

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Upton State Forest – Civilian Conservation Corps Resources Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 205 Westborough Road not for publication
city or town Upton vicinity
state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01568

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local
Brona Simon August 14, 2014
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO Date
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 or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

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:) _____
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	-	buildings
1	-	sites
24	1	structures
-	1	objects
28	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

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: Rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Fieldstone

walls: Wood shingles and clapboards

roof: Asphalt shingles

other: _____

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7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Portions redacted

Upton State Forest in Upton, Massachusetts was established in 1935 as part of the Massachusetts state forest and park system. Between 1935 and 1938, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) made forestry and recreational improvements at the forest. This nomination includes two contiguous areas constructed by the CCC in Upton State Forest: the **CCC Camp Area** and the **Park Road Area**, which both contain well-preserved examples of CCC work characterized by its rustic style and use of local materials. The CCC camp is one of the few surviving examples of this resource type in New England. The Park Road area is a good example of CCC road construction and associated recreational features, such as trails and picnic areas as well as Dean Pond and its dam. Three water holes that were built for fire protection are also included in the nomination.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The town of Upton is located in Worcester County in south-central Massachusetts. The nearest city is Worcester, 15 miles to the northwest. Upton is a rapidly growing rural community of 21.7 square miles, with a population of 7,542 in 2010. The compact village center is surrounded by wooded areas and suburban development. Upton State Forest consists of 2,660 acres of wooded upland with some areas of swamp, and includes multiple parcels of land in Upton and the surrounding communities. The main section of the state forest (where the resources included in this nomination are located) is north of the Upton town center, along Westborough Road near the intersection with Southborough Road. The area includes a network of roads and trails, most built or improved by the CCC. There are also CCC forestry plantations, particularly near Dean Pond. This nomination, which includes 89 acres of the state forest (Map 1), contains the most historically significant CCC resources at Upton State Forest, which are concentrated in two contiguous areas: the CCC Camp Area and the Park Road Area, described below.

Extant CCC buildings, structures, and features within these two areas of Upton State Forest are described in the pages that follow and enumerated on the district data sheet. The general location of all features (#1-19) within the proposed district is shown on Map 1. The features in the CCC camp area (#1-13) in the northern part of the proposed district are shown in more detail on Map 2. Historic Maps 3 and 4 are 1935 plans that show the proposed layout of the camp.

CCC Camp

General Description

The CCC camps built throughout the United States in the 1930s were utilitarian areas, laid out in accordance with federal guidelines based on the design of US Army camps. The camps, which usually housed about 200 enrollees, had common elements such as camp headquarters, barracks, mess hall, recreation hall, supply building, infirmary, and washroom, laid out around a parade ground. Most camps also included maintenance facilities, such as garages and workshops, which were located adjacent to the main camp area. The buildings were simple and rustic with minimal finishes, since they were usually built as temporary structures. The Upton CCC camp was typical in its layout, with a residential area consisting of staff and officers' quarters, mess hall, infirmary, and washrooms, all arranged around the central parade ground. Most of the buildings were similar in their construction. After the CCC camp closed in 1938, use of the camp buildings changed frequently over time, but they were mostly occupied by state agencies.

The Upton CCC camp, with a core area of about five acres, is located off Westborough Road just south of the main park entrance road, which was initially part of Park Road but is now called CCC Way. The Upton CCC camp is arranged around a rectangular central **parade ground**, which is roughly 120 by 160 feet and serves as the focal point of the camp. While many of the camp buildings have been lost, this central grassy space remains intact and is a defining feature that contributes significantly to an understanding of the camp area.

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The landscape treatment for the parade ground, as shown on the 1935 CCC plans and in historic photographs (Historic Photo 1), included a central flagpole with low plantings around it, a path running roughly east/west across the parade ground, and low plantings and a border of small stones to define the corners of the space. The small stones at the corners still exist.

The parade ground is surrounded by the **CCC camp road system** (Map 2, Historic Map #4), which consists of the camp road and parking lot. The road enters the camp from the northwest and then loops around the perimeter of the parade ground, reinforcing the importance of this central space. A secondary drive leads to a small parking lot, southeast of the camp headquarters. The camp road, which is about twelve feet wide, was initially gravel surfaced, but is now paved with bituminous and has been widened in front of the headquarters to form a parking area. The 1935 plans of the camp show a network of unpaved paths, which no longer exist. There is one extant path, leading east through the former gravel pit and maintenance area to the Park Road parking lot. (Note: while the road in the CCC camp is paved, other roads within the nominated area are all gravel surfaced.)

Other landscape features also contribute to the character of the CCC camp. The gently sloping topography, which is lowest at the camp entrance and rises gently to the south, reinforces the spatial organization of the camp and highlights the importance of the headquarters (also called the main lodge or administration building), which is located at the highest elevation in the camp. Subtle topographic modifications are also visible in the landscape, particularly between the camp buildings, where the topography was altered, revealing the location of missing buildings.

Vegetation also plays a part in defining the character of the camp. The camp area was cleared in the 1930s to create a much more open landscape than exists today. The area surrounding the camp and part of the camp itself are now forested, leaving the core of the camp as a clearing in the woods. Plantings made by the CCC help to define the location of the former camp buildings. In the 1930s, small northern white cedar and Sawara cypress trees acquired from a local nursery were planted around each building. While most of the buildings have been demolished, the mature cypress trees, an ornamental evergreen species not usually found in a state forest, mark the locations of the former buildings along the eastern and northern edges of the parade ground, and are considered witness trees. There are also other remnant plantings of ornamental trees and shrubs throughout the camp; some were introduced by the CCC, and others by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife in the 1950s.

Buildings and Structures

(Note: names used to identify buildings are generally the historic names from the CCC period. Later names are used where the original function cannot be confirmed.)

The 1935 layout plans for the CCC camp (Historic Maps 3 & 4) show nine wooden buildings arranged around the parade ground, with the headquarters at the southern end of the camp, seven long narrow buildings arranged around the other three sides, and a smaller infirmary located to the east of the headquarters a short distance from the parade ground. Only two of these buildings survive, the headquarters and the infirmary, now known as the cottage. The foundations of some of the other buildings are still evident.

Prominently sited at the southern end and the highest elevation of the CCC camp, the **headquarters** (Photo 1) housed the foremen and supervisors of the camp. The headquarters was built as a T-shaped, one-story, wood-frame vernacular building roughly 120 feet long and 20 feet wide along its southern edge, with a projecting north bay about 30 feet long and 20 feet wide. The main wings of the building are each three bays wide and have gable roofs along their main axes. The main entrance is at the projecting north bay, which is spanned by a single-story, pent-roofed porch. A small addition at the back (south side) of the building away from the parade ground, which houses mechanical systems, was constructed in the 1980s.

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The headquarters building retains its basic form but some exterior details have been altered, and some of the interior spaces have been subdivided. The original siding in 1930s photos was tarpaper, typical for CCC buildings, which were erected quickly and intended to be temporary. The present siding for the headquarters is wood clapboards, which probably date to the 1950s. The current windows include original six-pane, fixed- glass wooden windows, as well as vinyl replacement windows. Roofing material is asphalt shingle, similar to what would have been used originally. The foundation has been modified over time, and currently includes concrete-block piers with a variety of facing materials around the perimeter.

The north wing parallels the parade ground; it served as the camp office and supervisors' common room, which is dominated by a large fieldstone fireplace shared by Army and state forestry personnel, who jointly oversaw the camp. The east and west wings housed the sleeping quarters of the supervisors, segregated by agency, with the state staff on the west side and the Army personnel on the east side. The administrative duality of the camp is also reflected in the fact that the north wing has two separate entrances to the common room, which faces the parade ground. The two exterior doors off of the common room on the north side are original and have original hardware.

The other extant building is the **infirmary** (Photo 2, Map 2 #4), also known as the cottage. Unlike the other buildings, which were all arranged around the parade ground, the infirmary was set slightly apart from the rest of the camp to the east of the headquarters, perhaps to reduce the risk of infection. It is also considerably smaller than the other buildings—the scale of a single-family residence, rather than a large barracks building. The infirmary was moved slightly to the north of its original location around the 1950s and was occupied as a staff residence from roughly 1956, when the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources (successor agency to the Department of Conservation) assumed stewardship of the camp, until 2005.

The infirmary is a one-bay wide single story building. It was originally covered with tarpaper, but now has wood shingle siding. The main section is roughly 20 x 50 feet and has a gable roof with asphalt shingles. It has an enclosed porch along the north side, and a smaller shed-roofed entry vestibule on the south side, which was probably added after the building was moved. The building was expanded to its present size in the 1960s. The infirmary is supported on exterior concrete foundation walls around a new full-height basement, erected when it was moved. There is a concrete-block chimney on the south side.

In addition to the extant buildings, there are several foundations that help to convey the scale and spatial organization of the CCC camp. These were one-story, single-bay, gable-roof, wood-frame buildings that were typically 120 x 20 feet. They were utilitarian, and originally had tarpaper siding and asphalt-shingle roofs. Since the CCC camp closed in 1938, the buildings have had multiple uses as staff residences, office and lab space, horse stables, and storage because the camp has been used by many state departments and other public agencies in the 80 years since the CCC camp was built.

The north barn, located at the northwest corner of the parade ground, was shown on the 1935 plan of the CCC camp as a washroom, but oral history from former CCC enrollees collected by the Friends of Upton State Forest indicates that it was used as the supply building. (Note: plans for CCC camps were drawn in a central design office, and actual use did not always coincide with the use indicated on the plans.) The north barn was extant until 2011, when heavy snow caused it to partially collapse. The structure was subsequently removed because it had become a safety hazard, so only the **north barn foundation** (Map 2, #5) remains. Because of its long history, the north barn is better documented than some of the other buildings at the CCC camp. Until recently it played an important role in conveying the scale and detail of a typical CCC building.

The building that was parallel to, and immediately south of, the north barn is generally referred to as the south barn, in recognition of its post-CCC use. It was shown on the 1935 plan as the mess hall, but oral history reports indicate that it was used as the restroom for the camp. It collapsed in 2003, and only the **south barn foundation** (Map 2, #6) remains. It consists of a concrete pad on the eastern end of the former building, which is presently used as a picnic area. There is also a section of low fieldstone retaining wall to the north of the concrete slab that appears to have been built to create level areas on the sloping site.

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A second, much smaller, dry-laid **fieldstone foundation** (Map 2, #7), about one foot tall and about 60 feet long, is located near the infirmary. This may mark the original location of the infirmary or possibly some later site modification, such as the perimeter of a 1950s garden that was located in the vicinity.

The watertower that was part of the original camp construction appears just east of the headquarters on the 1935 plan for the CCC camp. All that remains is the **pumphouse foundation** (Map 2, #8), a concrete foundation, roughly six feet square and about twelve feet tall, covered with asphalt roofing paper. For many years the pumphouse had a wooden, peaked roof about 24 feet tall that was replaced by the present flat asphalt roof ca. 2008. The well is now decommissioned, but the piping remains under the roof. An elevated watertower, no longer extant, appeared in photographs from the 1930s. Adjacent to the pumphouse foundation are four concrete footings set in a square configuration that are probably the **watertower foundation** (Map 2, #8), which also includes a small-gauge vertical pipe in the center of the square.

The **shed** (Map 2, #9) is located in the southeastern corner of the CCC camp, east of the headquarters. It is a 1½-story, gabled-roof building of recycled lumber from demolished CCC buildings; it is roughly twenty feet square and was built in the 1960s as a stable for the caretaker's horses. It is supported on concrete blocks and has an earthen floor, a mix of wood-shingle and clapboard siding, and an asphalt-shingle roof. Openings include two extra-wide doors for use by horses. There are several window openings, but no extant windows. Built long after the CCC period from recycled CCC materials, the shed demonstrates the continued recreational use of resources within the district's boundaries.

Noncontributing Resources in CCC Camp

Historically, there was flagpoles located in all CCC camps. The 1935 plan of the Upton CCC camp and photos taken during the CCC era show the flagpole located in the center of the parade ground. The present aluminum **flagpole** (Map 2, #10) northeast of the camp headquarters was erected in 2008 by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Friends of Upton State Forest. The location was chosen based on photographs from the post-CCC era.

A feature of unknown origin is a **loading dock** (Map 2, #11) made of earth-filled cribbing that is located along CCC Way, near the entrance to the CCC camp. This feature does not appear on plans for the CCC camp or photos of the area from the 1950s, and most likely postdates the period of significance.

Park Road Area

The second area included in this nomination is the Park Road area, which includes CCC recreational and forestry features between the forest entrance and Dean Pond (see Map 1). These recreation roads and the adjacent CCC features are collectively called the Park Road area for the purpose of this nomination. Many of the roads in Massachusetts state forests and parks were built or improved by the CCC in the 1930s. There were two main types of roads: forest roads, which were primarily for forestry and firefighting, and recreation roads, which were for public recreational use. The recreation road system was one of the most important CCC projects at Upton State Forest, described in the 1936 Department of Conservation's Annual Report as "the main artery through the forest and its recreational centers." The recreational roads were designed as a scenic loop drive that extended from the forest entrance south to Dean Pond, the major attraction at the forest.

Park Roads

The **Park Road area** (Map 1, #14) includes five road segments: the entrance road (originally the northern part of Park Road, now called CCC Way); Park Road from CCC Way south to Dean Pond Road; Dean Pond Road from Park Road to the Dean Pond beach area; and Loop Road, extending north from Dean Pond back to the park entrance. Also included in the Park Road recreation loop are the section of Loop Road that extends northeast from the Dean Pond beach area to

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Bridge Road, and the short section of Bridge Road from Dean Pond to the third waterhole. (Note: all of the road segments described above are counted collectively as a single structure. The CCC camp road, which is separate from the main park road system, is included in the description of the CCC camp area.)

CCC Way is a roughly ¼-mile section of recreation road that extends east from the corner of Westborough Road to the intersection of Park and Loop roads. It was one of the earliest projects of the CCC at Upton State Forest. Due to its prominent location at the entrance to the state forest and the CCC camp, it received special design attention, with well-built drainage structures of local stone, ornamental plantings (remnants of which still remain), and careful attention to views from the road.

The northern part of Park Road (Photo 3), which runs generally north/south, is close to a mile long and extends from CCC Way south to Dean Pond Road. It is closed to vehicular traffic but is heavily used by pedestrians, equestrians, and cyclists. It is a typical CCC park recreation road, built of heavy-duty construction with a solid stone base and gravel surface. It was described in the 1936 Department of Conservation Annual Report as “a high type gravel road, 16 feet wide . . . with shoulders and gutters which conform to the adjacent terrain . . . The road traverses beautiful, hilly country affording vistas of exceptional beauty and is constructed in accordance with the best engineering practices as to alignment and grades.” It was also the site of many of the forest’s recreation features such as vistas, picnic areas, and trails. The forest abutting this section of road has become overgrown, with the loss of the scenic vistas that existed in the 1930s. The southern part of Park Road, which is not part of the main recreational loop and which was built by the CCC a few years later, is not included in this nomination.

Dean Pond Road, which is also part of the recreational road system, extends from Park Road southeast to the Dean Pond beach area. It is about a quarter-mile long and the road construction is similar in character to Park Road, although some of the slopes are steeper so the road has become rougher over time. The short section of Loop Road that extends north from Dean Pond to the intersection with Bridge Road is included in this nomination. It is similar in character to Dean Pond Road, and is about a third of a mile long. The section of Loop Road north of Bridge Road is excluded from this nomination because it was never completed to the same level of finish as the other three segments, has become washed out in the intervening years, and no longer retains integrity. The section of Bridge Road included in this nomination extends southeast about 500 feet from Loop Road to the bridge and water hole.

Recreational Features Along Park Road System

Prior to the creation of the CCC in 1933, nearly all Massachusetts state forests were unimproved areas that saw little recreational use. A major goal of the CCC, especially the CCC camps such as Upton that were under National Park Service jurisdiction, was to make the forests attractive and to create recreational features that would encourage visitation.ⁱ The Old Knob picnic area (Map 1, #15), named for a prominent rock outcrop, was one of the major recreational destinations along Park Road. It is located at a high point about halfway along the northern part of Park Road, on a promontory that in the 1930s provided distant views of the surrounding area, which had recently been logged. The forest has since grown up, obscuring the view. The area originally included a parking lot along Park Road, which is no longer extant.

Remaining features at the picnic area include the rustic **Old Knob stone steps** (Photo 4), which lead from the road up the steep rocky hillside to the picnic area. These are built of local granite fieldstones from the site. Plans for the area show scattered **fire pits**, also built of local fieldstone. Typically, these consist of a large upright stone at the back and a lower stone on each side. Metal grates were placed over the two side stones. Six fire pits are readily evident on site today, but additional ones may exist. The presence of stone features such as the steps and fire pits is common at CCC-designed areas, as these are likely to remain long after wooden features have rotted away.

ⁱ There were two primary types of CCC camps. Those under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service included both forestry work and recreational facilities. Those under Forest Service jurisdiction focused primarily on forestry projects.

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Also found at Old Knob are two stone-lined, circular **waterholes**. These are similar to the waterholes built along the main roads for firefighting, but are smaller in size, about eight feet in diameter. These were probably part of a proposed water-supply system that was never fully implemented.

Another CCC recreation feature along Park Road was the **Whistling Cave trail** (Map 1, #16), which was known as Cave of the Winds Trail in the 1930s. It begins near the Old Knob picnic area and continues southeast for about ½ mile to Dean Pond. This is a typical example of the CCC providing access to a scenic area by developing a trail with a natural rock formation that created an enclosed tunnel. The CCC built a picnic area along the Whistling Cave Trail, which is located within the proposed NR district. Features associated with the picnic area, such as fire pits, may still exist.

The CCC impounded a number of streams to create lakes and ponds throughout the Massachusetts forest and park system. These were intended to serve multiple uses, with recreation often a primary objective, as well as fishing, flood prevention and firefighting. Construction varied from small rock dams to dams several hundred feet long with concrete cores. The lakes and ponds developed by the CCC continue to be actively used, often serving as focal areas within state forests. They vary in size, from a few acres to more than 60 acres. Many of the impoundments in Massachusetts state forests and parks are called Dean Pond or Dean Lake, in honor of Ernest Dean, who was commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation in the 1930s.

Dean Pond (Map 1, #18) was intended as the focal recreational feature of Upton State Forest. It is located a little over a mile from the CCC camp and is accessible via Park Road, the main recreation road through the forest, and Dean Pond Road. **Dean Pond dam** (Photo 5, Map 1, #18) was described in the 1938 Department of Conservation Annual Report as “an earth embankment section, with full concrete diaphragm, a height of 20 feet, a length of 200 feet and bottom width.” There are two main spillways. One, in the main section of the dam, was constructed as a cascading brook, and retains its scenic, rustic character. The other, which was built as a flood spillway, is 55 feet long, ten feet high, and “has a full gravity section of weathered masonry provided with an apron forming a stilling pool.” The dam impounds Dean Pond, which is approximately ten acres and provides an attractive recreation center for the forest. There is a sandy beach at the northern end of the pond.

Additional recreational amenities were planned for the Dean Pond area but they were never implemented, as the dam was completed in 1938 just before the Upton CCC camp was closed. Roads to the pond are closed to vehicular access, but the scenic area located at the southern end of the Park Loop Road remains a popular destination for pedestrians and horseback riders.

Forest Management and Firefighting

Forest fire reduction was another important goal of the CCC in Massachusetts. This was accomplished through forest management practices such as clearing brush, thinning the forest, and providing access for firefighting through construction of service roads. A distinctive feature of CCC forestry work was stone-lined waterholes, found throughout the state. These were typically located along forest roads adjacent to a stream so that water would always be available. They consisted of open, stone-lined chambers with adjacent truck platforms and guardrails so that trucks could back up to the waterhole and fill a tank, which could then be transported to the location of the fire.

Upton State Forest has three well-preserved CCC waterholes located along the Park Loop Road, each of which was individually designed using local stone and responding to local site conditions. **Waterhole #1** (Map 2, #12) is located just east of the CCC camp off CCC Way. It is a fieldstone-lined circular chamber, about twelve feet in diameter. Adjacent to it is a low **concrete foundation** (Map 2 #13), roughly ten feet square, with an entrance on the north side. This may have housed a pump that would have pumped water to the camp area in case of a fire.

Waterhole #2 (Map 1, #19), located along Park Road near the intersection with Dean Pond Road, is similar in construction but much larger in size than Waterhole #1. It is roughly 30 feet in diameter and, like many CCC waterholes

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in Massachusetts, is lined with fieldstone. It appears to be on the site of an old spring. The outlet is currently clogged, causing some erosion of Park Road.

Waterhole #3 (Map 1 #19, Photo 6) is located on Bridge Road northeast of Dean Pond. It is an unusual rectangular waterhole, roughly 25 by 33 feet, adjacent to a small stream with a low berm between the stream and the waterhole. It is also unusual in having extant remnants of the platform, where trucks would have backed up to pump water into a tank that could then be driven to the location of the fire. There is also a small **pedestrian bridge** (Map 1 #20) adjacent to the waterhole. The granite and fieldstone abutments of the bridge probably date to the 1930s, but the wooden decking has been replaced.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are currently known in the proposed district, sites may be present. Environmental characteristics for the district present locational criteria (slope, soil draining, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The district includes many well-drained, level to moderately sloping terraces, knolls, and other landforms in close proximity to tributary streams that ultimately flow southerly to Center and Warren brooks and the West and Blackstone rivers. Unnamed tributary streams and related wetlands are also located in the district locale. Dean Pond is located at the southern end of the district. The area lies within the Blackstone River drainage. Soil characteristics are variable in the district area from good to excessive drainage in upland locales to poor drainage and muck profiles in wetlands. Many soil types in the district are also extremely stony, an unfavorable site locational characteristic.

Given the above information, the size of the district (89 acres), limited historic landuse, and known patterns of Native settlement within the Blackstone River drainage,

A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the proposed district. Upton remained an agricultural town from its early settlement in the 18th century into the 20th century. Some settlement occurred in the southern part of town during the 17th century as part of the 1667 Mendon grant; however, no 17th-century settlement has been documented in the district locale.

Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate potential structural evidence and activities in the district throughout the 17th-through the 20th-century period.

There is also a high potential for locating significant historic archaeological resources from within the district's period of significance from 1935 to 1938. While no potential structures or archaeological sites are known from the district's history as part of the state forest immediately before the establishment of the CCC camp, the district does contain a well-preserved collection of CCC work, representing a wide range of resource types. These resource types include extant buildings, structures, and historic archaeological sites. The 1935 layout plan for the CCC camp illustrates nine wooden

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buildings arranged around a parade ground.

The location and function of buildings no longer extant is also documented by the extensive records available for the CCC camp facilities and oral traditions that sometimes contradict the written documentation and camp plans.

Each of these structures was arranged around a central grassy Parade Ground that still survives.

In the 1930s, small northern white cedar and Sawara cypress trees were planted around each building. While most of the buildings have been demolished, the mature trees, which are an ornamental evergreen species not usually found in a state forest,

Other potential historic archaeological sites and features that may survive in the district include evidence of fire pits, stairways, and other stone features and structures, evidence of water holes and other stone-lined features of water-supply systems that were never fully implemented, and evidence of maintenance facilities, such as outbuildings, including garages and workshops. Evidence of occupational-related features (trash area, privies, wells) may also survive. Many of the district's potential recreational features, including picnic areas, are located in the Park Road area.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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.
- 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

(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

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Conservation
- Recreation
- Social History
- Architecture
- Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1935 - 1964

Significant Dates

1935 Upton State Forest & CCC camp established
1938 Upton CCC camp closed

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for this nomination extends from 1935, when Upton State Forest and the Upton CCC camp were established, to 1964, the 50-year cut-off. The area included in this nomination continues to be used as a public outdoor recreation area, and remains part of the Massachusetts state forest and park system.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

SECTION 8 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) resources at Upton State Forest in Upton, Massachusetts, were built between 1935 and 1938 as part of a federal program to improve the forests and recreational facilities in national and state forests and parks throughout the country, while also providing employment opportunities for young men. The Upton CCC camp is one of the few surviving CCC camps in the northeastern United States, and the only extant CCC camp in Massachusetts. The Park Road area contains an ensemble of CCC roads, recreational facilities, and waterholes, as well as Dean Pond and its dam. These well-preserved rustic features collectively illustrate the scope and diversity of CCC work at Upton State Forest. The resources included in this nomination retain integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, design, and association, and meet National Register Criteria A and C at the local and state levels, with significance in the areas of conservation, recreation, social history, architecture, and landscape architecture.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Areas of Significance

Criterion A: Broad Patterns of History

Conservation and Recreation

While CCC features are found in state forests and parks throughout Massachusetts, Upton is fortunate to have a large and well-preserved group of resources, located in close proximity to each other, that display the full range of CCC features found in a typical state forest.

The Upton CCC camp is noteworthy because it is the only surviving example of this resource type in Massachusetts, and conveys a strong sense of the spatial organization, scale, and details of life in a CCC camp. In 1999, extant CCC camp buildings were found in only three Massachusetts state forest and park areas: Erving, Brimfield, and Upton. The Erving buildings have been heavily modified to be used for storage, and no longer retain any evidence of their original character or the spatial organization of the camp. The Brimfield buildings that existed in 1999 were destroyed in 2006 by a tornado. Thus, despite the loss of many of the buildings, the remaining features of the Upton CCC camp comprise a rare surviving resource that still conveys its significance.

The camp road system delineates the overall size and spatial organization of the CCC camp, with the parade ground at its center. The headquarters building, prominently located at the highest point of the camp, is noteworthy because it is the only extant CCC headquarters in Massachusetts, and, despite some modifications, conveys a strong sense of what camp life might have been like. The camp and headquarters are supported by the infirmary, which has also been modified but retains its original scale and some of its rustic character. The scale and spatial organization of the camp is reinforced by the foundations of the north and south barns, the footprints of which are still evident in the landscape, as well as by CCC plantings around the camp perimeter. Recently discovered 1930s plans and photographs of the camp, some of which are included in this nomination, provide valuable information about the original appearance of the camp. The Friends of Upton State Forest and the CCC alumni group at Upton have collected additional information about life in the camp, which is used in interpretive programs and supplements the extant historic resources.

The well-preserved group of CCC resources in the Park Road area illustrates the wide range of projects undertaken by the CCC at Upton. The gravel-surfaced roads were built to provide access to formerly remote wooded areas for forestry

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purposes, and also connect recreational features such as trails, picnic areas, and Dean Pond. The Old Knob picnic area is a good example of the use of a natural rock feature with a scenic view as the focal point of a picnic area. Dean Pond is typical of many CCC ponds, with a well-built rustic dam and beach area. The three waterholes along the forest roads reflect the importance of firefighting in remote wooded areas.

Social History

The Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the most enduring New Deal programs of the 1930s Depression era. It was a national initiative that improved forest resources and created recreational facilities in state and national forests and parks throughout the country. The CCC also provided work for thousands of unemployed and unskilled young men, teaching them forestry and construction skills. The importance of the CCC in the life of former enrollees is reflected in the many CCC alumni associations that have existed over the years.

CCC camps typically consisted of about 200 enrollees, most drawn from surrounding communities. They were provided with basic accommodations, uniforms, and three meals a day. The salary was \$30 per month, of which \$25 was to be sent home to support their families. Each camp also had a smaller number of locally experienced men (or LEMs) who served as foremen for the day-to-day work and liaisons with the community. Direction of the camps was divided between a commanding officer provided by the Army, who oversaw camp operations and logistics, and a camp superintendent, usually someone with forestry experience, who was responsible for overseeing the work program laid out by the Department of Conservation. Initially all work projects were directed by the US Forest Service, but camps with a recreational focus (about one third of the total in Massachusetts, including Upton) were later placed under the auspices of the National Park Service.

Many of the communities in which the camps were located initially opposed having a large number of young men in their midst, but communities soon came to appreciate the work of the CCC, such as road networks, that made forest areas more accessible, the high-quality recreation facilities, and community assistance during emergencies. There were frequent newspaper reports of CCC camps being called on to find missing persons, fight forest fires, or help communities respond to natural disasters. Many camps received letters of commendation from grateful communities.

Upton State Forest, which occupies 20% of the land area of the town of Upton, is an important civic institution and recreational resource for the town. Since it was established in 1935, the state forest has strongly influenced land-use patterns, and has been a major force in shaping the community. Local residents consider Upton State Forest to be one of the major amenities that defines their town.

Criterion C: Design

Architecture and Landscape Architecture

The CCC resources included in this nomination meet Criterion C because they reflect the diversity of CCC design and construction work at Upton State Forest, including extant camp features (most notably the headquarters building, circulation system, and parade ground), as well as recreation roads, trails, Dean Pond and Dean Pond dam, picnic areas, and waterholes found in the Park Road area. The design of all CCC features at Upton State Park was rooted in an appreciation and respect for the natural environment, integration of building and site, and harmony between manmade features and the natural environment. CCC work at Upton epitomizes the rustic design style of the CCC in the 1930s, which was developed on a larger scale by the National Park Service in the early years of the 20th century.

The CCC design work at Upton State Forest was carried out by landscape architects, architects, and engineers from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation, working in conjunction with the US Forest Service and the National Park Service. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation is fortunate to have a well-preserved collection of historic plans, photographs, and other materials documenting the professional work of CCC architects, landscape architects, and engineers at Upton State Forest.

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The CCC camp is the area of Upton State Forest best documented by plans drawn by the Department of Conservation office in Boston, and by historic photographs, which reveal the level of care that went into the layout of the camp area. Despite the fact that the camp was built quickly using standardized building types, the camp layout worked with topography, existing vegetation, and views to create a unique facility that highlighted the distinctive features of the site, such as views and topography.

Similar care was taken with the design of the main recreational roads in the Park Road area, and integration of adjacent natural features such as vistas and distinctive rock formations. Utilitarian features of the state forest, such as Dean Pond dam, the stone-lined waterholes, and the fire pits in the picnic area, made use of natural materials such as local stone. The quality of the design and construction is reflected in the fact that such a high concentration of these features can still be found 80 years later.

Period of Significance

The Civilian Conservation Corps program was established by President Roosevelt in 1933 and remained in existence until 1941. During this period, it transformed national and state forests and parks throughout the country. The period of significance for the resources included in this nomination extends from 1935, when the CCC began work at Upton State Forest, through 1964, the 50-year cutoff. While the construction and direct involvement of the CCC at Upton State Forest was only through 1938, the period of significance reflects the continued use of the CCC resources as part of the recreational and social history of the community.

Level of Significance

The 1999 statewide survey of CCC resources in Massachusetts identified 47 state forests and parks with some extant CCC resources. Upton was considered noteworthy for its CCC camp. The Upton camp headquarters building, the only extant example of a CCC headquarters in Massachusetts, and the adjacent parade ground more strongly evoke the character of a CCC camp than any other area in Massachusetts. Recently discovered 1930s plans for Upton State Forest provide valuable information for understanding the original design of the CCC camp, as well as the Old Knob picnic area and Dean Pond.

The structures and landscape features within the proposed Upton State Forest National Register District constitute a significant ensemble that clearly reflects its place in history. Their significance rests on their ability to convey the essence of a specific type, period, and style; their high quality of design, materials, and workmanship; their variety; their harmonious relationship to each other and their surroundings; and their generally high integrity to the period of significance.

While most of the CCC features in the Park Road area represent features that can be found in many state forests and parks in Massachusetts, the high concentration, skilled construction, and diversity of CCC resources found at Upton State Forest create an ensemble that is greater than the sum of the parts. Thus, the presence of the CCC camp and the large and varied collection of intact CCC resources elevate this nomination to the state level of significance.

Context: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Massachusetts

Note: This context is based on “The Civilian Conservation Corps, Shaping the Forests and Parks of Massachusetts, A Statewide Survey of Civilian Conservation Corps Resources,” by Shary Page Berg. The project, completed in 1999, included historical research, field survey of state forests known to have CCC resources, a statewide list of extant CCC resources, and preservation recommendations.

The founding of the National Park Service in 1916, and the involvement of skilled architects and landscape architects in the new agency, led to a new rustic design ethic for rural recreational facilities at the national level, which was later

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extended to the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in state parks and forests throughout the United States. In Massachusetts, the National Park Service programs for master planning, rustic design, and landscape naturalization were administered at the state level by the Department of Conservation.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation was established in 1919 with the responsibility for managing state forests and parks. By 1929, the state had acquired 100,000 acres of land across the Commonwealth. Most of this was cutover land that was undeveloped and largely inaccessible, but it also included important scenic areas throughout the state. In the early 1930s, a small group of state employees hired through an emergency relief program began making forest improvements such as road building, brush clearing, planting, and eradication of gypsy moths and white-pine blister rust.

In 1933 President Franklin Roosevelt established the CCC, a federal program to provide employment opportunities for young men and to improve the forest and recreational resources of the country. The CCC was active in Massachusetts from 1933 to 1941. At the peak of CCC operations, the state had a total of 51 camps, enrolling 10,000 men. The program not only touched the lives of the enrollees and their families, but also left a lasting legacy of forest improvements and recreational resources throughout the state.

The CCC was one of the most popular New Deal programs, leading to a greater public awareness and appreciation of the outdoors and the nation's natural resources. During the time of the CCC, volunteers planted nearly 3 billion trees throughout the country, constructed more than 800 parks nationwide, upgraded most state parks, updated forest firefighting methods, and built a network of service buildings and public roadways in remote areas.

When the CCC was established in 1933, the Massachusetts state forest and park system was in its infancy. Most of the state forests were cutover land acquired for less than \$5 per acre. Many were largely inaccessible due to lack of roads, and there were almost no recreational facilities. The CCC brought a clear vision for the potential of state forests and parks, as well as an unprecedented amount of manpower to implement that vision. Eighty years later, the work of the CCC still forms the cornerstone of the system as we know it today. Roads, trails, ponds, forest plantations, and recreational facilities built by the CCC can be found in every region of the Commonwealth.

The CCC program in Massachusetts had seven major tasks: camp construction, road building, silviculture (forestry), fire-hazard reduction, pest control, wildlife enhancement, and recreational development. The first year was largely spent building CCC camps and providing access to forest areas. The CCC was responsible for major improvements to most of the state's forests and parks, and for construction of many of the state's recreational facilities. At the peak of CCC operations, Massachusetts had a total of 51 camps enrolling 10,000 men.

CCC camps usually consisted of about 200 enrollees, typically young unemployed men recruited from urban areas. Enrollees were provided with basic accommodations, uniforms, and three meals a day. The salary was \$30 per month, of which \$25 was to be sent home to support their families. Each camp also had a smaller number of local men who served as foremen for the day-to-day work and liaisons with the community. Direction of the camps was divided between a commanding officer, provided by the Army, who oversaw camp operations and logistics, and a camp superintendent, usually someone with forestry experience, who oversaw the work program laid out by the Department of Conservation. Initially all work projects were directed by the US Forest Service, but later camps with a recreational focus (including Upton) were placed under the auspices of the National Park Service.

The work of the camps was supported by the staff of the Department of Conservation's Boston office, which included administrative personnel and technical experts such as foresters, landscape architects, and engineers. A major link between the camps and the federal agencies was the resident inspector, who was responsible for assuring that work was completed in accordance with federal standards. Inspectors were often influential in shaping the projects and policies in their areas.

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Improved access to forest areas was a major goal of the CCC in Massachusetts, as most of the forests were located in remote areas. This involved upgrading existing roads as well as constructing new ones. Most roads were built to US Forest Service standards, and many are still in use today. Another goal was to improve forest resources through raising a timber crop, which included managing existing forests, as well as extensive replanting. During the later years of the CCC there was an emphasis on forest inventory.

Fire hazard reduction was also a major focus of CCC work. With the limited communication and firefighting ability of the time, forest fires were much dreaded. The work typically involved cutting brush along roads, burning slash left from logging operations, and constructing waterholes to provide water for firefighting.

Pest eradication, particularly of gypsy moths and white-pine blister rust, was an ongoing task. This time-consuming work was done manually on private as well as public lands. Many of the regular CCC crews did gypsy moth eradication, but there were also specialized crews that did only this type of work.

Another major activity was wildlife management to improve the diversity and quantity of wildlife for hunting and fishing. Plants such as berry-bearing bushes, apple trees, hawthorns, and grains were planted, and fields were created in these areas to provide year-round food for desirable species of animals or birds. Other wildlife projects included wildlife surveys, fish breeding and propagation, stocking, and habitat enhancement. CCC projects often combined several goals.

Once the forests had become more accessible, attention turned to providing recreational facilities, which prior to the 1930s had been limited to a few small picnic and camping areas. The construction of recreational facilities in virtually all of the state's older forests and parks was one of the most lasting and visible contributions of the CCC in Massachusetts.

Many CCC camps (including Upton) were closed in 1938 because of reductions in federal funding. The war period was followed by a recreation boom in the 1950s and 1960s, during which many older facilities were demolished and new ones built. Expansion of the state forest and park system in the 1970s, with major land acquisition and ambitious new heritage parks, put a further strain on older forest and park areas, resulting in deferred maintenance and deterioration of many facilities. More recently the state has begun to recognize the uniqueness of its older facilities, and has initiated a range of programs to preserve them. The 1998 centennial of the Massachusetts forest and park system served as a catalyst for several such efforts, including a statewide survey of CCC resources and the nomination of the Mount Greylock Summit to the National Register.

Interest in the work of the CCC has been growing, both nationally and on a state level. Most of the facilities built by the CCC are now over 80 years old, and many are in poor condition. Many former CCC enrollees continue to hold periodic reunions to reminisce about what had been a life-shaping influence for many of them. With growing recognition of the CCC legacy, in 1995 the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM), the predecessor of the current Department of Conservation and Recreation, commissioned a statewide survey to determine the present condition of CCC work in Massachusetts state forests and parks and to evaluate its historical significance. The project report identified 65 Massachusetts state forests and parks where the CCC had been active and documented the role of the CCC at each park. In 1998 the summit of Mount Greylock, the first state park in Massachusetts, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, with a focus on CCC resources. Upton is the second state park in Massachusetts to be considered for the National Register. It is the only surviving CCC camp in Massachusetts, and one of the few such sites nationally.

Site History

The town of Upton, located in south-central Massachusetts, was incorporated in 1735 from parts of Mendon, Sutton, Hopkinton, and Uxbridge. Initially the community was almost entirely agricultural, with a few sawmills, as well as small-scale boot and shoe manufacturing. Over time these businesses merged into larger manufacturing companies that produced primarily boots and women's hats. Agriculture remained a mainstay of the community into the early 1900s, though its focus shifted to dairying and poultry, allowing much of the land to return to forest. Through the 20th century,

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the community remained fairly rural with a compact village center and outlying agriculture and forest. After construction of Route I-495 in the last quarter of the 20th century, the town became more accessible and underwent a period of rapid growth.

During the 1920s, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts began acquiring former farmland as part of a comprehensive effort to improve the state's forestry resources. Upton State Forest was established in 1935 with 2,076 acres in multiple parcels that are not all contiguous. The resources included in this nomination are located in the largest parcel of the state forest, which is north of Upton Center along Westborough Road.

In May 1935, a small group of Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees arrived from Myles Standish State Forest in Carver, MA, to build a CCC camp at Upton. By August the camp was laid out, and a full cadre of men arrived to begin work in earnest. The camp was designed to accommodate roughly 200 enrollees plus supervisors, but the camp population varied over time. The Upton Camp (SP-25, Federal Camp No. 2105) was under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service rather than the US Forest Service, but its mission combined both recreational development and forestry.

The camp layout was similar to that of an Army camp of the late 1930s (Historic Plan 4). Most CCC camps, including Upton, were organized around a grass-covered parade ground with a flagpole at the center. At Upton, the T-shaped headquarters, which also served as the administration building and quarters for the foremen and supervisors, was located at the southern end of the parade ground. On the east and west sides of the parade ground were three long, narrow barracks, a mess hall, and a washroom. The building on the north end of the parade ground was shown on the plans as a recreation building. The much smaller infirmary was located east of the administration building and adjacent to the parking lot. There are three latrines shown a short distance from the other buildings. Plans were prepared at the Department of Conservation office in Boston, and many of the buildings were used for purposes other than what was originally intended. Historic photo 1 shows the camp soon after construction. While the buildings were covered with tarpaper, the general appearance of the camp was one of orderliness and neatness.

The Department of Conservation's 1935 Annual Report described the accomplishments of the camp's first year. Once the camp was completed, road building was a primary task, with 5.4 miles of road completed. The early roads were rough truck trails used primarily for forest improvements and firefighting. Another major accomplishment of 1935 was the clearing of 635 acres of land to remove combustible material left over from logging operations. The entrance road to the camp was another early project. Unlike the forestry roads, it was wider and more finished, with carefully designed gutters and culverts. The banks were graded and planted with red and white pine, gray birch, and red maple, with an understory of juniper and blueberry.

In 1936, the Upton CCC camp's winter work program was primarily devoted to fire-hazard reduction and to tree and insect control, with special attention to eradicating gypsy moths. During the spring floods, men from the CCC camp assisted the town of Upton by evacuating damaged homes and repairing roads and bridges. This type of cooperation was typical of CCC camps, which often provided technical assistance and forged strong relationships with local communities.

Planting was also a major task in 1936, with 113,700 native trees planted, as well as construction of additional truck trails, which were ten feet wide with a gravel surface. An important forest fire protection project was the construction of three new waterholes along the park road system. These stone-lined impoundments are a distinctive feature of CCC work in Massachusetts.

Once the basic forest infrastructure was in place, the Upton camp turned its attention to recreational improvements. A primary project of 1936 was construction of a "high type gravel road, known as Park Road . . . which serves as the main artery through the forest and its recreational centers." Unlike the utilitarian truck trails, this road was sixteen feet wide with shoulders and gutters, which conformed to the adjacent terrain and had ample drainage. The 1936 Annual Report included the following description: "The road traverses beautiful, hilly country affording vistas of exceptional beauty and is constructed in accordance with the best engineering practices as to alignment and grades. . . . Much of the ground work

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for the development of a State park has been completed to date, and we are now moving rapidly toward the construction of areas of intensive recreational use.”

In 1937, the Upton camp continued to pursue the dual goals of forest improvement and recreational development. Forestry projects included reforestation, fire-hazard reduction, and wildlife management. Recreational development included completion of two miles of Park Road, with an additional mile partially completed. The Old Knob picnic area located along Park Road was also completed. Forest conservation and fire-hazard reduction continued during the winter of 1938. The spring and summer season saw the completion of many of the recreation features, including the Park Road extension and the Dean Pond Dam, which created a ten-acre pond that was the focal recreational feature of the forest.

By the end of 1938 many of the CCC camps in Massachusetts were closed, as federal efforts shifted to other priorities. Most of the Upton camp personnel were transferred to Salisbury Beach State Reservation on July 18, 1938. A small group remained at Upton to wrap up ongoing projects. The Upton CCC camp closed on November 9, 1938, ending a three-year period, which left major improvements that remain the cornerstone of the state forest. Nationally the CCC remained in existence until 1941, but after 1938 it was at a greatly reduced level, with no further work at Upton, other than minor maintenance undertaken by CCC enrollees from Spencer State Forest.

CCC camps throughout the United States were built as temporary facilities, and most were demolished when the camps were closed. The buildings at the Upton camp have survived in large measure because they were put to new uses. The National Youth Administration occupied the camp briefly after the departure of the CCC. This group, which was affiliated with the Works Progress Administration, undertook local civic projects between 1939 and 1941. From 1941 to 1945, when military and defense concerns were paramount, the Upton CCC camp became the home of Camp Stover, which trained state guard officers.

From 1946 to 1956, the CCC camp was the home of the Phillips Wildlife Laboratory, the field headquarters for the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game. Two CCC buildings were demolished in 1946: the recreation hall at the north end of the camp, and the middle barrack on the east side. The mess hall was demolished soon after. During this period, the CCC recreational facilities were heavily used, and Dean Pond was a popular year-round destination.

Beginning in 1956, staff from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), successor agency to the Department of Conservation, occupied the CCC camp. The management foresters were initially located at Upton, and were later joined by the DNR mounted unit, who stabled their horses in the former supply building (now known as the north barn) at the northwest corner of the camp. By this time, the infirmary had been moved a short distance and was used as a staff residence. The shed was built during the 1960s as a stable for staff horses.

Park Road was closed to vehicular traffic in the mid 1980s because of safety and security concerns after an accident. There were also problems with dumping. The mounted unit was disbanded around 2001. By 2003, the south barn had collapsed and the only buildings remaining at the CCC camp were the headquarters, the north barn, the infirmary/cottage, and the shed. The camp was unused and in poor condition by this time. The north barn was damaged by heavy snow, and was demolished in 2011.

In 2005, the Friends of Upton State Forest was founded to support preservation of the CCC camp and other natural and cultural resources throughout the state forest. A feasibility study was prepared to document the current condition of extant buildings at the CCC camp and to explore reuse options. The 70th anniversary of the Upton CCC camp was celebrated in 2005 with the unveiling of a new interpretive panel in front of the camp headquarters. The Friends of Upton State Forest continue an active program of public events, site interpretation, and work projects at the forest.

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Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Upton and the interior Blackstone River Basin are poorly identified, any surviving sites could be significant. Several sites have been identified in these areas; however, most lack information pertaining to content, internal configuration, cultural affiliations, and integrity. Systematic cultural resource assessments in the general area since the 1970s have contributed more intrasite information on archaeological resources in the area, particularly in upland zones characteristic of the Upton locale. As a result of recent research, it is evident that upland zones played an important role in the ancient Native subsistence and settlement patterns of the region. Ancient sites found in the district may help document the internal composition of upland sites and their local and regional importance. Native sites in this area may play an important role in land-use patterns based in the Coastal Plain to the south, east, and northeast, or to the north and west in the Worcester Plateau area. Ancient Native American sites in this area may also contain information that could help clarify or test the importance of river drainage basins to Native settlement and subsistence models. The Upton State Forest lies in the Blackstone River drainage near the latter's border with the Charles River that drains generally northeast to Boston Harbor, as well as near the Concord and Sudbury drainage that drains northerly to the Merrimack River. Ancient Native sites in the district locale may contain data that enable a study of the extent to which these drainages influenced the social, cultural, and economic systems of people who inhabited the area.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the role of rural village industry in the industrial revolution and its relationship to agricultural production as the basis of a village economy during the late 18th to early 20th centuries. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may help to reconstruct the village industries that predate the state forest, the Upton CCC camp, and no longer exist. Many of the village industries were in place by the late 18th or early 19th centuries and remained in use until the early 20th century. Further research into historical and archaeological resources may identify specific resources (mills, waterpower-related resources and residences) and the changes that occurred to them during their period of use. Mill foundations and stonework associated with waterpowered cultural resources that predate the State Forest have been recognized in some areas of the Upton State Forest, but have yet to be identified in the nominated area. They may be present in the Dean Pond locale where potential waterpowered-related resources (dams, spillways) have been identified that created the present pond's recreational function.

Several components of the camp (barracks, staff residences, latrines, maintenance sheds) may survive as archaeological sites from the district's period of significance as a CCC camp; however, because of the overall lack of documentation for specific structures after their demolition, the integrity of sites (structures) with surface remains can often be difficult to determine, especially in the absence of archaeological testing. While a methodology has been indicated to identify the sites of structures no longer extant on the basis of vegetational patterns, mounding, and the internal configuration of camp structures based on the extensive spatial documentation of camp components, this methodology has yet to be implemented. Little information is present that specifically describes the functions of the sites of structures or their potential integrity.

Given the above information, historic archaeological resources in the Upton State Forest CCC Historic District do not presently meet Criterion D of the National Register. Additional historical and archaeological research in the future may identify the precise sites of the structural components of the Upton State Forest CCC camp, their temporal and functional variability, and their integrity, and enable the application of Criterion D.

Historical archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the overall significance of the CCC camp in the areas of 1930s conservation and recreation, CCC design and construction, and the rustic design ethic. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may contribute important information related to a better understanding of the original camp design, the identification of missing camp components, and a more detailed and accurate interpretation of the camp's role in the conservation and recreational aspects of the state's natural resources. Important information may also be present that documents the social history of the CCC camp in Upton and its role in national, state, and local social movements of the 1930s. Important information may

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also be present that enables a better understanding of the “Greatest Generation,” also termed the “G.I. Generation,” whose formative years were spent in the Great Depression, and who later fought in World War II or otherwise contributed to the war effort. At the local level, information may be present that describes the socio/economic role of the CCC camp and the evolution of the Upton community. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may contribute important information related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the camp enrollees, the commanding officer, camp superintendant, and the various camp foremen.

Additional historical research, combined with the identification and functional interpretation of structures, objects, and archaeological sites, may contribute important information related to the original design of the CCC resources at the Upton State Forest. Archaeological research may help to identify missing components of the camp, architectural details of camp buildings, and details regarding activities here and individuals who used various structures, objects, and sites. The sum total of this research is a more accurate interpretation of the camp, its social history, and its functions.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Archival Sources

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has two primary repositories for CCC archives in Massachusetts. The CCC Archives, located at Mount Greylock State Reservation in Lanesborough, Massachusetts, contain a specialized collection of Massachusetts-related CCC materials, including alumni artifacts, uniforms, equipment, maps, plans, photographs, printed documents, oral and video histories, and staff memoirs. The main DCR Archives, located in Boston, has other agency records, including a recently discovered collection of CCC plans for Upton State Forest that were particularly helpful for this nomination.

The Friends of Upton State Forest is an active advocacy group that has done extensive research on the history of the forest area, including oral-history interviews with former CCC enrollees, and has collected numerous archival materials on all aspects of Upton State Forest. Ellen Arnold, co-founder and former president of the Friends, has extensive knowledge of the history of the forest and was the primary source for on-site knowledge of forest resources, including interviews with former CCC enrollees. The Upton Historical Society has town maps, newspaper clippings, and other background information on the community. Major sources consulted for this nomination are listed below.

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Maps and Plans

The recently discovered collection of plans at the DCR Archives in Boston includes more than 50 plans related to land acquisition, land-use planning, forestry, and road engineering. The following plans, most of which were prepared jointly by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Conservation, were most relevant for the areas described in this nomination. Many of these are fragile technical documents that are valuable for study purposes but do not lend themselves to reproduction in a National Register nomination.

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| 1934/12 | Preliminary Plan (land acquisition plan) |
| 1936/11/26 | Plan for Park Entrance Area (colored print showing entry road to forest and layout of CCC camp) |
| 1937/1/11 | Plan of Old Knob Picnic Grounds (layout of Old Knob area including stone steps, picnic tables, fire grates and parking lot) |
| 1937/6 | Proposed Road Extension to Dean Pond Recreation Area (shows planting and road alignment) |
| 1937/8 | Dean Pond, Plan and Details for Dam (plans and sections for dam construction) |
| Undated | Fire Pit Detail (sketch showing construction of rustic fire pits) |

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: Department of Conservation & Recreation

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 89 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

The entire area associated with Upton State Forest is 2,660 acres. This nomination includes two contiguous groups of resources that are located entirely in the town of Upton, Massachusetts. This nomination includes 89 acres, all of which are owned by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and managed as part of Upton State Forest.

Upton State Forest – Civilian Conservation Corps Resources Historic District
Name of Property

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UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>284605</u> Easting	<u>4676331</u> Northing	3	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>285977</u> Easting	<u>4674841</u> Northing
2	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>285149</u> Easting	<u>4676313</u> Northing	4	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>285511</u> Easting	<u>4674519</u> Northing

Boundary Description and Justification

This nomination includes two contiguous areas at Upton State Forest: the CCC Camp Area located adjacent to Westborough Road, and the Park Road Area, which includes the road corridor and CCC recreational and firefighting resources near the road. While there are other scattered CCC resources in the state forest, these two areas contain the highest concentration of CCC resources, including those that have the greatest integrity and significance.

The CCC Camp Area (resources 1-13 on datasheet) includes the residential portion of the CCC camp as shown on Historic Map 4, which is bounded by private property on the south, Westborough Road on the west, CCC Way on the north, and the site of the CCC garages on the west. Note: the garage area is excluded from the nomination because there are no extant CCC resources there and the topography has changed.

The Park Road Area (resources 14-19) includes CCC resources that are located along the roads extending from the main park entrance off Westborough Road to the northern edge of Dean Pond: CCC Way, Park Road, Dean Pond Road, and the roads extending north and west from Dean Pond to the waterhole (#19), Loop Road, and Bridge Road. The boundary is generally 25 feet from the center point of the road, unless there are extant CCC features, as at Old Knob Picnic Area. The entire area between Park Road and Whistling Cave Trail is included in this nomination because it was the site of a CCC scenic overlook and picnic area, and there may be extant CCC resources, such as fireplaces.

This boundary is drawn to include only the extant CCC resources at Upton State Forest. Other historic resources, such as remnant sawmills, cellar holes, and stone walls, which are not associated with the CCC, are not included within this nomination.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shary Page Berg, preservation consultant with Betsy Friedberg, MHC NR Director
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date August, 2014
street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard Telephone 617-727-8470
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125-3314
e-mail betsy.friedberg@state.ma.us

Property Owner:

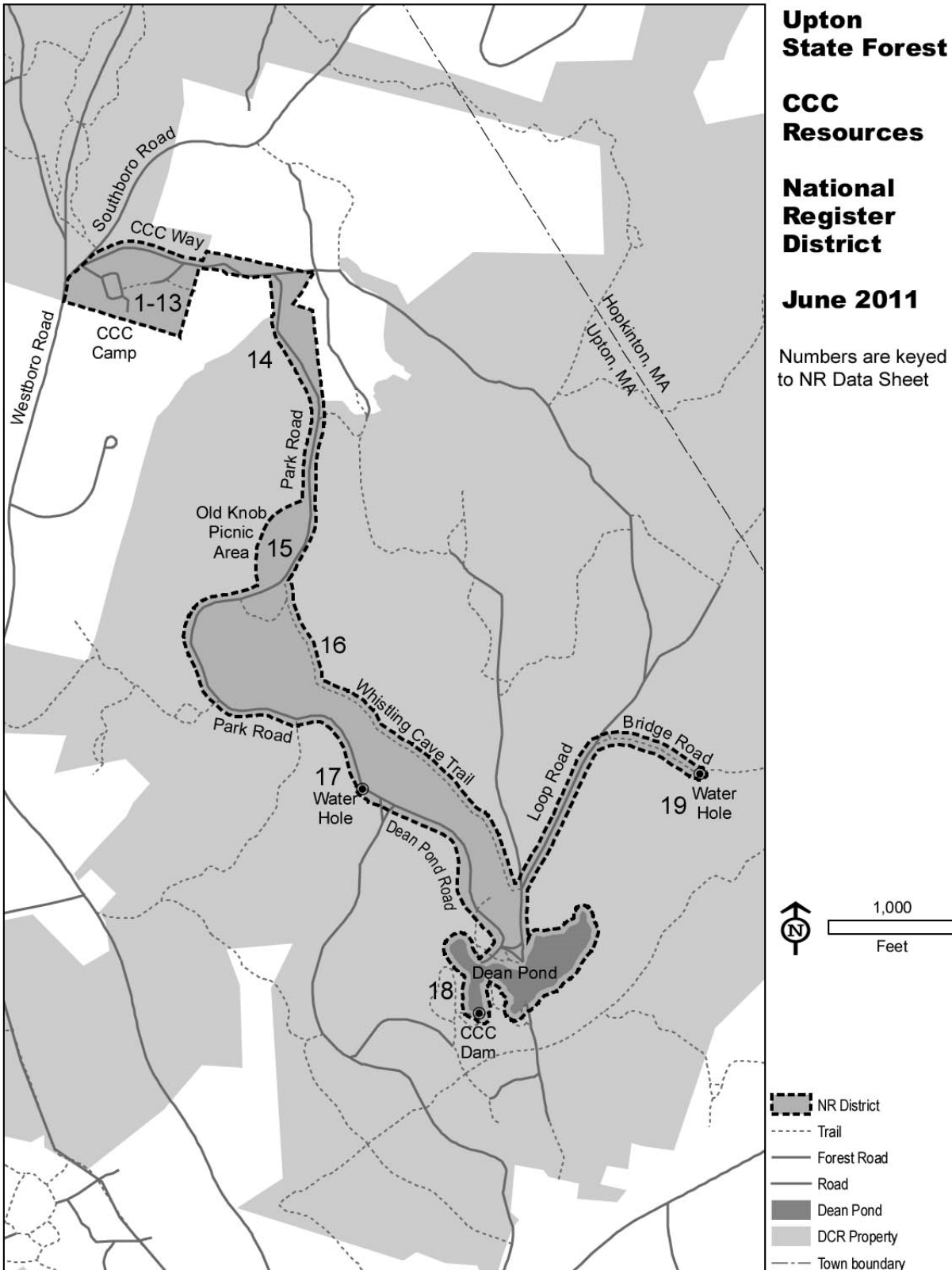
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
street & number 251 Causeway Street #600 telephone 617-626-1378
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02114-2104

Upton State Forest – Civilian Conservation Corps Resources Historic District
Name of Property

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Map 1 – Upton State Forest CCC Resources National Register District (Massachusetts DCR, 6/2011)

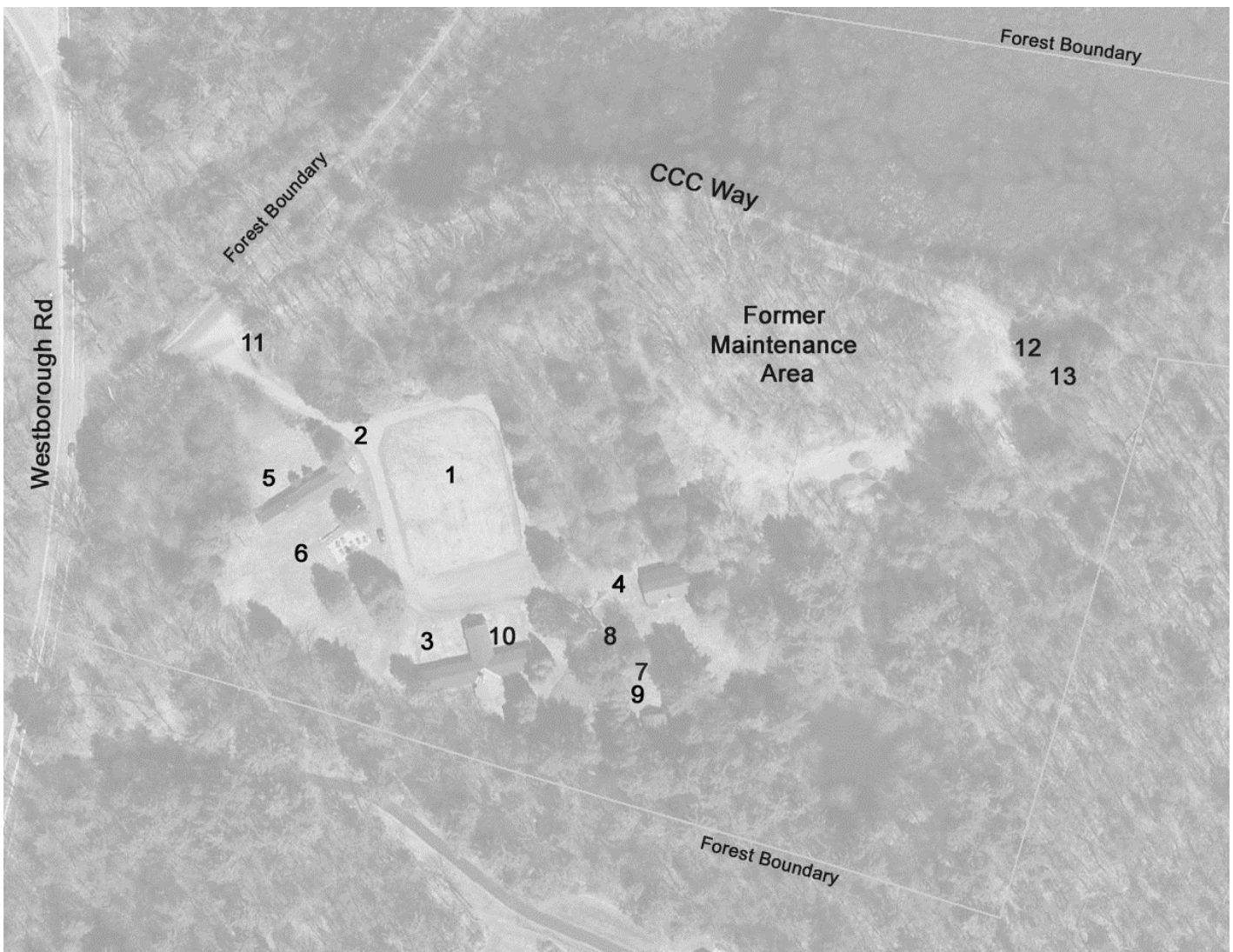


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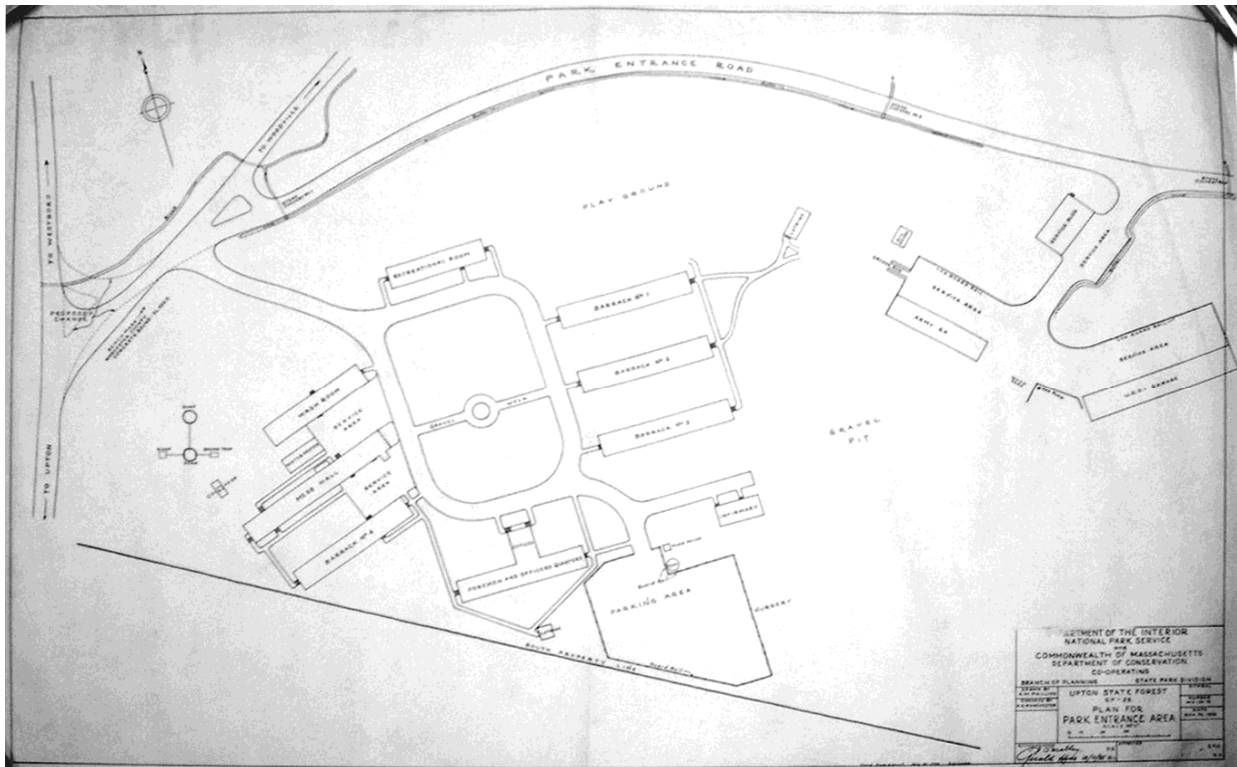
Map 2 – Detail of Upton State Forest CCC Camp Resources. Aerial photo showing CCC Camp area, ca. 2010. Compare this with 1935 plans. Air photo courtesy of Massachusetts DCR. Numbers are keyed to NR Data Sheet.

- 1 Parade Ground
- 2 CCC Camp Road System
- 3 Headquarters
- 4 Infirmary/cottage
- 5 North barn foundation (note this photo is from 2010, before the north barn collapsed)
- 6 South barn foundation
- 7 Fieldstone foundation east of Headquarters
- 8 Pump House and watertower foundations
- 9 Shed
- 10 Flagpole
- 11 Loading dock
- 12 Waterhole #1
- 13 Small concrete foundation next to waterhole #1

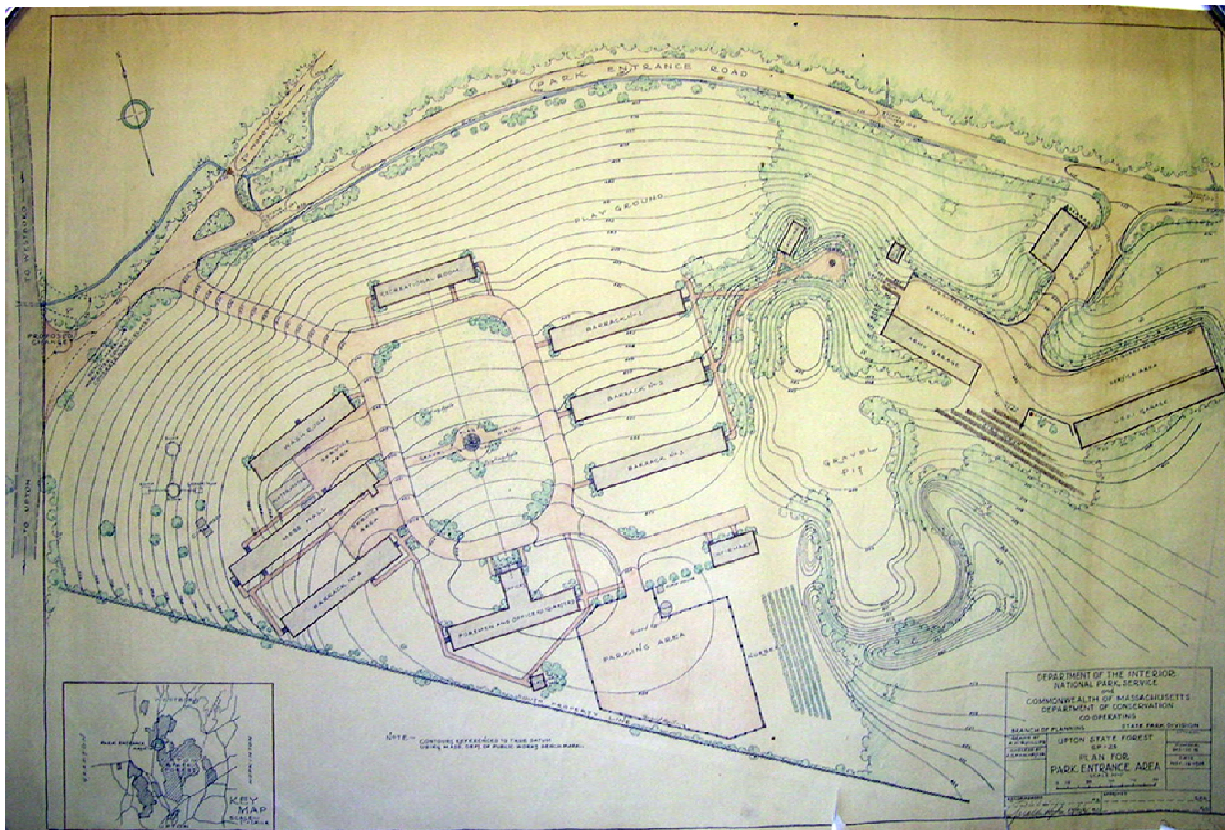


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Historic Map 3 – Upton State Forest CCC Camp Plan, 1935, outline and building locations (DCR Archives).



Historic Map 4 – Upton State Forest CCC Camp Plan, 1935, showing landscape features (DCR Archives).

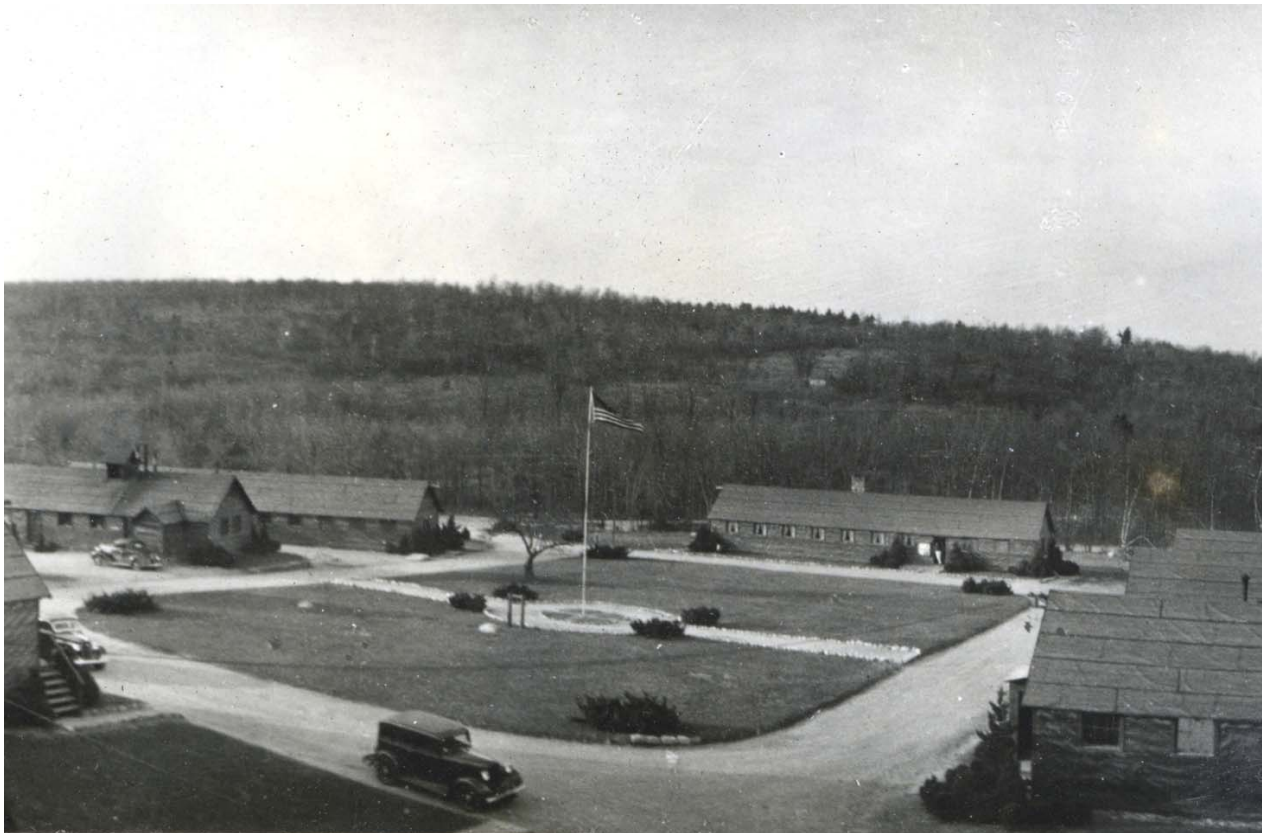
Upton State Forest – Civilian Conservation Corps Resources Historic District
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Photographs

<i>Photo #</i>	<i>Location/Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Photo by</i>
Historic Photo 1	Upton State Forest CCC Camp parade ground, photo taken from watertower looking northwest, 1930s. (Courtesy of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, CCC Archives)	1930s	Unknown
1	CCC Camp – Headquarters, view to the southwest	11/2010	Shary Page Berg
2	CCC Camp – Infirmary, view to the northeast	11/2010	Shary Page Berg
3	Park Road near CCC Camp, view to the south	11/2010	Shary Page Berg
4	Old Knob steps with Old Knob rock formation to the left	11/2010	Gretchen Schuler
5	Dean Pond Dam and spillway, downstream side	11/2010	Shary Page Berg
6	Large waterhole near Bridge Road	4/2011	Shary Page Berg

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH



Historic Photograph 1 – Upton State Forest CCC Camp parade ground, photo taken from watertower looking northwest, 1930s (Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, CCC Archives).

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EXISTING CONDITIONS PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – CCC Camp – Headquarters, view to the southwest (11/2010, photo by Shary Page Berg)



Photo 2 – CCC Camp – Infirmary, view to the northeast (11/2010, photo by Shary Page Berg)

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Photo 3 – Park Road near CCC Camp, view to the south (11/2010, photo by Shary Page Berg)



Photo 4 – Old Knob steps with Old Knob rock formation to the left (11/2010, photo by Gretchen Schuler)

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Photo 5 – Dean Pond Dam and spillway, downstream side (11/2010, photo by Shary Page Berg)



Photo 6 – Large waterhole near Bridge Road (4/2011, photo by Shary Page Berg)

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UPTON STATE FOREST – CCC RESOURCES HISTORIC DISTRICT
Upton (Worcester County) Massachusetts

Note: The general location of all features (#1-19) within the proposed district is shown on Map 1. The features in the CCC camp area (#1-13) in the northern part of the proposed district are shown in more detail on Map 2.

Key	MHC No.	Historic Name	Description	Date	Location/Area	Type	Status
Map 2 #1		Parade Ground	Central space of Upton CCC Camp	1935	CCC Camp Area	Site	C
Map 2 #2		CCC Camp Circulation System	Camp road system	1935	CCC Camp Area	Struct	C
Map 2 #3	UPT.210	Headquarters	T-shaped, one-story, wood-frame vernacular building	1935	CCC Camp Area	Bldg	C
Map 2 #4	UPT.211	Infirmary/Cottage	Small, one-story, wood frame vernacular building	1935, moved ca. 1950s	CCC Camp Area	Bldg	C
Map 2 #5	UPT.213	North Barn Foundation	Barn collapsed 2011, foundations remain.	1935	CCC Camp Area	Struct	C
Map 2 #6	UPT.212	South Barn Foundation	Concrete slab and fieldstone retaining wall	1935	CCC Camp Area	Struct	C
Map 2 #7		Fieldstone Foundation	Low fieldstone wall east of headquarters.	ca. 1935	CCC Camp Area	Struct	C
Map 2 #8		Pumphouse and Watertower Foundations	12"-tall structure with asphalt roof, concrete footings	1935-36	CCC Camp Area	Struct (2)	C
Map 2 #9		Shed	Small, wood-frame, one-story building	ca. 1960s	CCC Camp Area	Bldg	C
Map 2 #10		Flagpole	Replacement near main lodge	2008	CCC Camp Area	Object	NC
Map 2 #11		Loading Dock	Earth-filled cribbing near camp entrance	ca. 1960s	CCC Camp Area	Struct	NC
Map 2 #12		Waterhole #1	Stone-lined basin for firefighting, near camp maintenance area	ca. 1935	CCC Camp Area	Struct	C
Map 2 #13		Small Concrete Foundation	Adjacent to water hole #1, possibly for pumphouse, near camp maintenance area	ca. 1936	CCC Camp Area	Struct	C
Map 1 #14	UPT.908, 909	Park Road Recreation Loop (CCC Way, Park Rd, Dean Pond Rd, part of Loop & Bridge Rds.	Gravel-surfaced forest recreation road, typical CCC construction	1935-36	Park Road Area	Struct	C
Map 1 #15	UPT.910	Old Knob Steps	Rustic granite steps to scenic outlook	1937-38	Park Road Area	Struct	C
Map 1 #15		Old Knob Fire Pits	Group of rustic stone pits	1937-38	Park Road Area	Struct (6)	C

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Key	MHC No.	Historic Name	Description	Date	Location/Area	Type	Status
Map 1 #15		Old Knob Small Waterholes	Small stone-lined waterholes	1937-38	Park Road Area	Struct (2)	C
Map 1 #16		Whistling Cave Trail	CCC-built trail from Park Road to Dean Pond	1937-38	Park Road Area	Struct	C
Map 1 #17		Waterhole #2	Stone-lined basin for firefighting	1936	Park Road near Dean Pond Rd	Struct	C
Map 1 #18		Dean Pond	10-acre impoundment	1938	Dean Pond Road	Struct	C
Map 1 #18		Dean Pond Dam	Earthen dam with concrete core and stone spillway	1938	Dean Pond Road	Struct	C
Map 1 #19		Waterhole #3	Stone-lined waterhole built for fire protection	1936	Bridge Road	Struct	C
Map 1 #20		Bridge at WaterHole #3	Narrow wooden pedestrian bridge	1936	Bridge Road	Struct	C

Summary:	Contributing	Non-contributing
Buildings	3	-
Sites	1	-
Structures	24	1
Objects	-	1
Total	28	2

UTM continuation

5. 19	284821	4675447
Zone	Easting	Northing

Lat/Lon

1.	42.209480	-71.609316
2.	42.209464	-71.602778
3.	42.196446	-71.592171
4.	42.193425	-71.597686
5.	42.201580	-71.606376

