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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

446

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District

Other names/site number: Norris Park Cabins

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

2. Location

Street & Number: Norris Dam State Park

City or town: Lake City State: TN County: Anderson

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

[ ] national [X] statewide [X] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [ ] A [ ] B [ ] C [ ] D

Claudia Nu 6/11/14

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: **Date**

Title: **State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Anderson County, Tennessee
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Joe Edson K. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

7.25.14
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Private	☐
Public – Local	☐
Public – State	X
Public – Federal	☐

Category of Property

Building(s)	☐
District	X
Site	☐
Structure	☐
Object	☐

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
22	2	buildings
1	2	sites
2	0	structures
1	0	objects
26	4	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions	Current Functions
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation	RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation
DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure, Camp	DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure, Camp
COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant	COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
SOCIAL: Lodge	SOCIAL: Lodge

7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: Rustic

Materials:
Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Weatherboard; STONE ; ASPHALT; CONCRETE; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

Narrative Description

Located in the eastern portion of Norris Dam State Park, Anderson County, Tennessee, the Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District was constructed from 1934-1937, through the joint efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the United States Forest Service, and the National Park Service (NPS). Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District comprises nineteen Rustic style cabins, a linen house, a tea room (formerly the Lodge), an amphitheater, two ranger residences with supporting buildings and structures, and an original rustic cut stone water fountain. The cabins are situated in the area to the south of Norris Lake.

The landscape of the district is characterized by hilly terrain and the cabins are arranged in an irregular pattern so that they fit in with the landscape. There is dense tree cover throughout the district, mostly comprising Tulip Poplar but also some Pine and Red Cedar. The cabins are in the Rustic style, with weatherboard or wood shiplap siding, rustic cut stone pier foundations, roofs clad in asphalt, and vinyl sash windows. Each cabin is one of five types. The cabins of the same type all follow the plan, but many have subtle variations, such as the addition of stone or additional/different windows, or a difference in siding—some of the cabins are clad in weatherboard and some in shiplap wood siding. The most predominant floor plan is Type One.

Aside from one cabin that was demolished, all buildings in the district constructed in the 1930s are extant. There have been some changes to the buildings, including replacement of the cabins' original wood casement and double-hung wood sash windows with double-hung vinyl sash windows and vinyl fixed windows circa 2004; original wood shake roofs have been replaced by asphalt shingle. The entry doors to the cabins are also modern replacements. Based on historic photographs, the current wood siding on the cabins is historic and dates to the 1950s, when the State replaced the original siding. Additionally, the Tea Room was re-sided in concrete lap siding and original wood windows were replaced with vinyl windows in 2012. The original 1930s Ranger Residence, although retaining the original building at its core, has had multiple additions and changes rendering it non-contributing to the district. However, it retains its outbuildings and supporting structures, which still have integrity and contribute to the district. A second Ranger Residence was constructed in the 1970s and because of its recent age, outside the (1934-1964) period of significance, it is considered non-contributing.

Outside each cabin there is currently a modern picnic table and a grill, and modern garbage cans and fire boxes are located throughout the property. There is a service road that loops around the district in a roughly figure-eight pattern, providing access to the cabins, Tea Room, Linen House, and Ranger residences. This road pattern is original as evidenced by a 1936 USGS Topographic map (Figure 28). Most of the cabins have dedicated parking areas, and there is a large parking area located to the east of the Tea Room. The arrangement of the cabins in the natural setting remains essentially as it did after construction in the 1930s. The other resources in the district also remain essentially as they did historically. Cabin 9 was demolished at some point, and the Linen House is a historic building, but it was added in the 1950s sometime after the acquisition of the park by the State. As a whole the Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District retains a high degree of integrity.

PROPERTY INVENTORY

Cabin 1 (1934-37)

Cabin Type 1

This one story wood frame, side gable building features wood shiplap siding (dating to circa 1953), a stone pier foundation with continuous wood vertical boards surrounding the base, and one-over-one double-hung vinyl windows on the façade and south elevation. There is a small side gable wing to the west which has a square fixed window on its west elevation, and a rectangular louvered vent above the window. On the east side of the building there is a screened porch which wraps around the façade, and east and south elevations. A half wood and screen door leads to the screened porch. The roof is asphalt shingle and there is a rustic cut

stone ridge chimney in line with the screened porch entry door. The main entry door is a modern raised panel wood door that is located inside the screened porch area. The screened porch has an exposed rafter wood ceiling and a wood floor.

The interior of the cabin features one main room that contains the kitchen, living, and sleeping areas. This main area has original wood tongue and groove walls and ceilings, and original wood floors. A bathroom is located off the west wall. It has modern flooring and fixtures. On the east wall of the main room is a rustic stone fireplace with original wood mantel. The kitchen is to the south and is modern.

This cabin was made accessible, circa 2000, by the addition of a ramp with metal railings that leads to the entry door. (Photographs 2 and 3) **(C)**

Cabin 2 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 1
This one story wood frame, side gable building is set on a stacked rustic stone pier foundation, which has been filled in the open spaces with modern vertical wood boards. The building is clad in wood shiplap siding (dating to circa 1953). The windows are a combination of one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash and single light fixed vinyl sash. There is a large eave wall chimney on the façade, with connecting rustic cut stone walls on either side. One side of the stone wall goes up half the height of the wood siding, and above this wall is a single rectangular fixed vinyl window. On the other side of the chimney the rustic cut stone wall reaches up to the roofline. Beyond this there is a screened porch area with a half wood screen entry door. There is a screened porch that wraps around the façade and east and south elevations of the cabin. The screened porch area features a porch swing, wood flooring, and exposed rafters. There is a modern raised panel wood door on the west elevation of the screened porch which leads to the interior space of the cabin. On this wall, there is also a rectangular fixed vinyl window.

The interior is a simple one room plan with separate kitchen and bathroom. The main room has original tongue and groove wood ceilings and walls and original wood floors. There is also a rustic stone fireplace with original log mantel. On one side of the fireplace is an open closet that has stone walls, and on the other side is a half stone wall with an original wood bench and a window above. The kitchen has modern flooring and appliances. The bathroom has modern flooring and fixtures, but features historic wood plank entry door as well as wood walls and ceiling. (Photographs 4, 5, 6. For historic photographs, see Figures 2, 7, 10, 26) **(C)**

Cabin 3 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 3
This wood frame building is clad in wood shiplap siding (dating to circa 1953), has a rustic cut stone pier foundation in-filled with modern wood vertical boards, and an asphalt shingle roof. The building is cross gabled and the roofline slopes down in the back of the building, following the slope of the hill on which it is situated. The windows are all one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash. There is an interior end rustic cut stone chimney on each side. A rustic stone patio is located off the front of the façade, and is edged in a log border that abuts the grass beyond. The entry area is covered by a flat roof supported by a log pier. Entry to the cabin is through a historic half wood and screen door over a modern raised panel wood door. This cabin is

one of the larger types; it features two bedroom areas and two fireplaces, although one has been boarded over in wood. The other fireplace is composed of wood and rustic stone with a wood mantel. The tongue and groove wood ceiling and walls and the wood floors are all original. There are historic wood plank closet doors and the door to the bathroom is also the original wood plank door. The bathroom has modern materials and fixtures except for the original wood walls. (Photographs 7 and 8) **(C)**

Cabin 4 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 2
This side gable wood frame building, has wood shiplap siding (dating to circa 1953). There is a small wing on the west elevation with a side gable roof and a screened porch on the other. The cabin is wood frame with a rustic cut stone pier foundation, in-filled with modern vertical wood boards. The roof is asphalt shingle, and there is one rustic cut stone ridge chimney. The windows are primarily one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash, but there is also a single fixed vinyl window on the south elevation. Rustic cut stone steps lead to the screen door that provides entry to the porch. The porch has wide plank wood floors, exposed rafters, and wood shiplap siding on the walls. In the porch area there are two modern wood raised panel entry doors that lead to the interior.

The interior features original tongue and groove wood ceilings and walls and wood floors. The cabin retains its original wood plank closet doors with original iron latches. There is also an original wood and rustic stone fireplace with historic wood mantel. (Photographs 9 and 10) **(C)**

Cabin 5 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 3
This cabin is wood frame with wood shiplap siding (dating to circa 1953), a stone pier foundation surrounded by modern wood vertical boards, and features an asphalt shingle roof. The building is side gabled with a gabled wing on the façade and the roofline slopes down in the back of the building, following the slope of the hill on which it is situated. The windows are all one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash. There is a rustic cut stone ridge chimney on each end of the cabin. Entry to the cabin is through a historic half wood and screen door atop a modern raised panel wood door. There is a wood railing and wood steps that lead down to the original rustic stone patio in front of the façade. The interior has its original tongue and groove wood ceiling and walls and wood floors. The layout and details are similar to Cabin 3. (Photograph 11, 12, 13) **(C)**

Cabin 6 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 4
This wood frame side gable building is clad in weatherboard (dating to circa 1953), and has an asphalt shingle roof. There is a wing off the east elevation that is slightly lower in height than the main building and also has a side gable roof. There is a stone pier foundation that has been in-filled with modern vertical wood boards. There are original pyramidal rustic cut stone steps that lead to the entry door. The entry door is a modern raised panel wood door, but is covered by a historic wood and screen door. There are two sets of one-over-one double-hung vinyl windows that flank the entry door, and one-over-one vinyl windows on the south façade. The interior of the cabin features original wood ceilings, walls, and floors. There is an original

wood and rustic stone fireplace with wood mantel. The kitchen, living, and sleeping areas are all in the main room and there is a small separate bathroom with modern fixtures. (Photographs 14, 15) **(C)**

Cabin 7 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 2
This cabin is a side gable, wood frame building with wood shiplap siding (dating to circa 1953). There is a small wing on the east elevation with a side gable roof and a screened porch on the west elevation of the cabin. The cabin has a rustic cut stone pier foundation in-filled with modern vertical wood boards. The roof is asphalt shingle, and there is one rustic cut stone ridge chimney. The windows are primarily one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash, but there is also a single fixed window on the façade of the small wing. Rustic cut stone steps lead to the screen door that provides entry to the screened porch. The porch has wide plank wood floors and wood shiplap siding walls with two modern wood raised panel entry doors. The interior is similar to Cabin 4. (Photograph 16) **(C)**

Cabin 8 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 1
This one story wood frame, cross gable building features weatherboard siding (dating to circa 1953), and a stone pier foundation with continuous wood vertical boards surrounding the base. The roof is asphalt shingle and there is a rustic cut stone ridge chimney in line with the gable portion of the building. In this gable portion is a half wood and screen entry door. The building has primarily one-over-one double-hung vinyl windows, but there is also a single light fixed window on the west (rear) elevation. The main entry door into the cabin is a modern raised panel wood door that is located inside the screened porch area. The screened porch has an exposed rafter wood ceiling and a wood plank floor. The interior is similar to Cabins 1 and 2. (Photograph 17) **(C)**

Cabin 10 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 1
This one story wood frame, cross gable building features weatherboard siding (dating to circa 1953), and a stone pier foundation with continuous wood vertical boards surrounding the base. The foundation in the rear of the building gains in height as the hill on which the cabin is situated slopes downward. The roof is asphalt shingle and there is a rustic cut stone ridge chimney, in line with the gable portion of the building. In this gable portion is a half wood and screen entry door. The building has primarily one-over-one double-hung vinyl windows, but there is also a single light fixed window on the west (rear) elevation. The main entry door into the cabin is a modern raised panel wood door that is located inside the screened porch area. The screened porch has an exposed rafter wood ceiling and a wood plank floor. The interior is similar to Cabins 1 and 2. (Photograph 18. For a historic image see Figure 3) **(C)**

Cabin 11 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 4
This wood frame side gable building is clad in weatherboard (dating to circa 1953), and has an asphalt shingle roof. There is a small wing off the main building block that also has a side gable roof. The building

features a stone pier foundation this has been in-filled with modern vertical wood boards. There are original pyramidal rustic cut stone steps that lead to the entry door. The entry door is a modern raised panel wood door, but is covered by a historic wood and screen door. There are two sets of one-over-one double-hung vinyl windows that flank the entry door. One-over-one vinyl windows are also on the south façade, and the small wing features a fixed single light window. The interior is similar to Cabin 6. (Photograph 19) **(C)**

Cabin 12 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 3
This cabin is a cross gable wood frame building clad in weatherboard (dating to circa 1953). The foundation is concrete piers, which differs from the rustic cut stone pier foundations seen on all the other cabins in the district. Between the concrete piers there are vertical modern wood boards. The roof is asphalt shingle and there are two rustic cut stone ridge chimneys located on the outer sides of the cabin. The modern wood raised panel entry door is located on the side gable portion of the cabin, and features a wood screen door over it. To the right of the door are two one-over-one double–hung vinyl sash windows both set within a wood frame. The front gable wing of the building has three one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash windows all set within a wood frame. On the wing there is a one-over one double-hung vinyl sash window. A gravel path edged in wood planks leads to the cabin. The interior is similar to Cabin 3. (Photograph 20) **(C)**

Cabin 13 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 2
This side gable, wood frame building is clad in weatherboard (dating to circa 1953) and is set on a stone pier foundation. The stone piers have been covered and filled in around the perimeter of the building with modern vertical wood boards. There is a small wing off the west elevation which is set in on the sides and the top from the main sides of the building, and has its own roof that is lower than that of the main building. On this portion of the façade there is a single light square fixed vinyl window. All other windows on the cabin are one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash. There is an enclosed screened porch on the east end of the cabin, with weatherboard half way up the wall. The screened porch wraps around the south, west, and north elevations. Beyond the screened porch is the raised panel wood entry door, which is covered by a half wood and screen door. Two rustic cut stone steps lead to the door. The roof is asphalt shingle with visible wood exposed rafter tails under the eaves. There is a rough cut stone ridge chimney located in line with the space between the door and the windows. The interior is similar to Cabin 4. (Photograph 21). **(C)**

Cabin 14 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 1
This cabin is a side gable building with a front gable wing. It is wood frame and clad in weatherboard (dating to circa 1953). The foundation is stone piers which have been covered and in-filled with vertical wood boards. The entry door is located on the side of the front gable wing; it is covered and inset below the roofline. To the east of the entry is a screened porch. On the front gable portion is a small one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash window. On the west end of the façade are two one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash windows within a single wood frame. Other windows are similarly one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash. The roof is asphalt shingle and there is a rustic cut stone ridge chimney located in line with the gable wing on the facade. The interior is similar to Cabins 1 and 2. (Photograph 22. For a historic image see Figure 1). **(C)**

Cabin 15 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 5
This side gable, wood frame, weatherboard (dating to circa 1953) clad building is set on a stone pier foundation. The foundation has been completely covered in wood vertical boards. The building is set on a hill which slopes downward in the back, so the foundation gains in height as it goes toward the back of the building, and the roof in the back of the building slopes to a much greater degree than the roof on the façade. On the façade, there is a rustic stone patio that is centered on the entry door. There are two sets of two one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash windows within wooden frames, which are centered on the building. The entry door is not centered, but nearly abutting the right window. The door is wood raised panel, and is covered by a wood and screen door. There is a rough cut stone gable wall chimney on each end of the building. The roof is asphalt shingle. The interior layout consists of a rectangular living and kitchen area and two open bedroom areas off this main living area. The interior has original tongue and groove wood ceiling and walls and wood floors. The kitchen area has modern vinyl flooring. There are two fireplaces, one on each end of the living area. One fireplace is composed of wood and rustic stone with an original wood mantel, and the other fireplace has been closed up with a wood board. This cabin has been altered since its construction as seen in a historic photograph, as it used to have two entry doors (See Figure 11). The door on the west has been closed-up and is currently covered in weatherboard. (Photographs 23, 24, 25). **(C)**

Cabin 16 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 1
This wood frame side gable building, with a front gable wing, is located at the bottom of a sloping hill. The cabin is clad in weatherboard (dating to circa 1953), and the foundation is stone piers which have been covered and in-filled with modern vertical wood boards. The entry door is located on the side of the front gable wing, it is covered and inset below the roofline and there is a rectangular opening on the façade. To the east of the entry is a screened porch area. On the front gable portion is a small one-over-one double-hung vinyl window. On the west end of the façade are two one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash windows within a single wood frame. The roof is asphalt shingle and there is a rustic cut stone ridge chimney. The interior is similar to Cabin 2. (Photograph 26). **(C)**

Cabin 17 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 4
This wood frame side gable building, with a smaller side wing, is clad in weatherboard (dating to circa 1953) and rests on a rustic cut stone pier foundation. The foundation has been in-filled with vertical wood boards in the spaces between the stone piers and with shorter boards also above the stone piers. The roof is asphalt shingle. On the façade, rustic cut stone steps lead to a centrally located modern wood raised panel door covered with a historic wood screen door. Flanking the door are mirror image sets of one-over-one double-hung vinyl windows. On the north end of the cabin is a cut stone chimney, off the south elevation is the wing which is slightly smaller in height and width than the main building. This wing has a one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash window. The interior is similar to Cabin 6. (Photograph 27). **(C)**

Cabin 18 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 5
This cabin is a side gable, wood frame building clad in weatherboard (dating to circa 1953). It is set on a stone pier foundation which has been completely covered in modern vertical wood boards. The cabin is sited on a hill which slopes downward in the back, so the foundation gains in height as it goes toward the back of the building, and the roof in the back of the building slopes to a much greater degree than the roof on the façade. On the façade, there is a rustic stone patio that is centered on the entry door. There are two sets of two one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash windows within wood frames, which are centered on the building. The entry door is not centered, but nearly abutting the right window. This entry door is modern wood raised panel, and it is covered by a historic wood and screen door. There is a gable wall chimney on each end of the building, which are both composed of rustic cut stones. The roof is asphalt shingle. The interior is similar to Cabin 15. (Photograph 28). **(C)**

Cabin 19 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 1
This side gable building, with a front gable wing, is wood frame and clad in weatherboard (dating to circa 1953). The foundation is rustic cut stone piers which have been covered and in-filled with modern vertical wood boards. The entry door is located on the side of the front gable wing, it is covered and inset below the roofline, and there is a rectangular opening on the façade. To the east of the entry is a screened porch area. There are one-over-one double-hung vinyl sash windows throughout the cabin. The roof is asphalt shingle and there is a rustic cut stone ridge chimney in line with the entry door. The interior is similar to Cabins 1 and 2. (Photograph 29). **(C)**

Cabin 20 (1934-37)
Cabin Type 1
This side gable building is wood frame and clad in weatherboard (dating to circa 1953). The foundation is rustic cut stone piers which have been covered and in-filled with modern vertical wood boards. On the façade there is a wood and screen door that leads to the screened porch area. The windows are one-over-one double hung vinyl sash and single light fixed vinyl. The roof is asphalt shingle and there is a rustic cut stone ridge chimney that is in line with the windows on the façade. The interior is similar to Cabins 1 and 2. (Photograph 30). **(C)**

Linen House (Circa 1953)
The linen house was constructed in the 1950s after the acquisition of the park by the State in 1953. It is a wood frame, side gable building with a front gable wing off the rear elevation. It is clad in weatherboard with a continuous poured concrete foundation and an asphalt shingle covered roof. There is a shed roof front porch, supported by four simple wooden posts and a poured concrete slab base, which was a later addition. The windows are original six-over-six double-hung wood sash. Entry to the building is through a centrally located door on the façade. This door is a wood raised panel replacement door, which matches the replacement doors on all the cabins. This door is covered by an original wood and screen door. The interior is comprised of two main rooms that currently have concrete floors and original wood paneled walls. (Photograph 31). **(C)**

Tea Room (1934-37)

The Tea Room, historically called the Public Lodge and then the Tea Room Lodge, is a side gable irregular plan building with two flanking long rectangular side–gabled wings and a smaller front-gabled wing off the west end of the façade. The building rests on a continuous rustic cut stone foundation. The exterior is clad in fiber cement lap siding that mimics textured wood, which replaced the original wood weatherboard 2012. The original wood windows were also replaced at this time and are now primarily six-over-six double-hung vinyl sash. The roof is clad in asphalt shingle and there is a large rustic cut stone gable wall chimney. The original cut stone entry patio with rustic cut stone walls and steps is extant, as are the stone paths that lead to the building. (Photographs 34, 35, 36, 37. For historic images see Figures 14, 15, 18, 20, 21)

The interior consists of three main rooms: The main room, the dining area, and the kitchen. There is also a small room off the main room that has two bathrooms off of it. The main room has a large rustic cut stone fireplace with original half log mantel. The walls and ceiling are all covered in original wood tongue and groove vertical boards. The ceiling also features original exposed wood king post trusses. The floors are also original wood. The light fixtures and fans in this space are all replacements. What is currently used as the main dining area is partially open to the main room. The dining room is accessed by wooden steps, and also features original tongue and groove wood paneled walls run in a horizontal direction. The floor and ceiling are wood. As in the main room, the light fixtures are modern replacements. Two original wood doors, each with a small rectangular light and one with original brass push plate, lead to the kitchen. This area has been modernized and includes vinyl flooring and sheetrock walls, as well as modern appliances. There is also a bathroom off this space, with modern fixtures. The main bathrooms for the building are located off the main room, accessed through a vestibule area. This vestibule area features original wood walls, ceiling, and floors. The bathrooms have modern fixtures, but the original wood walls remain. (Photographs 38 and 39. For historic images see Figures 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 22). **(C)**

Water Fountain (1934-37)
An original cut stone water fountain is located to the east of the Tea Room. It has a concrete topped bowl area with metal water dispenser and is located on a rustic cut stone pad with a small rustic cut stone step on the side of the water fountain. It retains its integrity. (Photograph 40). **(C)**

Amphitheater (1934-37)
The amphitheater is located across the road to the south of the Tea Room. It is set into the landscape with the semi-circular flagstone stage area located at the bottom of a hill. Running up the hill is the seating for the amphitheater consisting of eight rows of square hewn chestnut logs arranged in a semi-circle that mirrors and completes the stage. There are large and small trees interspersed. In the center of the bottom row is a rustic stone path that leads to the main rustic stone stage area. Trees completely surround the amphitheater creating an enclosure and canopy for the space. (Photographs 41 and 42. For historic images see Figures 9 and 27). **(C)**

Ranger Residence (1934-37 with major subsequent additions and modifications in the 1970s and 1990s)
The Ranger Residence, historically known as the Park Superintendent's dwelling, is a wood frame, weatherboard clad, irregular plan building. The foundation is a combination of continuous rustic cut stone and continuous concrete block. The roof is covered in asphalt. The core of the building, including the front porch, was constructed during the 1934-1937 building effort. However, multiple subsequent additions took place in the 1970s and 1990s, including a large scale rectangular addition off the east elevation, reconfiguration of the windows, and changes to the original front porch. Because of these major changes, the integrity of the building has been compromised and this building is non-contributing to the district. (Photographs 43 and 44). **(NC)**

Garage (1934-37)
This front gable, wood frame building is clad in shiplap wood siding. The roof is asphalt shingle, and there is a decorative weathervane on the front section of the ridgeline. There are two garage doors with decorative half-timber detailing. (Photograph 45**) (C)**

Animal Cages (1934-37)
Three cages, each accessed by a half wood and metal screen door, are set into a hill, with rustic cut stone and poured concrete walls on three sides, which surround the metal and wood cage compartments half-way. There is a poured concrete patio in front of the cages, in line with the edges of the stone and concrete walls on each side. (Photograph 46) **(C)**

Well House (1934-37)
There is an original rustic cut stone well house located to the east of the original Ranger Residence. It is rectangular in shape and now covered with an asphalt shingle clad roof. (Photograph 47). **(C)**

Ranger Residence 2 (Circa 1976)
This rectangular plan building has a continuous concrete block foundation, vertical wood siding, single light casement windows, and an asphalt roof. There is a prominent sided chimney and deck with steps down to the property. There is also a large carport attached to the building. The building was constructed in the 1970s, and is non-contributing due to its age being outside the period of significance for the district. (Photograph 48). **(NC)**

Playgrounds (Circa 1995)
There are two modern playgrounds within the district, one located between Cabins 13 and 11, and the other to the west of the amphitheater. They are modern additions and do not contribute to the district. **(NC)**

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

[ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[ ] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1934-1964

Significant Dates

1937, 1953

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps, Tennessee Valley Authority, National Park Service

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District is located in the eastern portion of Norris Dam State Park, comprising approximately 37 acres of the park's total of 4,038 acres, in Lake City, Anderson County, Tennessee. Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District is being nominated at the State and Local levels of significance as an excellent example of a Depression-era Federal government agency constructed recreational park in Tennessee. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, with areas of significance in Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Politics/Government, for its role as a planned recreation center built through the joint efforts of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), National Park Service (NPS), and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). It is a tangible extant example of the cooperation of Federal agencies coordinating public works projects during the Depression era. The cabins also housed workers from the "Clinton Engineer Works" who in actuality were employees for the Manhattan Project, attaining significance from their association with this important chapter in history. The district is also eligible under Criterion C with significance in Architecture, as its layout and architectural elements are a fine example of the 1930s era of Rustic style park architecture. The cabins are illustrative of this Rustic style that would define the government parks of the period. The district retains a high degree of integrity as an intact park of the Depression era. The period of significance begins in 1934 at the start of construction of the park and extends to 1964, when the condition of the Park began to deteriorate and visitorship declined from its 1950's high as the most visited park in Tennessee.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Criterion A: Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, Politics/Government

Historical Background

During the Great Depression, the Roosevelt administration originated an array of programs and agencies whose purpose was to stimulate the economy and provide jobs, some of which focused on improving infrastructure to benefit people across the country. One of the aims of these programs was to conserve America's natural beauty and develop recreation areas in which citizens might enjoy it. Preserving America's natural resources and encouraging Americans to honor and engage with them was one of Franklin Roosevelt's signature issues during his first term in office. In his Inaugural Address in 1933, President Roosevelt said:

> Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the Government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of a war, but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our national resources.[1]

1 John Salmond. "The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study." *National Park Service History Online*. Durham NC: Duke University Press,1967.

Under Roosevelt's leadership, the Federal government became the catalyst—and funding source—for many such projects on which multiple agencies cooperated. During the 1930's, acreage allocated to state park space increased 67% nationwide. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) took the lead on an array of projects to establish and develop park space, working with other agencies overseen by the state and federal governments. In Tennessee, the TVA is credited with developing seven of the first state parks, aiding in the establishment of the Tennessee State Planning Commission and the Department of Conservation. The United States Departments of Agriculture and the Interior were also agencies instrumental in creating national and state park space during the Depression era. The National Park Service, established in 1916, was responsible for conservation and preservation of scenic and wilderness areas, organizing the first National Conference of State Parks in 1921 in an ongoing effort to designate dedicated acreage for National parks. The movement to establish State parks was an outgrowth of the National park system, reflecting a view that the state governments had co-responsibility with the Federal government to provide recreation areas for their citizens.[2]

In 1925, the Tennessee General Assembly established the State Park and Forestry Commission which was charged with acquiring land to be used for parks and forests. Notable acquisitions were land that became the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and, in 1933, Pickett State Park and Forest. When the Federal government began working with states to implement economic relief programs during the 1930's, the dearth of state and local recreational plans became evident and the National Park Service, assisted by other government agencies and funding from the Civilian Conservation Corps, undertook surveys to determine developmental priorities and allocation of funds for conservation and recreation areas.

Tennessee Valley Authority Projects in Tennessee

The TVA was organized in 1933 to address Tennessee River navigation and flooding issues, and as a byproduct developed hydroelectric power for the region. The TVA built twenty hydroelectric dams between 1933 and 1951, also enabling electricity through coal-fired power plants. Providing electricity to more than 60,000 farm households in rural areas brought those people into the modern age and persuaded large industries to locate facilities near TVA dams or steam plants, thereby stimulating Tennessee's economic development. By 1945, the TVA was the largest supplier of electricity in the United States.[3] For all the good it did, the TVA was not without detractors who questioned the displacement of families and the desirability of industrializing areas associated with agriculture. As in so many other situations where progress creates both benefit and harm, there were arguments against their work. Among these were the Agrarians at Vanderbilt University whose exaltation of agrarian heritage opposed the idea of displacing rural people to clear the way for modernity. The TVA acquired 1.1 million acres for its first sixteen dams, necessitating the displacement of more than fourteen thousand; creation of Great Smoky Mountains National Park involved moving more than four thousand people from their land. While many of those moved from their land found

[2] James B. Jones and Claudette Stager. *State Parks in Tennessee Built by the CCC and WPA between 1934-1942. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation*. Nashville, Tennessee: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1986.
[3] Tennessee Blue Book, "The New Deal," 435-436.

their lives improved by TVA efforts to offset flooding and provide energy for convenience and technology, destruction of existing communities remained controversial.[4]

Along with affording flood control and providing electrical power, the TVA was also charged with reforestation and the development of natural resources on lands in the area of its technological operations. The intent of this effort was to bring further benefit to the people of the region. The agency had its own staff of professionals-- geographers, geologists, and landscape architects-- and worked with local commissions and other Federal agencies, including the Works Projects Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), to construct recreational facilities.[5] The majority of physical labor to create these parks was provided by the CCC through the Federal Emergency Conservation Work Program, which was established in 1933. The CCC had camps all over the United States and throughout the state of Tennessee, with work projects including soil conservation, land reclamation, building roads, trails, and buildings. In 1935, the editor of the *Columbia Herald* noted the importance of the CCC and their work: "The Civilian Conservation Corps, conceded on all sides to be among the New Deal projects most beneficial and least subject to criticism, has done some fine work to date in Tennessee, and according to present plans, will continue that work for some time to come."[6]

Civilian Conservation Corps

In an effort to address Depression era massive unemployment, the Roosevelt administration issued the Emergency Conservation Work Act of 1933 which mandated recruitment of men from urban areas of the United States to do conservation work in forests, parks, and fields owned and acquired by the Federal government. Known as President Roosevelt's "Tree Army," the program was open to unemployed, unmarried U.S. male citizens between the ages of eighteen and twenty six who were required to be healthy and able to engage in hard physical labor. Enlistment in the program was for a minimum of six months, but many re-enlisted—some repeatedly—after their first term. Participants were paid thirty dollars a month, housed in work camps, and often given supplemental basic and vocational education while they served. Under the supervision of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, these men engaged in conservation and reforestation projects, helped firefighters directly and by installing telephone lines to assist with communications related to fire fighting, and created recreational park space. They built wildlife refuges, fish farming facilities, water storage basins, and animal shelters. To encourage citizens to get out and enjoy America's natural resources, FDR authorized the construction of bridges and campground facilities. This program evolved into an agency called the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937, enlisting the assistance of landscape architects to establish permanent infrastructure for a system of state and national parks on land acquired by the Federal government. These architects used materials indigenous to their various natural settings to create the "Park Rustic" style that characterizes national parks across the country to this day. From 1933 to 1942, the CCC employed over three million men. The CCC was divided administratively into nine geographic areas, with Tennessee designated District C of the Fourth Corps Area, along with portions of

[4] Tennessee Blue Book, "The New Deal," 346.
[5] Carroll Van West. *Tennessee's New Deal Landscape.* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2001.
[6] Van West, 151-152.

Western North Carolina, Northern Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi.[7] By 1941, the CCC in Tennessee had built seven parks on TVA land, as well as completing 98 fire towers, 3,959 miles of forest telephone lines, and 1,469 miles of rural roads.[8]

Tennessee Parks

During the 1930s and early 1940s, multiple Federal agencies were involved in the development of state parks in Tennessee. During the 1930s to early 1940s, the Federal government allocated more than $3,000,000.00 for construction of recreational facilities in Tennessee (which itself only contributed $100,000), as well as more than $7,000,000 spent by the NPS and CCC to develop parks in the state. The United States Forest Service, the Resettlement Administration, and the Works Projects Administration, participated in the development of parks, the first two agencies providing the land for projects for which manpower was supplied by the CCC, WPA, and NPS. Land was acquired by lease and purchase, often involving relocation of farm families from agricultural acreage.

By 1938, five areas in Tennessee were in the process of becoming state parks under the supervision of the TVA, including land adjacent to Pickwick Lake, Cove Lake, Harrison Island in Chickamauga Lake, and two areas near Norris Lake, itself created by a TVA built dam. Once completed, these recreational facilities were slated to be deeded to the state by the TVA.[9]

After construction of the Pickwick Dam in March 1935, the TVA, NPS, and CCC collaborated to create a recreation area on adjacent land. This area ultimately became the Pickwick Landing State Park which today comprises an inn and restaurant, ten cabins, a large campground, a marina, a golf course, three swimming beaches, and an array of picnic and recreational areas. CCC Company 3459, a group composed of African Americans, worked over a period of three years to construct trails, cabins, walls, restrooms, and picnic shelters, the buildings reflecting the "Government Rustic" style, and affording various views of Pickwick Lake. Ironically, when the park was completed it was designated a "whites only" segregated facility. Farm families, both black and white, were relocated so their land could be used as park space.[10]

Cove Lake State Park, the third joint project initiated by the consortium of TVA, CCC, and NPS, was situated along a portion of Norris Lake which had been created by the Caryville Dam project completed in 1936. CCC Company 4493 took responsibility for constructing the park, including its water lines, parking lots, roads, fences, boat dock, picnic tables and shelters, stone curbs, water fountains, walls, a restaurant, sixteen stone cabins, and a stone park office. This park was deeded to the state of Tennessee in 1950.[11]
The TVA initiated development of what is now called Harrison Bay State Park on the east bank of Chickamauga Lake in 1938. TVA leased 1,432 acres for development of a recreation area which they called

[7] Jones and Stager
[8] Ibid
[9] Ibid
[10] Van West
[11] Ibid

Harrison Island Park, but did little to move it forward. Subsequently State Park officials assumed responsibility for the project and worked with CCC Company 4495 to construct picnic areas, boat docks, swimming areas, maintenance buildings, and roads.[12]

Norris

Norris Dam, the TVA's largest project, is situated between Cove Lake and Big Ridge State Park. Dam construction, in addition to providing flood control and affording electricity to most of East Tennessee, produced a 34,000 acre lake.[13] The dam was designed by architect, Roland Wank with input from engineer, Arthur Morgan, both of whom were said to be inspired by innovative factory designs and advances in engineering then originating in Detroit. Wank and Morgan consulted with architect, Albert Kahn, of Detroit, who is also credited for the final design.[14]

Members of the CCC were dispatched to help build the TVA dam—named for Nebraska Senator George William Norris, a politician instrumental in the creation of the TVA in the early 1930s--and create a park. Land in the valley now incorporated into Norris Dam State Park was acquired by the TVA from the Longmire family, one of many families who gave up their farmland to enable the TVA to develop Norris Lake. The valley is located just off of Highway 441, below Norris Dam.[15] Civilian Conservation Corps Camp 494/TVA 45 was constructed there to house laborers, officers, and staff who worked together on the development of the project. The camp housed workers affiliated with CCC company 494, one of three CCC companies located around Norris during construction of Norris Dam and a variety of other projects that included building a fish hatchery, constructing recreational areas, planting tree nurseries, and installing seventy miles of fencing.[16]

The campaign to build Norris Park began in earnest in 1934 when the NPS took over the Norris CCC camp. Company 248, a Second Corps Company of the CCC, began the construction of Norris Park. This Company was comprised of men primarily from New York and New Jersey, and worked under the Forest Service, designated as Camp TVA-8, and then under the National Park Service as TVA-P-1.

[12] Van West
[13] Tennessee Valley Authority. *The Scenic Resources of the Tennessee Valley: A Descriptive and Pictorial Inventory*. Knoxville TN: Department of Regional Planning Studies (TVA), 1938.
[14] Walter L. Creese. *TVA's Public Planning: The Vision, The Reality.* Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1990. 169; Ruth Nichols. "The Civilian Conservation Corps and Tennessee State Parks: 1933-1942." Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the College of Graduate Studies in partial fulfillment of the degree of Master of Arts, Middle Tennessee State University, 1994. http://digital.mtsu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p15838coll2/id/9034/rec/1 Accessed March 18, 2014; Tennessee Valley Authority: *The Scenic Resources of the Tennessee Valley: A Descriptive and Pictorial Inventory*. Knoxville TN: Department of Regional Planning Studies (TVA), 1938.
[15] Lucinda Burnham. "Public lands day event at Norris Dam State Park." *Examiner.com.* November 16, 2011. http://www.examiner.com/article/public-lands-day-event-at-norris-dam-state-park Accessed April 4, 2014.
[16] Burnam

The original camp site of TVA-P-1 was on a crest of the hill over-looking Clear Creek, near Norris, and now near Norris Dam (not included in the district boundaries). On the night of December 11, 1934 a fire destroyed the buildings and their contents, severely injuring many workers, three of whose burns were fatal. The injured were treated in Norris Camp P-2 and remained in living quarters there until new barracks were constructed in 1935. In August 1935, the New York and New Jersey men were replaced by a cadre of West Tennessee workers organized into the Fourth Corps Area Company number 4493.[17]

The CCC built cabins, a lodge, parking lots, trails, shelters, a small stone dam, picnic areas, a floating boat dock, an outdoor theater with a flagstone stage, and outdoor ovens. They also reconstructed an 18th century grist mill, relocating it thirty-five miles from its original site.[18] The contemporaneous account of facilities constructed at Norris noted the Public Lodge with a terrace overlooking Norris Lake "completely equipped for entertainments" and an "ideal place for the reception of Norris Park visitors."[19] The Park Superintendent's house was also highlighted, along with twenty cabins, and the seven hundred seat amphitheater with its flagstone stage and split chestnut seats, constructed around a natural bowl near the Lodge.[20] Most of these original structures and buildings are extant today within the district boundaries, including the cabins, lodge, theater and stage, and the Park Superintendent's house.

Clinton Engineering Works: Oak Ridge

During World War II, Norris Park was commandeered for use as part of a project supporting the war effort. In 1942, the park was closed to tourists and its cabins used to house some of the workers from Clinton Engineering Works located nearby.[21]

What is now called the city of Oak Ridge was a sparsely populated rural area that came to be known during World War II as Clinton Engineering Works (CEW), the U.S. Army's code name for the Manhattan Project, engaged with developing atomic energy and responsible for producing the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.[22] The 59,000 acre rural region, comprising small towns such as Robertsville and Scarboro, was chosen for its tiny population (easily and cheaply relocated), its accessibility by highway and rail, and for the available water and electricity afforded by the Clinch River and the TVA's Norris Dam. The accessibility of the area to seacoasts and to Knoxville with its large labor pool was an important consideration in its selection, as was the topography of the area. The valley in which Oak Ridge sits is seventeen miles long, partitioned by several ridges that afford protection from tornadoes and other destructive natural events.

[17] The Official Annual, *Civilian Conservation Corps: "C" District, CCC Fourth Corps Area*. Baton Rouge LA: Director Advertising Company, 1937. 72-73
[18] Ibid
[19] The Official Annual, 73
[20] Ibid
[21] Mrs. George Marsch. "Norris Park Cabins Full—but Not With Tourists" June 20, 1943 *News-Sentinel Newspaper*, Knoxville.
[22] Jones and Stager

Production of nuclear materials required large amounts of fresh water for cooling and a location not in danger of flooding, as well as huge amounts of power. The flood-control and hydroelectric structures of the nearby Norris Dam recommended Oak Ridge as a site for the Manhattan Project, as did the relatively isolated location, suited to producing delicate and potentially dangerous nuclear materials. During the three years the Manhattan Project utilized the Oak Ridge site for the Manhattan Project; they used millions of kilowatts of TVA energy, while remaining secret—even to the TVA chairman, General Leslie Groves, charged with overseeing the effort—wanting to limit knowledge of the project held by any individual to protect the interests of the United States. When the number of workers exceeded the housing capacity of Oak Ridge, the cabins of the Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District at bucolic Norris Park were commandeered as housing.[23]

Norris Dam State Park

In 1953, the State of Tennessee, having only leased Norris Park from its inception, purchased it for $28,969.00, and changed its name from Norris Park to Norris Dam State Park. Having acquired a "turn key" park from the TVA, comprising the twenty cabins, amphitheater, and recreation hall (Tea Room), the State did not have to do much to the site over the course of the succeeding two decades. During the 1950s the park enjoyed immense popularity. In the 1951-1952 fiscal year until the 1957-1958 fiscal year, Norris Dam State Park was the most popular of all the Tennessee State Parks determined by attendance figures.[24] Norris also attracted dignitaries; Queen Juliana of the Netherlands came to Norris in 1952, just prior to the acquisition of the park by the State. There are photographs of her entering and dining in the Tea Room (Figures 18, 19, 20). In 1962 the Division of State Parks described Norris Dam State Park as "approximately 4,000 acres, a good part of which is in virgin forest. Extremely tall oak trees afford many phases of nature and wildlife study."[25]

In 1962, minor repairs and some utility upgrades were performed, and a campground was added in the eastern portion of the park, but beyond that, nothing changed at Norris. During this decade the park declined in popularity and the facilities were neglected. In a letter dated September 29, 1967, according to a Mrs. Ethel Pixley who stayed at the cabins, the conditions at that time were "deplorable." She goes on to say "I know I'll never go back…nor will I ever recommend."[26] Since the facilities were perceived as worn and dated by the mid-1960s, at that time efforts were undertaken to fund an overhaul of the park adding extensive new facilities. The change in American travel and vacation expectations in the 1960s led to the decline of the park at this time. In the 1970s there was a great deal of development and added additional facilities at Norris Dam State Park.

By 1976 construction was completed on the park property on the west side of Norris Dam, adding an office complex with meeting rooms, a recreation hall, and a swimming pool, as well as ten modern three bedroom

[23] "John Hendrix and the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, TN." *Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau.* http://oakridgevisitor.com/history/secret-history/ Accessed April 2, 2014.
[24] Mrs. George Marsch. "Norris Park Cabins Full—but Not With Tourists" June 20, 1943 *News-Sentinel Newspaper*, Knoxville.
[25] Bevley R. Coleman "A History of State Parks in Tennessee". Doctoral Thesis for George Peabody College for Teachers, 1963.
[26] Letter from the archives at the Tennessee State Library and Archives

cabins, a fifty site campground, recreation areas, and picnic areas. A maintenance building and water and sewer treatment plant were also added to accommodate increased activity and need for upkeep, as was access to the lake provided by a marina constructed on park property.[27]

Historically the cabins were used only seasonally, and they are not equipped to be used in the winter months. Currently the cabins are in the process of being improved and upgraded to allow them to be enjoyed by visitors year round. This is being done in a way that is sensitive to the historic materials of the cabins. The hope is that with the improvements the cabins will be as popular to vacationers as they once were at the peak of visitation, over fifty years ago.

Criterion C: Architecture

Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Depression-era parks that were built throughout the United States during the 1930s. The cabins, tea room, amphitheater, as well as the configurations of these and other buildings and supporting structures/objects, are evocative of the government sponsored Rustic style. The district retains a high degree of integrity, and is a rare example of a highly intact and cohesive CCC constructed recreation park.

Origins of the Park Rustic Style

The park movement in the United States was effectively launched in 1864 when the Yosemite area was established as a park. An eight-man Yosemite Commission, organized to create policy for the park, was the first attempt to establish architectural guidelines for park buildings.[28] The earliest examples of what has come to represent Park Rustic style were constructed in the West and subsequently in the Adirondack Mountains in New York. Designed by architect, Andrew Jackson Downing, and later by Henry Hobson Richardson who collaborated with Downing's protégé, landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., these buildings reflected the nineteenth century trend of linking architecture and the "picturesque" landscape.[29]

As the National Park Service (NPS) became more established during the 1920's, it codified design elements of the Rustic style. "Government Rustic" style architecture, also referred to as "National Park Service Rustic" or "Parkitecture," was developed by architects in the employ of the National Park Service during the early and middle years of the twentieth century. Landscape architect, Thomas Chalmers Vint, working with

[27] Burnham
[28] Norman T. Newton. *Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture*. Cambridge MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971, 555-586.
[29] Harvey Kaiser. *Landmarks in the Landscape.* San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1997.

architect, Herbert Meier, was instrumental in establishing the hallmarks of rustic style as standard practice for park buildings and structures.[30]

During Franklin Roosevelt's presidency New Deal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Public Works Administration (PWA), the CCC, and the Works Progress [later called Work Projects] Administration (WPA), collaborated with the NPS to create infrastructure on Federal lands. Their work impacted agriculture, industry, transportation, improved services and facilitated recreation for millions of Americans, and established a standard and style of building that honored both form and function in their natural settings. Rustic design principles were applied to buildings, and even to road and trail construction, to minimize the visual impact of these intrusions on the natural setting. Working under the direction of NPS and U.S. Forest Service planners, CCC and WPA workers built iconic park structures.

The NPS promoted this architectural style, publishing several books during the 1930s, including a three-volume study of park and recreation structures. The principal author of these NPS books was Albert H. Good, an architect hired by the National Park Service to promote NPS and expand their responsibilities in the development of state, county, and metropolitan parks. Good created construction plans for cabins, lodges, hotels, fireplaces, boat houses, furniture, and fixtures.

The NPS design books explained and illustrated the NPS philosophy of designing buildings to blend into the landscape, avoiding any intrusion into or interruption of the natural setting. Related to the Arts and Crafts Movement and the American Picturesque style, the "NPS rustic" style emphasized asymmetry and incorporated handmade elements. Buildings were constructed from wood and stone indigenous to their location, further emphasizing their appearance of springing naturally from the earth on which they sat. These NPS design books offered examples of iconic elements of buildings constructed in national, state, and local parks across the country, but emphasized the importance of building to harmonize with the local topography, conditions, and culture; endorsing a philosophy of design, rather than establishing a prototype.[31]

Exemplars of this architectural style, including gateways, hotels and lodges, as well as bridges and roads transecting parks, are extant in parks across the country; many of them individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The central concept of the rustic style as articulated by the NPS in Good's pattern books is for buildings to be an "accessory to nature," subordinated to their natural surroundings, non-intrusive, and reflecting the existence of the location prior to construction. Primary features of the rustic style include log or stone construction, horizontal orientation, an irregular plan, and a low, pitched roof. Rustic building guidelines

[30] Kaiser; Ethan Carr. *Wilderness by Design: Landscape Architecture and the National Park Service*. Lincoln NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1999.
[31] John Salmond. "The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study." *National Park Service History Online*. Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1967; Phoebe Cutler. *The Public Landscape of the New Deal.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985; C.W. Short and R. Stanley-Brown, *Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration, 1933-1939*. Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1939.

also stipulate such things as battered walls, wide, overhanging eaves, windows with small panes, stone foundation, minimal ornamentation, and construction from locally sourced materials.[32]

As a representative of the Roosevelt administration whose aims always factored in sociopolitical and socioeconomic concerns, Albert Good introduces his architectural design guidelines for park cabins with a discussion of the necessity for parks to serve the needs of visitors whose resources may be limited. The aim of the architect, then, is to balance the cost of the buildings he or she designs with the price that may realistically be charged for use of the building by tourists. Building costs must be in line with the return on the investment for building them expected to be recouped by rental income for them.[33]

Good stipulates three classes of cabins that may be built in parks, offering varying levels of space and amenities.[34] The "student" or "tourist" class of cabin was intentionally spartan, to ensure that it was financially accessible to every potential visitor to the park. This type of cabin was to be constructed from locally sourced wood and stone, offering "merely the most compact living and sleeping space" with no bathroom and only the most rudimentary kitchen facilities or only an outdoor stove that itself might be shared with other cabins. Good stipulates that these basic accommodations not incorporate fireplaces based on the cost of both constructing and maintaining them.[35] One step up from this simple shelter is the "second class" cabin which might "contain a kitchenette, a bedroom, and a living room to serve also as a sleeping room at night." This upgraded unit is deemed eligible for a fireplace because comfort afforded by this building extends the season for its use, although no bathroom facilities were slated for this type of cabin.[36] The "first class" cabins are distinguished by their spaciousness and the inclusion of both bathroom facilities and full kitchens. Good warns against associating these cabins with aura of "luxe" or pretentiousness.

The layout of these three levels of accommodation is intentionally egalitarian, with cabins arranged to purposefully mix occupants from all classes.[37] Most cabins were planned to house four to six people, affording privacy in single room units via partitions or curtains on poles. Screened porches attached to some cabins were to be constructed with a wide opening connecting it to the cabin to afford additional living space at low cost.

Good includes a discussion about the spacing of cabins, addressing the issue of balancing visitors' desire for seclusion and the goal of economizing on shared facilities and the idea of blending into the environment. "…spacing cabins far enough apart to satisfy fully the desire of the occupants for seclusion tends to encroach on the interest of the public at large, so to speak […] On the other hand, if the spacing of cabins must so yield to the interests of the public that the cabin area becomes row upon row of trifling and, too often identical cabins—with ground cover and shade traded for a few inches of seasonally alternative dust or mud

[32] Albert H. Good. *Parks and Recreation Structures*. Princeton NJ: Princeton Architectural Press: 1999. Reprint of the 1st Edition United States Department of the Interior National Park Service 1938 Edition, 15ff.
[33] Good, 16-17
[34] Good, 17ff
[35] Ibid
[36] Good, 17-18
[37] Good, 18

underfoot—we have simply infected the outdoors with tenement substandards and made Nature an outcast."[38]

At Norris, the original twenty cabins were locally distinguished into five categories, though all of them represent versions of Good's "first class" designation, containing both bathroom facilities and fireplaces. The Norris cabins purposefully intersperse the five levels of space and comfort, adhering to Good's egalitarian directive.

Architecturally, the cabins at Norris adhere to Good's standards, being constructed in stone and wood indigenous to the location, being horizontally oriented and simply appointed to blend in with the surroundings. The pattern in which they were arranged also reflects Good's instructions, mixing different levels and avoiding a linear approach. Cabins at Norris were placed in an irregular pattern winding in and out of masses of trees interspersed with them.

Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District contains a rare intact amphitheater. The amphitheater is a key feature of 1930s era recreation parks. It was thought of as a continuation of the campfire circle.[39] Amphitheaters, or outdoor theaters in parks,

> are points of open-air assembly and seating, ranging from trivial—hardly more than expanded campfire circles—to the more pretentious, having many of the equipment features of a roofed theater. The more extensive developments are apt to be found only in the larger parks where interest is more than local in extent, or in parks within a metropolitan range where large population and civic interest are forceful factors.[40]

The amphitheater at Norris is a modest example of the more "pretentious" theater, as it is much more expanded than a simple campfire circle. It was ideal for an amphitheater to be located in a natural half bowl, as it is at Norris. There was an emphasis on naturalness, and little change to the existing landscape; because if topography was greatly changed, "the park is long, perhaps forever, disfigured by a scar that should be rigidly avoided."[41]

It is also very important that the amphitheater be surrounded by trees. This is to create privacy, shade for the audience, and as a barrier against the noises from other park activities. Seating in the amphitheater is advised to either be log or stone. "It may be said of log seating that it is the more comfortable in use, but the adjusting of the long straight lengths to the segmental arrangement of seats results in angles that are rigid and in a measure inharmonious with the freehand lines of Nature."[42] Stone seating is less comfortable, but allows more graceful curves that fit in with the landscape. The amphitheater at Norris used wood logs as seating and incorporated native stone in the stage area and path leading to the stage. The wooden seats offer more comfort in a seating plan that pleases the eye and complements the surroundings.

[38] Good, 19
[39] Good, 6
[40] Good, 108
[41] Ibid
[42] Ibid

The buildings at Norris reflect the sensibility prescribed in Albert Good's long, detailed manual expressing the philosophical and aesthetic ethos of park architecture.

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Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Anderson County, Tennessee
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	X	State Historic Preservation Office
	previously listed in the National Register		Other State agency
	previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency
	designated a National Historic Landmark		Local government
	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		University
	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		Other
	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 37 acres **USGS Quadrangle** Norris 137 NE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 36.226855 Longitude: -84.083801
2. Latitude: 36.226388 Longitude: -84.079215
3. Latitude: 36.223182 Longitude: -84.079475
4. Latitude: 36.223486 Longitude: -84.083751

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the district are Norris Lake to the north and on the south the boundary is the land that slopes downward behind Cabins 3 and 5. To the east the boundary ends one hundred feet beyond Cabin 8 and to the west the boundary ends just to the west of the property surrounding the Tea Room and curves around with the path of the road, including the road and the land to the east, downward to the southern boundary. The district encompasses approximately thirty-seven acres.

Boundary Justification

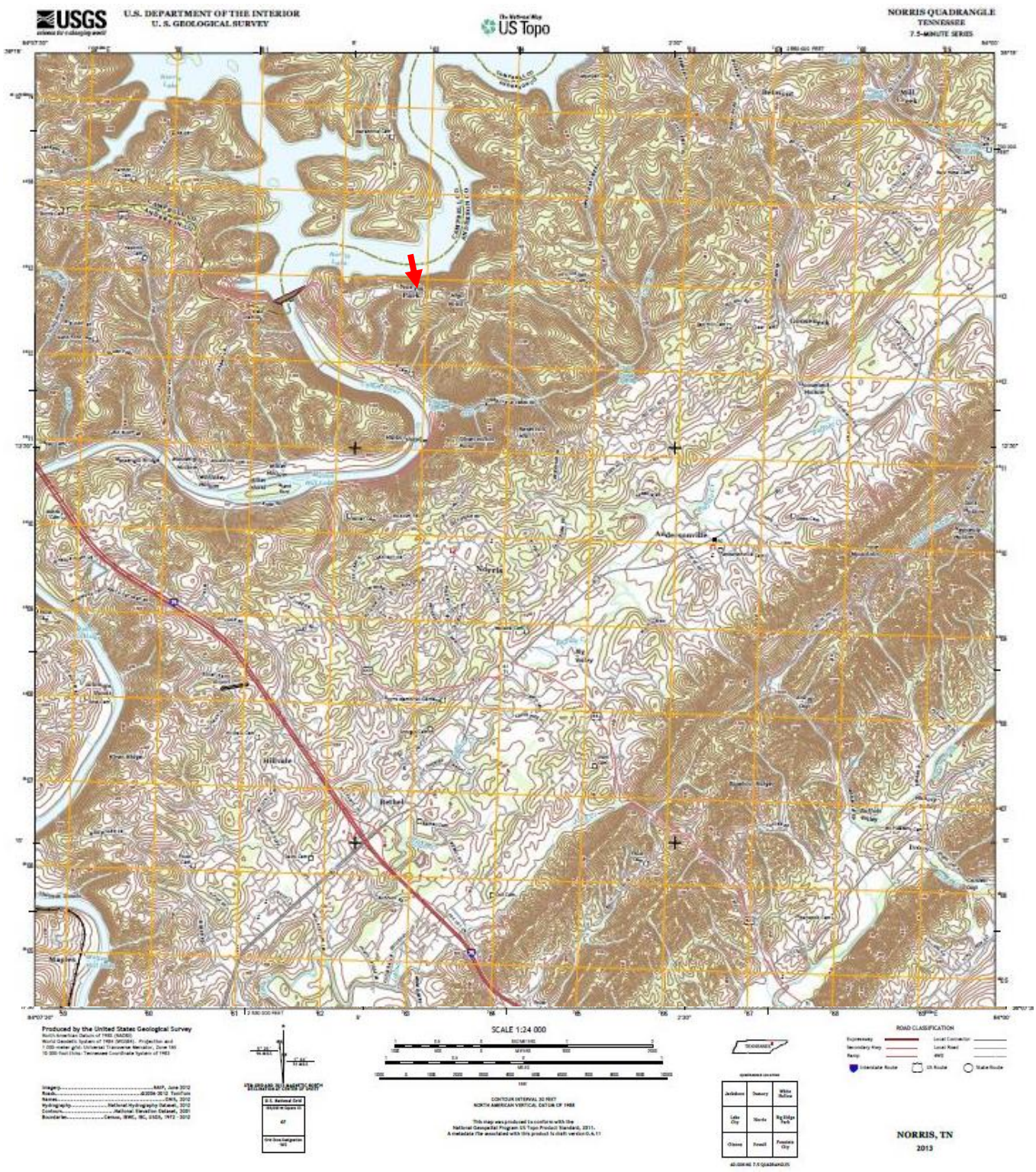
The boundary is the land historically associated with the rustic cabins and the core of the associated park facilities. These include nineteen Rustic style cabins, the Tea Room Lodge, the Amphitheater, and the Ranger Residence. These were all built during the 1934-1937 era of construction by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The boundary also encompasses later additions to the district such as the contributing Linen House and the non-contributing second ranger residence.

Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Anderson County, Tennessee
County and State

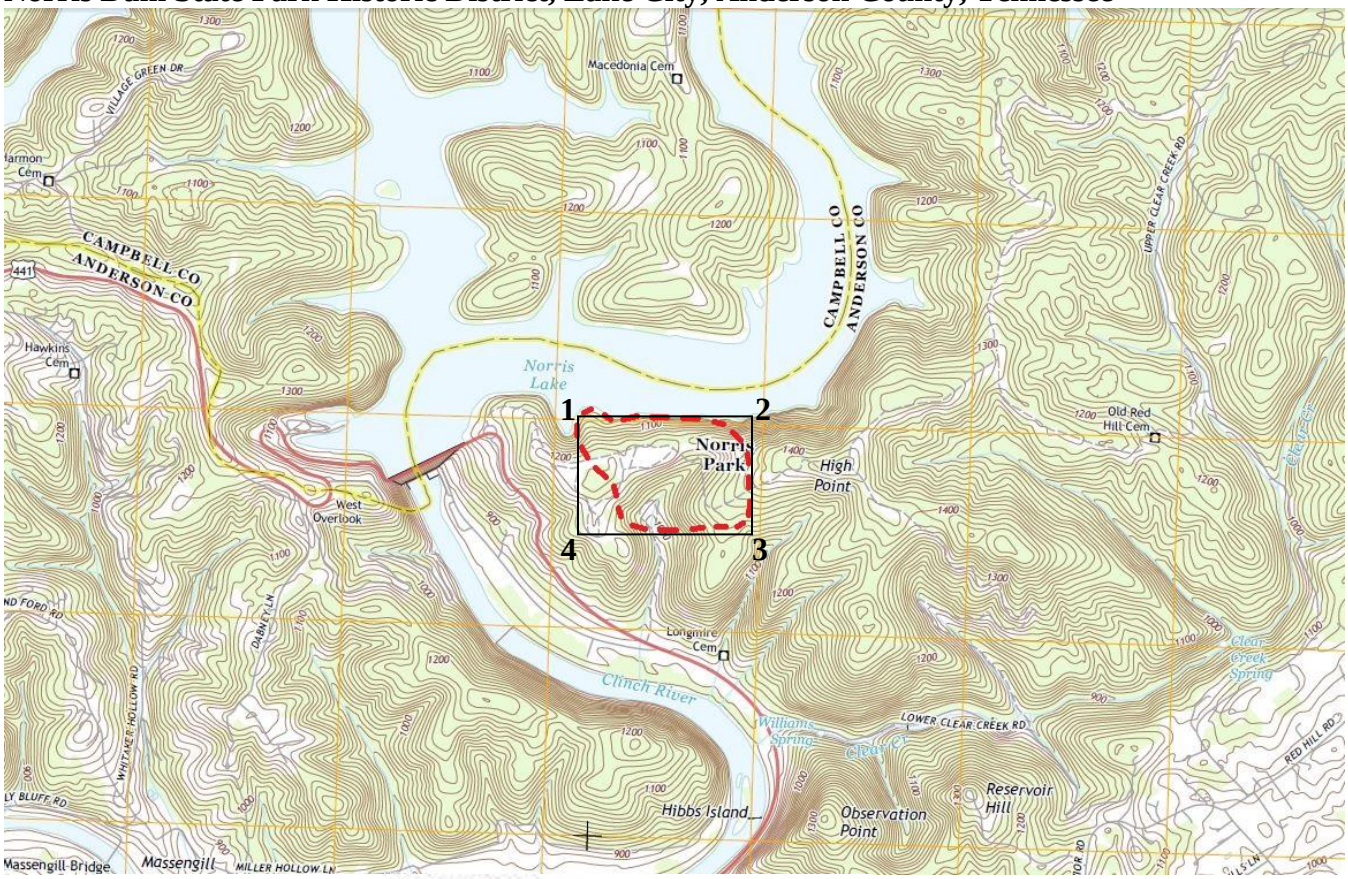
Norris, US Topo Revision 2013

Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District



Norris, US Topo Revision 2013

Norris Dam State Park Historic District, Lake City, Anderson County, Tennessee



1. Lat. 36.226855, Long. -84.083801
2. Lat. 36.226388, Long. -84.079215
3. Lat. 36.223182, Long. -84.079475
4. Lat. 36.223486, Long. -84.083751

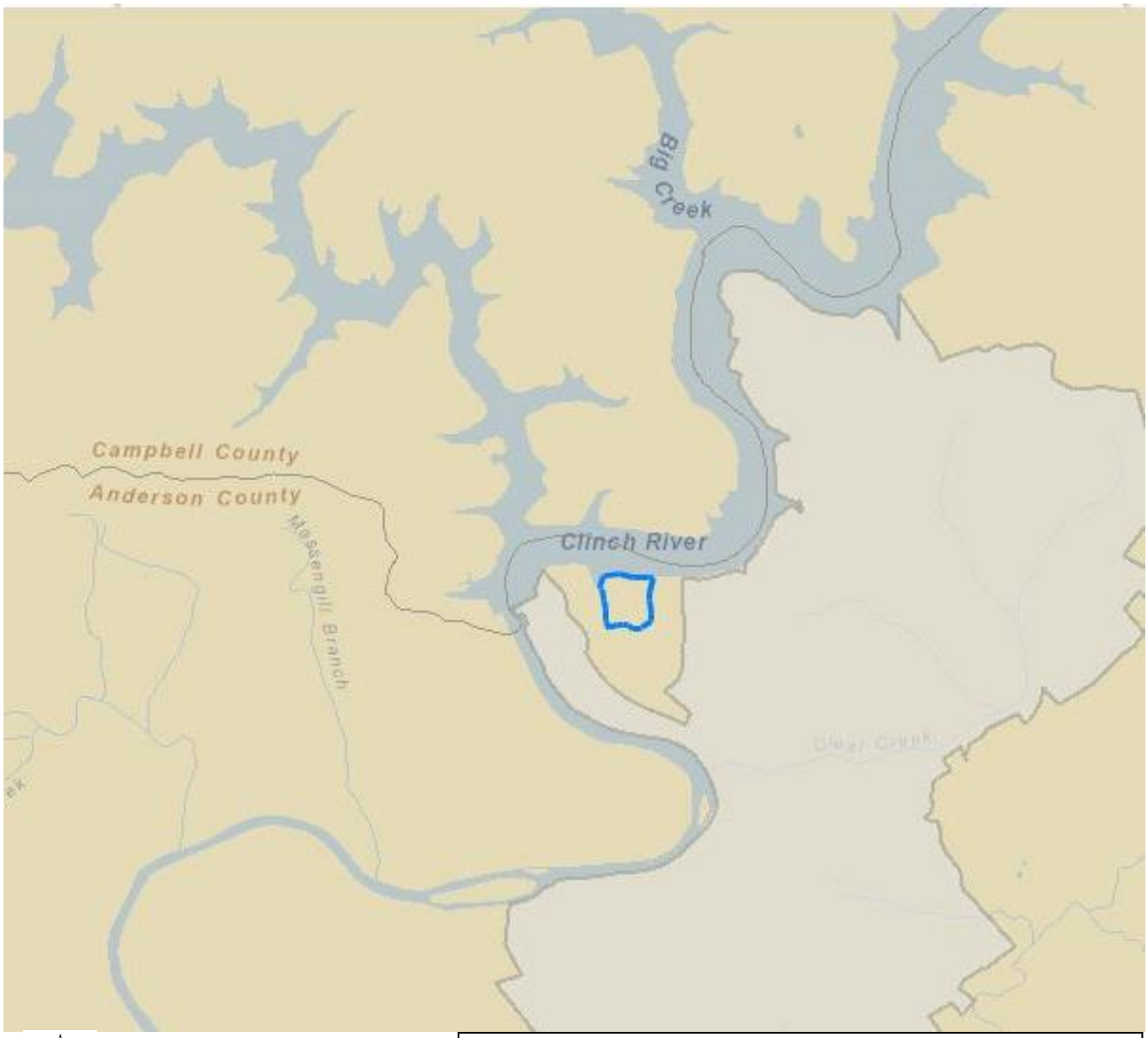
Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District

Scale: 1000 ft 200 m

Image Courtesy of Google Maps

Parcel Map

Norris Dam State Park Rustic Cabins Historic District



Not to scale

Image Courtesy of Anderson County Property Search, boundaries drawn by author

11. Form Prepared By

Name	Christine Mathieson		
Organization	Tennessee Historical Commission		
Street & Number	2941 Lebanon Road	Date	April 28, 2014
City or Town	Nashville	Telephone	(615) 532-1549 x 125
E-mail	Christine.Mathieson@tn.gov	State TN	Zip Code 37214

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs (**refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints**)**
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Norris Dame State Park Rustic Cabins
City or Vicinity: Lake City
County: Anderson State: Tennessee
Photographer: Christine Mathieson
Date Photographed: Primarily March 4th and 5th 2014, but several from September 2013

1 of 49. View from Cabin 1 looking east

2 of 49. Cabin 1 façade photographer facing south

3 of 49. Interior of Cabin 1 photographer facing southwest

4 of 49. Cabin 2 southeast oblique, photographer facing northwest

5 of 49. Interior of Cabin 2, south elevation

6 of 49. Interior of Cabin 2, photographer facing northwest

7 of 49. Cabin 3 façade, photographer facing southeast

8 of 49. Interior of Cabin 3, photographer facing northwest

9 of 49. Cabin 4 façade, photographer facing north

10 of 49. Interior of cabin 4, photographer facing northwest

11 of 49. Cabin 5 façade, photographer facing east

12 of 49. Interior of Cabin 5, photographer facing north

13 of 49. Interior of Cabin 5, photographer facing southwest

14 of 49. Cabin 6 façade, photographer facing west

15 of 49. Interior of Cabin 6, photographer facing south

16 of 49. Cabin 7 southwest oblique, photographer facing northeast

17 of 49. Cabin 8 southwest oblique, photographer facing northeast

18 of 49. Cabin 10 northwest oblique, photographer facing southeast

19 of 49. Cabin 11 façade, photographer facing north

20 of 49. Cabin 12 façade, photographer facing north northeast

21 of 49. Cabin 13 façade, photographer facing southeast

22 of 49. Cabin 14 façade, photographer facing northeast

23 of 49. Cabin 15 façade, photographer facing north

24 of 49. Interior of Cabin 15, photographer facing west

25 of 49. Interior of Cabin 15, photographer facing north

26 of 49. Cabin 16 façade, photographer facing north

27 of 49. Cabin 17 façade, photographer facing south

28 of 49. Cabin 18 northeast oblique, photographer facing southwest

29 of 49. Cabin 19 southeast oblique, photographer facing northwest

30 of 49. Cabin 20 northwest oblique, photographer facing southeast

31 of 49. Linen House façade, photographer facing east

32 of 49. View looking east toward cabin 8

33 of 49. Overall view of the district, photographer facing east

34 of 49. Tea Room façade, photographer facing north

35 of 49. Tea Room east elevation, photographer facing west

36 of 49. Tea Room north (rear) elevation, photographer facing south

37 of 49. Tea Room detail of main entry, photographer facing north

38 of 49. Tea Room interior, photographer facing east

39 of 49. Tea Room dining room interior, photographer facing northwest

40 of 49. Water fountain near Tea Room, photographer facing north

41 of 49. Amphitheater, photographer facing southeast

42 of 49. Amphitheater, photographer facing northeast

43 of 49. Ranger residence photographer facing southwest

44 of 49. Ranger residence photographer facing south

45 of 49. Garage near ranger residence photographer facing west

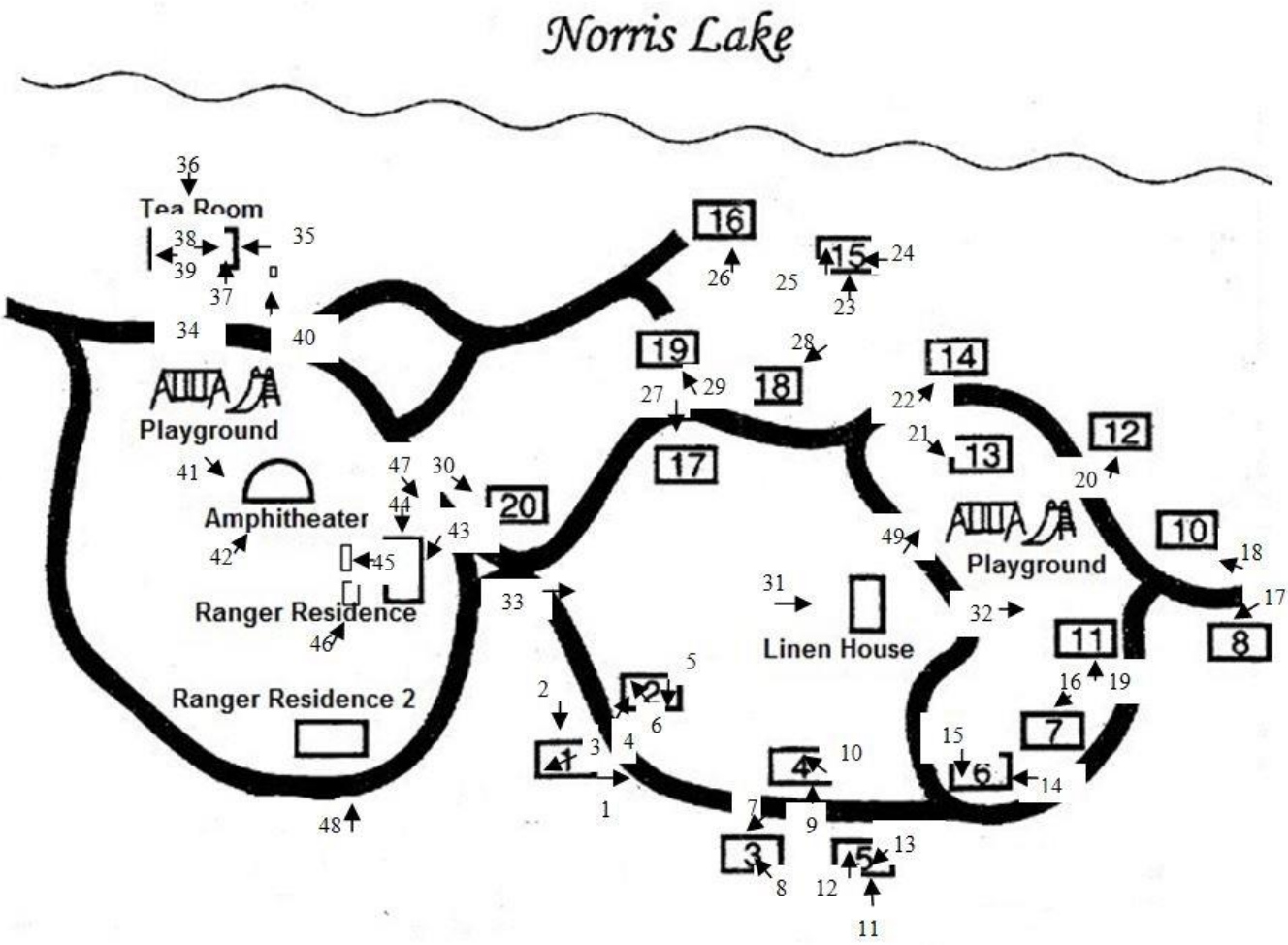
46 of 49. Animal cages near ranger residence photographer facing northeast

47 of 49. Well House near ranger residence photographer facing southeast

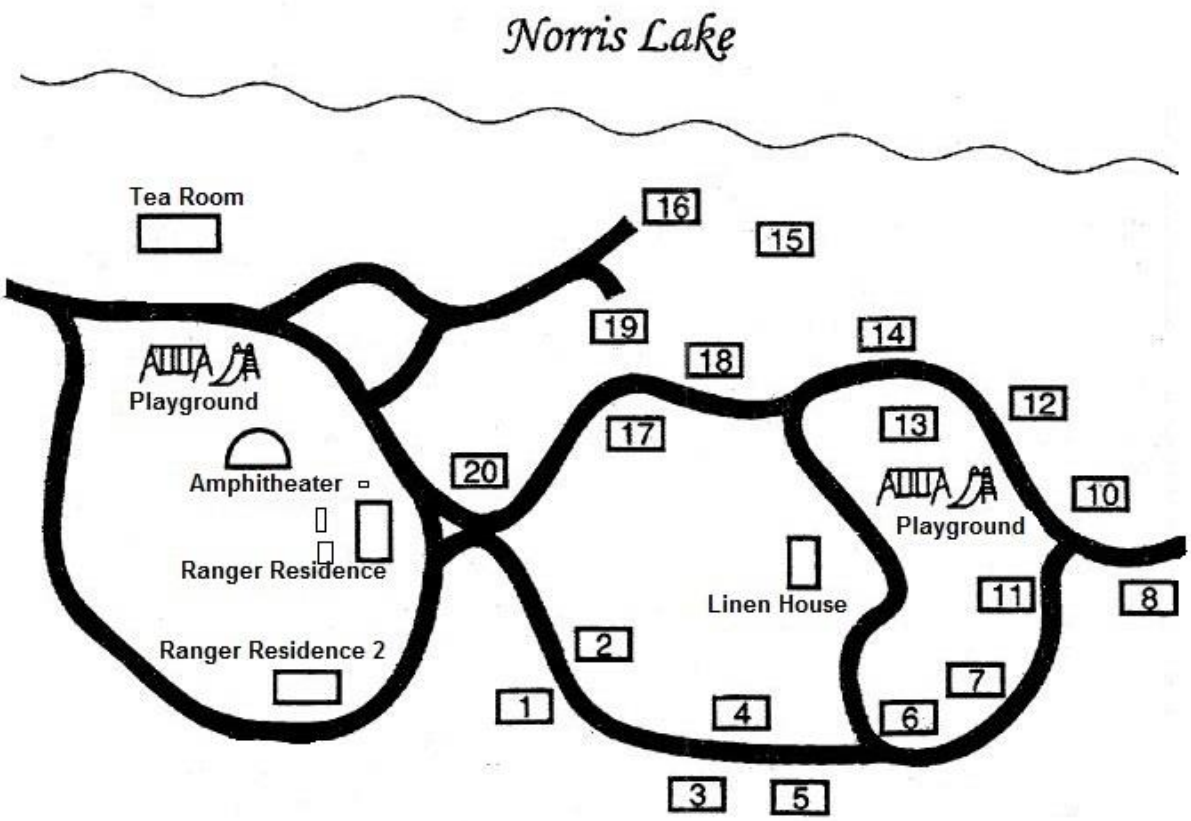
48 of 49. 1970s ranger residence, photographer facing north

49 of 49. Playground near the cabins, photographer facing northeast

Photo Locations Map



Site Plan


Norris Lake
Tea Room
Playground
Amphitheater
Ranger Residence
Ranger Residence 2
Linen House
Playground
1
2
3
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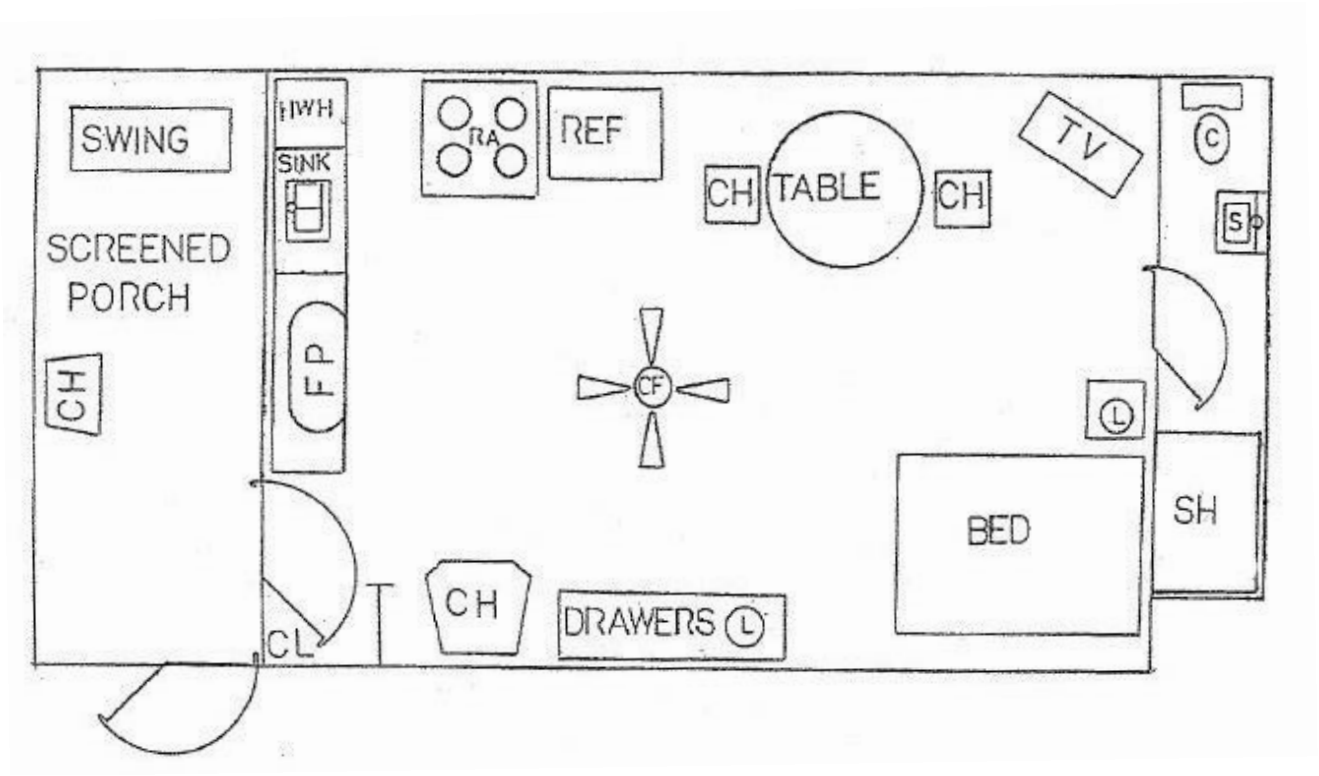
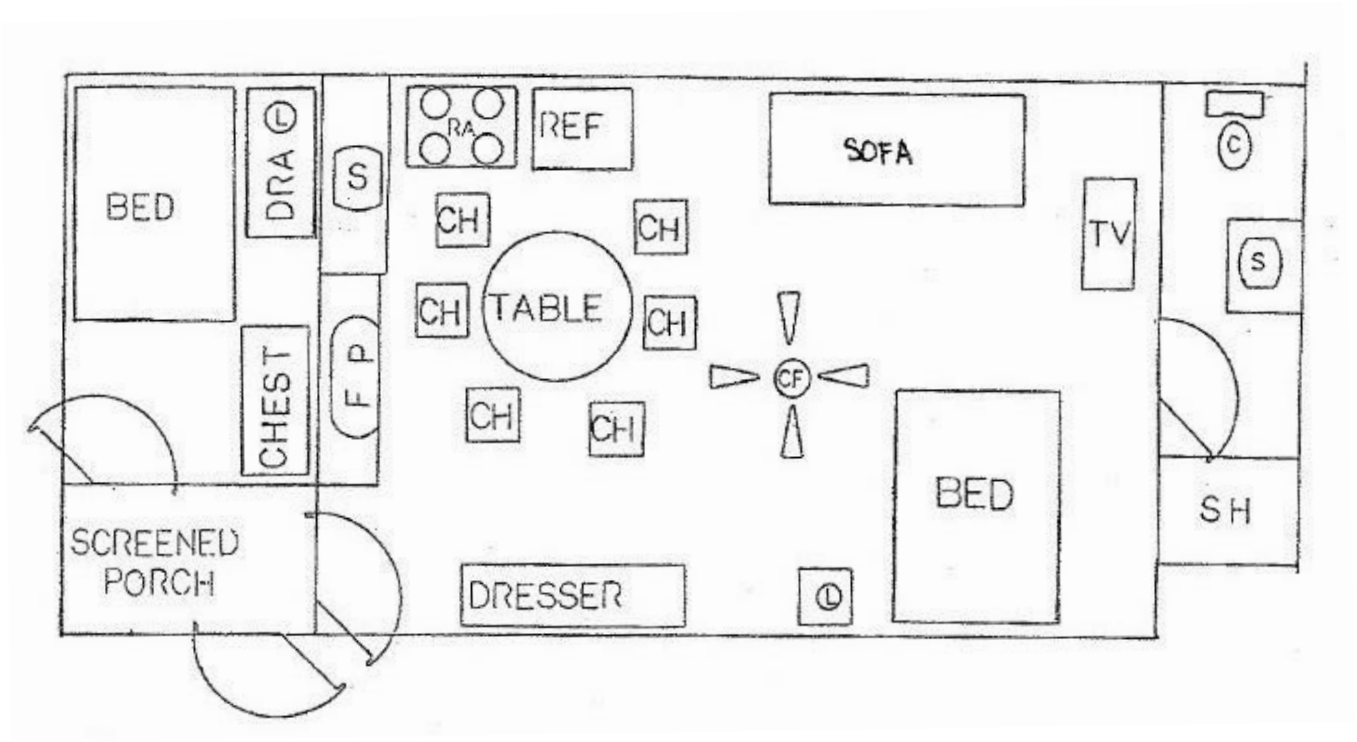
Floor Plans

<u>Cabin Type 1</u>
(Cabins 1, 2, 8, 10, 14, 16, 19, and 20)



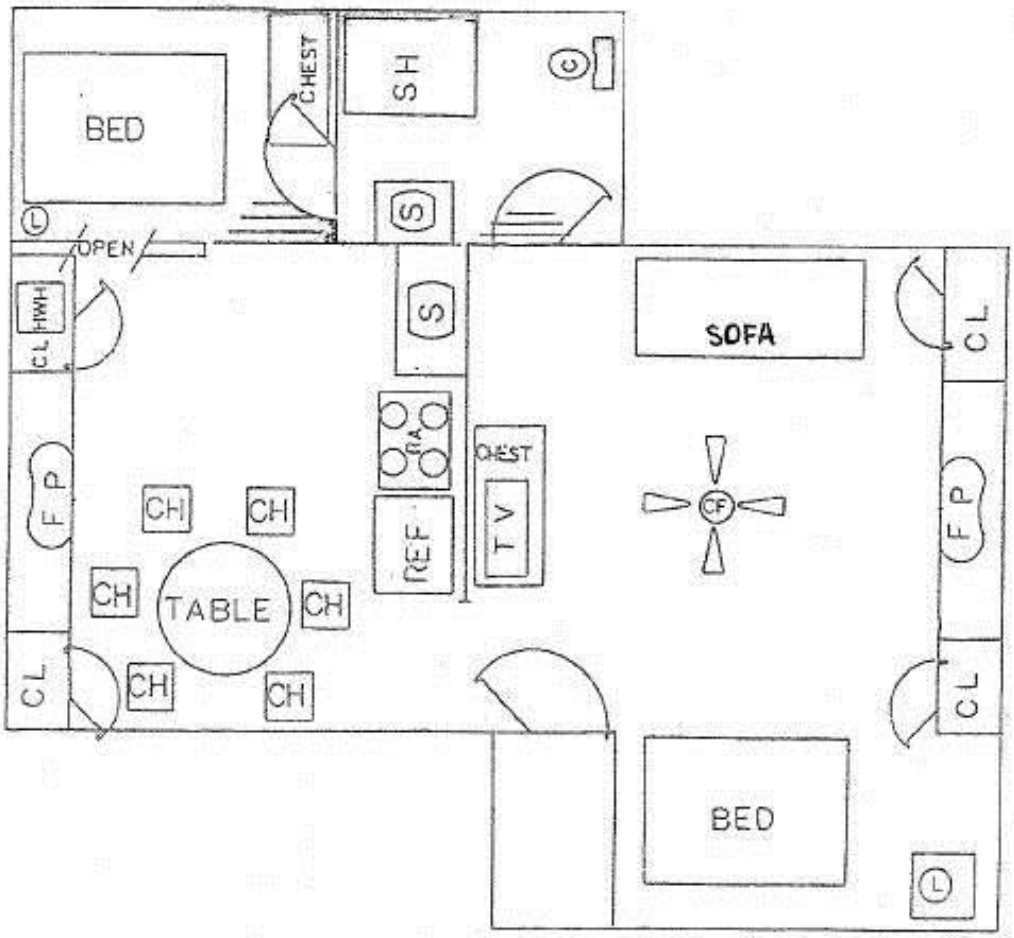
Floor plan courtesy of Norris Dam State Park

Cabin Type 2
(Cabins 4, 7, and 13)



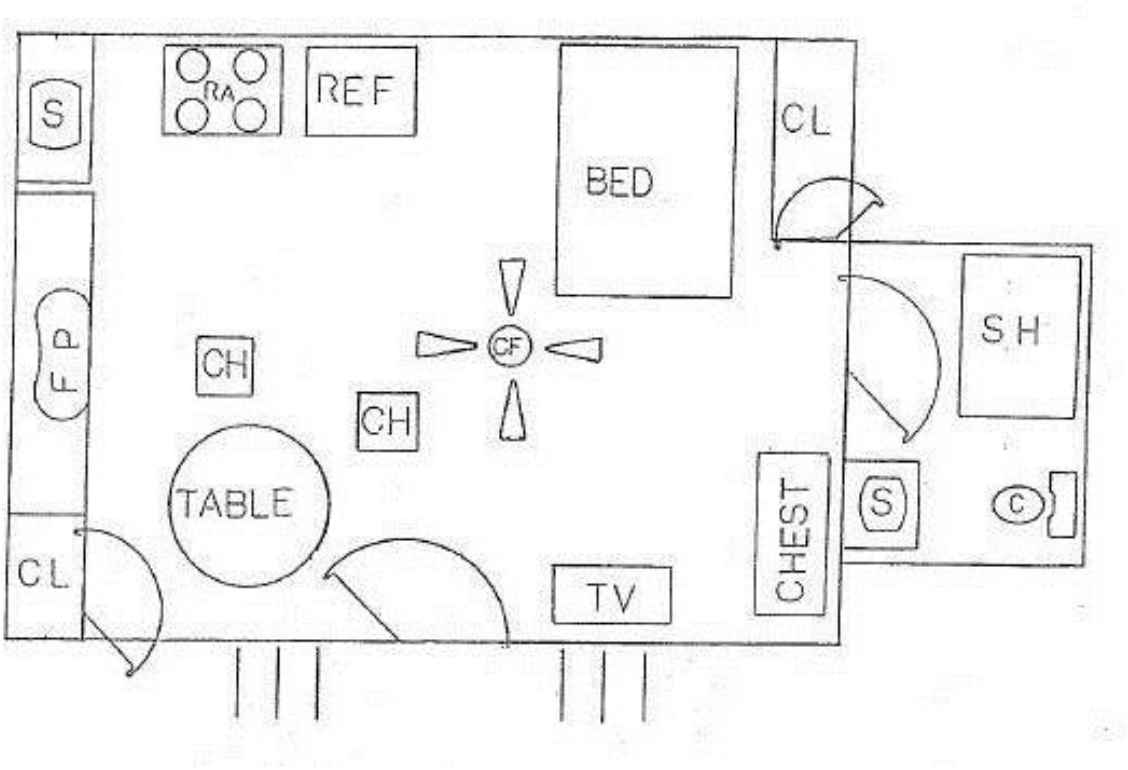
Floor plan courtesy of Norris Dam State Park

Cabin Type 3
(Cabins 3, 5, and 12)



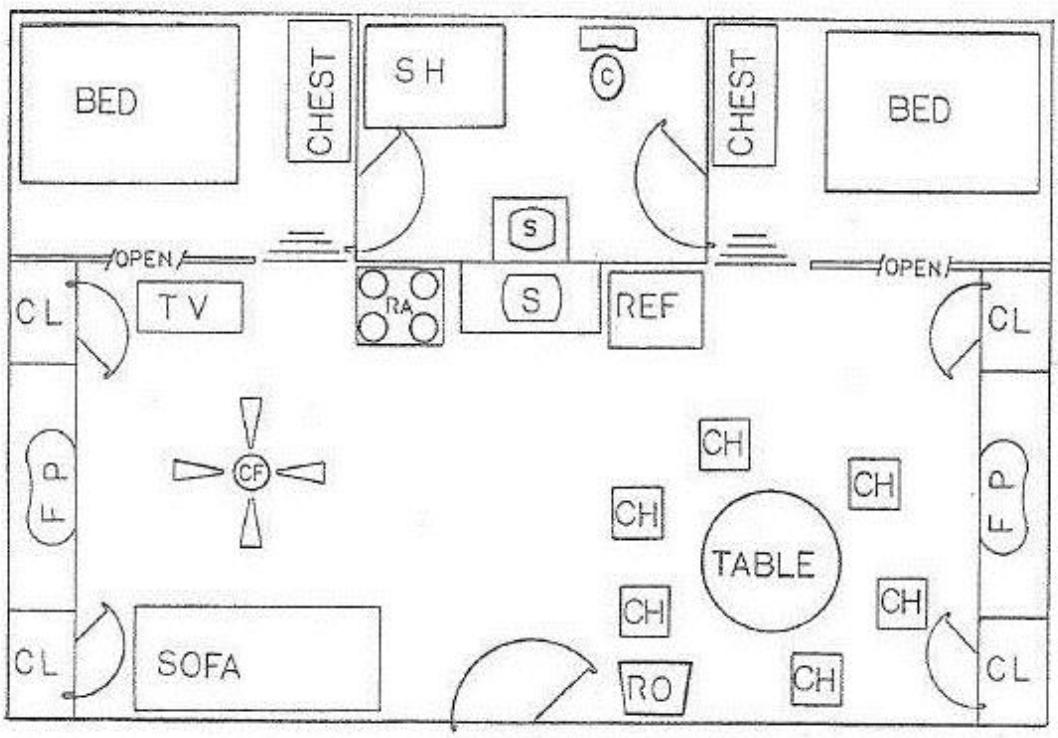
Floor plan courtesy of Norris Dam State Park

Cabin Type 4
(Cabins 6, 11, and 17)



Floor plan courtesy of Norris Dam State Park

Cabin Type 5
(Cabins 15 and 18)



Floor plan courtesy of Norris Dam State Park

Figure 1: Photograph from September 10, 1940. "Cabin 19" Cabin 14 currently. Note the change in windows and reconfiguration of the screen porch.
Photograph courtesy of National Archives at Atlanta

Figure 2: Photograph from June 27, 1946. View of current Cabins 2 (center), 17 (left) and, 4 (right).
Photograph courtesy of National Archives at Atlanta

Figure 3: Photograph from June 27, 1946 of what is currently Cabin 10
Photograph courtesy of National Archives at Atlanta

Figure 4: Photograph of a cabin interior in June 1936.
Photograph courtesy of National Archives at Atlanta

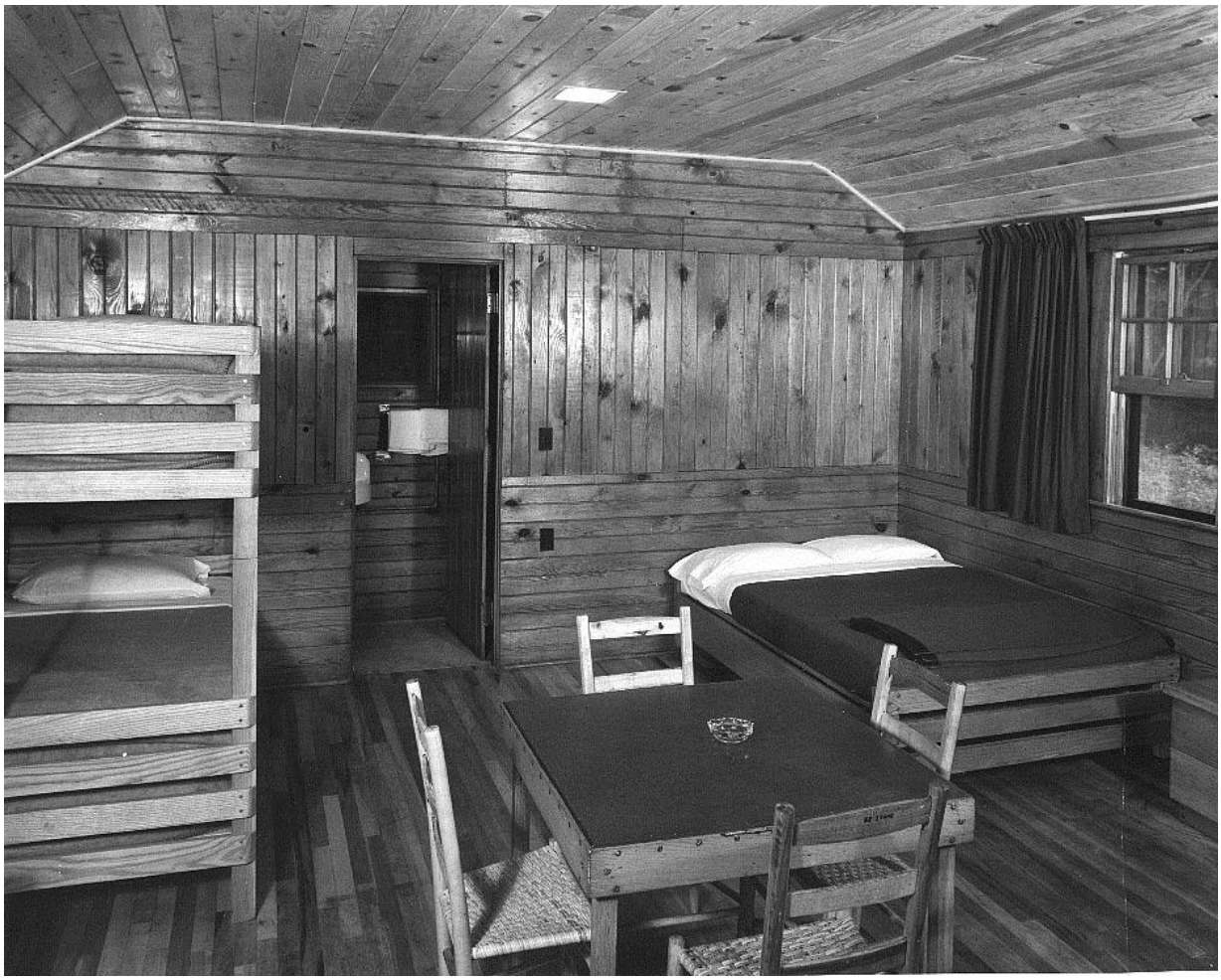


Figure 5: Cabin interior in 1952.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

Figure 6: Cabin interior in 1952.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

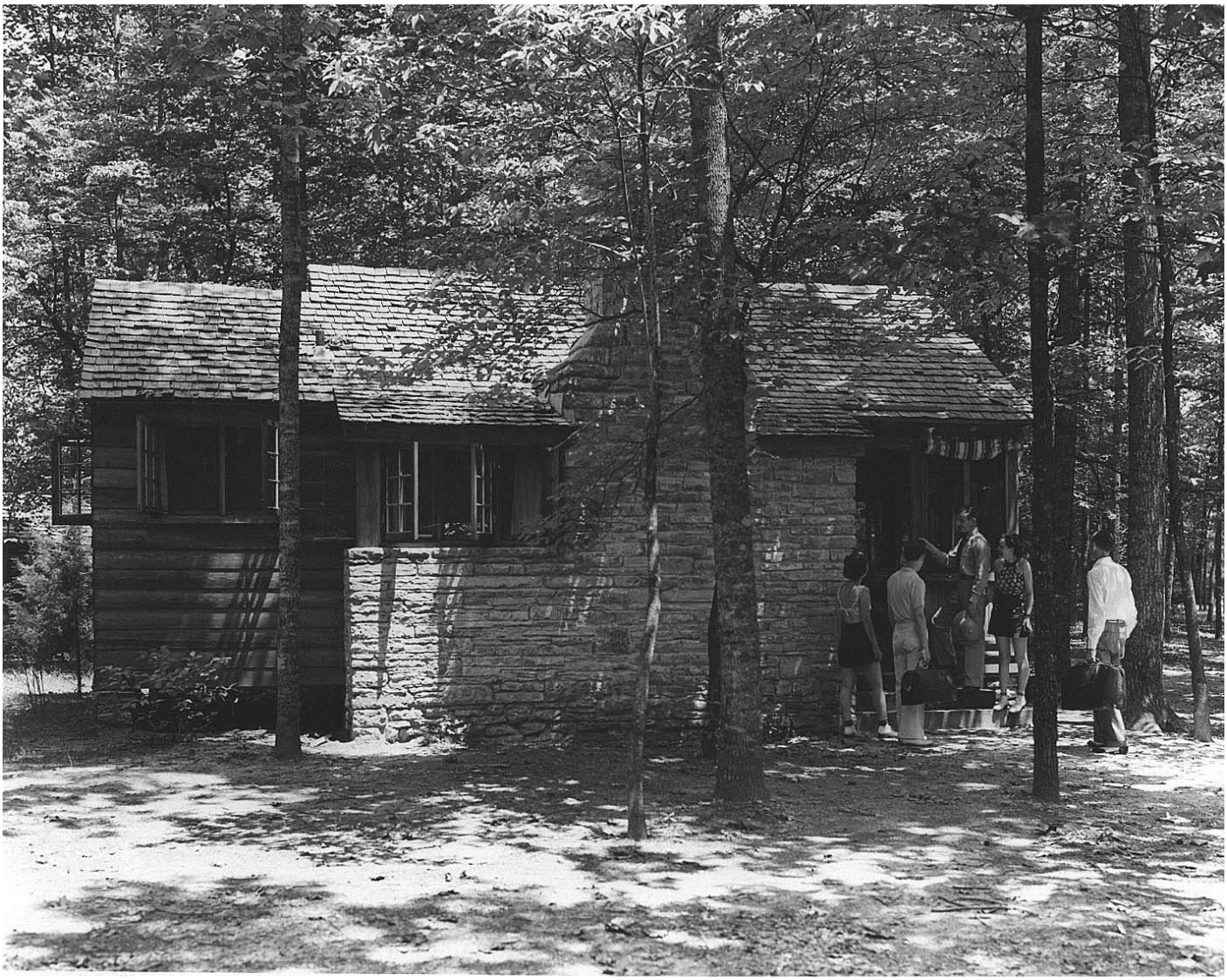


Figure 7: Photograph of Cabin 2, taken July 1938.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

Figure 8: Photograph of cabin area in 1938.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

Figure 9: Historic photograph of the Amphitheater in use. Undated, circa 1940
Photograph courtesy of National Archives at Atlanta

Figure 10: Photograph of Cabin 2 in June 1936.
Photograph courtesy of National Archive at Atlanta

Figure 11: Photograph of Cabin 15, taken sometime prior to the transfer to the state in 1953. Note that at this time this cabin had two doors, it currently has only one door.
Photograph courtesy of TVA Archives.

Figure 12: Photograph of the interior of the Tea Room in K 1432 June 1936??
Image courtesy of National Archive at Atlanta

Figure 13: Photograph of interior of the Tea Room sometime before the acquisition by the State in 1953. *Image courtesy of TVA Archives.*

Figure 14: Photograph of the Tea Room on June 27, 1946.
Image courtesy of National Archives at Atlanta

Figure 15: Photograph of the Tea Room on June 27, 1946.
Image courtesy of National Archives at Atlanta

Figure 16: Photograph of the Lodge (now Tea Room) in June 1936.
Image courtesy of National Archive at Atlanta

Figure 17: Photograph of the Lodge (now Tea Room) in June 1936.
Image courtesy of National Archive at Atlanta

Figure 18: Image of the Tea Room exterior in 1952, with Queen Juliana of the Netherlands entering.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

Figure 19: Interior of the Tea Room in 1952, during a dinner for Queen Juliana of the Netherlands.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

Figure 20: Queen Juliana of the Netherlands exiting the Tea Room in 1952.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

Figure 21: Exterior of the Tea Room in 1952.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

Figure 22: Image of the interior of the Tea Room in 1952.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

Figure 23: Image of the interior of the Tea Room in 1952.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

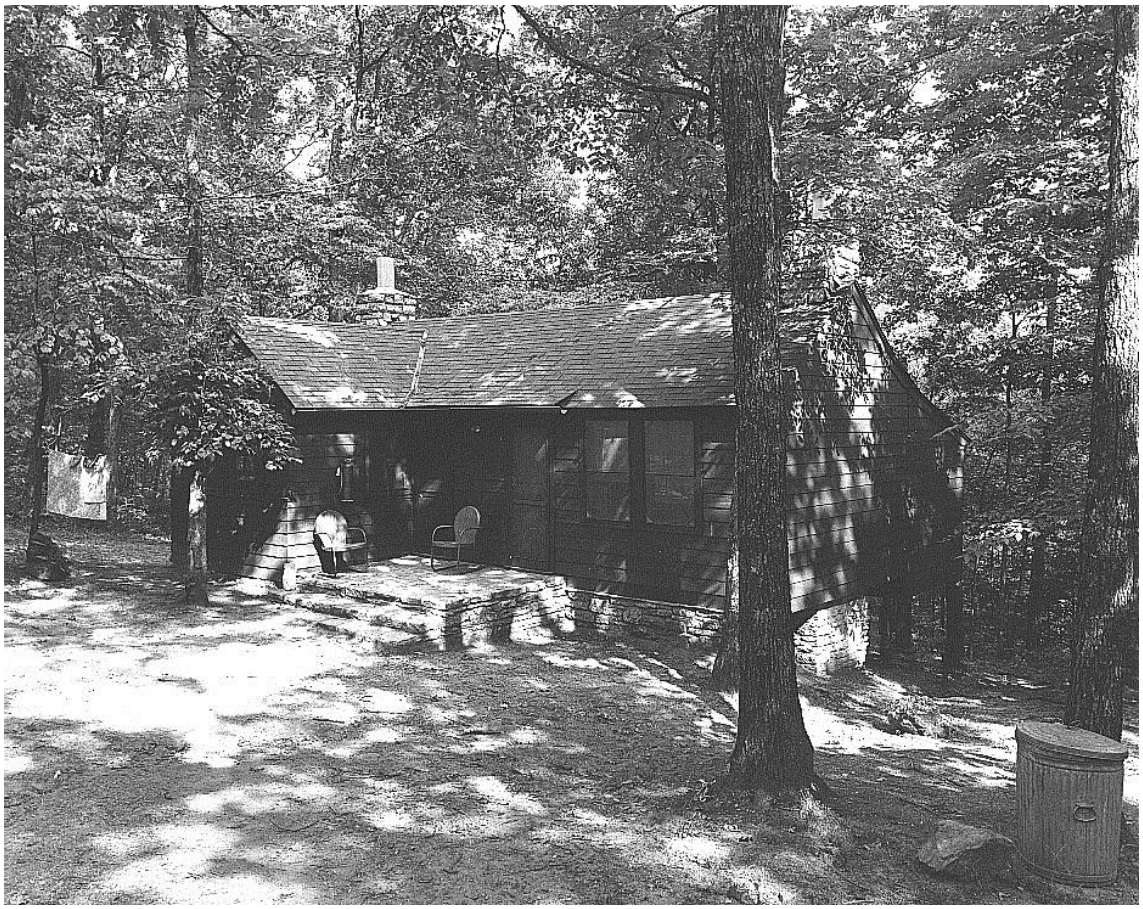


Figure 24: A cabin, probably Cabin 5, in 1952.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

Figure 25: A cabin, likely Cabin 10, in 1946.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

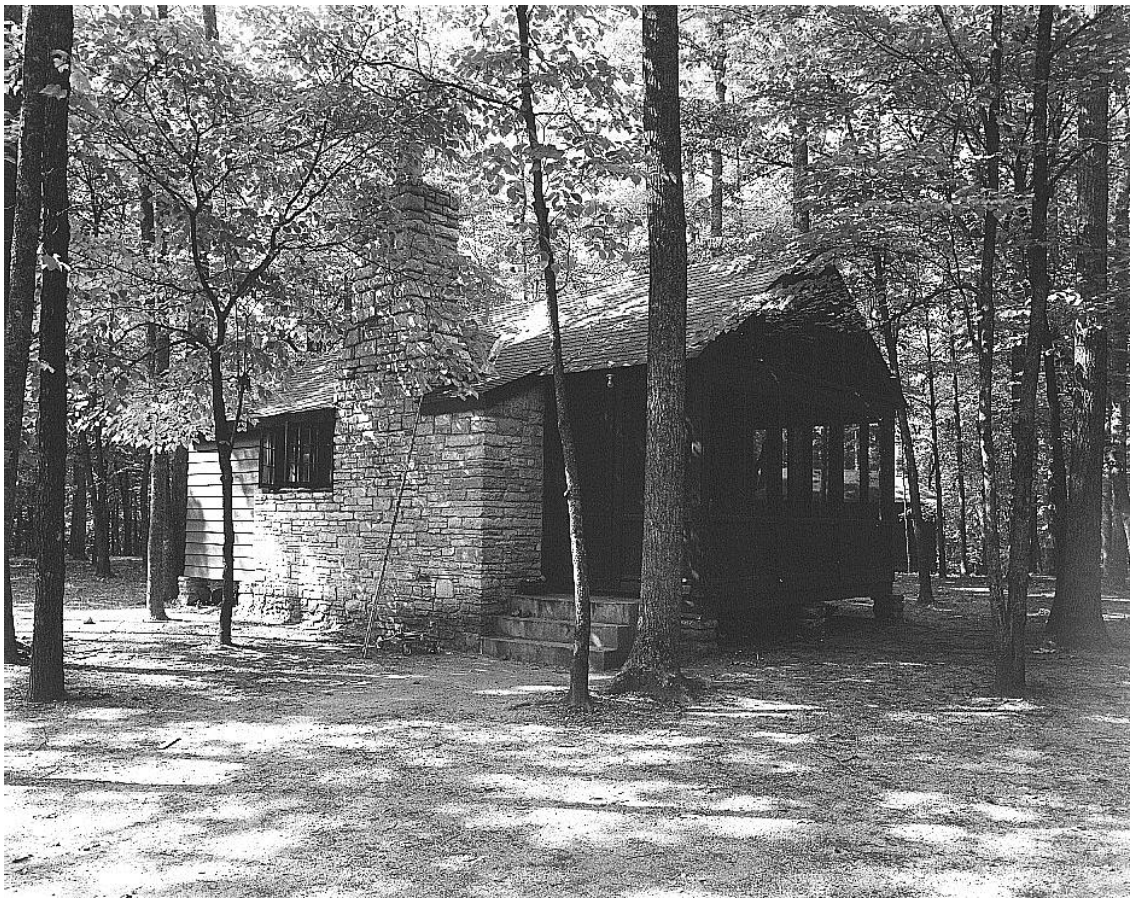


Figure 26: View of Cabin 2 in 1952.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

Figure 27: Image of the Amphitheater in 1952.
Photograph courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives

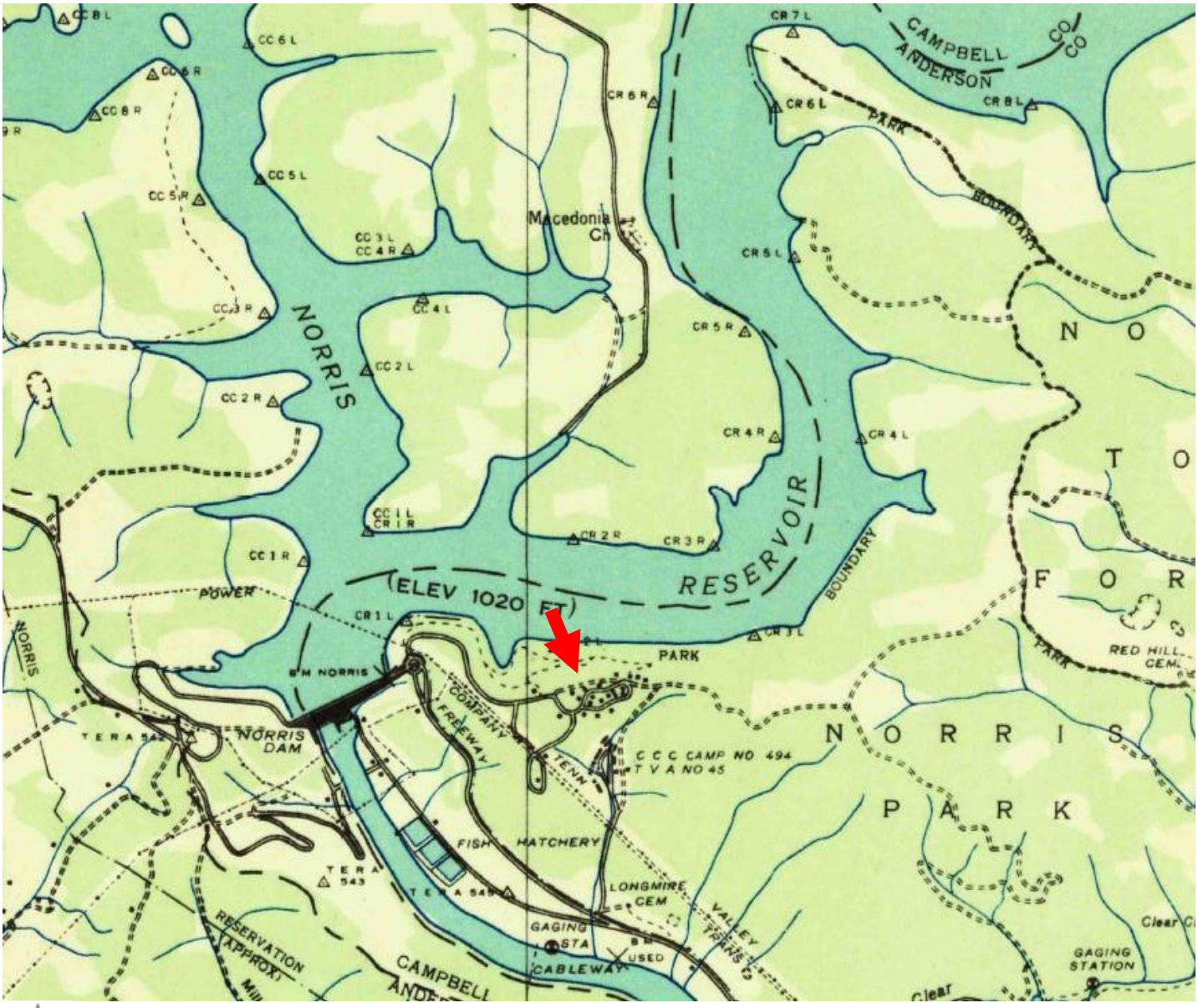


Figure 28: 1936 USGS Topographic Map, arrow shows the area of Norris Park. Note the cabins shown on the map, and the road connecting the cabins which is the same in the district today.

Property Owner:

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name	**State of Tennessee; Department of Environment and Conservation; Robert Martineau-Commissioner**		
Street & Number	**312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, William R. Snodgrass Building, Tennessee Tower**	Telephone	
City or Town	**Nashville**	State/Zip	**TN 37243**

RESERVED
PARKING
1

4

5

VEHICLES
GRASS
7

8

11

12

13

14

15

LEFT FRONT
OFF
LEFT REAR
OFF

16

17

18

RANGER
RESIDENCE