
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
1999

Revised 2006



Piney River
Shenandoah National Park

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Cultural Landscapes Inventory – General Information

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a database containing information on the historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory 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 inventory records when all required data fields are entered, the park superintendent concurs with the information, and the landscape is determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places through a consultation process or is otherwise managed as a cultural resource through a public planning process.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (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 (2001), 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 goals are associated with the CLI: 1) increasing the number of certified cultural landscapes (1b2B); and 2) bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (1a7). The CLI maintained by Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, WASO, is the official source of cultural landscape information.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated and approved at the regional level. Each region annually updates a strategic plan that prioritizes work based on a variety of park and regional needs that include planning and construction projects or associated compliance requirements that lack cultural landscape documentation. When the inventory unit record is complete and concurrence with the findings is obtained from the superintendent and the State Historic Preservation Office, the regional CLI coordinator certifies the record and transmits it to the national CLI Coordinator for approval. Only records approved by the national CLI coordinator are included on the CLI for official reporting purposes.

Relationship between the CLI and a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)

The CLI and the CLR are related efforts in the sense that both document the history,

significance, and integrity of park cultural landscapes. However, the scope of the CLI is limited by the need to achieve concurrence with the park superintendent resolve eligibility questions when a National Register nomination does not exist or the nomination inadequately addresses the eligibility of the landscape characteristics. Ideally, a park's CLI work (which many include multiple inventory units) precedes a CLR because the baseline information in the CLI not only assists with priority setting when more than one CLR is needed it also assists with determining more accurate scopes of work.

In contrast, the CLR is the primary treatment document for significant park landscapes. It, therefore, requires an additional level of research and documentation both to evaluate the historic and the existing condition of the landscape in order to recommend preservation treatment that meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the treatment of historic properties.

The scope of work for a CLR, when the CLI has not been done, should include production of the CLI record. Depending on its age and scope, existing CLR's are considered the primary source for the history, statement of significance, and descriptions of contributing resources that are necessary to complete a CLI record.

Inventory Unit Description:

Piney River is a National Park Service (NPS) maintenance and trail crew facility in Shenandoah National Park (NP), located at milepost 22.1 on Skyline Drive in Rappahannock County. Piney River can also be reached by foot via the Appalachian Trail (AT) and Piney Branch Trail. The site sits on the northeast side of the peak of Piney Ridge and is part of the chain of mountains that form the Blue Ridge Mountains. At an average elevation of 3000 feet, the developed area is mostly level with a gradual slope to the southeast and rock ridges that rise to the highpoint on the west.

Physical Description

Piney River is the location of a former Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp that was important to the development of Shenandoah NP and Skyline Drive. As one of the last CCC camps built in Shenandoah, Piney River was unique in that it did not have the typical U-shaped configuration of other camps in the park. (Engle, 1999:38) Rather, its development was shaped by the topography of the mountain.

The historic road into the camp from Skyline Drive, the Access Road, is still used. It historically terminated as an oval drive that surrounded a flagpole and from which other roads radiated. Today, this area – or Hub – continues to function as the central core of the facility, although it has been reconfigured over time and is paved, and the flagpole is no longer present. Other contributing circulation features are the Piney Branch Trail and the Fire Road that leads to the Range View Cabin, operated by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC). On the northwest side of the Hub is the historic Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. It and another CCC building to the north, the Naturalist's Office, have survived the seventy plus years since they were first built and are still at their original locations. Most of the other CCC buildings occupied the gently sloped areas south of the Hub, where today a maintenance building, support structures, and large asphalt paved areas for storage and parking are located. There is also an employee residence, and at the top of Piney Ridge to the west is a water

tank located near the former CCC reservoir. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC)

The spaces surrounding the buildings are mostly open except for a few mature oaks and pines around the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. These areas are bounded by a secondary growth forest of oak, cherry, hickory, locust, and pine that also edges Skyline Drive, much of the former oval drive and CCC barracks areas, and the NPS residence. Large boulders as well as several sinkholes, believed to be the location of the CCC camp latrine, can be found in these woods. To the south there are several apple trees that likely date to the CCC or early park period. At the top of the Piney Ridge, a canopy story of large oak and cherry trees is scattered across a rocky ground.

Period of Significance Summary

On September 19, 1997, Piney River was one of five developed areas in Shenandoah NP to be included within a boundary addition to the Skyline Drive National Historic District, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Register Nomination Form:

“The park -- and thus the boundary addition's -- significance falls under both National Register Criterion A (properties significant for their association with events) and Criterion C (properties significant as representatives of the manmade expression of culture or technology). The area is significant in the areas of Politics/Government, Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation, and Landscape Architecture for the period of 1931-1952. The park's historical significance relates in part to the fact that it was one of the first eastern national parks and as such, the nation's most visited national park in the years immediately prior to World War II. In addition, it is significant as the site of the Skyline Drive and as a primary example of artificial efforts to return a developed area to its natural state. The park, while initiated during the administration of Herbert Hoover, is an example of the many accomplishments of Franklin Roosevelt's Depression-era programs, in particular the Civilian Conservation Corps.”

The Nomination Form goes on to state that the boundary addition area also conveys significance relating to the specific areas within the addition. A statement regarding Piney River aligns with Criterion A: “[It] is one of two areas within the park that were the site of CCC camps and that still retain CCC buildings.” (Hooper, 1997:8-37,38) This statement most closely relates to the politics and government theme under Criterion A for its association with Depression-era work programs that resulted in the construction of large public works throughout the country. There is no specific reference to Piney River for significance under Criterion C in the Nomination Form.

Analysis and Evaluation Summary

The Nomination Form cites specific resources that contribute to the significance of the historic district, all of which are associated with the CCC's use of the site. The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office and the Naturalist's Office are listed as contributing buildings. (Hooper, 1997:7-35) The Maintenance/Equipment Shed, a CCC structure also on list, was recently removed due to its demolition. The Access Road and its spurs (that lead to contributing resources) are listed as contributing structures. (Hooper, 1997:7-4; 7-35; and 10-109)

The integrity of the boundary addition areas was evaluated as generally high in the 1997 Nomination

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Form. (Hooper, 1997:7-5) However, the analysis in this report concludes that the Piney River landscape does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered a contributing (countable) site according to National Register guidelines. This is primarily due to the removal of most of the historic buildings and structures in the 1940s, the recent loss of one of three historic buildings that were retained, and the growth and spread of woodlands in and around the site. Additionally, one of the site's two remaining historic buildings is in threatened condition. Nonetheless, a variety of characteristics and features that contribute to the character of the historic district have been identified at Piney River. Contributing characteristics are natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, small scale features, and archeology. Contributing features include the Piney Branch Trail, mature trees near the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office and on top of the Piney Ridge, views to the mountains, a Stone Fireplace, a wood Loading Ramp, numerous large Boulders, and several Sinkholes that are remnants of latrine pits.

Site Plan

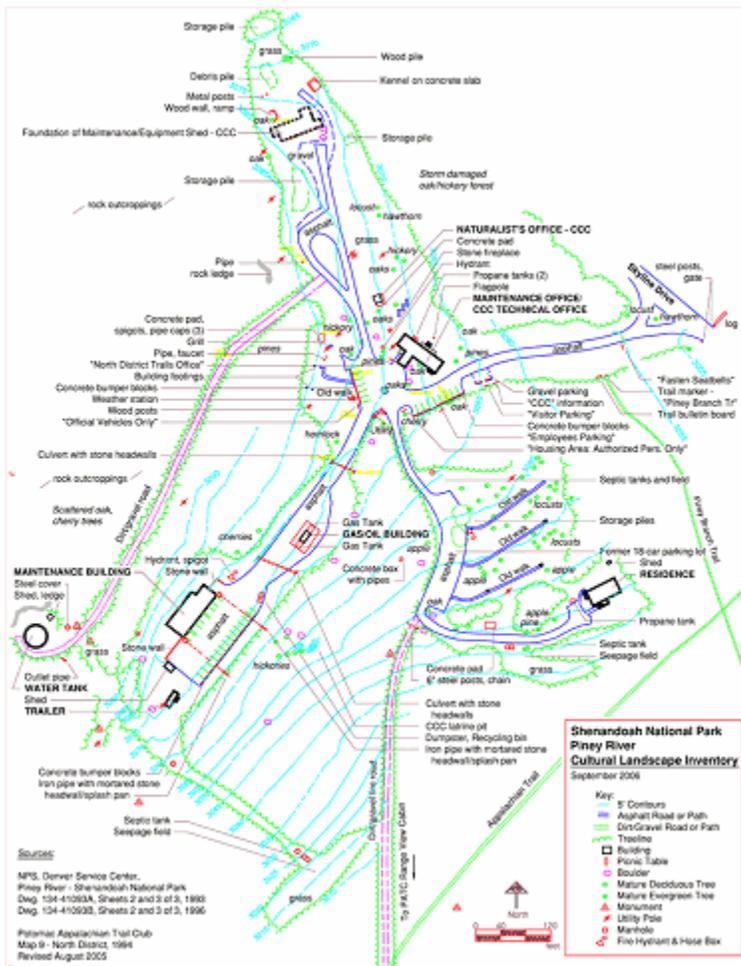


Fig. 2: Existing conditions map for Piney River. (OCLP 2006)

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Piney River
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	300119
Parent Landscape:	300115

Park Information

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

CLI Hierarchy Description

Shenandoah NP includes the following landscapes and component landscapes:

- General park landscape with component landscapes: Appalachian Trail (segment in Shenandoah NP), Corbin Cabin, Mt. Vernon Iron Furnace, Snead Farmstead
 - Skyline Drive landscape with component landscapes: Big Meadows, Dickey Ridge, Elkwallow, Lewis Mountain, Piney River, Pinnacles, Skyland, Simmons Gap, South River Picnic Grounds
 - Rapidan Camp landscape
 - Headquarters landscape
- [see Fig. 1]



Fig 1: Illustration of the Skyline Drive component landscapes. (PHSO 2001)

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Nancy J. Brown, CLI Coordinator, and Jeanie Hau, Landscape Architectural Intern, completed field survey work, written reports, and basemaps for Level 0 and Level 1 inventories on 12/8/1999 and 4/23/2001, respectively.

Historical Landscape Architects Jeffrey Killion and Nancy J. Brown completed the field survey work for this report. The written report and basemap updates were completed by Jeffrey Killion.

The park contact for the Cultural Landscapes Inventory is Reed Engle, NPS Cultural Resource Specialist. He can be contacted at (540) 999-3495.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	06/01/2006
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- Keeper
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/17/1997

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The 1997 Boundary Increase to the Skyline Drive Historic District National Register Nomination defines the boundary as 125 feet on either side of the centerline of all roads and parking areas that the National Park Service had constructed or was using by 1950. (Hooper, 1997:7-2) At Piney River, this includes the Access Road off of Skyline Drive and the spurs that leads to contributing resources. (Hooper, 1997:7-3 and 10-109) The developed area is roughly bounded on the north by the storage piles behind the recently removed CCC-era Maintenance/Equipment Shed, on the east by woods along Skyline Drive, on the south by a septic field, and on the west by the hilltop of Piney Ridge. The size of this area has not changed considerably since the end of the period of significance.

State and County:

State:	VA
County:	Rappahannock County

Size (Acres): 26.00

Boundary UTMS:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	17	734,950	4,292,400
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	17	735,320	4,292,480
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	17	735,250	4,292,580
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	17	735,050	4,292,650

Location Map:

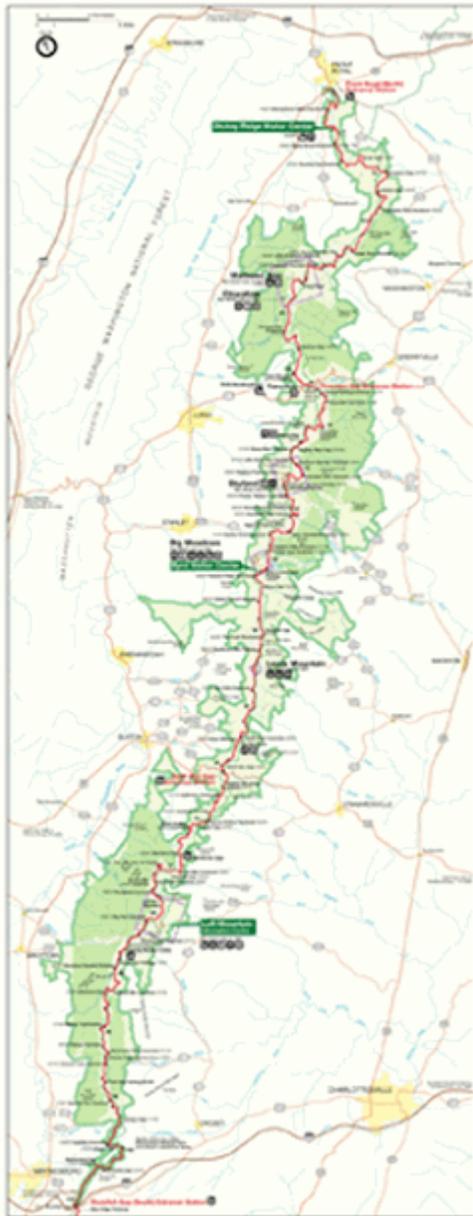


Fig. 3: Map of Shenandoah National Park. Piney River is just south of the Mathews Arm campground. (SHEN, 2004)

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The site is part of Shenandoah NP, where recreation is the primary cultural use. In the surrounding region, tourism is a significant industry. Agriculture, particularly chicken production, is the main industry to the west, with easy north-south access via Interstate 81 and Route 340. Suburban development from Washington D.C. dominates the east, with east-west access via Interstate 66 and Routes 7, 50, and 211.



Fig. 4: Shenandoah National Park is located in the Commonwealth of Virginia. (Map courtesy of GORP, Great Outdoor Recreation Pages)

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Piney River is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains on the Piney Ridge, at an elevation of about 3100'. To the east, about 800' lower, is the river that shares the name Piney River.

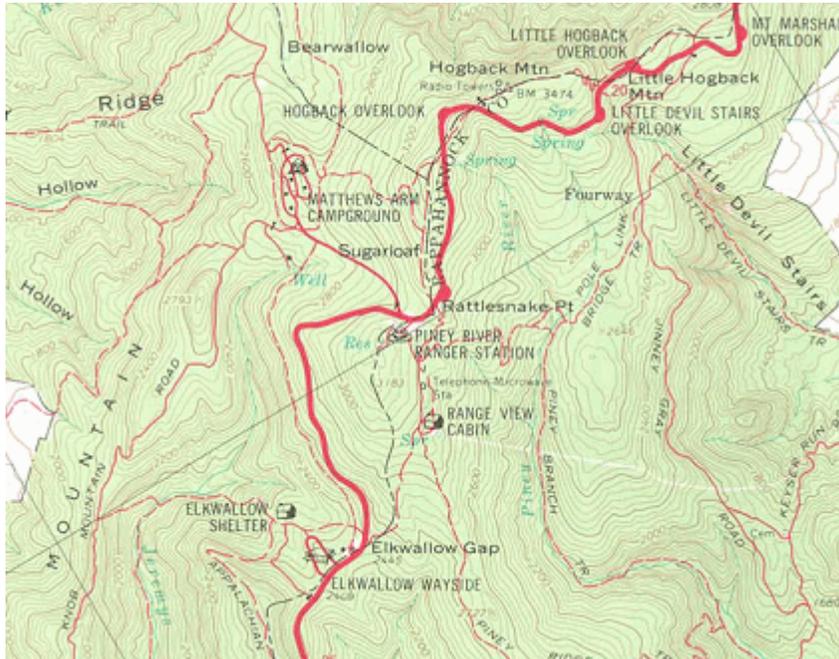


Fig. 5: USGS map of Piney River. (USGS Shenandoah National Park, Virginia: Northern Section 1969)

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Piney River is located in Rappahannock County, in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 06/01/2006

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The park's 1983 General Management Plan recommended removal of the CCC-period buildings at Piney River due to modifications and their deteriorated condition. (GMP, 1983:72-73) However, on September 19, 1997, Piney River was listed in the National Register of Historic Places through a boundary expansion of the Skyline Drive Historic District. According to the National Register Nomination Form, the park – and the boundary addition's – significance falls under both National Register Criterion A and C for the themes of social history, politics and government, and landscape architecture for the period 1931-1952, representing the early period of development of Shenandoah NP, Skyline Drive, and Piney River and ending when construction activity in the park essentially stopped. (Hooper, 1997:7-1) The Nomination Form specifically states that Piney River is significant because it retains CCC buildings on their original sites. (Hooper, 1997:8-37,38) This statement would thus fall under National Register Criterion A.

According to the management category definitions, Piney River meets several criteria listed for “Must Be Preserved and Maintained”: the inventory unit is related to the park’s legislative significance; the inventory unit serves as the setting for a nationally significant structure or object; the inventory unit is less than nationally significant but contributes to the park’s national significance.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Expiration Date: 2006

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Interpretive demonstration, waystation, primitive cabins at Shenandoah NP, renewal in five years

Type of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding

Expiration Date: 2006

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Potomac PATC, Appalachian Trail Conference, Appalachian Trail Park Office and Shenandoah NP, 5 year MOU of Appalachian Trail

Type of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding

Expiration Date: NA

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Park ranger activities with PATC ridge runners and trail patrol

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Expiration Date: NA

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Weddings, religious services, amateur radio, Isaac Walton League literature distribution on clean air, 100-mile endurance ride (6 mi. in SNP), military training/testing of optical equipment, hang gliding – each activity has own expiration date

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Expiration Date: NA

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Permits with varying expiration dates for filming, such as by TV stations and news photographers (duration 1 day), for documentaries (1-2 days), and commercials (1-2 days)

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Expiration Date: NA

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

75-80 long-term special use permits in park with varying expiration dates for pipelines, gas and other utilities, mainly to support park operations, and approx. 40 for road access to private property that existed before the park

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Adjacent lands continue to play a role at Piney River in terms of views, although in a diminished capacity. The potential panoramic views, which are likely historic, are mainly toward the east and south and extend beyond park lands. If at some point the park chooses to open up viewsheds from within the former CCC camp – from the Hub and from what is now the maintenance building area – or from the residence area, Piney Branch Trail, the AT, or Skyline Drive, then development of adjacent lands could negatively impact the visitor experience through new industry, housing, roadways, or cellular telephone towers. The secondary effects of development, increased air and light pollution, also impact visitors' ability to enjoy the views both during the day and night.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Skyline Drive was added to the National Register as part of the Skyline Drive Historic District on April 28, 1997. That same year, on September 19, 1997, Piney River, among other developed areas along the road, was added to the historic district through a Boundary Addition. The nomination was completed by Carol Hooper of Robinson & Associates, Inc. It provides basic baseline information on buildings, structures (circulation features), and landscape features. This CLI provides additional documentation of those resources.

Existing NRIS Information:

NRIS Number:	97000375
Primary Certification Date:	04/28/1997
Other Certifications and Date:	Boundary Adjustment - 9/19/1997

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- Keeper
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Period of Significance:	
Time Period:	AD 1931 - 1952
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	Political and Military Affairs 1865-1939
Facet:	The Great Depression And The New Deal, 1929-1941
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category	Area of Significance Subcategory
Politics - Government	None

Statement of Significance:

As one of the first national parks established in the eastern United States, Shenandoah NP raised national and regional awareness of the importance of the government's role in returning a developed area to its natural state and preserving large portions of the natural environment for public recreation and enjoyment. From the park's earliest history, a key feature has been Skyline Drive, which traces the mountaintop ridges and affords panoramic views of the Piedmont Plain to the east and the Shenandoah Valley to the west. Instrumental in the development of the park and construction of the scenic road was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Numerous CCC camps were established along Skyline Drive, one of which was located at Piney River and operated from 1935 to 1942. (Engle, 1999:30)

According to the National Register Nomination Form for the Skyline Drive Historic District Boundary Addition:

“The park -- and thus the boundary addition's -- significance falls under both National Register Criterion A (properties significant for their association with events) and Criterion C (properties significant as representatives of the manmade expression of culture or technology). The area is significant in the areas of Politics/Government, Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation, and Landscape Architecture for the period of 1931-1952. The park's historical significance relates in part to the fact that it was one of the first eastern national parks and as such, the nation's most visited national park in the years immediately prior to World War II. In addition, it is significant as the site of the Skyline Drive and as a primary example of artificial efforts to return a developed area to its natural state. The park, while initiated during the administration of Herbert Hoover, is an example of the many accomplishments of Franklin Roosevelt's Depression-era programs, in particular the Civilian Conservation Corps.”

The Nomination Form states that the specific developed areas in the boundary addition also convey significance. Regarding Piney River: “[It] is one of two areas within the park that were the site of CCC camps and that still retain CCC buildings.” (Hooper, 1997:8-37,38). This statement relates to the politics and government theme under Criterion A for its association with Depression-era work programs that resulted in the construction of large public works throughout the country. There is no specific reference to Piney River for significance under Criterion C in the Nomination Form.

Contributing resources to the historic district listed in the Nomination Form are associated with the CCC's use of the site: the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, the Naturalist's Office, and the Access Road and spurs (a third historic feature, the Maintenance/Equipment Shed, was also listed but is no longer extant). Piney River as a whole, however, is not specifically listed as contributing site in the historic district. (Hooper, 1997:7-35).

Criterion D, properties that have yielded or are likely to yield information important in prehistory or history, is not currently listed in the National Register nomination but may be applicable. The limited archeological work that has taken place indicates that CCC artifacts are present. Ongoing research will clarify whether Criterion D is applicable.

State Register Information

Identification Number: 069-0234
Date Listed: 07/02/1997
Name: Skyline Drive Historic District (Multiple Counties)
(Boundary Increase)

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Camp

Primary Current Use: Maintenance Facility

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
FC31	Both Current And Historic
FC15	Both Current And Historic
FC15	Both Current And Historic
FC6	Both Current And Historic
FC13	Both Current And Historic
FC12	Current
FC15	Both Current And Historic
FC9	Current

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Camp 'Red Bird'	Historic
Camp Byrd	Historic
Civilian Conservation Corps Camp NP-12	Historic
Piney River	Current

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Significance Description:

As with most areas of Shenandoah NP, it is quite possible that either the Native American Manocan and Manahoac tribes or later settlers to the area used this site at one time. However, to date, there are no known prehistoric sites or historic settlements in the camp area likely because there was no water.

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
8000 BC - AD 1600	Settled	First human habitation in Blue Ridge Mountains as seasonal encampments.
AD 1000	Farmed/Harvested	Farming developed in the valleys
AD 1669	Explored	Dr. John Lederer, first European to record exploration in this area of Blue Ridge Mountains, describes a forest full of game and 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 the area.
AD 1750 - 1830	Settled	Settlers moved from lower elevations into mountain hollows, where they pursued farming, grazing, timbering and hunting game.
AD 1830	Built	Recreational use of the 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 in 1888.
AD 1926	Established	Congress first authorized Shenandoah National Park (NP), but without funds for land purchase.
AD 1927	Built	Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) organized, and construction of AT in Shenandoah NP begins.
AD 1931 - 1942	Engineered	Private contractors construct Skyline Drive; CCC provides assistance after May 1933. (McClelland, 1998:181-182)
AD 1935	Built	June 28: Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp NP-9 officially moves from Sperryville to Piney River as NP-12, Camp Byrd; recruits travel from Sperryville to Piney River during construction. (Engle, 1999:36)
AD 1935	Established	July 4: CCC Camp NP-12 is officially established.

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AD 1935	Established	December 26: Secretary of the Interior accepts deeds for park lands from the Commonwealth of Virginia.
AD 1935 - 1942	Built	CCC constructs Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly Technical Office and Quarters) and Naturalist's Office (used for gas and oil storage) in 1935; CCC provides labor for Skyline Drive; relocates portions of AT; clears dead/dying chestnut trees; plants trees/shrubs to revegetate areas.
AD 1936	Established	July 3: President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicates Shenandoah NP.
AD 1937	Built	CCC completes Maintenance/Equipment Shed.
AD 1942	Removed	March 15: CCC Camp NP-12 is closed (Engle, 1999: 30)
AD 1943 - 1944	Altered	Civilian Public Service (CPS) workers remove most of the CCC camp buildings and renovate the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office for use as the North District Ranger Station. (Hooper, 1997: 8-85)
AD 1948	Altered	National Register Nomination notes, "Ranger Office completed in 1948," possibly a reference to renovation of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office to a ranger station. (Hooper, 1997:8-102)
AD 1950 - 1959	Altered	Naturalist's Office used for coal storage in 1950s; has since been used as a storage shed and a naturalist's office. (LCS, 2006:081802)
AD 1960	Built	NPS constructs old gas/oil building. (Hooper, 1997:7-35)
AD 1966	Built	Crom Corporation constructs water tank and adjacent shed for NPS, as noted on tower plaque; replaces wood tank installed at an unknown earlier date.
AD 1980 - 1989	Altered	Federal Highways uses the site for temporary field office while working on the north section of Skyline Drive. (Interview, 2001:Brown-Engle)

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AD 1982 - 1996	Removed	Existing features identified in the 1983 GMP include six trailers for NPS employee housing south of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office and a set of trailers west of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. The trailers were removed by the mid-1990s. (GMP, 1983; NPS plan, 1983:134-20072A; NPS plan, 1983:134-40044; NPS plan, 1993:134-41093A; NPS plan, 1996:134-41094B)
AD 1984	Built	NPS constructs five-bay maintenance building. (Hooper, 1997:7-35)
AD 1987	Built	NPS constructs prefabricated ranch-style residence. (Hooper, 1997:7-35)
AD 1993	Built	NPS builds the modern gas/oil building near the maintenance building. (Hooper, 1997:7-35)
AD 2001 - 2006	Removed	NPS removes old gas/oil building between 2001 and 2006.
AD 2004	Stabilized	Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office stabilized. (LCS, 2006:081801)
AD 2004	Preserved	Naturalist's Office preserved and ell on Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office stabilized. (LCS, 2006:081801)
AD 2006	Removed	NPS removes Maintenance/Equipment Shed.

Physical History:

1. 9000-10,000 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 habitation beginning about 9000-10,000 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 1000 AD, Native American use of the mountains focused on game hunting. (Resource Management Plan-hereafter called RMP-,1998:23) The Manocan and Manahoac tribes used the area.

2. 1669 to 1926: European Settlement

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 diseases, and by 1800 they had disappeared completely or had moved away. (Lambert, 1989:21-22; RMP, 1998:23)

As the better farm lands were taken, the new settlers moved into the mountain hollows where they developed a life reliant on hunting, farming, grazing, and timbering that led to extensive clearing of the land. (RMP, 1998:23) This clearing was later advanced by the introduction of chestnut blight in the early part of the 1900s, which killed the chestnut trees local people had previously relied upon for rot-resistant wood that was suitable for construction. (Engle, 1999:67)

At some sites in the 1800s, industrial use also developed. Examples include the Mt. Vernon iron furnace and the Stony Man Mountain Tract, where from 1845 to 1850 copper was mined and charcoal was produced for smelting. (Engle, 1994:1) 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 at Skyland.

3. 1926-1952: Initial Park Development

In 1926 Congress authorized the Shenandoah 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 lands were acquired through private donations and funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia. (RMP, 1998:23) This was followed by the removal of homesteads, farms, and previous uses from those lands. (McClelland, 1998:290)

President Franklin Roosevelt officially dedicated the park on July 3, 1936, but many developments were already well underway. In 1927 the PATC was organized, and construction of the AT began at Shenandoah. (Lambert, 1979:159) The trail's initial route was later

relocated to accommodate what early on was envisioned as the park's most important asset 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 Plan... Few scenic drives in the world could surpass it. (Engle, 1999:15)

Construction of Skyline Drive began in 1931 and was Depression-era programs designed to spur employment. The first portion of the road was completed by 1934, a 34-mile stretch between Thornton Gap and Swift Run Gap called the Central District. The 32-mile North District section opened to the public in October 1936 and the South District section opened in August 1939. (Maddux, 1995:8-9,10,11)

Perhaps the most instrumental force in the development of Shenandoah NP was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC program was created as an economic stimulus during the Depression and was aimed at, among other goals, improving and supporting national parks and forests. (Engle, 1999:24) CCC projects at Shenandoah included the construction of fire roads, trails, and comfort stations, removal of dead chestnut trees, and cultivation of native vegetation for replanting. Work also included installation of utilities, eradication of white pine blister rust, and improvements to streams. (Engle, 2001)

Once the park was established and adjacent lands were acquired, it was up to the park's landscape architects and the CCC crews to address post-construction design issues along Skyline Drive and create a picturesque scene. Horizontal and vertical curves were adjusted; cut and fill slopes were flattened; overlooks, picnic areas, guardrails, guard walls, and stone gutters were built; and disturbed areas were landscaped with trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plantings. Most significantly, the CCC created framed views to the east and west through the removal, planting, and transplanting of vegetation. (Engle, 1999:66-67) [see Figs. 6, 7]

CCC enrollees were housed in ten camps at Shenandoah. [see Fig. 8] On July 4, 1935, Camp Byrd, NP-12, was established at Piney River in the North District of Skyline Drive. Named after Senator Harry F. Byrd, "Camp Red Bird" as it became known, was the relocation of Camp NP-9 from Sperryville, where the recruits continued to be housed from June 28 until July 4 while constructing the new camp. (Engle, 1999:36,38) As the last CCC camp built at Shenandoah NP, Piney River did not have the typical U-shape building arrangement of previous CCC camps and instead was more linear because of the mountain topography. [see Fig. 9] Roads spurred at various lengths from a Hub, an oval drive surrounding a flagpole in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (historically named the Technical Quarters and Office), which housed the CCC architects and landscape architects. (Engle, 1999:38) There were over twenty buildings at the camp, including barracks, a mess hall, a gym, an education building, army quarters, bath and latrine facilities, various storage and supply buildings, a garage, and a workshop. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) Most of the major buildings were located to the south and west of the Hub, while garages and storage buildings were to the north. Two of the structures still survive at their original locations: the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office and the Naturalist's Office (historically an Oil and Gas Storage Shed). Besides Piney River,

Pinnacles is the only other site in Shenandoah where CCC camp buildings remain at their original location. (Hooper, 1997:8-59) [see Figs. 10, 11]

The entry of the United States into World War II ended most development in the park until the NPS Mission 66 program. Piney River was closed on March 15, 1942. (Engle, 1999:30) The loss of CCC labor was eased by the establishment of Civilian Public Service (CPS) Camp 45 at Pinnacles staffed by conscientious objectors required to render alternative service. (Hooper, 1997:8-86) In 1943, the CPS removed most of the CCC camp buildings at Piney River. One exception was the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, which was renovated for use as the North District Ranger Station. According to the CPS report, “The building was given to us by the Army when the camp was demolished. It lends itself well to alteration for use as a ranger station, very much needed in this district, until the permanent facilities are made available. The proposed station is located strategically for fire protection as well as general administration. It is only a mile from the Hogback fire tower and two miles from the Elkwallow tavern [wayside] and picnic ground. Facilities are available for storage of road maintenance, as well as ranger, equipment . . . We wish to stress the fact that this is purely a temporary expedient and the work undertaken will involve only that necessary to make the building livable.” (Hooper, 1997:8-102)

More frequent use of Piney River as a park maintenance presumably developed around this time. Such use was not noted on the park’s master plans, probably because there were adequate existing facilities at the site. (Hooper, 1997:8-71)



Fig. 6: The park's landscape architects and CCC crews worked to create beauty from construction scars like this along Skyline Drive. (Engle 1999, 68)



Fig. 7: CCC crew transplanting a pine tree. (Engle 1999, 85)

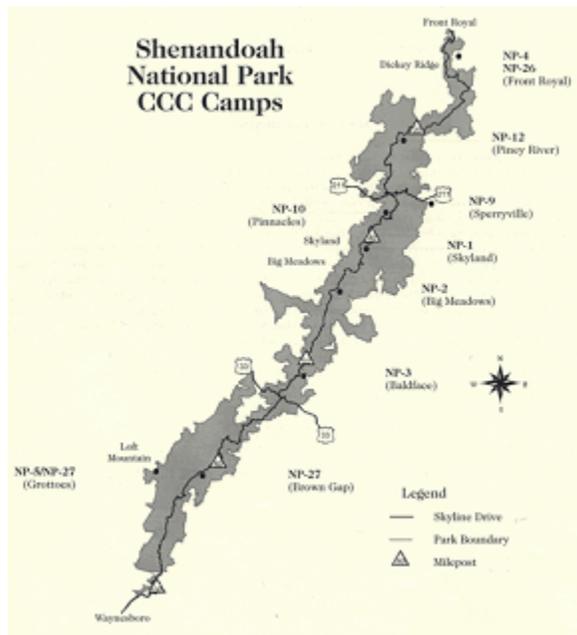


Fig. 8: Map of CCC camps at Shenandoah NP. (Engle 1999, 4)

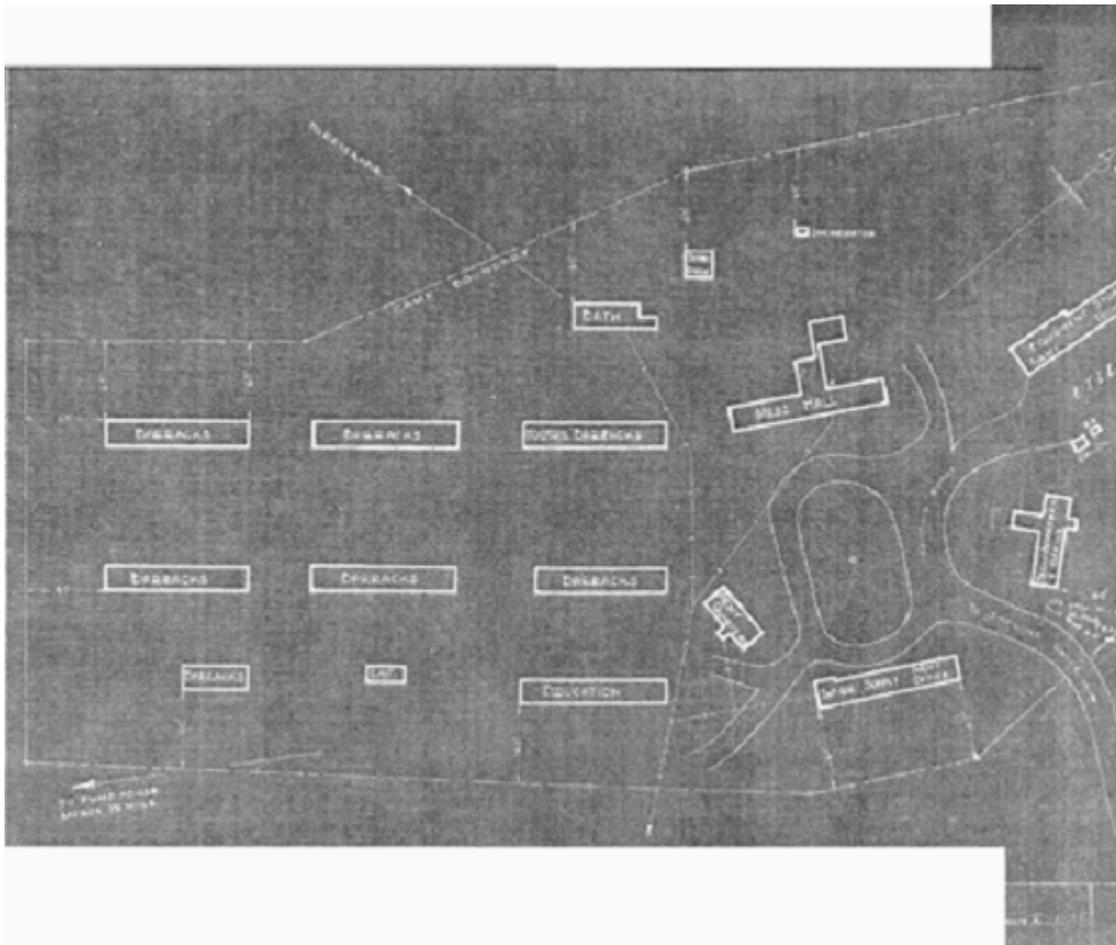


Fig. 9: Plan of Camp NP-12 at Piney River, from 1942. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC)



Fig. 10: View looking west at Camp NP-12 in 1935. The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office is at right center. Note flagpole at center. The absence of vegetation to the south and east allowed panoramic mountain views. (Engle 1999, 37)



Fig. 11: Undated view looking northeast at the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, which housed the CCC's architects' and landscape architects' offices. The building is extant today. (Engle 1999, 38)

4. 1952 – Present: Later Development / National Park Service Era

By the 1950s, the NPS was planning Mission 66 construction projects that would help parks address the massive influx of visitors following World War II. Congressional funding for the work was secured in 1956, and the park expanded facilities at Piney River, adding the old gas/oil building around 1960, and the water tank and shed in 1966 on the atop Piney Ridge. The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office may have been used for ranger housing in the 1950s-60s, as this was done at other sites.

New facilities have been developed and improvements made in the years since the Mission 66 projects. In the 1980s the Federal Highway Administration used the site for a temporary field office while working on the North District of Skyline Drive; a set of office trailers west of the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC may have been part of that activity. In 1984 the park built a five-bay maintenance building in the former barracks area and the modern gas/oil building in 1993. An area just east of the former CCC camp was developed as employee housing: sometime prior to 1982 six trailers were installed but were removed by 1996, and in 1987 the prefabricated single-family residence was built. Currently, Piney River is used as a maintenance facility, a trail crew office, and a storage facility for vehicles, fire equipment, trail supplies, and stockpiled construction materials. Park visitors primarily use the area as a trailhead. Regrettably, one of the three CCC structures retained after the camp closed – the Maintenance/Equipment Shed – was razed in 2006 due to its poor condition.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The physical integrity of the landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1931-1952) with current conditions. Significant landscape characteristics identified for Piney River are Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Land Use, Topography, Vegetation, Circulation, Buildings and Structures, Views and Vistas, Small-Scale Features, and Archeology. All of these characteristics have associated with them features that contribute to the site's overall historic significance, and many include features that do not contribute.

Historic integrity, as defined in National Register Bulletin 15, is the ability of a property to convey its significance, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The analysis in this report concludes that the Piney River landscape does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered a contributing (countable) site according to National Register guidelines. This is primarily due to the removal of most of the historic buildings and structures in the 1940s, the recent loss of one of three historic buildings that were retained, and the growth and spread of woodlands in and around the site. Additionally, one of the site's two remaining historic buildings is in threatened condition. Nonetheless, a variety of characteristics and features that contribute to the character of the historic district have been identified at Piney River.

Of the seven aspects of integrity, Piney River retains integrity in three aspects – location, workmanship, and association – mainly because of the extant CCC buildings, primary circulation features and functions, and the site's response to natural and topographic conditions. Piney River no longer retains integrity in design, setting, materials, and feeling due the loss of most of the camp's historic buildings and structures and the growth of woodlands in and around the site.

Location

Although only two of Piney River's primary historic buildings remain, the influence of natural features, topographic conditions, and proximity to Skyline Drive on the establishment of Camp NP-12 in this location are still evident. Therefore, the site retains integrity of location.

Design

Piney River no longer retains integrity of design. The physical factors that influenced where land uses, roadways, and buildings and structures were located in response to natural features and to each other are still evident, but the growth of woodland vegetation to the south and east and gradual encroachment of vegetation into the former camp area has made these relationships more challenging to read. The biggest change, however, is that most of the camp's prefabricated buildings and structures were removed by the CPS during the period of significance. While this fact actually reflects a unique quality of the camp's history and the temporary design of the typical CCC camp, it was the arrangement of these features as a whole that reflected the form, plan, and spatial organization of the camp. Today, only two of the twenty-four historic buildings and structures are extant. The historic Access Road and spurs are still used, but they have been paved and partially reconfigured, and a non-historic spur has

been added. The employee residence has been added in an area where the camp did not exist historically, but its prefabricated design is consistent with the type of temporary nature of structures erected during the historic period.

Setting

The close relationship of the site to Skyline Drive, the AT, and Piney Branch Trail, and its place within the greater Shenandoah NP, has not changed. Large-scale features such as the gently sloped land of the former camp and the forested ridge to the west contribute to the setting as they clearly influenced the location, design, and layout of the CCC camp. However, the overall setting at Piney River has diminished integrity primarily because of the growth of vegetation and the absence of most of the historic buildings. The spread of woodland trees and shrubs has changed the character of the site and now covers much of the former camp and especially areas that were once open to the south and east, which has diminished panoramic views to the distant mountains. The subsequent decline in the amount of open space and the absence of most of the camp's buildings has changed the arrangement between open spaces and buildings. Several large trees, boulders, a stone fireplace, and a loading ramp remain, but other character-defining features are gone such as the wood posts and a semicircular path in front of the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC, the flagpole, and boulders lining the Access Road.

Materials

The larger pines, hemlocks, oaks, hawthorn, apples, and coralberry scattered throughout the site are original materials, but the secondary growth hardwood forest of oak, cherry, hickory, locust, and pines that covers many of the formerly open spaces in the camp and the areas to the south and east is not. Road surfaces have changed and are now a mix of asphalt and gravel that vary in condition. Board and batten siding is used on the post-historic maintenance building and modern gas/oil building to make those buildings look historic, but neither building is a historic resource. Most of the exterior materials present on the two remaining CCC buildings are original; the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC, in particular, has likely persevered because it is not a prefabricated construction. However, as a whole, the majority of historic materials is no longer present because so many of the camp's buildings and structures have been removed, which has diminished the integrity of materials at Piney River.

Workmanship

The two remaining CCC buildings exhibit different types of construction used at the CCC camp: the Naturalist's Office, a prefabricated frame building, which was typical in Shenandoah's CCC camps; and the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC, a permanent frame building, which was not typical. (Engle, 1999:32) That these structures still remain at the site, and represent some of the last camp buildings from the CCC period, makes workmanship one of Piney River's most important contributions. The recently removed Maintenance/Equipment Shed illustrated a third type of construction – a non-prefabricated open bay frame shed, which also was not typical. Its loss, and the threatened condition of the west wing of the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC, demonstrates that this aspect of integrity is in jeopardy.

Feeling

The feeling at Piney River is diminished because of the loss of most CCC buildings and structures and

the preponderance of secondary growth woodland vegetation. Most of the camp's buildings were removed during the historic period, in 1943, and most of these areas have reverted to a woodland environment. Through the end of the historic period (1952) and up until the present time, the area has been used primarily for park-related maintenance and ranger and trail crew functions, and for limited employee housing. The scale of these functions is drastically different when compared to when the camp was open and housed hundreds of men. From 1935-1942, the entire site was a bustle of activity, but since that time activities have been only occasional and concentrated to specific areas.

Association

Piney River's historic associations are best revealed through the remaining CCC buildings, circulation features, and the overall design and layout of the site in relation to topographic conditions, natural features, and Skyline Drive. Although the locations and scales have changed, the site continues to support park operations and housing.

- Aspects of Integrity:**
- Location
 - Design
 - Setting
 - Materials
 - Workmanship
 - Feeling
 - Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Natural Systems and Features

Historic Period and Existing Conditions

Natural systems and features at Piney River are evident in the mountains, valleys, watersheds, and rock outcrops. Shenandoah NP and Skyline Drive lie astride the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia, part of the Appalachian Mountains that stretch from Georgia to Pennsylvania. The mountains separate the Shenandoah Valley on the west and the rolling hills of the Piedmont Plain on the east. Piney River is situated on one of the many mountain ridges, the Piney Ridge. Most of the land at the site tilts southeasterly toward the river for which the site is named, some 800 feet lower in elevation. The far western and northern portions slope northwesterly and are part of the Jeremy's Run watershed. Both streams eventually flow into the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The site's rock material, gneiss and granite, is among the oldest in the park. These rocks are over one billion years old and are found in the northern one-third of Shenandoah NP. (Badger, 1999:1) Soils at Piney River are thin and rocky, especially at the top of the ridge where natural outcroppings form ledges and the forest of oak and cherry is open and scattered. In contrast, the forest surrounding the developed area of Piney River is in a secondary growth stage of oak, cherry, hickory, locust, and pine with a dense shrub layer.

Spatial Organization

Historic Period

Piney River was developed as a CCC camp in 1935 at Mile 22.1 along Skyline Drive. Unlike most of the CCC camps at Shenandoah, Camp NP-12 did not feature a rectangular U-shape configuration of buildings that faced a central opening, and there was no central axis defined by a main or “company” street. (Engle, 1999:34,38) Rather, the camp’s layout featured three distinct ‘blocks’ that together formed a broad arc corresponding to the site’s topography.

The entrance to the camp from Skyline Drive was by the curved Access Road that terminated as an oval driveway in the middle block, which together with a flagpole roughly marked the camp’s geographic center. This block functioned like the spoke of a wheel from which roads radiated to other areas of the camp to the west, north, and south. Facing this central space, or Hub, were two buildings aligned along the east and west ends of the oval’s long axis – the “Mess Hall” and the “Infirmary Supply and Army Office”. On the north side of the Hub was the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly the Technical Quarters and Office), which was generally oriented to the buildings occupying the southern half of the camp. Another building, the “Army Quarters,” was located on the south side of the Hub and was generally aligned with the structures occupying the northern half of the camp.

The bulk of the camp’s buildings were located south of the Hub and consisted of two rows of three barracks buildings and a third row comprised of barracks, a latrine, and an education building. This block of buildings – along with a bathhouse, storeroom, and an incinerator situated to the north and west – was oriented in a slightly different direction than the buildings in the Hub. A collection of structures in the northern half of the camp was also skewed differently when contrasted to the Hub. This “Utility Area” featured the Naturalist’s Office (formerly a gas and oil structure) and a variety of other workshops, garages, and equipment storage buildings, most of which were centered around an open area. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC)

Historic photographs show the camp as bounded by the wooded Piney Ridge to the west and north and generally clear to the south and east, suggesting that panoramic views existed, especially from the barracks area and the Hub.

Existing Conditions

Piney River is still accessed from Skyline Drive by the Access Road, which is bounded on both sides by an open grass area and woodlands and terminates in front of the historic Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office as a large paved area. This space, or Hub, continues to function as a spoke in the wheel with other roads branching off to other areas of the site. The configuration of the Hub is considerably smaller than it was historically and has shifted north, roughly occupying the northern side of the former oval driveway.

From the Hub, an asphalt road heads southwest to the area formerly occupied by the barracks. This broad corridor includes the maintenance building, modern gas/oil shed, a small temporary building and a trailer, and a large parking area. It is bounded by secondary growth trees and shrubs and the slope of Piney Ridge. Like the former barracks buildings, these structures are

oriented with the topography.

Two other roads radiate from the Hub in the same general directions as during the historic period. The road extending to the north passes the historic Naturalist's Office and ends prior to the recently removed Maintenance/Equipment Shed. This area is also bounded by woodland vegetation, but the space itself is mostly open as it is still an active maintenance and storage area. A gravel road rises from here west to a ledge near the top of Piney Ridge where the water tank and a small storage shed are located. Above this ledge are trees dominated by mature oaks and cherries scattered across the rocky ridge top. Below the ledge is the maintenance building area described above.

The slightly curving asphalt road heading south from the Hub leads to land that was not known to have been developed by the CCC. Secondary growth trees and shrubs have begun to fill in this space that was once cleared by the NPS for trailer homes. The road accesses the residence and connects with the Fire Road, which leads to the Range View Cabin along the AT.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Skewed blocks of buildings oriented with

Feature Identification Number: 111596

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Access Road

Feature Identification Number: 111598

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 81878

LCS Structure Name: Piney River Ranger Station Access Road

LCS Structure Number: MI022.1

Feature: Hub

Feature Identification Number: 111600

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 81878

LCS Structure Name: Piney River Ranger Station Access Road

LCS Structure Number: MI022.1

Land Use

Historic Period

Land uses at Piney River by Native Americans and early European settlers have not been

determined, but it is likely that the absence of water precluded any organized settlements. In the years prior to construction of the CCC camp, the CCC built the Range View Cabin, making this area well known to hikers. From 1935 to 1942, the site served as Camp NP-12, which featured over twenty buildings constructed to house and supply the men with everything they needed to live and work at Shenandoah NP. The southern half of the camp was primarily devoted to bunking and supplying the camp's enrollees, while the northern half was a utility and maintenance area comprised of workshops, storage buildings, and garages. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) The site also served as a design center; the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly Technical Quarters and Office) housed the CCC architects and landscape architects. (Engle, 1999:38) Additionally, the rocky plateaus on the top of Piney Ridge were used by the CCC as a reservoir area and possibly for recreation or as a lookout for foul weather or fires.

Camp NP-12 closed in 1942, briefly taking with it the site's domestic land uses. In 1943, enrollees in the CPS program removed most of the camp's buildings but renovated the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office for temporary use as the North District Ranger Station. (Hooper, 1997:8-89) The site was chosen in part because the location was strategic for fire protection and general administration, and had facilities available for storage of road maintenance and ranger equipment. (Hooper, 1997:8-102) The site also saw its role as a park maintenance facility develop at this time.

Existing Conditions

Piney River continues to function as a trail crew office and maintenance facility. The site is also used for general storage, as well as a fire cache and rescue storage. In the 1980s, Piney River was used as a temporary field office by the Federal Highway Administration while work was done on the Northern District of Skyline Drive. The historic land use of domestic housing has also resumed, although at a much smaller scale and in a different location. Over the years, various types of park employee housing have been located south and east of the former camp area. For this use there have been temporary trailers and now there is a single-family residence. The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office may also have also been used for ranger housing.

Recreational use of the area is limited. Hikers can access a trailhead for the Piney Branch Trail at the entrance of the site and connect with the AT, which tracks southeast of the site. Both the AT and the Fire Road continue south to where the PATC Range View Cabin is located. The PATC also stores trail supplies in the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office and in the maintenance building. [see Figs. 12, 13, 14]

Character-defining Features:

- Feature: Domestic uses (housing)
- Feature Identification Number: 111602
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- Feature: Ranger station

Feature Identification Number: 111604

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Maintenance uses

Feature Identification Number: 111606

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Recreational uses

Feature Identification Number: 111608

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 14: View looking east at the Residence. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 12: View looking southwest at the Maintenance Building area. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 13: View looking southwest at part of the storage area in front of the former Maintenance/ Equipment Shed-CCC. (OCLP 2006)

Topography

Historic Period and Existing Conditions

The Piney River area is perched on the northeast corner of the high peak of Piney Ridge at an elevation of 3100 feet. The peak is higher than Knob Mountain to the west, Pignut Mountain and Fork Mountain to the east, and Neighbor Mountain to the south. At 3400 feet, Hogback Mountain, less than a mile to the north, has a higher elevation than Piney River. (PATC map, 2005)

The site itself features the high ridge to the west called Piney Ridge, a rocky plateau with mature trees. A higher plateau is above this with rock outcroppings all around. This landscape character extends to the north end of the site and as far west as can be seen. To the east, the land drops down to another level that gently slopes primarily to the east and southeast – about fifty feet of elevation change across the whole. The exception is the far northern end, which slopes down to the north and west. The site drains into both the Piney River and Jeremy’s Run watersheds.

Topography played an important role in locating Camp NP-12. The camp was developed on the

gently sloped lands below Piney Ridge, with the arrangement of buildings as a whole aligned in blocks along the contours. The locations of a water supply and related domestic features were consistent with topographic conditions; a reservoir was located on the upper slopes of Piney Ridge and connected to the bathhouse on the slope of the ridge, while sewer lines from that building and the mess hall connected to disposal fields farther down the hill to the south and east of the camp. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) Additionally, the location of the camp east of, or behind, the ridge may have offered some relief from the summer's winds and the late day sun. [see Fig. 15]

The NPS maintenance building is also built along the contours but cuts into the slope of Piney Ridge; two stone retaining walls hold the earth back at the ends. The presence of culverts along the road that leads to the building indicates that some fill was likely added to create level surfaces for the road, the parking area in front of the building, and the modern gas/oil building,. About twenty feet behind the maintenance building, the slope quickly increases as it rises to the ridge. In the NPS housing area, the residence and the walkways that fronted the former trailers also follow the contours.

All of the roads at Piney River have gentle slopes with the exception of the historic gravel road leading to the water tank. This road rises, levels, rises again, and then proceeds level around the water tank where a rock ledge separates the two surfaces.

Character-defining Features:

- Feature: Cut/fill areas in former barracks area
- Feature Identification Number: 111628
- Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

- Feature: Gentle slopes in developed area
- Feature Identification Number: 97715
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 15: View looking northeast from the slope of the ridge to the gently sloped area where the CCC barracks were located. (OCLP 2005)

Vegetation

Historic Period

Photographs of Camp NP-12 from the 1930s show Piney Ridge as wooded but that the camp itself, the Access Road, and a broad area to the south and east of the camp was mostly devoid of large trees. (Engle, 1999:37) There appears to have been little vegetation around the barracks, but some plantings are evident in the Hub – a mature hemlock [*Tsuga canadensis*] that now marks the road to the NPS maintenance area would have been in front of the Mess Hall. An oak [*Quercus*] along the front foundation of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly Technical Quarters and Office) is visible in an undated historic photograph. (Engle, 1999:38) One of the other two massive oaks in front of the building is also partially visible in the same photograph. Behind the building, two pines [*Pinus*] and an oak along the woodland edge are likely those evident in the 1935 photograph and among those called out on the 1942 CCC plan. (Engle, 1999:37; NPS plan, 1942: CCC) The CCC may also have planted the original coralberry [*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*] in this area. Other oak and pine trees probably dating from the CCC remain in the yard around the building. The CCC likely planted the hawthorn [*Crataegus*] tree in the triangle configuration at the entrance, and there are at least three apple trees [*Malus*] remaining that may date to the CCC or early park period.

Existing Conditions

Today, the character of vegetation has changed as a secondary growth hardwood forest of oak, cherry [*Prunus serotina*], hickory [*Carya*], locust [*Robinia pseudoacacia*], and pine has closed in on much of the open areas of the former camp. Along the edges of this young forest is a dense shrub layer of coralberry and other plants. All of these species are typical of those found in abandoned fields. These woodlands also edge Skyline Drive, the Access Road, and occupy the areas to the south and east. Many of the canopy trees have their tops broken-off and are hanging down due to Hurricane Fran in 1997 and an ice storm in early 1998. From the post-war period, many locust trees remain amongst the paving remnants where trailers were once located.

On the top of Piney Ridge there is a scattering of large oak and cherry trees across the rocky surface. The shrub layer is thin to non-existent and rocky ridges persist. There is a very large contorted oak tree and a very old cherry tree marking the highest point. The age of the stand appears to be approximately the same as trees planted by the CCC at picnic and campground sites throughout Shenandoah. [see Figs. 16, 17]

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Hemlock (along road to Maintenance Bldg)

Feature Identification Number: 111646

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Hawthorn (east end of Access Road)

Feature Identification Number: 111648

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: secondary growth hardwood forest

Feature Identification Number: 112172

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Apples

Feature Identification Number: 97716

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Coralberry

Feature Identification Number: 97717

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Large Oaks and Pines (Maintenance Office)

Feature Identification Number: 97718

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: locusts (along trailer paths)

Feature Identification Number: 98170

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Large Oaks and Cherries (Piney Ridge)

Feature Identification Number: 99613

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 16: View looking west at the two historic pines and oak behind the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 17: View looking northeast at the three historic oaks in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. (OCLP 2006)

Circulation

Historic Period

By the late 1920s, construction of the AT had begun, and in 1932 two side trails were developed off of it near the site to provide access into the Piney River valley to the south and east. These trails connected to the Fire Road and to the Range View Cabin to the south, which was completed in August 1933. (<http://www.patc.net>) The trailhead for one of the side trails – the Piney Branch Trail – was just southeast of the future CCC camp; it and the nearby AT were likely visible from it. In 1935, the AT was relocated by the CCC.

In addition to the topographic characteristics described earlier, the siting of Camp NP-12 below Piney Ridge in 1935 was also likely influenced by the close proximity to Skyline Drive, which was under construction at the time and provided access to other work sites in the park. Historic photographs and the 1942 CCC plan show the Access Road beginning as a triangle configuration at Skyline Drive and ending at the Hub as a broad oval driveway surrounding a flagpole, from which the other roads extended to the north, south, and west. (NPS plan, 1942: CCC) A label on the plan notes that the north leg of the oval and the road leading north were existing, which would suggest that the Access Road also existed earlier in some form, possibly to allow hikers access to the general area. The road heading south from the Hub likely provided access to a pump house shown on the plan as one-half mile away to the south, which would be near the Range View Cabin, and likely connected with the current Fire Road. The road heading west from the Hub probably tracked up to Piney Ridge and to a reservoir that is labeled on the plan as located west of the camp. Although the Northern District portion of Skyline Drive had a chip seal surface by the end of 1936, the camp's roads were likely earthen and gravel surfaced. (Maddux, 1995:8-9,10)

A historic photograph shows an earthen or gravel semicircular path in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. (Engle, 1999:38) There were likely other connecting paths associated with the barracks, mess hall, latrine, and other buildings, but their locations are not

known. The CPS removed most of the camp's buildings in 1943 and whatever paths existed probably faded to grass and weeds.

Existing Conditions

The Access Road to Piney River from Skyline Drive continues to be used and retains a triangular configuration at the east end, which separates the northbound and southbound traffic entering and exiting the site. On the List of Classified Structures, the road is evaluated as in fair condition. The road is 15 feet wide, 400 feet in length, and has no curb. Visitors using the Piney Branch Trail, which connects with the AT east of the residence, can park in the broad grass area on the south side of the road. There are grass/gravel and paved parking areas further up and adjacent to this road for eleven cars.

The Access Road connects with the paved Hub in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office. Another paved parking area for six vehicles is located across from the building, beyond which is a two-foot wide remnant asphalt path that accessed a former NPS building. The semicircular pedestrian path fronting the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office was removed and the area was paved sometime after 1962, which consequently left one of the oak trees surrounded with asphalt. (NPS plan, 1962:2558) The Hub is now a much smaller area than the former CCC oval driveway and is located farther north. Nonetheless, it continues to function as a departure point to other areas of the site. Three asphalt roads now branch from the Hub.

The 12-foot wide road tracking north from the Hub follows the CCC configuration, but today turns into a loop. This asphalt/gravel road continues north from the loop and then ends as a two-track gravel lane behind the foundation of the former Maintenance/Equipment Shed. A two-track gravel road extends west from the south end of the loop and leads to the water tank, rocky plateaus, and the peak of Piney Ridge. According to the Nomination Form, both roads would be considered contributing resources as a spur from the Access Road.

The 10-foot wide asphalt road heading south from the Hub also generally follows the alignment of an old CCC road. As it curves to the southwest it widens into an abandoned parking area, from which three remnant asphalt pathways branch to the northeast where trailer homes once stood. Further on another road echoes the orientation of the pathways and leads to the employee residence, ending as a turnaround. The gravel Fire Road leads straight south from the parking area and connects with the AT before terminating at the Range View Cabin. (The AT segment within Shenandoah NP will be covered in a separate CLI.) This road is also a contributing resource as a spur from the Access Road.

The widest of the three roads is not historic and heads southwest to the new maintenance building where ambulance and fire vehicles are stored. A pull-off area for the modern gas/oil building is to the immediate left and the road ends as large paved parking area. This parking area, and the others described above, is bounded by concrete bumpers. [see Figs. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22]

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Road south from Hub (spur to Fire Road)
Feature Identification Number: 111658
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 81878
LCS Structure Name: Piney River Ranger Station Access Road
LCS Structure Number: MI022.1

Feature: Road north from Hub (spur to Nat. Ofc)
Feature Identification Number: 111660
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 81878
LCS Structure Name: Piney River Ranger Station Access Road
LCS Structure Number: MI022.1

Feature: Hub
Feature Identification Number: 112170
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 81878
LCS Structure Name: Piney River Ranger Station Access Road
LCS Structure Number: MI022.1

Feature: asphalt paths
Feature Identification Number: 97687
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Access Road
Feature Identification Number: 97688
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 81878
LCS Structure Name: Piney River Ranger Station Access Road
LCS Structure Number: MI022.1

Feature: Fire Road (to AT and Range View Cabin)
Feature Identification Number: 97689

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: paved parking areas

Feature Identification Number: 97690

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Piney Branch Trail

Feature Identification Number: 97691

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road west from Hub (spur to water tank)

Feature Identification Number: 97692

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 81878

LCS Structure Name: Piney River Ranger Station Access Road

LCS Structure Number: MI022.1

Feature: road southwest from Hub

Feature Identification Number: 97693

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 22: Looking northeast at a remnant asphalt path built for trailer housing. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 18: View looking west at the access road from Skyline Drive. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 19: View looking south at the road leading to the Residence and fire road. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 20: View south at the fire road which leads to the Range View Cabin and connects with the Appalachian Trail. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 21: View looking southwest at the road leading to the water tank and the ridge. (OCLP 2005)

Buildings and Structures

Historic Period

Although it had no “company street,” Camp NP-12 shared the same basic building components as the other CCC camps in the park: barracks, mess hall and kitchen, latrines, and a bathhouse. (Engle, 1999:34) Additional structures included offices, garages, workshops, storage buildings, and an incinerator. Of the 24 structures shown on the 1942 CCC plan, only two remain today. These buildings, and some at Pinnacles, are the only locations in Shenandoah NP where CCC camp buildings remain at their original sites. (Hooper, 1997:8-59)

By the time Camp NP-12 was built, the Army had developed a standardized design for CCC structures, which consisted of prefabricated modular panels that were easily constructed, shipped, erected and bolted together on site, and then disassembled when needed. (Engle, 1999:32) The notable exceptions to this were the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly Technical Quarters and Office) and some of the open equipment sheds which were built on site. (Engle, 1999:32,38)

As drawn on the 1942 CCC plan, eight camp buildings – five barracks, a headquarters

barracks, an education building, and the Infirmary Supply and Army Office – were approximately the same size, measuring 100 feet by 20 feet, with some variations. The Mess Hall and the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office were also rectangular, but included projecting sections that formed a T-shape. The camp's other structures varied in size and shape. All of the camp's buildings and structures were single story, and most featured gabled roofs except for slanted roofs on some of the sheds and garages. Curiously, the sides and roof of the headquarters barracks, as well as the sides of some of the other barracks and office structures, appear to have been white in color. A photograph from 1935 shows what appears to be painted letters – probably identifying the camp's name and number – on the roof of the Infirmary Supply and Army Office building facing Skyline Drive. (Engle, 1999:37)

Soon after the camp closed in 1942, the CPS removed most of the prefabricated buildings. The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office was renovated as a ranger station. The Naturalist's Office (formerly a gas and oil structure) and the Maintenance/Equipment Shed were also retained.

Existing Conditions

Since the CCC period, the maintenance building, the gas/oil building, the residence, a water tank, and several small outbuildings have been added at Piney River. The Range View Cabin on the AT is accessible from Piney River and will be included in the CLI on the AT segment in Shenandoah NP.

The Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (PR-0712) was constructed in 1935 as the Technical Quarters and Office and housed CCC architects and landscape architects. It is a single story building measuring 77x21'; with a large stone fireplace in the center. The wood frame of the structure sits on wooden piers with tar paper, asphalt, and board and batten exterior siding and a cross-gabled asphalt roof. (Hooper, 1997:7-31; LCS, 2006:81801) A 21x15' section projects from the front (southwest) side of the building and a 7x4' wooden porch with decorative posts is on the northeast façade. The T-plan, the stone fireplace, and the porch were unique features to otherwise non-descript CCC buildings. Today, the building is used as a meeting room and storage area but is no longer functions as a ranger station. The structure is presently in poor condition. The front ell section in particular is in threatened condition and was stabilized in November 2004. (LCS, 2006:81801; PMIS, 109307:http://165.83.198.10/pmis_search/search_projectdetail.cfm)

The Naturalist's Office (PR-0439) was built in 1935 for oil and gas storage. (Hooper, 1997:7-31,32) It was used as a coal storage shed in the 1950s, and then for a naturalist's office and for storage. The 12x10' wood structure sits on a concrete pad with an asphalt gabled roof and exterior walls of tar paper and board and batten. The building is in poor condition and is used for storage. (LCS, 2006:81802) The historic Maintenance/Equipment Shed (PR-0437), constructed in 1937 as a workshop and storage area, was recently removed and only the foundation slab and a few piers remain today.

Other buildings and structures at Piney River post-date the historic period. The NPS built the five-bay wood frame maintenance building (PR-4101) in 1984. (Hooper, 1997:7-35) It was purposely sited to be sheltered by the prevailing winter winds by the landscape. (GMP, 1984:140) The 84x34 concrete block structure has a metal gable roof and the walls are covered with board and batten siding. (Hooper, 1997:7-32) Mortared stone retaining walls, 3-4' high with concrete caps, extend from each end of the building. A 12x12' portable wooden shed is situated south of the building, next to which is a portable trailer. In 1993, the park built a modern gas/oil building (PR-4108) northeast of the maintenance building. The 8x8 concrete block structure has a gable roof and board and batten siding. (Hooper, 1997:7-32)

In 1987 the NPS built the prefabricated wood frame, ranch-style residence (PR-0264) for employee housing. The three-bedroom house stands out from the other structures at Piney River with its white vinyl siding and modern look. Although it was located with respect to a possible view, it is currently blocked by the forest. (GMP, 1984:141) Behind the house is a small shed.

Two culverts can be found on the road to the maintenance building. Both feature corrugated metal pipes, mortared stone drop-inlets, and mortared stone headwalls at the outlets. It is unlikely that the culverts are historic as their outlets would have directed water into the barracks just down the slope. At the maintenance building, floor drains and roof down spouts connect to two cast iron pipes under the parking area that drain into the wooded field. Their outlets feature mortared stone headwalls and splashpans.

Several non-historic structures have been removed or replaced. In the mid-1990s the set of trailers west of the Maintenance Office/Technical Office-CCC and the six employee trailers were removed. West of the maintenance building and on top of Piney Ridge is a 40" diameter concrete water tank and an 8x8 concrete block shed. The tank replaced a wooden tank installed at an unknown date. A sign on the tank notes the date (1966) and builders (Crom Corp.). Recently, the park removed the c.1960 old gas/oil building. [see Figs. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27]

Character-defining Features:

Feature: gas/oil building (PR-4108)

Feature Identification Number: 97676

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: maintenance building (PR-4101)

Feature Identification Number: 97677

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Building PR-0712

Feature Identification Number: 97678

Piney River
Shenandoah National Park

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 81801
LCS Structure Name: Piney River Maintenance Office
LCS Structure Number: PR03

Feature: shed and trailer (maintenance building)
Feature Identification Number: 97679
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: culverts with drop-inlets
Feature Identification Number: 97680
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Naturalist's Office (PR-0439)
Feature Identification Number: 97681
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: drain pipes with splash pans
Feature Identification Number: 97682
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: residence (PR-0264)
Feature Identification Number: 97683
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: shed (at residence)
Feature Identification Number: 97684
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: stone retaining walls
Feature Identification Number: 97685
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: water tank and shed
Feature Identification Number: 97686
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 23: Looking southeasr at the Maintenance Office-CCC Technical Office. (OCLP 2006)



*Fig. 24: View of the Maintenance Office-CCC Technical Office.CCC, looking northwest.
(OCLP 2006)*



Fig. 25: Looking north at the Naturalist's Office-CCC. (OCLP 2006)



Fig. 26: Looking west at the water tank and shed on the Piney Ridge. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 27: Looking southwest at the stone culvert inlet along the road to the Maintenance Building. (OCLP 2005)

Views and Vistas

Historic Period

Camp NP-12 was situated on a gently sloped area between the crest of Piney Ridge to the west and the Piney River valley to the south and east. The historic photograph from 1935 shows that much of the camp and the lands just south and east of the camp were generally absent of tall trees. These conditions indicate that during the historic period, there was a clear view of Skyline Drive to the east and long panoramic views to the south and east from the camp. Additionally, the popularity of the Range View Cabin south of the camp, not to mention its name, supports this notion. The camp and the later ranger station likely took advantage of the views from the top of the hill for fire prevention or in other ways.

Existing Conditions

The view east toward Skyline Drive is still present from the Hub but less so from other areas of

the former camp due to the presence of the secondary growth woodlands. The spectacular views to the south and east remain intact from the higher slopes of Piney Ridge, but are essentially blocked from the lower slopes from what is now the maintenance building area, also because of the woodlands. In 1984, a proposed employee housing area southeast of the Hub, which was to consist of seven apartment units and three family units, was sited for its potential views to the surrounding environment. (GMP, 1984:141) Views from the employee residence, constructed in this area in 1987, are blocked because of the encroaching woodlands. [see Figs. 28, 29]

Character-defining Features:

Feature: View east to Skyline Drive (from Hub)

Feature Identification Number: 111714

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: view south and east (from maint. bldg.)

Feature Identification Number: 111720

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: View south and east (from Piney Ridge)

Feature Identification Number: 99614

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 29: Looking east from the Hub toward Skyline Drive. The Maintenance Office/Technical Office is on the left. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 28: Looking southeast from the water tank atop Piney Ridge to the distant mountains. CCC barracks filled the gently sloping land now occupied by the Maintenance Building and parking area. (OCLP 2005)

Small Scale Features

Historic Period

The 1942 CCC plan and historic photographs reveal a few small-scale features at Camp NP-12. Arguably the most important was the flagpole, which was a staple of all CCC camps in the park and was typically located in front of the mess hall. (Engle, 1999:34) Such was the case at Piney River, where the flagpole was in the Hub, the center space defined by the oval driveway. Another character-defining feature was the placement of Boulders along the Access Road and around the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office (formerly the Technical Quarters and Office). Large Boulders found throughout the park, typical of the CCC and early park periods, were used as guides along roads, at points of intersection or interest, or to make buildings recede into the environment. Additionally, the driveway in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office was bounded by wood posts about 2½' high and set approximately ten feet apart.

Existing Conditions

Of the features described above, only the Boulders in front of the Maintenance Office/CCC

Technical Office remain. Several other small-scale features, however, likely date to the CCC or early park period. Several other large Boulders are found under the brush where the latrine and barracks were located at the CCC camp. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) In the lawn area between the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Building and the Naturalist's Office is a 3½-high Stone Fireplace with a metal grill and brick lining. It is similar in design to those constructed by the CCC throughout the park. Behind the foundation of the Maintenance/Equipment Shed is a Loading Ramp constructed of stacked logs that was probably used for loading trucks. On the woodland floor east of the gas/oil building is a Concrete Box with Pipes that generally aligns with the junction of two sewer or water lines from former camp's buildings. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC)

Other small-scale features present at the site are not historic. Before entering Piney River from Skyline Drive, metal gates for winter road closure mark the approach to the area from the north. Also located here are a metal "Road Closed" sign and a tree trunk positioned horizontally on the ground, but there are currently no signs along Skyline Drive that identify Piney River. At the first paved parking area on the Access Road, a typical brown wood sign with white engraved lettering provides basic information on the CCC history at the site. This sign design is repeated on a sign for the "North District Trails Office" at the Hub and on signs in other locations, while metal signs identify parking areas and provide various traffic regulatory information throughout the site. A typical wooden two-paneled bulletin board with a gabled roof is located at the entrance to the Piney Branch Trail, which is marked by a squared concrete aggregate post with a metal name band; a similar square concrete post is located at the trail's junction with the AT. A rusted metal flagpole stands behind the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, but it is not in the same position as when Piney River was a CCC camp. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) To the north are typical wood picnic tables with metal bases and a rusted four-legged metal trough grill.

Traces of former park uses are evident throughout Piney River. An abandoned kennel with chain-link fencing and metal dividers sits on a concrete slab behind the former Maintenance/Equipment Shed. On the west side of the Hub is a grass area that was once the location of an NPS building that has since been removed. Concrete footings can be found where a portion of it once stood. (NPS plan, 1982:134-40044) This area also features an abandoned concrete pad formerly for a gas tank, a rectangular grill with a concrete base, and two metal weather devices, and three wooden posts near the tree line that once protected a third weather device. Just west of the residence is a propane tank, and west of there is another abandoned concrete pad used for a gas tank that once served the trailers. Across the road from the pad are steel posts and a chain that restrict vehicular access to the Fire Road.

For fire protection, there are three hydrants: a short red hydrant near one of the paths where employee trailer housing once stood, a narrow and tall red hydrant just north of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, and a red fire hose box and newer fire hydrant at the maintenance building. For septic services, there are tanks and seepage fields south of the Hub for the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office; west of the Fire Road for the maintenance building; and southwest of the residence. NPS benchmarks, four-sided concrete

aggregate posts with round iron tops, are found at Piney River as well as other areas of Shenandoah NP. A trash dumpster and recycling bin are located at the maintenance building and throughout the site are various storage piles of materials –C primarily mulch, stone, gravel, and debris –Cas well as storage areas of trash cans, logs, and the like. [see Figs. 30, 31, 32, 33, 34]

Character-defining Features:

- Feature: Concrete Box with Pipes
Feature Identification Number: 111750
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

- Feature: Piney Branch Trail sign post
Feature Identification Number: 111754
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

- Feature: steel grill
Feature Identification Number: 111758
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

- Feature: new septic tanks and seepage fields
Feature Identification Number: 111762
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

- Feature: propane tank (at residence)
Feature Identification Number: 111770
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

- Feature: old pads for gas tanks
Feature Identification Number: 111774
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

- Feature: Appalachian Trail sign post
Feature Identification Number: 97696
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

- Feature: Boulders
Feature Identification Number: 97697

Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	wood bulletin board
Feature Identification Number:	97698
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	concrete footings
Feature Identification Number:	97699
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	fire hydrants
Feature Identification Number:	97700
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	flagpole
Feature Identification Number:	97701
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	rectangular grill
Feature Identification Number:	97702
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	dog kennels
Feature Identification Number:	97703
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Loading Ramp
Feature Identification Number:	97704
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	chain gate (at Fire Road)
Feature Identification Number:	97705
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	NPS bench marks
Feature Identification Number:	97706
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing

Feature: picnic tables
Feature Identification Number: 97707
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: metal signs
Feature Identification Number: 97708
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Stone Fireplace
Feature Identification Number: 97709
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: material storage piles
Feature Identification Number: 97710
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: trash dumpster and recycling bin
Feature Identification Number: 97711
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: weather station devices
Feature Identification Number: 97712
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: wood signs
Feature Identification Number: 97713
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 30: The grill likely dates to the CCC period. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 31: The wood loading ramp behind the Maintenance/Equipment Shed-CCC is likely historic. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 32: Abandoned dog kennels are located behind the Maintenance/Equipment Shed-CCC. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 33: The two-side bulletin board and trail marker are located just south of the access road. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 34: View south at some of the storage piles at Piney River. (OCLP 2005)

Archeological Sites

Historic Period and Existing Conditions

No archeological features are currently listed as contributing resources on the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form or on the List of Classified Structures. Field investigations revealed subsidence east of the maintenance building parking area that corresponds to the latrine location noted on the 1942 CCC map. (NPS plan, 1942:CCC) The Sinkholes are likely the remains of the stone-lined pits that functioned as septic tanks, and were later filled when the existing septic system was installed ca. 1988. (Engle, 2001) A linear, level area tracking north-south along the slope of Piney Ridge between the maintenance building and the water tank creates a distinct narrow terrace that may have been a road trace used by the CCC.

No other potential archeological sites were observed, but archeological explorations at both Big Meadows and Pinnacles indicate that sites of CCC camps retain significant subsurface resources. As the camp's buildings were pole buildings, the postmold evidence of the original buildings remains in situ. An Archeological Overview and Assessment is currently underway. [see Figs. 35, 36]

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Sinkholes

Feature Identification Number: 97674

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Linear corridor behind maint. bldg.

Feature Identification Number: 97675

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fig. 35: View south at a possible road trace along the ridge. (OCLP 2005)



Fig. 36: View of one of the stone-lined sinkholes at Piney River. (OCLP 2005)

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 06/01/2006

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Site visits were conducted on April 2005 and again in May 2006. Minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and man-made forces are evident, and unless preventative action is taken in the next three to five years, many of the landscape characteristics will degrade to a poor condition. The subsequent growth of secondary growth woodland vegetation in and around the former CCC barracks and Hub areas have filled in formerly open areas which has contributed to the site's diminished integrity. Of more immediate concern is the projecting ell of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office, which has major structural problems due in part to years of stormwater runoff from the adjacent paved Hub area. The ell has been stabilized and the adjacent paving was removed in 2004. One of the three CCC buildings retained after the camp closed – the Maintenance/Equipment Shed, which has long been in threatened condition with a collapsed roof – was razed by the park in 2006 (the slab and piers remain).

Stabilization Measures:

Stabilization work on the ell portion of the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office was completed in November 2004 under PMIS 109307. Whalers and support posts were installed and jacked into a plumb and level position. The supports were braced and interior posts stalled through the floor. Building paper was installed on the exterior to make the ell watertight. Old leaking and rusted standing seam metal roofing was removed and disposed of off-site. Twenty pound building felt was installed on the repaired deck and covered with granulated felt roofing. The ventilators were removed from the roof prior to this work and are stored on-site for replacement when the permanent roof is installed. The ell is now mothballed until permanent restoration and/or rehabilitation is funded. (PMIS 109307, http://165.83.198.10/pmis_search/search_projectdetail.cfm)

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Adjacent Lands
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	Growth of woodland vegetation to south and east
Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Maintenance/Equipment Shed razed

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Maintenance/Equipment Shed razed

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost: 0.00
Cost Date: 05/17/2006
Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities
Cost Estimator: Regional Office

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Preservation
Approved Treatment Document: Other Document
Document Date: 04/25/2005

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

Memo from Superintendent states that all structures listed on the National Register will be classified as "Must Be Preserved." (LCS, 2006: 081801, 081802, 081878)

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Landscape Treatment Cost: 343,200.00
Cost Date: 04/25/2005
Level of Estimate: B - Preliminary Plans/HSR-CLR
Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

According to PMIS 98000, the Maintenance Office/CCC Technical Office will be stabilized, rehabilitated, and restored for adaptive use as either offices or as seasonal housing.. The work will include the replacement of rotted floor sills, joists, and structural support posts, the removal of interior lead paint and asbestos-containing wall and ceiling coverings, the replacement of the non-accessible bathroom, the installation of a new standing-seam roof, the repair and replacement of the exterior tar paper and wood batten finishes, the installation of a new electrical system and fire suppression, and repair/replacement of the historic windows and doors. The Maintenance /Equipment Shed will be documented by HABS/HAER to mitigate its pending loss. (PMIS 98000, http://165.83.198.10/pmis_search/search_projectdetail.cfm)

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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Citation Title: The Tree Army: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942
Year of Publication: 1999
Citation Publisher: Pictorial Histories Publishing Company
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
- Citation Author:** Denver Service Center
Citation Title: General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan: Shenandoah National Park
Year of Publication: 1983
Source Name: Other
- Citation Author:** National Park Service
Citation Title: National Register Bulletin #30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes
Year of Publication: 1997
Source Name: Other
- Citation Author:** Denver Service Center
Citation Title: Resource Management Plan
Year of Publication: 1998
Source Name: Other
- Citation Author:** McClelland, Linda Flint
Citation Title: Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction
Year of Publication: 1998
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

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
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: Lambert, Darwin
Citation Title: The Undying Past of Shenandoah National Park
Year of Publication: 1989
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: Sanders, Debbie, editor
Citation Title: Shenandoah National Park Resource Management Newsletter
Year of Publication: 1999
Citation Publisher: Park Publication
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic and Narrative
Citation Location: Specific article referenced:
Badger, Robert, "Shenandoah's Geology: An Intriguing Story"

Citation Author: Maddux, McClung and Peyton
Citation Title: National Register Nomination: Skyline Drive Historic District
Year of Publication: 1995
Source Name: Other

Citation Author: Hooper, Carol of Robinson & Associates, Inc.
Citation Title: National Register Nomination: Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Year of Publication: 1997
Source Name: Other

Supplemental Information

- Title:** Map - "Developed Area Layout"
- Description:** NPS, Denver Service Center, Shenandoah National Park, Dwg. 134-60066, Sheets 2 and 5 of 5, 1982
- Title:** Map - "Existing Facilities and Topo for JCC Camp 335 - Piney Riv."
- Description:** NPS, Field Office, Shenandoah National Park, Dwg. 2590, 1964.
- Title:** Map - "Map 9: Appalachian Trail and other Trails in Shenandoah National Park, North District"
- Description:** Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc., Revised August 2005
- Title:** Map - "Piney River Developed Area"
- Description:** NPS, Field Office, Shenandoah National Park, Dwg. 2558, 1962
- Title:** Map - "Piney River"
- Description:** NPS, Denver Service Center, Shenandoah National Park, Dwg. 134-40044, 1982
- Title:** Map - "Topographic Sheets, Piney River"
- Description:** NPS, Denver Service Center, Shenandoah National Park, Dwg. 134-41093A, Sheets 2 and 3 of 3, 1993
- Title:** Map - "USGS Map of Shenandoah National Park, VA.: Northern Section"
- Description:** United States Geological Survey, 1969
- Title:** Map - (title illegible, but clearly map of Piney River CCC Camp)
- Description:** NPS, Shenandoah National Park, Packet 6 Folder 2, 1942
- Title:** Oral Interview with Reed L. Engle
- Description:** 1/11/2001; additional information from comments on draft CLI 3/6/2001

Documentation Assessment

Documentation Assessment: Fair

Documentation Checklist

Documentation

Document: Administrative History
Year of Document: 1979
Amplifying Details: Administrative History, Shenandoah National Park: 1924-1976;
by Darwin Lambert
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: General Management Plan
Year of Document: 1983
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Historic Resource Study
Year of Document: 1997
Amplifying Details: Shenandoah National Park: Historic Resources Study, Final
Draft
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Explanatory Narrative:
by Robinson & Associates, Inc., in association with EDAW, Inc.

Document: Other
Year of Document: 1995
Amplifying Details: Skyline Drive Resource Inventory, prepared for NPS by the
Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial
Archaeology, West Virginia University

Document: Other
Year of Document: 1996
Amplifying Details: Facilities Development Plan; document never approved

Document: Resource Management Plan
Year of Document: 1998

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Statement for Management

Year of Document: 1977