

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

JAN 18 1985

E.C.W. Architecture in Mo. State Parks T.R. Data on
Continuation sheet Knob Noster State Park Item number districts & sites Page 1

Knob Noster State Park

Knob Noster State Park came into existence as Montserrat Federal Recreational Demonstration Area. The federal government developed the 4,600-acre tract to provide camping and picnicking facilities for residents of the nearby urban areas of Warrensburg and Kansas City. Originally composed of sub-marginal farmlands, the area is rugged and hilly, with a stream flowing through it. Between 1938 and 1941, WPA workers created an artificial lake, built service buildings and a park office (recently remodeled), and constructed two organized group camping facilities. In 1946, the area became part of the Missouri state park system. Heavy use and the pressure for modernization have brought about the remodeling of the park office, a custodial residence, other park buildings, and one of the group camps. Nominated in this park are one historic district, Camp Shawnee Historic District, and five non-contiguous sites: the entrance portal, the bridge on the entrance road, the warehouse (toolhouse) and repair shop, the dam and spillway at Lake Buteo, and a stone rest room near the spillway. District data follows; please see inventory data sheets on non-contiguous sites.

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District and

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Camp Shawnee Historic District

Description

Camp Shawnee Historic District comprises thirty buildings and structures of historical and/or architectural significance constructed by relief workers under the Works Projects Administration in Montserrat Recreational Demonstration Area, which later became Knob Noster State Park. One of the few surviving Depression-Era group camps in Missouri, and the only one built wholly by WPA workers, Camp Shawnee (formerly Camp Red Cedar) is a cluster of rustic cabins, lodges, and service buildings constructed under the supervision of the National Park Service between 1936 and 1941. In the central area of the facility, the pool house, dining hall, infirmary, staff lodges, office and central latrine are original, intact, and impart a definite sense of history. These central buildings stand in a wide flat meadow. Cabin units nestle at the edge of a dense forest. In the cabin units, all the original bathhouse (latrines) and some of the original cabins are gone. Some of the cabins and particularly the unit lodges are in disrepair. However, the four cabin units remain essentially intact. The new bathhouses (rest rooms) in the units do not seriously detract from the historical character of the district. On the whole, this camping facility retains a surprising degree of integrity and constitutes a rare survival in the state park system.

Buildings that contribute to the historical character of the district are, as follows:

Kn1 (62)* Park Office: 1939-1940 one story building of stone and wood, L-shaped plan, cross-gable roof, entry porch with roof extension supported by posts and brackets, casement windows, rough ashlar wall treatment to level of window sills, stone retaining wall extending from rear wall of building. The combination of vertical board and batten and horizontal lap siding seen here is repeated in most of the buildings in the camp.

Kn2 (63) Cabin: 1936-1938 one-room frame cabin, rectangular plan (13' x 18'), side-gable roof, small entry porch with shed-style roof projection supported by heavy posts and struts, combination of concrete foundation and rough stone piers, ribbon-type windows.

Kn3 (64): Identical to Kn2.

Kn4 (65): Identical to Kn2.

Kn5 (66): Identical to Kn2.

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Kn6 (67): Identical to Kn2.

Kn7 (68): Identical to Kn2.

Kn8 (69) Staff Quarters (Two-Cot Counselors' Cabin): Ca. 1938 one-room frame cabin, rectangular plan (10' x 14'), side-gable roof with front overhang, open porch supported by heavy posts and brackets, stone and concrete foundation, awning-style windows (hinged at the tops).

Kn9 (70): Identical to Kn8.

Kn10 (77) Unit Lodge: 1939-1941 stone and wood building, rectangular plan (20' x 29'), central stone chimney, medium-pitched gable roof, small entrance porch with shed-style roof projection, enclosed side porch with fireplace for outdoor cooking, rough ashlar to level of window sills, wood siding above.

Kn11 (78): Identical to Kn10.

Kn12 (79): Identical to Kn10.

Kn13 (80) Cabin: 1936-1938 three-room camper cabin, rectangular plan (19' x 38'), frame construction on rough stone piers, concrete pad at entrance, side-gable roof, ribbon-style windows, horizontal lap siding.

Kn14 (81): Identical to Kn13.

Kn15 (82): Identical to Kn13.

Kn16 (83): Identical to Kn13.

Kn17 (84): Identical to Kn13.

Kn18 (85): Identical to Kn13.

Kn19 (86): Identical to Kn13.

Kn20 (87): Identical to Kn13.

Kn21 (88) Cabin: Same as Kn13, except for concrete foundation.

Kn22 (89) Bath House: 1939-1941 rustic cottage-style building constructed as part of swimming pool complex. Note stone steps and retaining wall north and west of the building. Swimming pool is concrete and has been repaired and modernized.

Kn23 (90) Central Latrine: 1936-1938 simple gable-fronted frame building, concrete foundation, small single-sashed four-paned windows, cross-hatched doors. Located in central area north of Mess Hall.

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Kn24 (91), Crafts Building: 1939 simple gable-fronted frame building, rectangular plan (19' x 29'), concrete foundation, flagstone patio in front, double front doors, rectangular single-pane windows, ribbon-type windows along sides.

Kn25 (92) Infirmary: 1938 small frame building, stone foundation, T-shaped plan, side-gable roof, corner entry, small entry porch, emergency entrance on north side. Note: wrought iron railings on north side entry porch are original.

Kn26 (93) Staff Quarters #1 (Help's Quarters): 1938-1939 rectangular frame building, stone foundation, variation of the gable-fronted cottage with entry porches front and rear.

Kn27 (94) Staff Quarters #2: Identical to Kn8.

Kn28 (95) Staff Lodge (Staff and Director's Quarters): 1939 frame cottage, rectangular plan (24' x 39'), stone foundation, central stone chimney, side-gable roof, pedimented one-bay entry porch, rustic railings, built-in benches, casement windows.

Kn29 (96) Mess Hall: 1938 large frame building, stone foundation, T-shaped plan, cross-gable roof, small entrance portico, two massive stone chimneys; dining area in main block, kitchen in rear section of building. Interior of main dining area is original; even tables and benches are the original ones built according to NPS specifications.

Kn30 Amphitheater: campfire circle with stone seat on east side, fire ring rimmed by stones in center, set on the side of a hill within a circle of cedar trees, east of Camp Shawnee.

Non-contributing structures are, as follows:

Four new latrines in Cabin Units 1-4.
Pumphouse north of Swimming Pool.
Swimming pool.

*Numbers in parentheses are inventory numbers used by the Missouri Division of Parks and Historic Preservation.

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Significance

Camp Shawnee Historic District has exceptional significance under Criteria A and C as the last surviving group camp built wholly by WPA workers in Missouri's state park system and also as an example of a camping facility constructed under the auspices of the National Park Service in the rustic mode of park architecture. Architecture and Landscape Architecture: Camp layout is similar to that of Camp Sherwood Forest at Cuivre River State Park, with small cabin units, or villages, set apart from the dining hall and other central facilities. The camp buildings also resemble those at Camp Sherwood Forest in their simple frame construction, compactness, economy, harmony with a wooded setting, and effective use of rustic details. Conservation--Recreation: Construction of the camp resulted from a New Deal conservation program aimed at developing sub-marginal farmland for recreational use. Social/Humanitarian: The purpose of the group camps was to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for disadvantaged children from nearby urban areas, in this case Warrensburg and Kansas City. Camp Shawnee has been used, and continues to be used, by many organized groups of young people. Construction of the camp provided work relief over a five-year period to unemployed men in Johnson County. Politics/Government: Construction of this camp in a federal Recreational Demonstration Area resulted from a significant federal effort to reclaim non-productive farmland in a state where farmers suffered greatly from the Depression. In 1946, the federal government transferred ownership of the Recreational Demonstration Area to the state, and the group camp continued to serve its original purpose within the state park.

Bibliography

Missouri State Planning Board. A State Plan for Missouri: Missouri State Parks Attendance and Use Data. 1938, pp. 147-150.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Division of Parks and Historic Preservation. Archives. Jefferson City, Mo.

Knob Noster S.P., Archives, on file in Parks Office.

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Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Approximately 215 acres.

Quadrangle name: Knob Noster, Mo., and Burtville, Mo.

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UTM References:

A 15/446740/4289300

B 15/446660/4288400

C 15/445680/4288620

D 15/445820/4289380

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The boundary of the district is clearly delineated on the appended maps (U.S.G.S. map and district map) and encloses all buildings and structures pertaining to the group camping facility, including the old amphitheater located east of the camp.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name ECW Architecture in Missouri State Parks 1933-1942 Thematic Resources
State Missouri

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 31. **Camp Shawnee Historic District** Substantive Review Keeper [Signature] 3/4/85
Attest _____
- 32. **Camp Sherwood Forest Historic District** Substantive Review Keeper [Signature] 3/4/85
Attest _____
- 33. **Cuivre River State Park Administrative Area Historic District** Substantive Review Keeper [Signature] 2/4/85
Attest _____
- 34. **Mark Twain State Park Picnic Shelter at Buzzard's Roost** Substantive Review Keeper [Signature] 3/4/85
Attest _____
- 35. **Arrow Rock State Historic Site Lookout Shelter** Substantive Review Keeper Beth Grovona 2/27/85
Attest _____
- 36. **Arrow Rock State Historic Site Open Shelter** Entered in the National Register Keeper for [Signature] 2/28/85
Attest _____
- 37. **Arrow Rock State Historic Site Grave Shelter** Substantive Review Keeper Beth Grovona 2/27/85
Attest _____
- 38. **Arrow Rock State Historic Site Bridge** Substantive Review Keeper [Signature] 3/4/85
Attest _____
- 39. **Van Meter State Park Combination Building** Substantive Review Keeper Beth Grovona 2/27/85
Attest _____
- 40. **Van Meter State Park Shelter Building** Entered in the National Register Keeper [Signature] 2/28/85
Attest _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Camp Shawnee Historic District (ECW
Architecture in Missouri State Parks
1933-1942 TR)
Johnson County
MISSOURI

Substantive Review

JAN 18 1985

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/14/85 - 3/4/85 ²⁴⁸⁶

Date Due: 2/14/85 - 3/4/85

Action: ACCEPT 3-4-85

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*See cover comments for justification
of exception*

Recom./Criteria Accept - A, C

Reviewer insuven

Discipline Historian

Date 2/28/85

____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

See USGS maps

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

X13. Other

- Maps *Boundaries are not drawn on the sketch map as they should be, but are clear from the USGS maps.*
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



789-5

KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK
Camp Shawnee
Office (Knl)
Johnson County, Missouri

Photographer: Judith Deel
Date: June 1982
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

General view; looking northwest.

#1 of 20



725/14
E.C.W. Architecture in Missouri State
Parks, 1933-1942, Thematic Resources

Shawnee

KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK
Camp Shawnee
Cabin #63 (Kn2)
Johnson County, Missouri

Photographer: Judith Deel
Date: June 1982
Neg. Loc.;; Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View looking southeast.

#2 of 20



KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK
Camp Shawnee
Staff Quarters #70(Kn9)
Johnson County, Missouri

Photographer: Judith Deel
Date: June 1982
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View looking north.



KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK

Camp Shawnee, Unit Lodge (Kn10)
Johnson County, Missouri

Photographer: Judith Deel

Date: June 1982

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

General view looking east.



KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK

Camp Shawnee

Bath House (Kn22)

Johnson County

Photographer: Judith Deel

Date: June 1982

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View looking south.

784-20



KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK
Camp Shawnee
Central Eatrine (Kn23)
Johnson County, Missouri

Photographer: Bonnie Wright
Date: May 22, 1984
Neg. Loc: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View looking south toward mess hall.

#6 of 20



E.C.W. Architecture in Missouri State
Parks, 1933-1942, Thematic Resources

KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK
Camp Shawnee
Infirmary (Kn25)
Johnson County, Missouri

Photographer: Judith Deel
Date: June 1982
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View looking west.

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E.C.W. Architecture in Missouri State
Parks, 1933-1942, Thematic Resources

789-12

KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK
Camp Shawnee
Staff Quarters #93 (Kn26)

Photographer: Judith Deel
Date: June 1982
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View looking north.

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KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK
Camp Shawnee
Staff Lodge (Kn28)
Johnson County, Missouri

Photographer: Judith Deel
Date: June 1982
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View looking southeast.

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Mess Hall 29 96

KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK
Camp Shawnee
Mess Hall (Kn29)
Johnson County, Missouri

Photographer: Judith Deel
Date: June 1982
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View looking south.



KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK
Camp Shawnee
Mess Hall (Kn29)
Johnson County, Missouri

Photographer: Bonnie Wright
Date: May 22, 1984
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View looking north of main dining room.

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112

KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK
Camp Shawnee
Amphitheater (Kn30)
Johnson County, Missouri

Photogrpaher: Lee Gilleard
Date: November 30, 1984
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Looking east toward stone seat.

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Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000392