

NR LISTED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 11 1995

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

1. Name of Property

historic name: Cove Lake Bathhouse; Ozark-St. Francis National Forest

other name/site number: LO0056

2. Location

street & number: Forest Service Road #1608A

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Corley

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Logan code: AR 083

zip code: 72855

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Charles H. Slater
Signature of commenting or other official

9-20-93
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined eligible for the
National Register
____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the
National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Outdoor recreation

Current : RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Outdoor recreation

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other

Other Description: Rustic _____

Materials: foundation Stone/Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Stone/Wood other _____

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1937-1942 _____

Significant Dates: 1937 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A _____

Architect/Builder: Works Progress Administration

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with Olin Payne (former area resident), 09/15/93.

Workers of the Writers' Program. The WPA Guide to 1930's Arkansas, with a new introduction by Elliot West. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1987 (original copyright 1941).

___ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X State historic preservation office

___ Other state agency

X Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: Approximately 1.5

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 442740 3898410

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point on the northeastern edge of Forest Service Road #1608A formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the bathhouse's southeastern elevation and located approximately 50 feet to the southeast thereof, proceed northeasterly along said line for a distance of approximately 300 feet to its intersection with the low water line of Cove Lake; thence proceed northwesterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the bathhouse's northwestern elevation; thence proceed southwesterly along said line for a distance of approximately 300 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northeastern edge of Forest Service Road #1608A; thence proceed southeasterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically-associated with this resource.

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1. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 09/17/93

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Summary

The Cove Lake Bathhouse is a single story, rock constructed T-shaped structure with a full front porch and covered with an asphalt shingle, gabled roof. It is designed in an unusual interpretation of the Rustic style.

Elaboration

Nine miles south of Paris in Logan County on Arkansas Highway 309 is the Cove Lake Recreation Area, within which is the Cove Lake Bathhouse facility. It is constructed of native stone in a "T"-shape. The northern facade has a full length porch supported by eight square stone columns. Each end of the porch has a small set of steps leading onto the porch from the adjoining stone walkways as well as a central set of steps which enter the porch from the front patio. The porch has a shed roof covered with asphalt shingles. The main structure is of stone construction with the exception of the gabled ends of the structure. These areas are frame constructed and covered with weatherboard. Each of these gabled ends has a triangular vent which match the three vent dormers on the front of the structure and two on the rear of the structure. The structure is covered with a large, asphalt covered, gabled roof. The "T" on the rear of the structure is also covered with a gabled roof which intersects the primary gable on the rear side. The windows of the structure are a hopper style which are hinged at the bottom and are divided into six panes. These windows are set in a configuration of two sets of three windows on the north and south sides and pairs of two on the east and west sides. The primary entrance of the structure is on the northern side. The main entrance of the structure contains a set of heavy double doors flanked by small sidelights. This entrance is for a concession/storage area which extends to the rear of the structure. On either side of the main entrance are heavy single wooden doors which are for the toilet/shower areas. On the northern side of the structure is a flagstone patio surrounded by a stone wall. This area extends to a set of stone steps which descend to an elevated grassy area which is also bordered by a stone wall. From this area, another set of stone steps descends to the beach area.

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Summary

The Cove Lake Bathhouse (Ozark-St. Francis National Forest) is eligible under Criteria A and C with local significance. It is considered significant under Criterion A by virtue of its direct associations with the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Depression-era public works agency that actually supervised the construction and provided the labor to build it. Under Criterion C it is significant as a unique interpretation of the Rustic style.

Elaboration

The Cove Lake Bathhouse (Ozark-St. Francis National Forest) was constructed in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration as part of its effort to create the small recreation area at the western end of the man-made Cove Lake. As was typical of most such Depression-era recreational lakes projects in Arkansas, the shallow basin that would become Cove Lake was nothing more than an eroded water channel formed by the confluence of four small streams descending from the surrounding hills; however, it provided a good natural basin for a small shallow recreational lake, and thus its selection for this WPA project.

These resources were constructed within this relatively remote area for the purpose of providing developed recreational facilities for both local residents and tourists. The abundance of natural drainage channels that converge here in this shallow basin created a site well-suited to the creation of a recreational lake.

The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 and the subsequent advent of such federal public works programs as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) brought a new recreational area to this rural section of Logan County in 1937. The WPA -- an organization that hired unemployed adult men and women to work on a variety of public projects throughout the nation -- was established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his administration as part of the federal response to the dire economic circumstances brought upon the American people by the Great Depression. The WPA was but one of many such public works organizations instituted by the Roosevelt Administration and managed under the aegis of the umbrella agency in charge of all such public works efforts, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA); other agencies under its direction included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the short-lived Public Works and Civilian Works Administrations (PWA and CWA), and such regional projects as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Rural Colonization Projects in Arkansas established by the Resettlement Administration at such places as Dyess, Clover Bend and Plum Bayou. Among its various other projects, the WPA constructed a small number of rural

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recreation areas throughout the state -- though this was not their principal emphasis -- and the Cove Lake Recreation Area was constructed as part of this effort.

The source of the Rustic style employed in the construction of the Cove Lake Bathhouse is unclear. While virtually all of the public works agencies in Arkansas during the Depression carried out their construction projects with locally-available materials whenever possible, the design of the bathhouse at Cove Lake is reminiscent not only of the materials favored by the CCC, but also of the low, stone masonry Rustic style that became their trademark. Other known WPA-constructed projects around the state -- including school buildings, courthouses, dams, etc. -- do not uniformly reflect the influence of *any* particular stylistic tradition, apparently relying instead on both materials and construction expertise that were available locally. It is certainly possible that the men working for the WPA were directed by construction supervisors and architects already familiar with typical Civilian Conservation Corps construction, of which there was an abundance in the immediate vicinity by the time this project began (e.g., Mt. Nebo State Park, located approximately twenty-two miles to the northeast, and the various recreational facilities in the Ouachita National Forest located immediately to the south). However, no documentation survives directly connecting any other public agencies to this WPA project.

The design of the Cove Lake Bathhouse remains one of the more unusual examples of the Rustic style of architecture. The use of the eight plain, slightly-sloped stone piers to support the full-width shed roof porch, the three diminutive, symmetrically-placed gabled vents in the roof slope above and the lack of any significant spreading cornices lend this building a timid awkwardness that is not at all typical of the Rustic style. Nevertheless the fieldstone masonry construction is extremely well-done and typical of the Rustic style. Therefore, though not particularly successful aesthetically, the Cove Lake Bathhouse is significant for its unusual interpretation of this style and for the quality of its construction.

The Cove Lake Bathhouse remains locally significant under Criterion A through its associations with the contributions to American social history made by the Works Progress Administration and its associations with the emphasis upon putting the nation's unemployed to work on a variety of projects for the public good. It is also significant under Criterion C by virtue of its being a unique example of the Rustic style of architecture.

