

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name HANGING ROCK STATE PARK BATHHOUSE
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number End of SR 2015, Hanging Rock State Park n/a not for publication
city, town Danbury vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Stokes code 169 zip code 27016

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. P. [Signature] 9-4-91
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

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 the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: CCC rustic architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Stone
walls	Stone
	Weatherboard
roof	Asphalt
other	Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Hanging Rock State Park Bathhouse
Stokes County, N.C.

Hanging Rock State Park Bathhouse stands on the southeastern edge of a twelve-acre lake on a head branch of Cascade Creek in the Sauratown Mountains of Stokes County. The lake and bathhouse are located almost midway between the two principal peaks of the range, Hanging Rock to the east and Moore's Knob to the northwest. A broad, sandy beach stretches between the bathhouse and the lake. Otherwise the setting is one of dense woodland all around the shore of the lake. The building and its setting embody the ideals of park design that emphasized harmony with the natural landscape through sensitive siting and the use of native building materials and rustic architectural forms.

The central core of the two-story building is a long rectangular gable-roof structure almost 100 feet in length on a southwest-northeast axis. Slightly lower gabled extensions of 20 feet and 30 feet on the southwest and northeast gable ends give the whole structure a total length of over 150 feet. The walls of the first level of the central core and the two flanking wings are of random course ashlar stone construction. A two-story gabled projection, also of stone, is slightly off-center of the core structure on the lakeside (front) elevation. Smaller gabled projections of stone also intersect the front and rear elevations of the northeast wing. An uncovered deck with a concrete floor, itself almost as deep as the sheltered portion of the building (20 feet) adjoins the central core structure at the second level along the full length of the southeast (rear) elevation. The deck is reached by stairs at either end, and a ramp leads downward to the southeast entrance to the first level under the deck.

The second floor of the central core is open on the two long sides, supported by heavy vertical timber posts with shaped brackets. This creates a broad, semi-enclosed and sheltered pavilion adjacent to the open deck on the southeast. Perhaps the most dramatic feature of the building is the broad, open scissors truss that supports the roof structure of the pavilion. The original wood shingles of the roof were replaced by the 1950s with asphalt shingles, and a second generation of new asphalt shingles now protects the structure.

Large, square window openings pierce the structure irregularly. Most have heavy stone lintels and flat arches and six-over-six sash windows, though windows with segmentally arched heads and wooden shutters with strap hinges are also present. The exterior doors are of paneled wood construction. The main door to the lower level on the southeast side below the deck is a folding four-leaf, heavy wooden door with cross braces.

The first floor level includes the area under the open deck as well as the roofed portions of the building. The men's dressing area is on the northeast, the women's area on the southwest, with a large basket check area in the

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center. Visitors enter through the wide folding door on the southeast, take a basket at the main counter beyond the door, dress for swimming in the respective dressing areas, and check belongings before exiting to the lake through doors on the lakeside elevation. The dressing and basket check areas have been upgraded and modernized over the years, though original features remain, including exposed stone walls in some areas and many of the original private wooden dressing booths in the women's dressing area.

The second level also continues in its original function as a sheltered pavilion for park visitors. A large stone fireplace is at the southeast end where the central core joins the southeast wing. The second level of the southwest wing is a storage area; that of the northeast wing houses restrooms.

Associated features/resource count:

Hanging Rock Lake and Shoreline (site). Contributing. The twelve-acre lake created by the construction in 1938 of the dam on Cascade Creek (below) and its wooded shoreline 175 feet back from the high-water level of the lake total twenty-four acres. A broad sandy beach of about 400 feet in width stretches between the bathhouse and the lake. This historic setting is integral to the historic character and function of the bathhouse.

Hanging Rock Lake Dam (structure). Contributing. Completed 1938. Concrete structure with stone trim, 40 feet high, 27 feet wide at the base, and 194 feet long at the top, with a 40 foot spillway. The structure was erected by CCC crews to dam one of the head branches of Cascade Creek, creating the lake.

Diving Platform (structure). Non-contributing. Simple rectangular concrete platform in lake for diving. Though the CCC is known to have constructed a diving platform in 1939 and the present structure may rest on the original pilings, the present structure is a complete reworking of the original diving platform dating from the 1960s and is non-contributing because of its age.

Boathouse (building). Non-contributing. Gable roof frame structure with stone ends, approximately 25 feet by 30 feet, located north of the bathhouse on the edge of the lake. An engaged porch shelters the boat slips on the northeast side. Constructed in the early 1950s, the building is not intrusive but is non-contributing because of its age.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Entertainment and Recreation

Period of Significance

1939-1941

Significant Dates

1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ormand, Robert S.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The Hanging Rock State Park Bathhouse is the largest and most distinctive facility constructed in North Carolina by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The building was designed by federal architect Robert S. Ormand to accommodate as many as 1,000 visitors daily to Hanging Rock State Park, established in 1936. The bathhouse is composed of random course ashlar masonry and heavy timber, and was completed in 1939. The building is eligible for the National Register under criterion C for architecture at a statewide level of significance as the most prominent example of CCC-constructed "rustic" park facilities in North Carolina. Included with the nomination are the adjacent twelve-acre Hanging Rock Lake and its concrete and stone dam, which were built concurrently with the bathhouse. Together with the bathhouse, these facilities are eligible under criterion A for social history for their associations with the CCC program in North Carolina, where sixty-six CCC camps operated during the Great Depression, nine of which were involved in park projects. The facilities are also eligible under criterion A in the area of entertainment and recreation for their associations with the early development of Hanging Rock State Park in the Sauratown Mountains of Stokes County, one of the most popular parks in the North Carolina state park system. Recently rehabilitated by the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, the facility continues in use in its original function.

See continuation sheet

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Historical Background

Social History Context: The CCC in North Carolina, 1932-1942

Entertainment and Recreation Context: The Development of Hanging Rock State Park, 1936-1941

Hanging Rock State Park is located in Stokes County, North Carolina, in the small but scenic Sauratown Mountain range. The picturesque park, called by one observer "a virtual mountain paradise, with its streams, lake, pineneedle trails, and recreational facilities," has long been one of the most visited parks in the state park system. It is especially popular with visitors from the Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and High Point metropolitan regions.¹

The Hanging Rock area was the site of several popular medicinal spring resorts from shortly after the Civil War until the early twentieth century. The area was also heavily logged in the early twentieth century. The United States Forest Service considered the area for a National Forest in the early 1930s but lacked the funds to acquire the property. It was eventually purchased by a philanthropic organization, the Winston-Salem Foundation, and deeded to the state for a state park in April of 1936 by a spinoff organization, the Stokes County Committee for Hanging Rock State Park.²

North Carolina was still putting together its state park system in the 1930s. There were three main criteria for inclusion in the system during this period: natural beauty or interest, recreational possibilities, and geographical proximity to population centers.³ Hanging Rock definitely met the first and third qualifications and state officials had ambitious plans to make the second a reality. At Hanging Rock "it will be possible to enjoy such types

1. "Hanging Rock State Park," The State, XII (July 15, 1944), 3, hereinafter cited as The State, July, 15, 1944.

2. Jim Sumner, "Hanging Rock State Park, Stokes County," Unpublished Report, Research Branch, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1984, 4-5; "Hanging Rock State Park Master Plan," Unpublished Report, North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, Division of Parks and Recreation, 1981, 23-24. North Carolina's first state park was established at Mount Mitchell in 1915. However, by the beginning of the 1930s little work had been done developing a statewide system.

3. Sixteenth Biennial Report of the Department of Conservation and Development of the State of North Carolina, 1934-1936 (Raleigh: Department of Conservation and Development, 1936), 54, hereinafter cited as Biennial Report, with appropriate year.

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of active recreation as swimming, camping, picnicking, hiking, horseback riding and the like. . . . Provisions for nature study will be made. It will be possible simply to enjoy passively the beauties of nature."⁴

Given the economic realities of the Great Depression, the state would likely have been unable to implement these plans without the efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a federal agency established during the earliest days of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. The CCC was designed to provide employment for unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 25 (later expanded to 17 through 28). These men were housed in camps and used for "conservation, restoration and protection of the forests, in soil erosion and flood control, in the development of public parks, recreational and historical areas, in wild life conservation, and in the performance of other useful public works."⁵ Thus the CCC was both a relief agency and an environmental agency. It was disbanded in 1942, when United States involvement in World War II increased the need for military manpower.

At the end of 1935 there were 66 CCC camps in operation in North Carolina. Of that number, 28 were assigned to forest protection and preservation, 22 to soil erosion control, 9 to various park projects, 3 to military reservations, 3 to Tennessee Valley Authority projects, and 1 to wild life conservation.⁶

The CCC was involved significantly in putting together several North Carolina state parks during its decade of existence. Camp personnel built roads, constructed water supply systems, reduced fire hazards, and performed other duties at Fort Macon State Park, Mount Mitchell State Park, and Morrow Mountain State Park, among others.⁷ At no state park was its presence more noticeable, however, than Hanging Rock State Park.

The first contingent of CCC workers arrived at Hanging Rock on July 2, 1935, under the supervision of Frank Shore. They immediately began building a telephone line, grading an entrance road, and crushing rock for road surfacing.⁸

4. Biennial Report, 1934-1936, p.55.

5. J.S. Kirk, Walter A. Cutter, and Thomas W. Morse (eds.), Emergency Relief in North Carolina (Raleigh: Emergency Relief Administration, 1936), 359. The best overall history of the CCC is John A. Salmond, The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study (Durham: Duke University Press, 1967).

6. Kirk and others (eds.), Emergency Relief in North Carolina, 32.

7. Biennial Report, 1934-1936, pp. 55-59; Biennial Report, 1936-1938, pp. 66-74; Biennial Report, 1938-1940, pp. 59-69; Biennial Report, 1940-1942, pp. 62-73; Carl Goerch, "Morrow Mountain," The State, VII (March 30, 1940), 1-3.

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Efforts intensified the following year when the state formally acquired title to the property. By the summer of 1938 the CCC, now expanded into a full camp, had completed two dams: a concrete dam 27 feet wide at the base, 40 feet high, 194 feet long, with a 40 foot spillway and an earthen dam, measuring 360 feet long, and 18 feet high. Both dams were built entirely by the CCC without "employing a single skilled workman or any other outside help."⁹ The dams impounded enough water for the establishment of a 12 acre recreational lake.

Progress was also made on a huge stone and timber bathhouse, which was designed by federal architect Robert S. Ormand and completed in 1939. The mammoth structure was designed to provide facilities for up to 1,000 swimmers. Also constructed near the bathhouse during this period were a diving tower, a sand beach, a protected water area, and water system to serve the building. Picnic areas, trails, bridle paths, and a 350 car parking lot were also constructed by the early 1940s.¹⁰

The lake and bathhouse were the cornerstones of Hanging Rock's recreational programs. A 1944 description of the bathhouse illustrates its impressive stature:

On the shore of this lake is one of the finest built and equipped bathhouses in all the Carolinas. Adequate checking facilities, dressing rooms, showers, hot water system, foot baths, first aid room with supplies -- all of these are on the lower level. Above is a large open floor, open on all four sides, with an enormous fireplace at one end and offices on the other. Back of the fireplace is a large observation open air terrace all of which overlooks the lake and the surrounding mountains."¹¹

Despite the completion of these facilities, Hanging Rock State Park was underutilized until after World War II. The departure of CCC crews in early 1942 brought construction activities to a virtual standstill. A major problem during this period was poor vehicular access. The main road into the park was "dangerous, narrow, and passes through private property." Most visitors were

8. Biennial Report, 1934-1936, pp. 57-58.

9. Biennial Report, 1936-1938, pp. 71-73.

10. Biennial Report, 1938-1940, pp. 64-66; "Master Plan for Hanging Rock State Park," 24-26; "The Sauratown Mountains," The State, VII (May 18, 1940), 3-4.

11. The State, July 15, 1944.

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hikers or organized picnic groups. Despite the poor access, the park was formally dedicated on July 21, 1944. A better road was built in 1948, leading to an increase in park visitors. Since that time additional land has been acquired, and additional facilities have been built, including rental cabins, campgrounds, and a boathouse. The bathhouse was enlarged slightly in 1954. Hanging Rock State Park currently encompasses approximately 6,000 acres.¹²

Contemporary observers and historians alike agree that without the CCC, little would have been done on behalf of state parks during the Great Depression. One state report during this period asserted that "Most of the work accomplished in the State Parks has been done through Civilian Conservation Corps Camps . . ." while another lamented that "The State's participation . . . has been small."¹³ Hanging Rock State Park Bathhouse, along with its associated dam and lake, well reflect this involvement.

Architectural Context: The Rustic Architecture of the CCC in North Carolina, 1932-1941

A systematic survey of architecture surviving from the era of the CCC in North Carolina has not been undertaken. However, the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation has completed a statewide facilities inventory, which includes most of the surviving CCC related structures known to exist in the state, and enough is known about facilities erected by the CCC to establish a statewide level of architectural significance for the Hanging Rock State Park Bathhouse.¹⁴

Relatively few buildings erected by the CCC were intended to be permanent, and thus few have survived into the late twentieth century. The great majority of

12. "Master Plan for Hanging Rock State Park," 25-26; John R. Woodward (ed.), The Heritage of Stokes County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1981), 148-150; Greensboro Daily News, May 25, 1958; The State, July 15, 1944; Sumner, "Hanging Rock State Park, 9-10.

13. Biennial Report, 1936-1938, pp. 67-68; Biennial Report, 1938-1940, p. 59. One historian has written that "One might legitimately ask whether any of these developments [the development of the park system] would have occurred as soon as they did without the depression." Alexander R. Stoesen, "From Ordeal to New Deal: North Carolina in the Great Depression," in Lindley S. Butler and Alan D. Watson (eds.), The North Carolina Experience: An Interpretive and Documentary History (Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press, 1984), 388.

14. The Division of Parks and Recreation maintains files with photographs and

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CCC camps were involved in forest management, soil erosion control, and similar conservation projects, and camp facilities were impermanent and removed as projects were completed. Nine CCC camps in North Carolina are known to have been assigned to various park projects, and in these cases some permanent facilities were built to serve public visitors to the parks. The most extensive collections of CCC related buildings are found at Hanging Rock State Park (Stokes County), Morrow Mountain State Park (Stanly County), and William B. Umstead State Park (Wake County).

State park projects assisted by federal programs during the Depression promoted high standards in landscape and architectural design. In the tradition of Frederick Law Olmstead, who planned the nation's first state park (Yosemite State Park in California) in 1865, park designers sought to work within the constraints of natural topographical and landscape features. Park architects emphasized the sympathetic use of local stone and timber in rustic buildings that would harmonize with the natural setting and encourage relaxed, informal use by the visiting public. By 1935, the National Park Service had advanced many of these principles in its Park Structures and Facilities Guide.¹⁵

Most of the CCC-constructed park facilities in North Carolina are small, rustic, unpainted wooden frame structures such as semi-enclosed picnic shelters with open fireplaces, small lodges and bunkhouses, comfort stations, and other recreational structures. Native stone foundations and chimneys were frequently used in conjunction with the unfinished wood. Most were erected to simple standardized plans.

The Hanging Rock State Park Bathhouse is unique among these structures for its size and the quality of its finish. It was designed by Robert S. Ormand (1903-1963), a native of Gaston County, N.C., and a 1931 graduate of N.C. State College in Raleigh. During the Depression Ormand worked for the National Park Service, and it was in this capacity that he designed the bathhouse. He later was a partner in the firm of Vaughan and Ormand in Shelby, N.C., and is known to have designed buildings for the campus of Gaston College in Gaston County and to have worked on a number of public school projects in the state.¹⁶

descriptive notes of all structures in the state-owned park system.

15. Donna Dodenhoff, "Morrow Mountain State Park," Unpublished Survey Report, files of the Stanly County Historic Properties Survey, Stanly County Historic Properties Commission, Albemarle, N.C., 1990, n.p.

16. Michael T. Southern telephone interview with Henry Ormand, brother of Robert S. Ormand, August 26, 1991.

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The Hanging Rock State Park Bathhouse is the largest and grandest example of CCC construction in North Carolina. The rustic stone and heavy timber building was designed to complement the wooded mountain setting of the park, and it is the most dramatic embodiment of the mission and contributions of the CCC in the state. It has recently been sensitively rehabilitated by the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 24

UTM References

A

1	7	5	6	5	4	7	0	4	0	2	7	5	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	7	5	6	5	7	1	0	4	0	2	7	5	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	7	5	6	5	6	4	0	4	0	2	7	1	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	7	5	6	5	2	8	0	4	0	2	7	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area includes the 12 acre Hanging Rock Lake and 12 acres of surrounding land defined by a line running 175 feet from the highwater edge of the lake on all sides.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area incorporates the Bathhouse and its immediate historic setting of lake and surrounding woodland essential to its historic function and character, including the dam that forms the lake.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jim Sumner and Michael Southern, Staff
organization N.C. Historic Preservation Office date August 30, 1991
street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone 919/733-6545
city or town Raleigh state N.C. zip code 27601-2807

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Goerch, Carl. "Morrow Mountain." The State, VII March 30, 1940.

Greensboro Daily News, May 25, 1958.

"Hanging Rock State Park." The State, XII July 15, 1944.

"Hanging Rock State Park Master Plan." Unpublished Report, North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, Division of Parks and Recreation, 1981.

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Salmond, John A. The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study. Durham: Duke University Press, 1967.

"Sauratown Mountains, The." The State, VII, May 18, 1940.

Southern, Michael T. , telephone interview with Henry Ormand of Bessemer City, N.C., brother of architect Robert S. Ormand, August 26, 1991. Interview notes in Hanging Rock State Park Bathhouse file, Survey and Planning Branch.

Sumner, Jim. "Hanging Rock State Park, Stokes County," Unpublished Report, Research Branch, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1984.

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Woodward, John R. (ed.). The Heritage of Stokes County, North Carolina.
Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1981.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Hanging Rock State Park Bathhouse
Danbury vicinity, Stokes County, North Carolina

All photographs taken by Michael T. Southern
Photo date: March 5, 1991

Accessioned at the Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department
of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina

Photo 1: Negative # N.91.3.357. Overall view looking east.

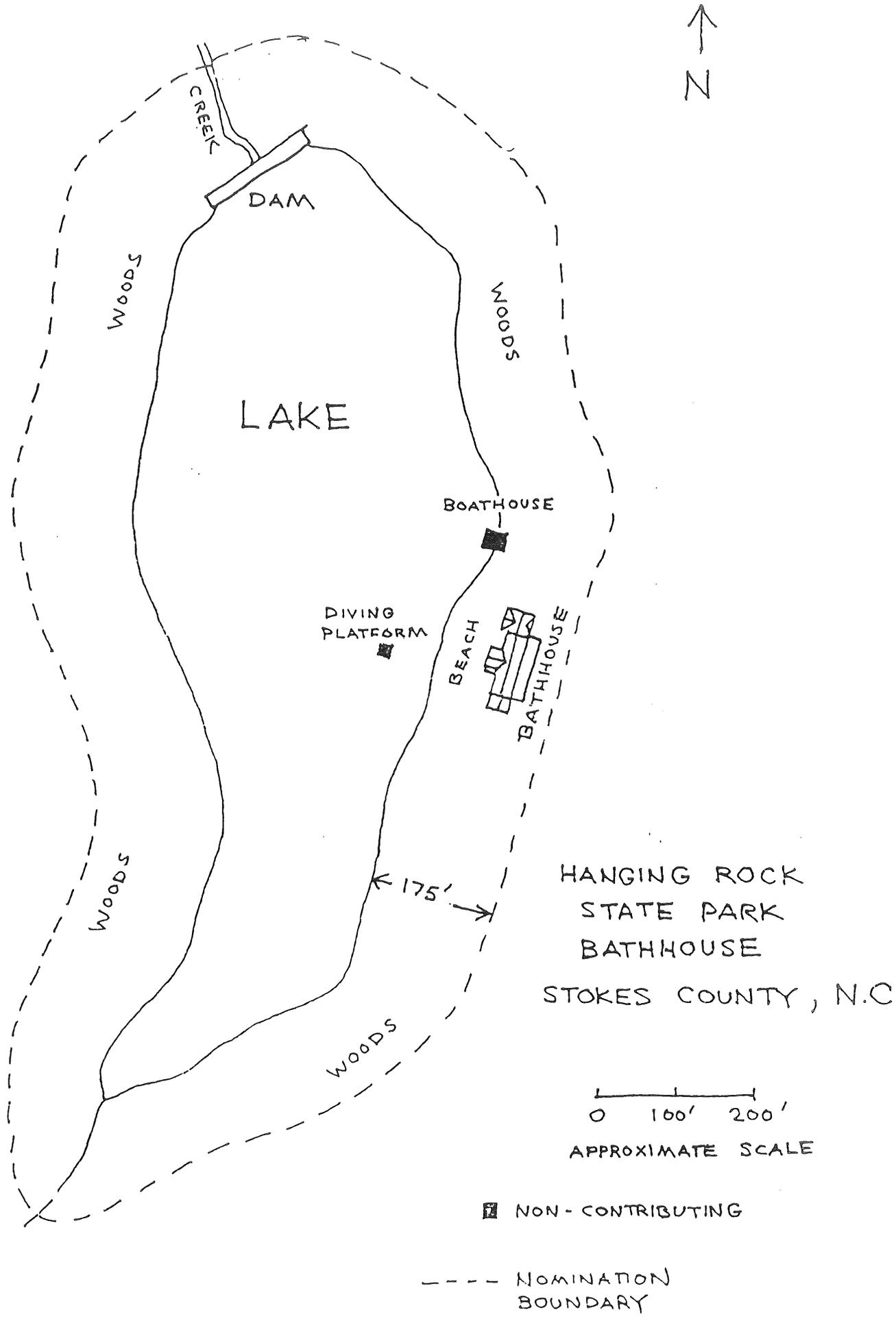
Photo 2: Negative # N.91.3.335. Distant view looking south from north side of
lake at dam.

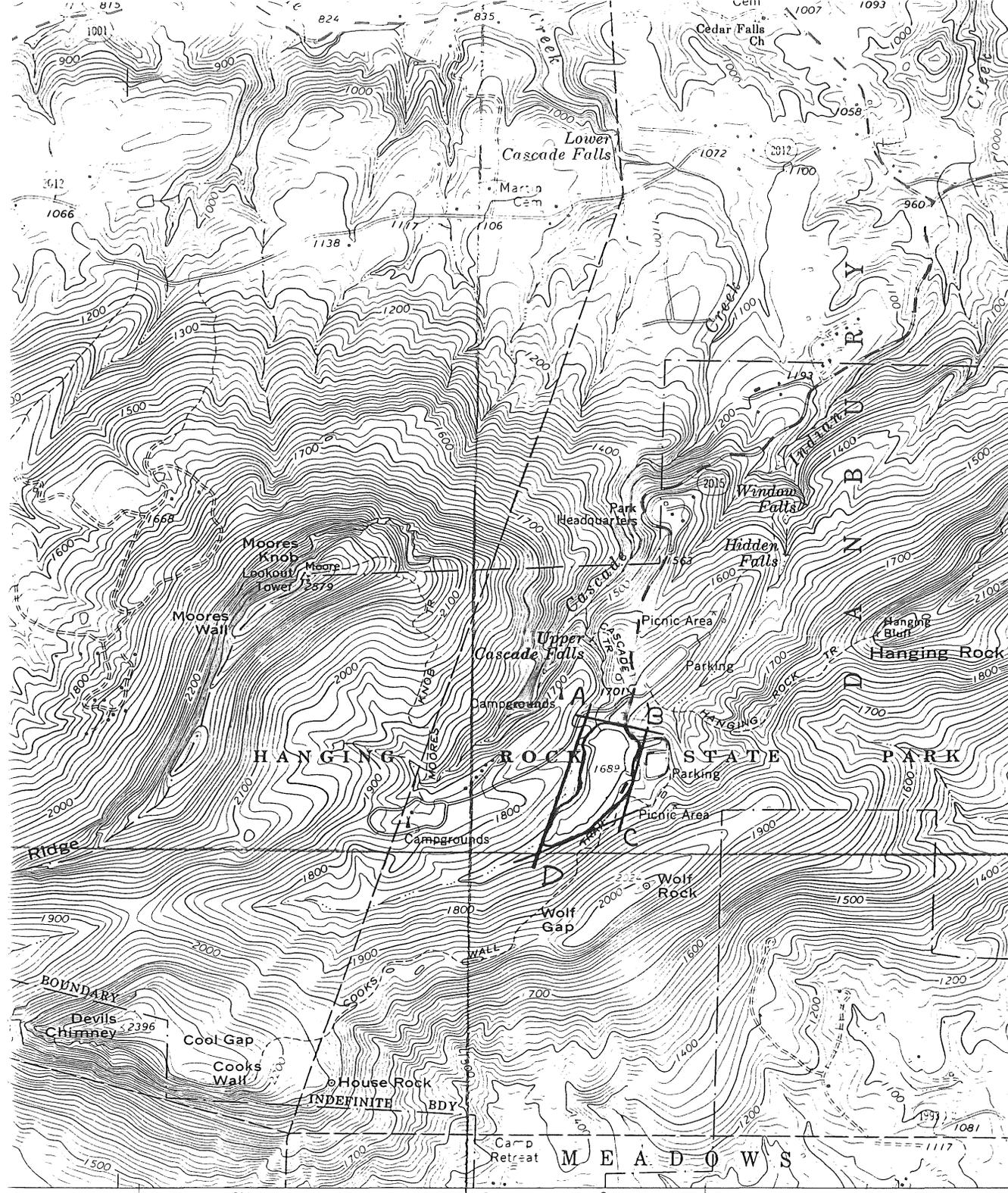
Photo 3: Negative # N.91.3.372. View of southwest gable end, looking north-
east.

Photo 4: Negative # N.91.3.369. Window detail showing stone lintels and
arches, wood shutters, and strap hinges.

Photo 5: Negative # N.91.3.377. Upper level pavilion interior showing scissors
truss.

Photo 6: Negative # N.91.3.360. Concrete diving platform in lake, looking
north.





HANGING ROCK
STATE PARK
BATHHOUSE
HANGING ROCK QU
STOKES CO., N.C.
ZONE 17

- A: N 4027570
E 565470
- B: N 4027510
E 565710
- C: N 4027150
E 565640
- D: N 4027000
E 565280

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty Light-duty

Unimproved dirt

State Route



HANGING ROCK, N. C.
N3622.5—W8015/7.5

1964
PHOTOREVISED 1971
AMS 4956 IV NE—SERIES V842

(WALNUT COVE)
4956 1 SW

