarked spur trails have developed to reach viewpoints and rock outcrops because vegetation has grown in along the trail corridor and on the mountaintops. The AT still crossed Skyline Drive in eleven locations (Routes 411002, 411004 (2), 411006 (2), 411008 (3), 411009, 411013, and 411014).

Character-defining Features:

Feature: AT–North District treadway corridor (411001—41104, 0—24)

Feature Identification Number: 122589

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411001, 0.217—0) (Compton Gap Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122591

Appalachian Trail - North District
Shenandoah National Park

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411001, 1.391—0) (Springhouse Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122593

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411001, 1.692—0) (Dickey Ridge Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122595

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411001, 1.693—0) (Indian Run Maintenance Building)

Feature Identification Number: 122597

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411002, 0.006—0.013) (Skyline Drive)

Feature Identification Number: 122599

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411002, 0.831—0) (Viewpoint Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122601

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411002.5, 0.282—0) (spring)

Feature Identification Number: 122603

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Edging, stone (411002.5, 0.420—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122605

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411002.5, 1.264—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122607

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411003, 0.074—0.077)

Feature Identification Number: 122611

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Road, crossing (411004, 0.007—0.010) (Skyline Drive)

Feature Identification Number: 122613

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411004, 0.072—0) (spring)

Feature Identification Number: 122615

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Edging, stone (411004, 1.539—1.545)

Feature Identification Number: 122617

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411004, 1.557—0) (overlook)

Feature Identification Number: 122619

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411004, 1.642—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122621

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411004, 1.675—0) (view)

Feature Identification Number: 122623

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411004, 1.880—0) (rock outcrop)

Feature Identification Number: 122625

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Parking lot (411004, 2.125-3.136)

Feature Identification Number: 122627

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411004, 2.186—2.195) (Skyline Drive)

Feature Identification Number: 122629

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411005, 0.623—0) (view)

Feature Identification Number: 122631

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411005, 0.764—0) (view)

Feature Identification Number: 122633

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Edging, stone (411005, 0.777—0.781)

Feature Identification Number: 122635

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411005, 1.600—0) (Browntown Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122637

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411006, 0.002—0.007) (Skyline Drive)

Feature Identification Number: 122639

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Parking lot (411006, 0.007-0.023)

Feature Identification Number: 122641

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411006, 0.168—0) (Gravel Springs Hut)

Feature Identification Number: 122643

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411006, 1.295—1.299) (Skyline Drive)

Feature Identification Number: 122645

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411006, 1.568—0) (Keyser Run Fire Road)

Feature Identification Number: 122647

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411006, 1.882—0) (overlook)

Appalachian Trail - North District
Shenandoah National Park

Feature Identification Number: 122649
Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined
Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411007, 0.001—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122651
Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined
Feature: Edging, stone (411007, 0.225—0.233)
Feature Identification Number: 122653
Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined
Feature: Edging, stone (411007, 0.409—0.417)
Feature Identification Number: 122655
Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined
Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411007, 0.866—0) (spring)
Feature Identification Number: 122657
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411007, 0.894—0) (view)
Feature Identification Number: 122659
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing
Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411007, 0.914—0) (view/hang gliding)
Feature Identification Number: 122661
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing
Feature: Edging, stone (411007, 0.921—0.934)
Feature Identification Number: 122663
Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined
Feature: Edging, stone (411007, 0.973—0.987)
Feature Identification Number: 122665
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Edging, stone (411007, 1.033—1.049)
Feature Identification Number: 122667

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411007, 1.257—0) (radio tower)

Feature Identification Number: 122669

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Road, crossing (411008, 0.000—0) (Skyline Drive)

Feature Identification Number: 122671

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411008, 0.026—0) (Sugarloaf Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122673

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411008, 0.160—0) (to rock outcrop)

Feature Identification Number: 122675

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411008, 0.324—0.329) (Skyline Drive)

Feature Identification Number: 122677

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411008, 0.348—0) (parking lot)

Feature Identification Number: 122679

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411008, 0.599—0) (campsite)

Feature Identification Number: 122681

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411008, 0.690—0) (Overall Run Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122683

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411008, 1.109—0) (rock outcrop)

Feature Identification Number: 122685

Appalachian Trail - North District
Shenandoah National Park

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411008, 1.328—1.332) (Skyline Drive)

Feature Identification Number: 122687

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411009, 0.238—0) (Piney Branch Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122689

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411009, 0.375—0) (Piney River Road)

Feature Identification Number: 122691

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411009, 0.395—0.411) (Piney River Road)

Feature Identification Number: 122693

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411009, 0.763—0) (Range View Cabin)

Feature Identification Number: 122695

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411009, 0.777—0.785) (Piney Ridge Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122697

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411009, 1.574—1.582) (Skyline Drive)

Feature Identification Number: 122699

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411010, 0.037—0) (parking lot)

Feature Identification Number: 122701

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411010, 0.357—0) (Elkwallow Wayside)

Feature Identification Number: 122703

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411010, 0.570—0) (Jeremy's Run Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122705

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411011, 1.026—0) (Thornton River Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122707

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Parking lot (411011, 1.291-1.947)

Feature Identification Number: 122709

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411011, 2.229—0) (Jeremy's Run Overlook)

Feature Identification Number: 122711

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411012, 0.285—0) (Byrd's Nest 4 Shelter)

Feature Identification Number: 122713

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411012, 0.286—0) (Neighbor Mtn. Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122715

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Edging, stone (411012, 0.307—0.324)

Feature Identification Number: 122717

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411012, 1.175—0) (spring)

Feature Identification Number: 122719

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411013, 0.197—0.204) (Skyline Drive)

Feature Identification Number: 122721

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, side crossing (411013, 0.245—0) (Rocky Branch Trail)

Feature Identification Number: 122723

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411013, 0.943—0) (view)

Feature Identification Number: 122725

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411014, 0.809—0) (Pass Mountain Hut)

Feature Identification Number: 122727

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411014, 0.845—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122729

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail, spur crossing (411014, 1.113—0) (Pass Mountain Hut)

Feature Identification Number: 122731

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road, crossing (411014, 1.140—1.153) (Skyline Drive)

Feature Identification Number: 122733

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Edging, stone (411014, 1.238—1.252)

Feature Identification Number: 122735

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 21: Some sections of stone edging placed along the AT by the CCC to define the trail is disappearing because of erosion and heavy use near Neighbor Mountain Trail. (SUNY, 2006)

Buildings and Structures

Historic Conditions:

Numerous stone and log shelters and cabins were built along the AT–North District during the historic period. Shelters were important for trail hikers for overnight stays and during inclement weather, and were often built near springs for access to drinking water. The structures made use of many of the abundant dead chestnut trees in log construction as well as in the porches and rafters.

Early shelters built by the PATC most likely adapted the NPS Rustic style principles that had been in practice in the Western parks since 1916 and that emphasized the use of native materials to harmonize with the landscape and provide a unified design. One of the first shelters built along the AT–North District was Range View Cabin, constructed by the PATC in 1933. The stone and wood cabin was situated east of the AT via a short spur trail in the Piney River area and was accessible from Skyline Drive at milepost (MP) 22 and from the Piney River CCC camp that opened in 1935. The cabin could accommodate eight people and was equipped with cooking utensils, blankets, stove, and outdoor fireplace (PATC Guidebook, 1959:26).

The CCC arrived in 1933 and also began building shelters. Like the PATC shelters, the CCC

shelters also featured local stone and logs and incorporated the ideals of the NPS Rustic style which stated that:

“...buildings be in harmony with the natural surroundings and secondary to the landscape... stone and logs used in construction should be in scale with each other and their surroundings and natural counterparts” (McClelland, 1998:335).

The CCC constructed many cabins and shelters in the North District. In 1939-40, the CCC built Pass Mountain Shelter on the east side of the AT. This structure was an open, stone shelter with built-in bunks for six. In 1940, the CCC built Indian Run Shelter east of the AT via an old road and north of Compton Gap. The stone structure had built-in bunk beds for six and was a short tramp from milepost (MP) 10.4 on Skyline Drive. That same year, they built Gravel Springs Shelter (formerly Gravelly Springs) east of the AT via a short spur trail and about 1,500 feet from Skyline Drive's MP 17.5. It too was a stone structure with built-in bunks for six. The CCC built the log Elk Wallow Shelter in 1941 on the west side of the AT about a half-mile walk up to Skyline Drive near MP 24 (PATC Guidebook, 1959: 28-35).

Historic photographs show that the CCC was also responsible for many of the stone walls and steps along the trail and surrounding the shelters. Like the cabins and shelters, the design of these structures also made use of local stone and timber as promoted by the NPS Rustic style principles that were eventually formalized in the U.S. Department of the Interior 1937 manual, *Construction of Trails*. According to the manual, stone retaining walls were to be built below the trail and would not be highly visible to the hiker. Also evident were runs of slab-laid stone steps, particularly along steep parts of the trail and near developed areas such as overlooks.

Existing Conditions:

There have been some changes in buildings and structures since 1942. The historic Indian Run Shelter was converted to a PATC maintenance building in the 1980s. The historic Gravel Springs Shelter, now called Gravel Springs Hut, and historic Pass Mountain Shelter, now called Pass Mountain Hut, are three-sided facilities that allow overnight stays on a first-come, first-served basis. Range View Cabin still is a locked cabin that requires reservations from the PATC (Fig. 22). Elk Wallow Shelter was removed in the 1970s, but two new structures were built. A new cabin called the Tom Floyd Wayside was constructed just outside the park along the AT, and a three-sided stone and wood day-use shelter named Byrd's Nest 4 was built by the NPS in the rustic style.

Numerous historic structures remain evident along the AT–North District, including retaining walls and steps (Fig. 23). CCC-built stone retaining walls exist along the downhill sides of the trail although some are covered by vegetation. Several other retaining walls appear to have been repaired in places, and the character of some of the stone steps suggests that the steps may post-date the historic period. One section of trail crosses a stream that appears to include a collapsed stone bridge abutment, possibly built by CCC (Route 411010) (see Fig. 15).

New types of trail construction have been added in several areas to address erosion and

puddling, and employ Appalachian Trail Conservancy trail maintenance techniques. Ramp steps of logs most likely are waterbars that have silted in and now function as steps. More recently, fords have been constructed, which are built of stepping-stones placed to facilitate stream crossings, and turnpikes, which raise the trail up off wet areas (Route 421000.5). Utility corridors also periodically cross the trail, and utility boxes are occasionally visible from the trail. There is a concrete foundation of unknown origin and date.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Cabin (411001, 0.000—0) (Tom Floyd Wayside)

Feature Identification Number: 122737

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Steps, ramp (411002, 0.015—0.017)

Feature Identification Number: 122739

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411002, 0.259—0.271)

Feature Identification Number: 122741

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Steps, set-behind (411002, 0.302—0.336)

Feature Identification Number: 122743

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411002, 0.428—0.438)

Feature Identification Number: 122745

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Steps, rip-rap (411002, 0.441—0.448)

Feature Identification Number: 122747

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411002, 0.450—0.456)

Feature Identification Number: 122749

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411002, 0.581—0.589)

Feature Identification Number: 122751

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411002, 0.616—0.625)

Feature Identification Number: 122753

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Ford (411002.5, 0.364—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122755

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Ford (411002.5, 0.160—0.418)

Feature Identification Number: 122757

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Steps, slab-laid (411002.5, 0.667—0.671)

Feature Identification Number: 122759

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411003, 0.091—0.098)

Feature Identification Number: 122761

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Foundation, concrete (411003, 1.485—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122763

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Wall, retaining (411004, 1.589—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122765

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411004, 1.765—1.791)

Feature Identification Number: 122767

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411004, 1.841—1.846)

Feature Identification Number: 122769

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411004, 1.854—1.864)

Feature Identification Number: 122771

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Steps, slab-laid (411004, 1.956—1.960)

Feature Identification Number: 122773

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411005, 0.783—0.789)

Feature Identification Number: 122775

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Hut (411006, 0.170—0) (Gravel Springs Hut)

Feature Identification Number: 122777

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Steps, ramp (411007, 0.001—0.033)

Feature Identification Number: 122779

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Steps, ramp (411007, 0.178—0.185)

Feature Identification Number: 122781

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Steps, stone (411007, 0.193—0.201)

Feature Identification Number: 122783

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Steps, stone (411007, 0.261—0.264)

Feature Identification Number: 122785

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Steps, stone (411007, 0.302—0.303)

Feature Identification Number: 122787

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411007, 0.327—0.332)

Feature Identification Number: 122789

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Steps, stone (411007, 0.460—0.461)

Feature Identification Number: 122791

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wall, rip-rap (411007, 0.501—0.514)

Feature Identification Number: 122793

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wall, retaining (411007, 0.559—0.575)

Feature Identification Number: 122795

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Wall, retaining (411007, 1.219—1.230)

Feature Identification Number: 122799

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Steps, stone (411008, 0.007—0.011)

Feature Identification Number: 122801

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Utility corridor (411009, 0.547—0.558)

Feature Identification Number: 122803

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Utility corridor (411009, 0.666—0.681)

Feature Identification Number: 122805

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Cabin (411009, 0.764—0) (Range View Cabin)

Feature Identification Number: 122807

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Utility corridor (411009, 1.276—1.283)
Feature Identification Number: 122809
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Utility corridor (411009, 1.453—1.475)
Feature Identification Number: 122811
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Utility corridor (411009, 1.502—1.511)
Feature Identification Number: 122813
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Shelter (411012, 0.287—0) (Byrd's Nest 4)
Feature Identification Number: 122815
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Utility line (411012, 1.114—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122817
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Hut (411014, 0.001—0) (Pass Mountain Hut)
Feature Identification Number: 122819
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Utility box (411014, 0.598—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122821
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Utility corridor (411014, 0.859—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122823
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Turnpike (411014, 0.899—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122825
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Steps, ramp (411014, 1.107—1.113)

Feature Identification Number: 122827

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 22: The historic Range View Cabin built in 1933 by the PATC on the east side of the AT in the Piney Branch area. (SUNY, 2006)



Figure 23: Slab-laid stone steps, built by the CCC in the 1930s near the north end of Hogback Overlook. The CCC stonework was often built in association with overlooks to accommodate a wider range of hiking abilities. (SUNY, 2006)

Views and Vistas

Historic Conditions:

The AT–North District initially featured many broad views. The AT often passed by or through open fields that allowed for views to peaks within the park, as detailed in two entries in the PATC 1931 Guidebook: “The Trail then winds along crest and down south slope of Five Mile Hill to enter open field at 4.77m. with north and south peaks of Mt. Marshall and The Hogback in full view on skyline” and “At 5.5 m. with The Hogback in full view on skyline, road leaves woods” (PATC, 1931:53-54). Due to its general alignment along the park’s undulating ridgeline, the AT offered views to both the majestic peaks within the park and to the hollows and valleys

below, which inspired feelings of walking in the shadows of mountains and discovering their highest peaks.

The NPS Rustic style also encouraged the establishment of specific viewpoints from the trail. “As in road design, the landscape architects helped to locate the trails, capturing scenic features and views...” (McClelland, 1998:233). On the AT–North District, this meant preserving views from rocky outcrops along the trail and across the summits such as Compton Peak, North and South Marshall, the Hogbacks, and Pass Mountain.

Existing Conditions:

Since 1942, vegetation has naturalized throughout the AT–North District and reforested the old farm fields. Due to the density of the secondary growth forest, views from the trail are now limited, so much so that the trail is often described as a “green tunnel.” As a result, hikers have created over time short spur trails that lead to nearby rock outcrops or the edges of steep downward slopes where a view can be experienced. It is likely that the obstructed views from the trail were once open views. There still are, however, broad views from North Marshall Mountain, and a view to the west and to the valley below from the trail just below Little Hogback Overlook (Fig. 24). Currently, there is a non-contributing southwestern view into the park from the AT’s northern entry at Possums Rest.

Character-defining Features:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Feature: | View (411001, 0.001—0.004) |
| Feature Identification Number: | 122835 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Non Contributing |
| Feature: | View, obstructed (411004, 1.679—0) |
| Feature Identification Number: | 122837 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |
| Feature: | View (411004, 1.809—1.817) |
| Feature Identification Number: | 122839 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |
| Feature: | View, obstructed (411005, 0.784—0) |
| Feature Identification Number: | 122841 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |
| Feature: | View (411007, 0.017—0.050) |
| Feature Identification Number: | 122843 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |

Feature: View, obstructed (411007, 0.551—0.553)

Feature Identification Number: 122845

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View, obstructed (411007, 0.889—0.927)

Feature Identification Number: 122847

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View, obstructed (411008, 0.070—0.122)

Feature Identification Number: 122849

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View, obstructed (411013, 0.925—0.946)

Feature Identification Number: 122851

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 24: A 44-foot long unobstructed view to the west along the AT near Mt. Marshall, between Hogwallow Gap and Gravel Springs Gap, offers a view to the farmland that lies at the foot of the mountain range. (SUNY, 2006)

Small Scale Features

Historic Conditions:

The AT featured a number of small-scale features for wayfinding and other utilitarian purposes. When the PATC completed the AT–North District in 1930, they had used stone cairns to mark the trail route through open fields and over rocky mountaintops as there often was not a constructed trail bed. When the CCC relocated and reconstructed portions of the AT in the 1930s, a standard trail marker was developed for use along the entire AT in Shenandoah NP. The markers were four-foot-tall, six-inch-wide concrete pillars with embossed zinc banding displaying the AT logo. They were reminiscent of hitching posts and marked the junctions of the AT and the side trails. The PATC also used metal AT markers and nailed them to trees, and developed a system of white-painted blazes on trees to mark the trail that was used throughout the entire AT from Maine to Georgia.

Other small-scale features within the trail corridor included wooden gates and wood and wire fences associated with adjacent farms. Along one stretch, the PATC 1931 Guidebook said, “From second peak (Hogback) the Trail leads down through poor timber to cross wire fence at 14m. and joins road coming in on left” (PATC, 1931:55). Sometimes the AT passed through the gates and fencing and at other times the trail ran alongside farm fields and orchards delineated by fences.

Existing Conditions :

The most predominant small-scale feature on the AT–North District today are the historic concrete and embossed-zinc trail markers (Fig. 25). They continue to serve as a key wayfinding feature for the AT and the side trails in the park. When the markers are in need of repair or replacement, they are replaced in-kind. Many of the old metal AT signs have rusted away or have been acquired by hikers as souvenirs, and have not been replaced. Occasionally, however, one can be discovered nailed to a tree.

White blazes still mark the entire AT from Georgia to Maine and are repainted by the PATC as needed. Other markers indicate utilities with a metal post. Registration boxes and maps occur at major junctions such as when entering the park or entering the designated wilderness area. Maps are displayed vertically under plexiglass within six-foot-tall, four-foot-wide brown metal signpost structures. If a registration box is included, it is attached to the side of the post. Where the trail merges with an access road for utilities, a low yellow-painted chain between two-foot-tall concrete bollards closes off the road.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411001, 0.000—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122853

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Registration box (411001, 0.116—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122855

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411001, 0.216—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122857

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411001, 1.390—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122859

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411001, 1.691—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122861

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411002, 0.000—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122863

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411002.5, 0.000—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122865

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411003, 0.000—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122867

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, utility (411003, 0.222—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122869

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411003, 1.680—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122871

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411004, 0.000—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122873

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, utility (411004, 1.530—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122875

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411004, 2.130—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122877

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411005, 0.000—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122879

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411006, 0.000—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122881

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411006, 0.024—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122883

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411006, 0.169—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122885

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411006, 1.290—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122887

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete) (411006, 1.566—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122889

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411007, 0.000—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122891

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411007, 0.867—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122893

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Gate (411007, 1.275—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122895

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411008, 0.025—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122897

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411008, 0.325—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122899

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411008, 0.688—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122901

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411009, 0.000—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122903

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411009, 0.239—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122905

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411009, 0.391—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122907

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, utility (411009, 0.397—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122909
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing
Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411009, 0.412—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122911
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411009, 0.762—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122913
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411009, 0.787—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122915
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411009, 1.572—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122917
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411010, 0.000—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122919
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411010, 0.041—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122921
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411010, 0.571—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122923
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411011, 1.025—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122925
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411012, 0.000—0)
Feature Identification Number: 122927

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411012, 0.284—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122929

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411012, 1.176—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122931

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411013, 0.000—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122933

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411013, 0.207—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122935

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411014, 0.000—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122937

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411014, 0.808—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122939

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411014, 0.846—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122941

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411014, 1.140—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122943

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marker, trail (concrete and zinc) (411014, 1.155—0)

Feature Identification Number: 122947

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 25: A historic concrete and zinc AT marker circa 1935 near Elkwallow Gap. (SUNY, 2006)

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 05/30/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition. Some trail sections are subject to erosion and improper drainage problems, but typically are diligently addressed by the NPS and PATC.

Stabilization Measures:

The two projects listed do not represent the entire need for stabilization. The stabilization cost reported below is the sum total of the following projects:

Multi-year project through Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 – PMIS 124309 “Partner with PATC to Restore Tread, Erosion Control, and Rockwork on the AT and Side Trails,” includes specialized work for restoration of rocky, uneven and eroded tread, rebuilding of degraded erosion control structures to control or divert storm water to minimize soil erosion, reconstruction of rock cribbing walls to support trails on steep slopes, and construction of rock steps in steep eroded sections of trail. Requested funding amount for the project is \$24K.

Three projects identified through FY 2009 – PMIS 111736: “YCC: Improve & Maintain Backcountry/Wilderness Trails, Historic Skyline Drive, and Campgrounds,” and PMIS 124253 and PMIS 133166: “YCC: Rehabilitate Backcountry/Wilderness Trails and Campsites and Maintain Skyline Drive” – make use of Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) labor to work on the park's extensive 500-mile trail system which includes over 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail and remote trails managed in the park's designated wilderness areas. Work will include: trail tread maintenance, construction and rehabilitation of waterbars, check-dams, and drainage ditches, re-grading trail surfaces, vegetation removal and re-routing/construction of new trail. Requested funding amounts are as follows: FY 2007 (\$45K), FY 2008 (\$51K), and FY09 (\$63K).

Impacts

Type of Impact: Erosion

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Erosion of the treadway is potentially the biggest impact on the AT as it can damage the treadway and effect the integrity of stone edging and retaining walls.

Type of Impact:	Improper Drainage
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	This impact can also affect the condition of the treadway and associated stone structures.
Type of Impact:	Other
Other Impact:	Development
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Addition of incompatible features within the park can affect the character of the resource.
Type of Impact:	Adjacent Lands
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	Incompatible development beyond the trail corridor and park boundaries may negatively affect views and vistas and the hiking experience.

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost:	183,000.00
Cost Date:	08/06/2007
Level of Estimate:	C - Similar Facilities
Cost Estimator:	Park/FMSS

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Preservation
Approved Treatment Document: General Management Plan
Document Date: 01/23/1983

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

Regarding the Appalachian Trail (AT) within Shenandoah National Park, the 1983 General Management Plan states that “efforts will be continued to protect and to minimize possible intrusions.” The AT is also categorized as a “permitted development” of the park’s “Natural Zone” management area (General Management Plan, 1983:77,101).

Approved Treatment Completed: Yes

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 01/23/1983

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

- Citation Author:** Bates, David
Citation Title: Breaking Trail in the Central Appalachians: A Narrative
Year of Publication: 1987
Citation Publisher: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
- Citation Author:** Birchard William and Robert D. Proudman
Citation Title: Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance, Second Edition
Year of Publication: 2000
Citation Publisher: Appalachian Trail Conference
- Citation Author:** Chew, V. Collins
Citation Title: Underfoot: A Geologic Guide to the Appalachian Trail
Year of Publication: 1988
Citation Publisher: Appalachian Trail Conference
- Citation Author:** Connors, John A.
Citation Title: Shenandoah National Park: An Interpretive Guide
Year of Publication: 1988
Citation Publisher: McDonald and Woodward
- Citation Author:** Engle, Reed L.
Citation Title: Everything Was Wonderful: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Shenandoah National Park
Year of Publication: 1999
Citation Publisher: Shenandoah National Park Association
- Citation Author:** Engle, Reed L.
Citation Title: The Greatest Single Feature...A Sky-line Drive: 75 years of a Mountaintop Motorway
Year of Publication: 2006
Citation Publisher: Shenandoah National Park Association

- Citation Author:** Foster, Charles H. W.
Citation Title: The Appalachian National Scenic Trail: A Time to be Bold
Year of Publication: 1987
- Citation Author:** Hooper, Carol of Robinson and Associates, Inc.
Citation Title: National Register Nomination: Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase #1)
Year of Publication: 1997
- Citation Author:** Lambert, Darwin
Citation Title: Shenandoah National Park Administrative History
Year of Publication: 1979
- Citation Author:** Lambert, Darwin
Citation Title: The Undying Past of Shenandoah National Park
Year of Publication: 1989
- Citation Author:** MacKaye, Benton
Citation Title: An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning
Year of Publication: 1921
Citation Publisher: Journal of the American Institute of Architects
- Citation Author:** MacKaye, Benton
Citation Title: Progress Toward the Appalachian Trail
Year of Publication: 1922
Citation Publisher: Appalachia
- Citation Author:** Maddux, McClung and Peyton
Citation Title: National Register Nomination: Skyline Drive Historic District
Year of Publication: 1996

- Citation Author:** McClelland, Linda Flint
Citation Title: Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction
Year of Publication: 1998
- Citation Author:** National Park Service, Denver Service Center
Citation Title: General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan: Shenandoah National Park
Year of Publication: 1983
- Citation Author:** National Park Service, Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design
Citation Title: Progress Chart, March 1, 1935 – April 1, 1935 Shenandoah National Park (4th Enrollment Period, Narrative Reports)
Year of Publication: 1935
- Citation Author:** National Park Service, Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design
Citation Title: Master Plan 1936, Shenandoah National Park, Trail System-Recreational
Year of Publication: 1936
- Citation Author:** National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
Citation Title: NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Piney River, Shenandoah National Park
Year of Publication: 2006
- Citation Author:** National Park Service
Citation Title: National Park Service, Shenandoah National Park
<http://www.nps.gov/shen/naturescience/htm>
Year of Publication: 2006
Citation Publisher: NPS

- Citation Author:** Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Citation Title: Guide to the Paths in the Blue Ridge
Year of Publication: 1931
Citation Publisher: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
- Citation Author:** Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Citation Title: Guide to the Paths in the Blue Ridge
Year of Publication: 1934
Citation Publisher: Potomac Appalachian Trail club
- Citation Author:** Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Citation Title: Supplement to Guide to the Paths in the Blue Ridge
Year of Publication: 1935
Citation Publisher: Potomac Appalachian Trail club
- Citation Author:** Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Citation Title: Guide to the Paths in the Blue Ridge
Year of Publication: 1959
Citation Publisher: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
- Citation Author:** Robinson, Judith Stephanie Foell, Tim Kerr of Robinson Associates and Reed Engle, Shenandoah National Park
Citation Title: National Register Nomination: Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase #2)
Year of Publication: 2002
- Citation Author:** Schaeffer, Lee
Citation Title: Appalachian Trail Guide to Shenandoah National Park with Side Trails, 12th Edition
Year of Publication: 1999
Citation Publisher: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

- Citation Author:** United States Department of the Interior
Citation Title: Emergency Conservation Work, Project Training – Construction of Trails
Year of Publication: 1937
- Citation Author:** United States Department of the Interior
Citation Title: Emergency Conservation Work, Project Training – Brick and Stone Work
Year of Publication: 1937

Supplemental Information

- Title:** Interview - Shawn Green, Park Trails Coordinator and South District Resource Specialist, Shenandoah National Park, July 2006, Karen Cowperthwaite, State University of New York, 2006.
- Title:** List – Shenandoah National Park Vascular Plants, Shenandoah National Park.
- Title:** Map – Map 9: Appalachian Trail and other trails in Shenandoah National Park, North District, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Revised 2005.
- Title:** Map – Map 9: Appalachian Trail and other trails in Shenandoah National Park, Northern Section, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1963.
- Title:** Map – Shenandoah National Park (Northern Section), Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Map Number 9, Third Edition, 1941.
- Title:** Map – United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Land Acquisition Division, Appalachian National Scenic Trail: Segments 423-428, 1984.
- Title:** Map – USGS Bentonville Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1966.
- Title:** Map – USGS Chester Gap Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1967.
- Title:** Map – USGS Thornton Gap Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1965.