

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.

Listed In:
VLR: 12/11/2014
NRHP: 4/6/2015

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District

Other names/site number: DHR No. 008-5048

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 218 Mont Shenandoah Lane

City or town: Millboro Springs/Millboro State: Virginia County: Bath

Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___X C ___ D

Julie V. Langan 2/10/15
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
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

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>20</u>	<u>9</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>20</u>	<u>13</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION & CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

DOMESTIC: Summer Camp

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION & CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

DOMESTIC: Summer Camp

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Rustic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE; WOOD: Log, Board-and-Batten, Clapboard siding; ASPHALT; METAL: Galvanized, Steel; STONE: River Rock

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

A shaded, winding gravel road off Route 42 leads to Camp Mont Shenandoah, one of the oldest, all-girls overnight camps in the state of Virginia. The camp encompasses sixty acres along the Cowpasture River. In addition to the river, the camp's resources include a lodge, dining hall, two tennis courts, a half-basketball court, thirteen residential cabins, an infirmary, camp store, counselors' office, four bath houses, an archery shack, riverfront canoe shack, an arts and crafts building, a water treatment building, and multiple storage sheds. There is a pathway system that connects all areas of the camp. A campfire site above the river serves as a communal gathering place, and the central open space within the camp serves as an additional location for group activities. The riverfront acts as a recreational site for swimming and canoeing. The camp's layout is in deliberate correlation to a plan that was popular throughout the first half of the twentieth century, commonly referred to as "manufactured wilderness," as explicated in Abigail Van Slyck's study of American summer camps dating from 1890 to 1960. Proponents of summer camps sought to provide American urban youth with exposure to the outdoors, but in carefully arranged settings meant to present a particular version of nature. Use of Rustic architecture for the camp buildings and structures advanced this vision as well. Rustic design characteristics include use of natural materials such as wood and stone, harmonious blending with the topography, and finishes such as exposed rafter tails, board-and-batten siding, and stone

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

chimneys. A melding of indoors and outdoors is achieved through broad porches and expansive windows, many of which are screened rather than glassed.

Narrative Description

The topography afforded the camp is one of a gently rolling hill, gradually sloping down to the bank of the Cowpasture River. This gradational slope creates distinct locations within the camp that yield its unifying elements. These include pedestrian and vehicular circulation patterns, activity spaces and camp buildings. The majority of the circulation patterns found within the camp have been created by heavy foot traffic, while only a small portion of the pathways has been reinforced by the addition of gravel to create a vehicular circulation pattern and a rudimentary sidewalk leading to the dining hall and main office. The types of activities commonly undertaken at the camp are mostly recreational such as swimming, tennis, basketball, and archery. The camp buildings are all deliberately Rustic in style, invoking the return to traditional American ideals that are associated with and instilled by camps such as Camp Mont Shenandoah.

The pedestrian circulation patterns throughout the camp have been made over time, demonstrating the easiest and most direct means of travel. These pedestrian paths are simple, with no designations made aside from the worn earth from decades of foot traffic. The exception to this is the brief network of gravel sidewalks that leads to the camp's dining hall, known as the Feed Bag, and the main office located next door. These gravel pedestrian paths are veins leading from the long entry drive that stems from Route 42 and ends at the center of camp, where the topography is most level. The camp's athletic fields are here, as well as two tennis courts, a half-basketball court, and a small parking lot. West Lodge, the main office, and the Feed Bag sit at the northern edge of this open recreational space, while the majority of the residential cabins sit to the south. All of the buildings feature Rustic architecture, despite having been built across more than nine decades of camp development. Such continuity of design is typical of summer camps designed to evoke the rusticity of earlier times.

The social and visual focal point of the camp, the mid-1930s West Lodge is a three-bay, one-story, board-and-batten building, with a front-gabled roof clad in standing-seam metal. A stone chimney erupts from the western slope of the roof. There is a wide, wrap-around covered porch that is accessed by two sets of wooden steps on the western elevation, one set of steps on the southern elevation and two sets of wooden steps on the eastern elevation. The lodge is used for plays, award ceremonies, camp gatherings and other recreational activities. Standing west of West Lodge and constructed in 2003, the office is a two-story, three-bay, frame building features a broad covered porch on its south façade, facing the center of the camp. A gravel pathway and two wooden steps access the porch and the primary entrance. The side gambrel roof is punctuated by two dormer windows. The office is one of the few winterized buildings on the camp's property, and thus has 1/1 double-hung sash windows with glass. Immediately to the west of the office is the dining hall, familiarly known as the Feed Bag. This c. 1927, one-story, three-bay, board-and-batten building has a standing-seam metal roof, window openings with screens and rests on a foundation of concrete footers. There is a wide overhang with exposed rafter tails. The main entrance is located on the southern elevation.

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

The singular water feature of the camp is the Cowpasture River (historically also known as the Wallawhatoola River), which acts as the northern boundary of the camp and a major organizational factor in the camp's overall design. The river is home to a wide array of recreational activities at the camp and sits at the lowest point of the camp's property. Thusly most of the pathways and trails lead directly from the center of camp and residential cabins to the water's edge.

The majority of the cabins within the camp were constructed in the 1920s at the dawning of Camp Mont Shenandoah, with only a few predating the camp's existence. Featuring character-defining Rustic architecture, the cabins also are designed to merge indoors and outdoors. They are generally one-story, front-gabled buildings of board-and-batten construction with rough-hewn log elements, lending to their rustic nature. Their roofing materials alternate between standing-seam metal and asphalt shingles. Most of the cabins' windows are simple screens and almost all of the cabins are supported by concrete footers. The placement of the cabins was deliberate, locating them in groups at plateaus in the upward slope towards Route 42. This is an excellent use of the camp's topography because it creates natural gathering and recreation spaces within the camp. Additionally, the cabins are arranged throughout the camp in purposeful groupings so that campers of the same age live together, helping to stimulate and encourage companionship.

As the camp grew and its needs evolved, a self-conscious choice was made to utilize existing structures on the camp's property for newly desired utility and maintenance sheds. This concept helped to preserve different but equally important elements from the camp's history. Examples of these changes in use are the former equestrian sheds and the cooks' cottages that are all now used for storage. The equestrian sheds are leftover buildings from the equestrian ring that once stood towards the entrance of the camp in the 1940s. They are one-story, one-bay, frame buildings with shed roofs and concrete footers. The cooks' cottages were once occupied by the camp's cooks, but today are used for storage and facilities. They are located by the Feed Bag and the main office. The cottage to the west of the main office is used as a washroom and there is an addition dating to 2014. The frame building's side-gabled roof is covered in sheet metal and has wooden steps leading to its entrance. The entire building is supported by concrete footers. The three-bay cooks' cottage to the east of the main office is of frame construction with concrete footers, has a side-gabled roof clad in tin sheet metal and has exposed rafter tails. There is a wooden porch leading up to the entrance on the southern elevation.

Due to the property's sloping topography and dense tree cover, the camp buildings and structures blend into the landscape. Similarly, the preponderance of wood and stone construction materials enhances the harmonious melding of indoors and outdoors. The organically evolved pedestrian networks suggest that they were shaped by natural forces as much as manmade activities. The resulting environment is one in which the familiar tropes of modern life are unobtrusive, if present at all. Through its consistent adherence to Rustic architecture, Camp Mont Shenandoah has maintained a high level of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Inventory of Resources:

The following inventory lists all contributing and non-contributing resources within Camp Mont Shenandoah. Contributing resources have been evaluated within the contexts identified in the Statement of Significance and for integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Non-contributing resources postdate the property's period of significance, which is 1927-1964.

Feed Bag, DHR # 008-5048-0001

Contributing (1-Building)

Housing the camp's dining hall, this one-story building is of board-and-batten construction, and is an example of the Rustic style. It features a cross-gabled, standing-seam metal roof with overhangs. The central chimney is made of river stones. The porch is supported by rough hewn logs and stretches along its entire front facade and is accessed by a central wooden staircase and has side steps to the right of the building. The entire building is supported by concrete footers and its windows are enclosed with screens. The interior of the building has wooden floors, wooden tables and benches along with a small stage and stone fireplace.

Wee Women, DHR # 008-5048-0002

Contributing (1-Building)

This small, one-story cabin is original to the camp and dates to 1927. It is of board-and-batten construction. Its front-gabled standing-seam metal roof has wide overhanging eaves on all sides of the building. The windows are enclosed with screens. The cabin is supported by concrete footers and accessed by a raised wooden porch with simple wooden steps and railings.

Pony Express, DHR # 008-5048-0003

Contributing (1-Building)

This small, one-story cabin was constructed in 1927 and is of board-and-batten construction. Its front-gabled standing-seam metal roof has wide overhanging eaves on all sides of the building. The windows are enclosed with screens. The cabin is supported by concrete footers and accessed by a raised wooden porch with simple wooden steps and railings.

Sleepy Hollow, DHR # 008-5048-0004

Contributing (1-Building)

This ca. 1930, one-story cabin is of board-and-batten construction. Its front-gabled standing-seam metal roof has wide overhanging eaves on all sides of the building. The windows are enclosed with screens. The cabin is supported by concrete footers and accessed by a raised wooden porch with simple wooden steps and railings.

Patchwork Pioneers/Tea Kettle, DHR # 008-5048-0005

Contributing (1-Building)

This 1927, two-story cabin is original to the camp and is of board-and-batten construction. It has a front-gabled roof that is covered with asphalt shingles. There are wide overhangs with exposed rafter tails. The building is three bays wide and has simple screens covering the windows on both

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

floors. There are two separate entrances, one at the first floor, which is the Patchwork Pioneers cabin and the other on the second floor which is the Tea Kettle cabin. The floors are inaccessible from the other, creating two unique cabin spaces. Wooden lattice cover the open spaces between the concrete footers that support the building.

Ye Ole Churn/Gold Nugget, DHR # 008-5048-0006
Contributing (1-Building)

Built in 1927, this two-story cabin is original to the camp and is of board-and-batten construction. The front-gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and has wide overhangs with exposed rafter tails. The building is three bays wide and has simple screens covering the windows on both floors. There are two separate entrances, one at the first floor, which is the Ye Ole Churn cabin and the other on the second floor which is the Gold Nugget cabin. The floors are inaccessible from the other, creating two unique cabin spaces. Wooden lattice cover the open spaces between the concrete footers that support the building.

Lost Colony/Half Moon, DHR # 008-5048-0007
Contributing (1-Building)

This two-story cabin dates to the 1930s and is of board-and-batten construction. Its front-gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and has wide overhangs with exposed rafter tails. The building is three bays wide and has simple screens covering the windows on both floors. There are two separate entrances, one at the first floor, which is the Half Moon cabin and the other on the second floor which is the Lost Colony cabin. The floors are inaccessible from the other, creating two unique cabin spaces. Wooden lattice cover the open spaces between the concrete footers that support the building.

Briar Patch, DHR # 008-5048-0008
Contributing-(1-Building)

This 1930s, one-story cabin is three bays wide and exhibits a front-gable roof. The building is of board-and-batten construction with simple screens for windows. It has overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and a gutter system along the roofline.

The Flower Pot, DHR # 008-5048-0009
Non-Contributing (1-Building)

This simple, non-historic building functions as an outhouse and is of frame construction. There is a single door on the front of the building with two metal hinges. The shed roof is covered in asphalt shingles and exhibits a slight overhang. The structure is supported by a cinder block foundation.

Deerwood, DHR # 008-5048-00010
Contributing (1-Building)

This single-story cabin predates 1927. It is of frame construction and clad in clapboard siding. The original structure is one bay wide and has a front-gabled roof that is covered in asphalt shingles. There is a wrap-around sleeping porch that was added at a later date that is of board-and-batten construction. It has a shed roof that is covered in asphalt shingles. There are

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

overhangs on all sides of the building with exposed rafter tails. The windows on the addition are simple screens and the windows in the original structure are glass. The building foundation is supported by concrete footers. Wooden platforms are located outside of both entrances to the sleeping porch.

The End, DHR # 008-5048-0011

Contributing (1-Building)

This ca. 1920 one-story cabin is one of the original buildings on the property. It is constructed of rough-hewn logs with chinking. Its side-gabled roof is clad in standing-seam sheet metal. It is one bay wide and has glass windows. The sleeping porch was added in the 1950s and is of board-and-batten construction. It also has a side-gabled roof clad in standing-seam sheet metal. Its windows are simple screens. The cabin and sleeping porch are accessed by a large wooden porch.

The Pillbox, DHR # 008-5048-0012

Contributing (1-Building)

This ca. 1927 one-story, front-gabled building serves as the infirmary for the camp. It has a standing-seam metal roof with overhanging eaves on either side. The board-and-batten structure is three bays wide and is supported by concrete footers. A covered porch made of rough-hewn logs is located at the entrance of the building. It has a standing-seam, shed roof, railings and is accessed by two steps located to the side of the porch. A small addition is located at the rear of the structure that is also of board-and-batten construction and has a standing-seam roof. There are four 3/2 double-hung sash windows and two 2/3 double-hung on each side of the building.

Guest Cabin/ The Dinner Belle, DHR # 008-5048-0013

Contributing (1-Building)

This non-historic, one-story, three-bay guest cabin is of board-and-batten construction. It has a side-gabled, standing-seam metal roof with wide overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. There is a wrap-around, rough-hewn log porch spanning two sides of this building that is fully covered by the overhanging roof. The building is supported by concrete footers. It has sliding glass windows.

Hoot Owls, DHR # 008-5048-0014

Contributing (1-Building)

This 1920s, one-story building is one of the original cabins at the camp and is constructed of rough-hewn logs and chinking. It is three bays wide and has a side-gabled roof that is clad in asphalt shingles. The front elevation's windows are 5/3 glass windows while the windows on the sides of the building are 2/3 glass windows. There is a wide covered porch along the entrance of the building that is also made of rough-hewn logs. Wooden steps lead up to the porch. An exterior end chimney made of stones is located at the eastern side of the cabin. The building is supported by wooden posts and concrete footers.

Night Owls, DHR # 008-5048-0015

Contributing (1-Building)

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

This board-and-batten cabin was erected in the 1950s and is two bays wide. It has a front-gabled roof that is clad in standing-seam metal. There are wide overhangs with exposed rafter tails. The building has a very prominent front porch with a built-in bench that wraps around its perimeter. It is accessed by a set of wooden steps that sit to the side of the porch. The cabin has glass windows covered with screens. The building is supported by concrete footers. The space between the footers is enclosed with lattice. A second identifying feature of this particular building is the bell that sits at the apex of the front-gabled roof.

The Mouse House, DHR # 008-5048-0016

Contributing (1-Building)

This 1950s, one-story, side-gabled cabin is of frame construction. It has rough sawn clapboard siding and a red, standing-seam metal roof. There is a covered porch that runs the length of the building that is made of rough-hewn logs. There is a gravel pathway leading to the front porch. There is a later addition from 1999 that sits at the southern elevation of the building. It is of board-and-batten construction. The building sits atop concrete footers. There is also an interior brick chimney that emerges behind the apex of the gable roof.

Junior 4, DHR # 008-5048-0017

Non-Contributing (1-Building)

This small, non-historic, three-bay, one-story building is of board-and-batten construction and operates as a bathhouse. The front-gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has a large overhang over the entryway, with smaller overhangs over the glass windows along the sides of the building. It has a concrete foundation.

Bath County, DHR # 008-5048-0018

Non-Contributing (1-Building)

This newer, single-story bathhouse is three bays wide and is of board-and-batten construction. The front-gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles and exhibits a large overhang over the entrance to the building. There are overhanging eaves along the sides of the building with exposed rafter tails. The windows are 3/2 and are made of glass and covered with screens. This building has a concrete foundation.

Four Up, DHR # 008-5048-0019

Contributing (1-Building)

This single-story, non-historic bathhouse has a front-gabled roof that is clad in asphalt shingles with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. The building is one bay wide and is of board-and-batten construction. The windows are 2/3 glass windows and are located along the sides of the building. The foundation is made of concrete as well as the three steps leading up to the front door. Metal piping serves as railing.

The Beehive, DHR # 008-5048-0020

Non-Contributing (1-Building)

This ca. 2000, two-story building is of board-and-batten construction and is three bays wide. Its most prominent architectural feature is its front gambrel roof that is sheathed in standing-seam

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

metal. The lower level has screens covering the windows while the second floor has a combination of 1/1 double-hung sash windows and single-pane skylights. A gutter system is also featured on the structure. It has a concrete foundation.

The Office, DHR # 008-5048-0021

Non-Contributing (1-Building)

This building was constructed in 2003 and is one of the only winterized structures on the property. This three-bay structure is of frame construction. The building sports a side gambrel roof that is covered in asphalt shingles. There is a narrow overhang, whose roofline is outfitted with a gutter system. There are two dormers on the second floor, each of which has a 1/1 double-hung sash window. The first floor exhibits two 1/1 double-hung windows. The covered porch is accessed by two wooden steps and a gravel pathway.

Water Treatment Building, DHR # 008-5048-0022

Contributing (1-Building)

This ca. 1960 building operates as the water treatment building for the camp. One story in height, the board-and-batten building features a side-gabled, standing-seam metal roof. There is a white door with an inset 3/3 glass window on the front elevation. Located on the same elevation as the door, a sliding wooden door that allows for greater accessibility to the structure and its contents. This building is supported by a concrete foundation.

West Lodge, DHR # 008-5048-0023

Contributing (1-Building)

This social and visual focal point of the camp is the largest of the buildings located on the property and dates to the mid-1930s. It has a front-gabled, standing-seam metal roof. There is a large, interior stone chimney located on the western side of the building. The one-story edifice is of board-and-batten construction whose interior features a cathedral ceiling. There is a wide wrap-around porch that envelops three of the building's four sides and has a standing-seam metal roof. There are five sets of wooden steps that lead up to the porch.

Equestrian Shed #1, DHR 008-5048-0024

Contributing (1-Building)

This shed dates to the mid-1940s when the equestrian ring stood in this clearing. It is currently used for storage. This small building has a shed roof clad in asphalt shingles and a wide overhang over the shed's entrance, exhibiting exposed rafter tails. It is of board-and-batten construction and is one bay wide, with a 3/2 glass paned window on the left side of the building's entrance. It is coupled with a second window that has two rectangular panes of glass. There is one wooden step leading to the entrance. It has a foundation of concrete footers.

Equestrian Shed #2, DHR 008-5048-0025

Contributing (1-Building)

This shed dates to the mid-1940s when the equestrian ring stood in this clearing. It is currently used for storage. This small building has a shed roof clad in asphalt shingles. There is a wide overhang over the shed's entrance that exhibits exposed rafter tails. It is of board-and-batten

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

construction and is one bay wide, with a 3/2 glass window on the right side of the building's entrance. The entrance is accessed by a single wooden step. It is supported by concrete footers.

Archery Shack, DHR # 008-5048-0026

Non-Contributing (1-Structure)

This shack was built in 1994 and is of frame construction. It has a shed roof, clad in tin. Three of its four sides are open, with the last one enclosed with vertical planks.

Canoe Shack, DHR # 008-5048-0027

Non-Contributing (1-Structure)

The canoe shack was constructed in the 1970s and is an open-air structure. It has a gable roof that is covered in asphalt shingles and is supported by wooden posts.

Storage Building/ Cook's Cottage #1, DHR # 008-5048-0028

Non-Contributing (1-Building)

This small cottage was built in the late 1960s and was originally used as one of the cooks' quarters on the property. Today it is utilized for storage. The building's side-gabled roof is clad in tin sheet metal and has exposed rafter tails. The building itself is of frame construction and is three bays wide. Its windows are covered with screens. Its entrance is accessed by a wooden porch. Concrete footers support the building.

Cook's Cottage #2, DHR # 008-5048-0029

Non-Contributing (1-Building)

This cottage was built in the late 1960s and was once one of the cabins reserved as the cooks' quarters. Today it is used as a bathroom and there is an addition dating to 2014. The building's side-gabled roof is covered in sheet metal. The roof has a narrow overhang with exposed rafter tails. The building is of frame construction and has wooden steps leading to a platform, which gives access to the structure. The addition is of frame construction and has a standing-seam metal roof. Its windows are simple screens and have a single entrance. The entire edifice is supported by concrete footers.

Tool Shed, DHR # 008-5048-0030

Non-Contributing (1-Building)

This non-historic building acts as a storage shed for the camp. It is of frame construction and has wooden plank siding. The front-gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles and has wide overhangs. It has a concrete foundation.

Tennis Courts, DHR # 008-5048-0031

Non-Contributing (1-Structure)

The non-historic tennis courts are located centrally within the camp. They are made of clay and surrounded by a chain-link fence.

Basketball Court, DHR # 008-5048-0032

Non-Contributing (1-Structure)

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

The non-historic basketball court is made of clay and is a half-court in size. There is a single basketball hoop on the eastern end of the court, and there is a wooden beam retaining wall on two sides of the court.

The Tea Pot, DHR # 008-5048-0033
Non-Contributing (1-Building)

This simple, newer building functions as an outhouse and is of frame construction with vertical board siding. There is a single door on the front of the building with two metal hinges. The gable roof is covered in asphalt shingles and exhibits a slight overhang.

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

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.)

- 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

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1927-1964

Significant Dates

1927

1948

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Camp Mont Shenandoah, located near Millboro Springs (also known as Millboro) in Bath County, is locally significant under Criterion A in the following areas: Entertainment/Recreation and Education, in this case within the broader theme of the rise of youth summer camps in an increasingly urbanized culture and the focus on re-instilling traditional values in American youth; and Social History, specifically the connections and interactions between the Richmond elite and the remote community of Millboro Springs in the Allegheny Mountains of western Virginia. The property is further significant at the local level under Criterion C in the areas of Landscape Architecture and Architecture, in its deliberately created “manufactured wilderness” aimed at a specific social group; The period of significance is 1927-1964, beginning with the camp’s establishment and ending at the traditional fifty-year mark for properties at which significant historic activities have continued into the more recent past. As one of the earliest girls’ camps in Virginia, Camp Mont Shenandoah, fits squarely into the rise of the youth summer camp movement that first appeared in America in the 1880s and continued unabated until the 1960s. Today, as most youth camps have disappeared from the scene, Camp Mont Shenandoah remains as the second oldest girls’ camp in the state and one of just a handful of summer residential camps that continue to operate in Bath County, an area in the Allegheny Mountains that was once crowded with youth camps.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Camp Mont Shenandoah is Virginia’s oldest continuously operating girls camp and dates to the early years of the summer camp movement in the United States. While summer camps were first founded in the 1880s in New England and around the Great Lakes region, it was not until the early twentieth century that they proliferated in mid-Atlantic and southern states. Camp Mont Shenandoah’s “sister camp” is Camp Alkulana (DHR No. 008-5049), also located in Bath County. Baptist women in Richmond espoused the summer camp movement early on, and under the leadership of Nannie Crump West, founded Camp Alkulana in 1915 as an effort to serve more completely Richmond children through their churches. Also founded by West, Camp Mont Shenandoah was established in 1927 to provide Virginia’s “society girls” with a summer camp experience. A National Register nomination for Camp Alkulana was prepared in 2014.

America’s Youth Camp Movement

America’s youth camp movement (1880-1960) was a direct reaction against the urbanization of America and a perceived loss of mental, spiritual, and physical health that could be restored to children who spent time out of doors. Thus was born a “manufactured wilderness” – the summer camp – as a way of providing city children with a “respite for moral and physical degradations of urban life.”¹ The founders of these nature camps lamented the fact that modern youth “never”

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

spent time out of doors or learned the survival skills that had been a necessary part of life in the early days of American settlement. Organized camping was a way to instill in nature-deprived youth of the late 19th and early 20th centuries those skills that they would otherwise have missed, such as fishing, building fires, cooking over the open flame, making handcrafts, and living rustically in log cabins. For boys in particular, and to a lesser extent, girls, some military and patriotic aspects were also instilled in the campers as well, especially after World War I.²

Organized camps began with boys, who educators of the day feared were becoming particularly soft under the domestic spheres of their mothers and schoolmarmes. By the early 1900s, girls also began to participate in the back-to-nature camping movement. It was a way, believed child experts, to prepare them to be good wives and mothers. Organizationally the girls' movement began with Camp Fire Girls (1910) who emphasized camping and a contrived, anglicized Native American "lore" from the onset. Within a few years, the Girls Scout organization was founded and camping became an integral part of their programs as well. For girls, then, this outdoors experience "embraced camping as a means to create a new generation of happy and capable women who would be vivacious companions to their husbands and energetic mothers to the next generation of boys."³

Within a few decades of the development of organized youth camping, three types of resident camps developed: agency camps, charitable group camps, and camps for more privileged youth. The first type was represented by YMCA and YWCA camps, as well as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls. These camps were often just a week or two in length and were quite affordable for middle and working class families. The second type of camp was usually associated with charitable agencies, mission groups, and settlement houses. The aforementioned Camp Alkulana (DHR No. 008-5049) is such an example. Children were selected from among the urban poor and donations allowed them to experience, often for the first time in their lives, grass and trees in the outdoors. The camps tended to be closely associated with a religious charity and the camp experience was more evangelical in nature. The final group of camps also catered to city children but was focused on those of privilege who, before the advent of summer camps, had stayed summers at a resort hotel under the direction of their mothers while their fathers remained in the city at their place of business. Camp Mont Shenandoah falls into this category. These camps attracted youth from a much smaller circle of elite families.⁴ By the 1920s and 1930s, American youth camping proponents, the overwhelming majority of whom were white, in all three types of camps began to imitate and glorify their perceptions of Native American and rural mountain lore. Unconsciously, this was done as a way "to support white privilege and reinforce racial hierarchies" according to those who have studied the rise of the organized camp movement, especially among the camps drawing from the more privileged classes.⁵ As an example, of this phenomenon, Camp Alkulana's name reportedly was based on a Native American word that meant "bright eyes," although the name's origins have not been verified.

Nannie West: Missionary and Camper

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Camp Mont Shenandoah owes its existence to this organized camping movement in the United States and its history fits quite neatly into that movement. Further, the person responsible for the founding of the camp, Nannie Crump West, fits quite neatly into that movement as well, learning and honing her camp skills through charitable organization camping by founding and directing Camp Alkulana (DHR No. 008-5049) and then culminating her life's work with the founding of Camp Mont Shenandoah, which catered to the girls from families of her peers, particularly in the Richmond area. West, the daughter of William Burton West and Mary Crump West, grew up as a child of privilege on Park Avenue in Richmond. She attended Grove Avenue Baptist Church. By the time West was 26 years old, she had graduated from the Woman's Missionary Union Training School in Louisville, Kentucky, a Southern Baptist school that provided her with the tools to become a missionary. The Baptist Women's Circle of Richmond was ripe for missionary work and in 1914 they decided to launch a settlement house to serve the urban poor of the city. They hired West, described as "a faithful, consecrated young woman," whose face was said to invite trust and whose manner was certain to instill confidence. She had already been involved in a number of community service projects both in Louisville and Richmond.⁶

West jumped right into the job (that paid \$600 a year) as director of the settlement house that became known as The House of Happiness (DHR No. 127-0815-0334; contributes to the Union Hill Historic District [NRHP 2002]). Within weeks not only was she selecting wallpaper for the new house, but she was ordering Camp Fire Girl and Blue Bird (younger Camp Fire Girls) uniforms. The house was open by October 1914 and there were 54 Camp Fire Girls and 33 Bluebirds that fall.⁷ West probably chose the Camp Fire organization over the Girl Scouts because of the focus she wished to place on the camping experience for inner city girls who worked in factories (child labor laws had not yet been enacted to protect children). She made contact with a Richmond couple that owned a cottage a few miles out of the city and by the summer of 1915, 25 girls were camping at Camp Alkulana (DHR No. 008-5049; NRHP nominated 2014). She later wrote that there "the fresh air, reviving breezes, wholesome, plentiful food, and regular exercise brought new life to frail, over-worked bodies, and communion with nature's God renewed spiritual strength to starving souls."⁸

The girls returned to that cottage in the summer of 1915, but then an event occurred that would change West's camping focus forever. For years she had vacationed at the Millboro Springs hotel, located 150 miles west of Richmond along the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Railroad. There, nestled in the Allegheny Mountains and along the Cowpasture River (headwaters of Richmond's James River) in Bath County, summers were cooler and nature was closer. One afternoon in a conversation with J.G. Davidson, the hotel owner, she said, "If only we could have a camp in this lovely country for our girls in Richmond." Davidson replied that he had an old mill house on a stream and that the girls could use that property. For the next 14 years the camp was provided to Camp Alkulana free of charge under the direction of the House of Happiness and the Richmond Baptist's Women's Circle. Because the girls came from low-income families, the C&O provided free transportation to and from the camp for many years, albeit on freight rather than passenger cars. Groups of girls attended camp for two weeks at a time and, while they were charged a nominal fee, they helped pay their way by selling candy during the year. Camp Alkulana provided "a great opportunity for the girls, many of whom would not be able to leave

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

the city all through the hot summer if it were not for this camp,” noted the *Richmond Times Dispatch* newspaper.⁹ The camp, still run by the Richmond Baptist Association today, continues to serve inner city boys and girls.¹⁰

Camp Mont Shenandoah

In June 1924, West’s health failed to the point where she offered her resignation at the House of Happiness. The board convinced her to make that a year’s leave of absence instead; however, after six months her doctor recommended that she not return.¹¹ West’s health must have improved enough that by 1926 she returned to the work she loved, at least on a seasonal basis. Although probably too frail for the intense pressures of running an ever-expanding settlement house, she could still use her talents in the area she most loved – providing children with an opportunity to get out of the city and experience the natural world in a place close to her heart: Millboro Springs. The planning process for establishing Camp Mont Shenandoah was not documented, but in June 1927, she opened her new camp on the banks of the Wallawhatoola (Cowpasture) River. This new camp was situated only a few miles from Camp Alkulana, but socially it was worlds apart. Whereas Camp Alkulana served underprivileged inner city girls of Richmond, Mont Shenandoah served the girls of wealth and privilege – the debutantes of the city as well as their social network of friends and families in other cities such as Baltimore, Portsmouth, and Hampton. Enrollment for the summer was limited to 50 girls. In 1932, there were 47 girls, 21 of whom came from Richmond and several more who came from cities just outside the state capital.¹²

Although the clientele was different from Camp Alkulana, the ideals and purposes of Mont Shenandoah were the same and embodied the full life experience of West’s years of leading girls in the world of camping. The 1933 camp advertising booklet explained: “The highest ideals of Camp Mont Shenandoah are to develop Christian character, and to give to its girls a happy, wholesome vacation...which will strengthen the soul as well as mind and body. It develops self-control, self-reliance, mental alertness, a desire to achieve, a sense of responsibility for the welfare of others, and a love for God’s great out-of-doors.”¹³ West’s words were not dissimilar to those she wrote when describing the benefits of Camp Alkulana a decade earlier.

The activities offered at Mont Shenandoah were similar to those offered through the increasing number of summer camps throughout the country. Physical activities included athletic competition such as tennis, basketball, and volleyball as well as swimming, boating, horseback riding, and archery. White elites’ perceptions of Native American and mountain folklore were promulgated through activities such as nature study, storytelling, and basketry, while activities appropriate for young debutantes such as theater and dancing were included in the camp curricula. Sundays were devoted to rest, worship, and Bible study.¹⁴ All of this fit quite neatly into the norm of children’s private summer camps during the time period, and represented the culmination of West’s life work.

When West founded Mont Shenandoah, she was already recognized as an authority on youth camping. And she stood squarely in the center of the meteoric rise of summer camps across

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

America. In 1924, Porter Sargent began listing and describing summer camps across the country through his nationally-distributed *Handbook of Summer Camps*. It was estimated that during that first year of the handbook, parents would have had to sort through about 1,000 private summer camps – 600 for boys and 400 for girls – making the guide an essential part of choosing a summer camp. Just five years later, numbers of private camps had doubled, but that paled in comparison to the estimated 5,000 to 7,000 youth group and charity camps by 1930.¹⁵ Of those thousands of camps nationwide and hundreds of Virginia camps, Mont Shenandoah was able to rise to the top of the list of preferred camps, almost certainly because of West and her ability to combine her youth camping work with her Richmond social networking. As early as 1933, her camp was listed by the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce as among the top 16 recommended private camps in Virginia where youth spend summers in “healthful, well governed camps.” There boys and girls lived “under canvas or in cabins close to nature, rather than [vacationing] in established resorts with the restrictions which such a vacation imposes.”¹⁶ Mont Shenandoah was described as being situated at 1,900 feet on the “banks of the Wallawhatoola River...reached by Chesapeake and Ohio Railway.” The camp’s sleeping quarters “consist of screened and well ventilated cabins” and a graduate nurse was on the staff. The director was listed as “Miss Nannie West, 2409 Park Avenue, Richmond.” Of those 16 top private camps listed, only Camp Carysbrook (DHR No. 060-0050) for girls, located in the New River Valley and formed in 1923, remains as an existing girls camp in Virginia that is older than Camp Mont Shenandoah.¹⁷ Sarah Caperton Preston established Camp Carysbrook and managed it with her sister, Katherine Preston, until her death in 1965. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cuminsky directed the camp from 1965-1971, followed by Latherine Syer Heath directed Carysbrook from 1971-1976. After a brief closure, in 1979, the camp was purchased by Toni Musso Baughman, who operated the camp from 1980-2001. Her daughters continue to operate Camp Carysbrook today.¹⁸

West clearly had the training and knew the right sources from which to create a girls’ camp that would fit the mold of the youth camp movement. From the founding of the House of Happiness, she had worked with the fledgling Camp Fire Girl organization and so knew the woodland lore as well as proper camping techniques. The annual advertising booklet that she created each year from the previous summer’s camp included quotes from the nation’s top educators and leaders in the outdoors movement: former Harvard University president Charles William Elliot; H.W. Gibson, whose 1911 book *Camping for Boys* became the top guide for the organized youth camping movement; and Bernard Mason, who authored nationally known books on camping and education as well as guides on rural lore and woodcrafts. In the 1933 Mont Shenandoah booklet, for instance, Mason is quoted as saying: “To spend a summer with wholesome campers, in a group with worthy traditions, and associated with counselors of culture and idealism, is sociologically one of the finest experiences that can come into the life of any girl or boy.”¹⁹

Richmond’s newspaper article about summer camps the following year simply included interviews with four Richmond women who were camp directors: West, Mrs. Mason White (Camp Pocahontas, the Girl Scout camp in Chesterfield; no longer operational), Mrs. E.R. Chesterman (Camp Okahawis in Rockbridge County, no longer operational), and Mrs. Jonathan C. Day (Camp Merrie-Woode in North Carolina, still operational). The four women agreed that 1934 would be a “bigger and better” camping season than had been seen in a long time, perhaps

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

because the infusion of New Deal money and programs provided a return of normalcy in American life or maybe, they thought, because Americans were determined to preserve traditions like camping at all costs.²⁰ Even as late as 1940, summer camps still made headlines in the Richmond newspaper. In 1940, camps came under new health regulations and had to be inspected and permitted by the state health department. Mont Shenandoah was one of nine camps in Bath County and 90 across the state that received permits.²¹

Richmond Society Girls at Camp

In every way, Camp Mont Shenandoah fit into the rise of the organized camping experience created by private camps. Such camps were founded by one or two individuals (in this case Nannie West, but with Mrs. R.L. Withrow always there as the assistant, first as camp dietician, then as “camp mother,” and finally as owner). In such camps, the participant roster was drawn from a relatively small circle of well-to-do families who were often related – siblings, cousins, and eventually multiple generations.²² This continues to the present at Mont Shenandoah with many families sending the third or fourth generation of children to the camp, which has an 87 percent return rate for summer campers.²³

The yearly advertising booklet that served as a camp recruiting tool in the 1930s listed the activities in which the girls participated and the activities, too, fit all the themes popular for the time period: nature lore, crafts, camp fire activities, exercise, team athletics, water sports such as swimming and canoeing, woodland activities such as archery and hiking, and worship. As was popular between World Wars I and II, there was also an element of military and patriotic activity such as reveille and taps, a flag ceremony, and inspections.²⁴ A photographic essay in the Richmond newspaper in 1939 featured pictures of Virginia girls at Camp Mont Shenandoah participating in basket making, natural dancing, and bugling at the flagpole.²⁵

From the beginning, it was clear that the clientele from which Camp Mont Shenandoah were recruiting campers were the Richmond elite as well as their extended network of family and friends. This held true from the very beginning in 1927, until well into the twentieth century. Perhaps nothing sums it up better than the June 24, 1956, article on the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*'s society pages. Under the headline “Miss Durham Will Attend Wedding of Her Cousin,” it read: “Miss Susan Durham will leave on Thursday for Pennsacola [sic], Fla., to attend the wedding on Saturday of her cousin, Miss Suzanne Jones, and Second Lieutenant John Wall. Miss Durham, a current debutante, plans to go to Camp Mont Shenandoah early next month where she will be a counselor. Miss Jane Durham is among those leaving this Wednesday for Mont Shenandoah.”²⁶ The society pages were, in fact, the way that word about the camp was spread. From the first year of the camp, West and Withrow hosted camp alumnae social gatherings in order to reinforce the friendships built at the camps and to recruit new campers. These were usually held very early in the year. A January issue of the Richmond paper in 1933 announced that “Miss Nannie West will entertain the counselors and campers who attend Camp Mont Shenandoah on Saturday afternoon...The reunion will take place in the home of Miss West's sister... [and] moving pictures taken at the camp will be shown.” The article went on to mention which out-of-town girls would be attending the reunion.²⁷ In addition to the annual

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

reunions that made the society pages in Richmond, mention was made of every girl as she went off to camp and when she came home. When West and Withrow spent time in the camp before and after the camp sessions, those were mentioned as well. Also mentioned were family members who went out to Bath County and spent time visiting their daughters at the camp.²⁸ The society page notice in June 1932 was typical: "Camp Mont Shenandoah for girls located not far from Hot Springs on the Wallawhatoola River, will open its seventh season Wednesday. Miss Nannie West, director; Mrs. R.B. Withrow, camp mother, and Miss Frances Potts, formerly from this city, who is now secretary of the camp, together with several girls and counselors have already left for the camp."²⁹

Clearly these mentions in the Richmond's society pages served as the main advertisement for the camp. The lone known advertising exception that has been located was in the Richmond newspaper on May 1, 1927, as the camp prepared to open for the first time. Known that first year as Camp Shenandoah for Girls, the small display advertisement noted that the camp was under the direction of Miss Nannie West and asked readers to write for the camp booklet. The advertisement was conveniently placed next to the C&O Railroad schedule.³⁰ It is interesting to note that, while the underprivileged girls at nearby Camp Alkulana (DHR No. 008-5049) were given free transportation on the freight railroad, the Mont Shenandoah campers and their families often rented entire passenger train cars for the trip to and from the camp. After that initial season, the camp seemed to rely heavily on its own advertising booklet and recommendations from within the society networks. In the back of that booklet were many prominent citizens offering their references including four doctors, a minister, a military major, two judges, a senator, and a governor.³¹

Further cementing the fact that Mont Shenandoah was the preferred camp for Richmond girls through the 1960s is the fact that Thalhimers, a Richmond department store, became the camp's official outfitter. In early June of each year, the pages of the Richmond newspaper were graced with large advertisements from Thalhimers proclaiming themselves as "Official Camp Headquarters" for girls and boys heading off to summer camp. Although Thalhimers was happy to sell generic camping supplies and clothing to children heading off to any camp, they were the "official" camp outfitters for Camp Mont Shenandoah; Camp Alleghany, a girls camp in Greenbrier, West Virginia, that was founded in 1922 and still operates; and Camp Pocahontas, a Girl Scout camp just outside of Richmond. Using their Camp Mont Shenandoah/Thalhimers guide, mothers could help their daughters purchase everything from moccasins and canteens to underwear and flashlights. And, of course, every girl had to have the official uniform for Sundays and automobile trips while at camps: white shirt, white pleated shorts, green socks, green tie, green beret, and green slipover sweater.³² Eventually Richmond's other large department store, Miller & Rhoads, moved in on the summer camp action in the 1950s, declaring themselves official outfitters for a long list of camps on the East Coast, including Mont Shenandoah.³³

A Community of Camps

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

The rise of the organized youth camps in America was reflected specifically in the rise of those camps in the mountains of western Virginia. The remoteness, vast outdoors, and cooler summer temperatures in the mountains were incredibly attractive to the increasing number of Americans spending their lives in growing cities along the Atlantic Coast. Although there were camps scattered throughout the western mountains of Virginia and the Alleghenies of West Virginia, a larger than usual concentration seemed to locate in Bath County, and particularly in the Millboro/Millboro Springs area. Since European settlement spread here during the eighteenth century, areas in western Virginia around hot springs had attracted visitors in search of “healing waters” as well as cool retreats for the elite to enjoy. The area, although remote, was never inaccessible as it lay first on a stagecoach route and then a C&O Railroad route. With the rise of the youth camp movement, Bath County – so named for its well-known mineral springs – seemed to be the perfect fit. The Millboro area already had a reputation for vacationers as Nannie West had, by her own account, spent many getaways at the Millboro Springs hotel. And it seems likely that, when she convinced the proprietor of that establishment to bring her Camp Alkulana girls to Millboro Springs in 1917, she started a trend. Within a short time, Camp Wallawhatoola for boys and then girls was established (1922 by Stanley Sutton Sr. and Dabney Lancaster; no longer operational). Then West started Mont Shenandoah, which was quickly followed by Camp Nimrod for Boys and Camp Nimrod for Girls (1930s by Frank Wood, closed in 1985; also known as Nimrod Hall [DHR No. 008-0104]).

With the concentration of so many camps around the western mountain community, two things occurred. First, an unusual connection and network of families and businesses was created between the state capital of Richmond and the Millboro area. Second, the large number of camps operating in the area would certainly have provided much-needed economic activity in Bath County to help residents survive the Great Depression. In an era of Jim Crow segregation, local African-American workers still were able to find jobs at camps, but generally limited to gardens and grounds keeping (for men) and cooking and domestic work (for women). “That was all the occupations they had were farming and the camps,” remembered Doris Turner Hayes, 85, who was born in the Nimrod Hall area of Millboro Springs.³⁴

Ms. Hayes was related to the Lockett family and her Uncle Chester Lockett lived at Camp Mont Shenandoah as a handyman and groundskeeper. “He managed the camp for the lady caretaker (Mrs. Withrow). He would do repairs, mow the grass, and keep watch there. He lived there year-round in a little cabin with a bunk bed and a stove to cook and heat. She (Mrs. Withrow) put the stove in there for him. He used the outdoor toilet. My mother (Chester’s sister) and I used to go up there and visit him,” recalled Ms. Hayes. Eventually, Uncle Ches became ill with cancer and Mrs. Hayes’ mother brought him home to take care of him. He died in the early 1950s. Ms. Hayes described Lockett as “a brilliant man who studied a lot and read a lot” but who was not a particularly hard worker.³⁵ Another Lockett, Chester’s first cousin George, had a lot more drive about him, according to Ms. Hayes. He was an excellent carpenter despite the fact that he had no formal training. “It was a god-given talent,” she remembered. George’s son, Woodrow, was also a good carpenter. A number of years ago, an elderly African-American man stopped by Camp Mont Shenandoah and talked to director Ann Warner. He noted that he helped build at least one of the buildings. Ms. Hayes speculates that the man was George Lockett.³⁶ Brothers George and

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Joe Luckett had a good reputation for building houses and doing a variety of carpentry projects. Other African Americans in the Millboro area known for their carpentry skills were Bill Douglas and Richard “June” Long, Jr. All probably were involved with providing building and maintenance services at the area camps. The women in the families helped cook at the camps. Two historic photographs taken at Mont Shenandoah include African Americans. In one, a group of people is seated around a fireplace and standing beside the fireplace is an African-American woman that Ms. Hayes identified as Miss Bessie Umbles from Millboro. A second photo features four African-American men who appear to be camp cooks. The three men standing, left to right, are Hawthorn Fitzpatrick from Millboro, either Harold or Rayfield Brown, brothers also from Millboro, and Walter Jones from Millboro. The man kneeling is probably a man from Charlottesville brought in to work in the camp for the summer. All of the Fitzpatrick children, whose mother was Callie, worked in the camps.³⁷

Passing the Torch

In July 1934, camp founder and director Nannie West passed away at the age of 46. She is buried with her parents in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond. Mrs. R.L. “Ma” Withrow, who had been at West’s side almost from the beginning, took the reins and continued the camp in the traditions created by West until the late 1940s. Mrs. Withrow was probably from a well-to-do family in Millboro. She bought the camp from West. Eventually she moved to Richmond.³⁸ At that time Mrs. Walter E. Durham, from a family strongly associated with the camp, entertained the new owners, former West Virginia Governor Clarence W. Meadows and his wife, at a tea on Park Avenue in Richmond.³⁹ Today the camp is partially owned and operated by Ann Warner, a Camp Mont Shenandoah legacy. Her grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Patrick, assumed ownership of the camp along with Hazel Cox and Governor Meadows in the winter of 1948-1949. In 1966, these owners passed the title of the camp to five other individuals, one of whom was Mary P. “Sis” Warner, Ann’s mother. In 1996, Ann and her husband at the time bought the non-family owned shares, creating a sole family-owned business. Today, Warner continues as the director. The year 2014 marks her 28th summer spent at Camp Mont Shenandoah. Under Warner’s informed direction, the ideals and values of the camp are communicated to each new class of girls; a setting of natural beauty is protected and maintained; and the architectural heritage of this iconic camp is preserved for another generation of campers.⁴⁰

Heyday Gone By

As the years went by, other camps in the area came and went as well. In 1940, there were nine youth camps in Bath County. Camp Accovac, a Christian camp that was founded in the 1940s, moved to Millboro in 1969 and acquired land once owned by the Millboro Lumber Company. The camp continues to operate today. However, the summer youth camp movement in America is past its heyday. Today in the Millboro area, Accovac and Alkulana remain, as does Mont Shenandoah. The others are gone. It is interesting to think that West must have been deeply knowledgeable in the field of youth camping because the two camps that she founded in Millboro Springs have remained, grown, and prospered.

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Camp Mont Shenandoah is locally significant for its architecture and landscape architecture because it is a fine example of the Rustic style commonly used at recreational summer camps from the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century. Rustic design principles were also later popularized by the National Park Service in the construction of buildings, sites and structures found in their parks and recreational areas. The camp also is representative of a “manufactured wilderness,” the term coined by historian Abigail Van Slyck to describe a manmade version of wilderness meant to provide young people with a carefully controlled experience of nature.

The elements of rustic design are rooted in past principles of architecture, most notably the ideas of Andrew Jackson Downing in the mid-19th century. Downing, a landscape architect by trade, believed that architecture should harmoniously blend with its surrounding landscape creating a picturesque scene. These principles were integral in the construction of the great camps in the Adirondacks Mountains of New York beginning in the 1870s.⁴¹ The design and theory that architecture should fit within its surrounding landscape matched the objectives of the National Park Service’s initiative to expand and provide more services to the public within park lands. One of the first large scale construction projects was the Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone National Park. The inn at Yellowstone was constructed in 1903-1904 and exhibits high style rustic design that heavily influenced park architecture, not only in other federally owned park areas, but also state and privately owned parks as well.

During the 1920s and 1930s the National Park Service’s construction of Rustic park buildings coincided with the growing popularity of youth summer camps so it is not surprising that the design of these youth camps would resemble the buildings and landscape elements constructed in state and national parks. Rustic architecture blended effortlessly with the environment and encouraged closeness with nature which corresponded with the goals of youth camp directors for their young patrons from the city. Both Camp Mont Shenandoah and its “sister camp,” Camp Alkulana (DHR No. 008-5049) are fine examples of summer camps designed in the Rustic style.

Introduction to Camp Mont Shenandoah’s manufactured wilderness is via a shaded, winding gravel road which is the only public entry to the facility. The camp’s sixty acres are situated on gently rolling topography that offers opportunities to create framed vistas of the camp buildings as well as the Cowpasture River. Buildings are clustered not only by function and use, but on hillsides, within wooded lots, or on cleared areas, all of which are meant to evoke a particular experience of the natural setting. The pedestrian circulation network, created over generations by campers and counselors as they traveled from place to place, appears to have emerged organically over time although in fact the paths are evidence of the carefully organized layout for the camp’s facilities. Meanwhile, the vehicular circulation pattern has been kept in a rustic form but altered to accommodate changing means of transport as well as expectations of physical access.

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

This self-conscious approach to introducing children to a “wilderness” setting has been documented at similar camp properties, not only in Virginia but across the nation, particularly the more densely settled eastern United States. The excellent Multiple Property Listing *Great Camps of the Adirondacks Thematic Resources* (Gobrecht, 1986) provides a synthesis of the architecture and landscape design features typical of camps dating from the late nineteenth through mid-twentieth century. Native building materials, along with rustic construction methods and exterior ornamentation, were crucial aspects of early camps’ architectural design. The appearance, form, and massing of buildings and structures associated with the camp are meant to harmonize with their natural surroundings. Meanwhile, use of log and stone construction, rustic ornamentation such as unhewn wood poles, and simple interior finishes strive to evoke an idealized version of the American frontier when individuals made their livings from the land and handiwork was the norm instead of the exception.

The decentralized layout of camp facilities, with designated zones for sleeping, eating, storage, maintenance, and recreation, is intended to illustrate the evolution of a complex over time. Additionally, the consciously organized approach to creating a seemingly organic evolution fits neatly into the “manufactured wilderness” concept.

Camp Mont Shenandoah and nearby Camp Alkulana are being concurrently nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The architecture of both Mont Shenandoah and Alkulana exhibit basic design principles of the rustic style found in the great camps of the Adirondacks and later popularized by the National Park Service in many of their buildings, from lodges and cabins to administration and other support buildings. Other similar properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places in Virginia include Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center (DHR# 006-5009) in Appomattox County, Hanshill (DHR# 005-5329) in Amherst County and Kirkland Grove (DHR# 066-0089) in Northumberland County.

Holiday Lake, which was constructed in 1937 and 1938 by Work Progress Administration workers as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, features cabins, bathhouses and other associated buildings constructed using elements of the Rustic style with a more formal or military design and layout. Hanshill was listed in the National Register in 2011 and features a cluster of buildings and sites, most associated with the summer house constructed in 1925. The summer retreat is situated on land that was formerly used as a YWCA camp for Lynchburg youth. The house is a good example of a more formal type of rustic style, similar to the design found in the lodges and cabins in the National Park system. The only extant structure associated with the camp is the spring box used to “control” the point where the spring used for drinking water comes to surface. Kirkland Grove in Northumberland, by contrast, was established in 1892 as a site for religious services. It features the great tabernacle, the camper’s tents, which only two survive, and the preacher’s tent. All of these buildings feature Rustic design principles, but the camp itself has no formal layout like Alkulana and Mont Shenandoah.

Located in the New River Valley near Roanoke, the aforementioned Camp Carysbrook (DHR No. 060-0050) also features Rustic architecture and is located within a 200-acre bucolic setting conducive to outdoor recreational activities. Approximately 20 one-story, three-bay frame girls’

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District

Name of Property

Bath County, VA

County and State

cottages are loosely arranged in a one-to-two-range crescent facing a lodge over a lawn. The cabins display board-and-batten siding, shed-roofed porches with unhewn log posts, and standing-seam metal roofs, with interiors finished with unpainted wood walls, flooring, and exposed rafter ceilings. A lodge to the northwest of the crescent consists of a one-story, one-bay V-notch log house with stone chimney and wrap-around porch on the south and west sides. The lodge has open trusses, a rack-faced mantel, and plywood walls and ceilings. Other buildings include a concrete block shower house, two small shed-roofed counselor's cottages interspersed among the girl's cottages, a cook's cottage, an office with privy east of the lodge, and a shed for sporting equipment beside the tennis and basketball courts. Further to the west of the lodge are the "Arts and Crafts" and "Nature House" cottages, while a riding ring is beside the river. In 2000, staff of the Department of Historic Resources recommended the camp is eligible for the National Register with significance in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Architecture; however, to date a National Register nomination has not been prepared.

Camp Nimrod for Boys and Girls operated in Bath County from the 1930s until flood damage forced its closure in 1985. It is located on a property also known as Nimrod Hall (DHR No. 008-0104). A farmstead was established at Nimrod Hall by the late eighteenth century and the extant primary dwelling is a two-story, central passage, single pile house. During the 1880s, Nimrod Hall was remodeled as a resort catering to tourists who visited Bath County's famous springs. During the 1930s, Frank Wood stayed at Nimrod Hall and began a summer camp for young boys called Camp Nimrod. The C&O railroad brought campers from all over Virginia to stay for 8-week sessions. A girls' camp was created about two years after the boys' camp. Both remained open until 1985, and during that time, Nimrod Hall continued to offer stays for resort guests. After the camps closed, the associated buildings were removed. Nimrod Hall began hosting artists and writers workshops, a function it continues today in addition to being a resort inn.⁴²

The aforementioned Camp Accovac, also located in Bath County, was established at its current location in 1969. The camp offers eight cabins, each of which is a modest frame, front-gabled, three-bay building with painted weatherboard siding, a combined chapel and dining hall that also is front-gabled and has stucco siding, and a one-story, rectangular lodge consisting of a series of guest rooms to either side of a central common room. The architectural resources date from the 1960s or later, and reflect the stripped-down, Modern architectural influence of the period.

In summary, the significance of Camp Mont Shenandoah in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture lies more in the visual cohesion of the architectural resources, their spatial relationships to one another and to the larger camp, and their relatively simple construction methods. Although not an embodiment of high artistic values or the work of a master, Camp Mont Shenandoah is a readily distinguishable entity evocative of a particular time and a particular theory of architecture and landscape architecture design, and further retains an intact rural and picturesque setting. Buildings, structures, and sites within the camp, and the surrounding landscape retain high integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Camp Mont Shenandoah, along with its sister camp, Alkulana, are representative of an important aspect of the American summer camp movement, as well as Bath County's history as a recreational destination.

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Conclusion

Camp Mont Shenandoah is among the oldest private residential camps in continuous operation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The summer camp has annually attracted girls between the ages of six and 16 from Virginia, the United States, and around the world. The summer 2014 season marked the camp's 88th anniversary. Third and fourth generation campers returned to an organized camping space first envisioned and created by Nannie West in 1927. Little has changed with either the organized physical space or the guiding principles and camp ethos offered by West in the camp's first advertising booklets: the Five Virtues of Love, Loyalty, Friendship, Sportsmanship, and Spiritual Awareness.

The camp was founded on values that endure today. Over the years, traditions that celebrate and give expression to these values have become deeply rooted in the life of camp. These traditions center on the campfire circle atop Vesper Hill. Crimson sunsets provide the backdrop for the Honor Meets – convocations of all campers and counselors. During the Final Honor Meet, the last night of the six-week summer session, the Camp Spirit Ceremony honors one girl selected by campers and counselors alike who best personifies the Five Virtues and the Twelve Laws of Woodcraft. The Twelve Laws, based on Anglicized, very loose interpretations of Native American and mountain lore, were codified by Ernest Thompson Seton, a founder of the Boy Scouts of America, in his 1925 book *Woodland Tales*. Embraced by the camp's founding lights, Nannie West and Mildred Mateer (Program Director 1931-1966), the Twelve Laws are expressed in this poetic way:

“be brave, be silent, obey; be clean, be strong, protect wildlife always,
speak true, be reverent, play fair as you strive; be helpful, be kind, be glad you are
alive.”

Although a single camper is selected Camp Spirit, all campers and counselors strive to incorporate the Five Virtues and Twelve Laws in their daily lives at camp and in the community. This nomination allows the Camp Mont Shenandoah family to raise this “Toast To Camp” written by a camper and published in the 1933 Camp Mont Shenandoah brochure:

To her tall whispering pine trees towering to the sky,
To the blueness of her Heaven arching above,
To her river with its murmurings crooning softly in our ears,
To its spirit of adventure,
To its ideals high and true,
To its campers ever loyal,
To Mont Shenandoah – Nature's Paradise on earth –
We drink to you!

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Camp Alkulana website, <http://www.alkulana.org>.

Camp Carysbrook, "About Us: History," published online at <http://www.campcarysbrook.com/about-us/history/>. Accessed January 2015.

Camp Wallawhatoola website, <http://www.wallawhatoola.org/>.

Camp Mont Shenandoah, advertising circular, for the June 28th-August 23rd, 1933, and June 27th-August 22nd 1935 season.

Camp Mont Shenandoah, Thalhimers Official Outfitters booklet.

Gobrecht, Larry E. *Multiple Property Listing: Great Camps of the Adirondacks Thematic Resources*. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, 1987.

Nimrod Hall, County of Bath, Virginia. "A Very Brief History of a Virginia Institution." Published online at http://www.nimrodhall.com/Nimrod_Hall/History.html. Accessed January 2015.

Paris, Leslie, *Children's Nature: The Rise of the American Summer Camp* (New York: New York University Press, 2008).

Richmond Times Dispatch (**Articles, notices, and advertisements**):

Nannie West and Camp Alkulana: August 7, 1921, August 12, 1923, July 25, 1934.

State camp articles: June 11, 1933, June 17, 1934, August 7, 1940.

Advertisements: May 1, 1927, June 13, 1935, June 8, 1938, May 24, 1939, May 18, 1948, April 18, 1955,

Society page notices: January 15, 1928, January 29, 1928, April 18, 1928, August 26, 1928, July 8, 1929, August 17, 1929, September 22, 1929, September 29, 1929, January 30, 1932, June 25, 1932, January 29, 1933, July 29, 1933, September 3, 1933, July 8, 1934, July 22, 1934, February 26, 1936, February 24, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 22, 1940, January 24, 1951, January 23, 1952, June 24, 1956,

Van Slyck, Abigail A. *A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth, 1890-1960*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006.

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Watkins, Rees, *The House of Happiness: A Ministry of Love* (Richmond: Richmond Baptist Association, Woman's Missionary Union of the Richmond Baptist Association, 1981).

West family tombstone inscriptions, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Va.

Oral history interviews: Camp director Ann Warner; Mary Elizabeth Patrick Groff: Owner, 1949-1966 (now deceased); Mary Patrick "Sis" Warner: Camper, 1949-1952; Counselor, 1953-1954; Owner, 1967-present; Ann Patrick Nelson: Camper, 1949-1951; Counselor, 1952-1953 (now deceased); Martha B. Knight: Camper, 1952-1957; Counselor, 1958-1959, 1961-1963, 1965-1966; Program Director, 1967-1983; Owner, 1967-1996, and J. Segar Gravatt: Camper, 1960-1964; Counselor, 1971-1972, 1982; Program Director, 1984-1985.

Telephone interview by Nancy Sorrells with Doris Turner Hayes, Aug. 21, 2014. The African-American history was taken from an interview with Doris Turner Hayes, 85, a retired educator in Covington, Va. Ms. Hayes was born and raised in the Millboro Springs area and is related to several of the people who worked at the camp, including her uncle, Chester Luckett. As a child, Ms. Hayes and her mother visited Chester Luckett at Camp Mont Shenandoah. Ms. Hayes identified four of the five African-Americans in the photographs. An unnamed African American also stopped by the camp years ago and indicated to Director Ann Warner that he had helped build at least one of the camp buildings. Ms. Hayes said that the man was probably George Luckett, a skilled carpenter in the area and a first cousin of Chester Luckett. George's son, Woodrow was also a good carpenter.

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 Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR No. 008-5048

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 44

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
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| 2. Latitude: 37.989761 | Longitude: -79.641970 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.988011 | Longitude: -79.640560 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.983361 | Longitude: -79.644560 |
| 5. Latitude: 37.983541 | Longitude: -79.646090 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary includes all parcels of land currently owned by Camp Mont Shenandoah, Ltd. The boundary includes tax parcels 87-8 and 97-9, as recorded in land records at the Commissioner of Revenue of Bath County, Virginia, and as shown on the attached map entitled "Location Map, Camp Mont Shenandoah, Bath County, Virginia, DHR No. 008-5048."

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundary has been drawn to include the lands owned by Camp Mont Shenandoah, Ltd., that have been used by the camp since its establishment. The boundary also captures all known contributing resources as well as the property's historic setting and rustic feeling.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: William T. Frazier, with Nancy Sorrells (Research Historian Consultant) & Samantha Crouse (VDHR intern), & Ann Warner (owner)

organization: Frazier Associates

street & number: 213 N. Augusta Street

city or town: Staunton state: Virginia zip code: 24401

e-mail: bfrazier@frazierassociates.com

telephone: 540-886-6230

date: September 1, 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Camp Mont Shenandoah

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District

Name of Property

Bath County, VA

County and State

City or Vicinity: Millboro Springs
County: Bath County State: Virginia
Photographer: Samantha Crouse
Date Photographed: August 2014
Location of Original
Files: DHR Archives

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view:

Photo 1 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0001

View: View of the West Lodge from the southwest.

Photo 2 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0002

View: A storage building nestled between the Office and West Lodge, with its façade facing south.

Photo 3 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0003

View: View of the Office building façade, which faces south.

Photo 4 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0004

View: The Tool Shed is situated between the Office and Feed Bag and its façade looks to the south.

Photo 5 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0005

View: Façade of Feed Bag looking south.

Photo 6 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0006

View: View from the south side of Feed Bag looking north through the interior of the building.

Photo 7 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0007

View: View looking west at Cook's Bathhouse building located just east of the northeast corner of Feed Bag.

Photo 8 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0008

View: View of the façade of Wee Women, facing south.

Photo 9 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0009

View: Looking northeast towards the façade and western side of Pony Express.

Photo 10 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0010

View: Looking northeast towards the western side of Sleepy Hollow.

Photo 11 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0011

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

View: Canoe Shack on the south side of Cowpasture River, directly west of Sleepy Hollow and the other Junior Row of cabins.

Photo 12 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0012

View: Junior 4 faces east and is conveniently situated south across the gravel pathway from Sleepy Hollow and the other Junior Row cabins.

Photo 13 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0013

View: View from the southeast showing the eastern and southern elevations of Mouse House.

Photo 14 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0014

View: View of the north facing façade and the eastern elevation of Pill Box.

Photo 15 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0015

View: View showing the northern and western elevations of the Guest Cabin.

Photo 16 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0016

View: The façade of Briar Patch is located on the northern elevation.

Photo 17 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0017

View: Flower Pot faces north and is located west of Briar Patch.

Photo 18 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0018

View: View of the north-facing façade and the western elevation of Beehive.

Photo 19 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0019

View: View of the eastern and northern elevation of Night Owls, and the deck on the north elevation, which looks towards the nearby athletic courts.

Photo 20 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0020

View: View looking southwest at the basketball court and the tennis court behind it. Note the wooden beam retaining walls on the southern and eastern sides of the athletic courts.

Photo 21 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0021

View: Looking at the northeastern corner of Hoot Owls.

Photo 22 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0022

View: The northern elevation of the Water Treatment building faces north towards Patchwork Pioneers and the other Senior Hill cabins.

Photo 23 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0023

View: View looking west at the south-facing façade and the eastern elevation of Patchwork Pioneers.

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

Photo 24 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0024

View: Looking south at the northern elevation of Tea Kettle on the bottom level and Patchwork Pioneers at the top level.

Photo 25 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0025

View: Looking towards the south at the northern elevation and façade of Gold Nugget on the bottom level and Ye Old Churn at the top level.

Photo 26 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0026

View: Looking northeast at the southern façade elevation and the western elevation of The Last Colony, with Half Moon visible on the bottom level.

Photo 27 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0027

View: View of the western elevation entrance and the southern elevation of Four-Up, which sits at the eastern end of the Senior Hill cabins.

Photo 28 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0028

View: Looking southwest at Bath County's northern-facing façade and its eastern elevation.

Photo 29 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0029

View: Looking at the northwest corner elevation of The End. The stairs on the deck open towards the west in the direction of the athletic courts and the center of camp.

Photo 30 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0030

View: View of the northern elevation of Deerwood.

Photo 31 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0031

View: View of the eastern elevation of Tea Pot and its entrance on the north elevation.

Photo 32 of 32: VA_Bath County_Camp Mont Shenandoah_0032

View: View of the eastern elevation of two Equestrian Sheds that are now used for storage.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

ENDNOTES

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
Name of Property

Bath County, VA
County and State

- ¹ Abigail A. Van Slyck, *A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth, 1890-1960*. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006), xix.
- ² *Ibid.*, xxiv.
- ³ *Ibid.*, xxv.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, xxiii, xxvii, xxviii.
- ⁵ *Ibid.*, xxxiv.
- ⁶ Rees Watkins, *The House of Happiness: A Ministry of Love* (Richmond: Richmond Baptist Association, Woman's Missionary Union of the Richmond Baptist Association, 1981), 13.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, 13, 14.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, 16.
- ⁹ *Ibid.*, 16-17; "Camp Alkulana Center of Many Happy House: Groups of Club Girls From All Parts of State Spending Vacation on Farm Under Direction of House of Happiness," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 12 August, 1923; and "Richmond Girls Enjoy Life in the 'House of Happiness' in Heart of Alleghanies: Camp Wallawhatoola, Under Auspices of the Baptist Settlement, Is Closing a Successful Season Under Direction of Miss Nannie West," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 7 August 1921. <http://www.alkulana.org/>
- ¹⁰ Camp Alkulana website, <http://www.alkulana.org/>.
- ¹¹ Watkins, 20-21.
- ¹² Camp Mont Shenandoah, advertising circular, for the June 28th-August 23rd. 1933 season.
- ¹³ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁵ Leslie Paris, *Children's Nature: The Rise of the American Summer Camp* (New York: New York University Press, 2008), 62.
- ¹⁶ "State Provides Big Camps for Boys and Girls: Mountain Locations Have Numerous Establishments for Youngsters," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 11 June 1933.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁸ Camp Carysbrook, "About Us: History," published online at <http://www.campcarysbrook.com/about-us/history/>. Accessed January 2015.
- ¹⁹ Camp Mont Shenandoah, advertising circular, for the June 28th-August 23rd. 1933 season.
- ²⁰ "Good Season Is Seen For Girls' Camps: Enrollment Is Larger Than in Several Past Summers," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 17 June 1934.
- ²¹ "90 Camps for Youths Granted Permits Under New Ruling," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 7 August 1940.
- ²² VanSlyck, xxvii.
- ²³ Information from camp director Ann Warner.
- ²⁴ *Ibid.*
- ²⁵ "Camping Girls Have Fun at Mont Shenandoah," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 1 August 1939.
- ²⁶ "People, Places and Parties: Miss Durham Will Attend Wedding of Her Cousin," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 24 June 1956.
- ²⁷ "Miss Nannie West To Entertain Group," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 29 January 1933.
- ²⁸ Various editions of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.
- ²⁹ "Richmond Girls At Camp Mont Shenandoah," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 25 June 1932.
- ³⁰ "Camp Shenandoah for Girls Millboro Springs, Va.," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 1 May 1927.
- ³¹ Camp Mont Shenandoah, advertising circular, for the June 28th-August 23rd. 1933 season
- ³² Camp Mont Shenandoah, Millboro Springs, Va. Official Outfitters Thalhimers, Richmond, Va., handbook. Circa early 1930s. Also *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Thalhimers advertisements from 13 June 1935, 8 June 1938, and 18 May 1948.
- ³³ *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Miller & Rhoads advertisement, 18 April 1955.
- ³⁴ Interview with Doris Turner Hayes by Nancy Sorrells, August 21, 2014.

Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District

Name of Property

Bath County, VA

County and State

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ms. Hayes indicated in her interview that Mrs. Withrow came from a wealthy Millboro family and had a lot of land. "She bought the camp from the lady that started it (Nannie West)," she said. The earliest *Richmond Times-Dispatch* articles identify Mrs. Withrow as being from Millboro, while later ones note that her home is in Richmond.

³⁹ *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, social notices, 24 January 1951.

⁴⁰ Interviews and conversations with Mary Elizabeth Patrick Groff: Owner, 1949-1966 (now deceased); Mary Patrick "Sis" Warner: Camper, 1949-1952; Counselor, 1953-1954; Owner, 1967-present; Ann Patrick Nelson: Camper, 1949-1951; Counselor, 1952-1953 (now deceased); Martha B. Knight: Camper, 1952-1957; Counselor, 1958-1959, 1961-1963, 1965-1966; Program Director, 1967-1983; Owner, 1967-1996, and J. Segar Gravatt: Camper, 1960-1964; Counselor, 1971-1972, 1982; Program Director, 1984-1985.

⁴¹ Website, National Park Service, http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/harrison/harrison.htm.

⁴² Nimrod Hall, County of Bath, Virginia, "A Very Brief History of a Virginia Institution," published online at http://www.nimroddhall.com/Nimrod_Hall/History.html. Accessed January 2015.

**Location Map,
Camp Mont Shenandoah
Historic District
Bath County, Virginia
DHR No. 008-5048**

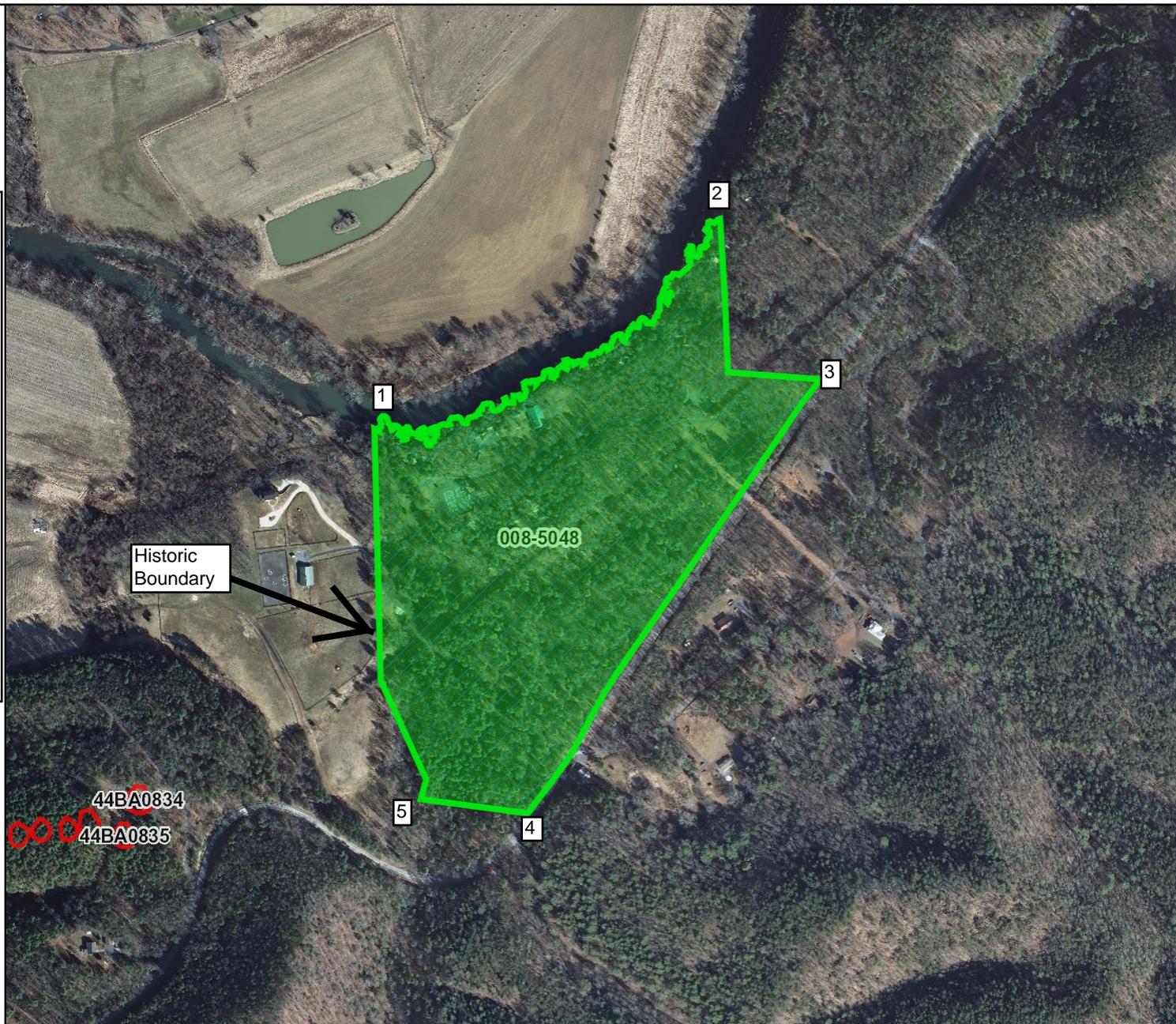
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Feet



1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet

Title: Camp Mont Shenandoah

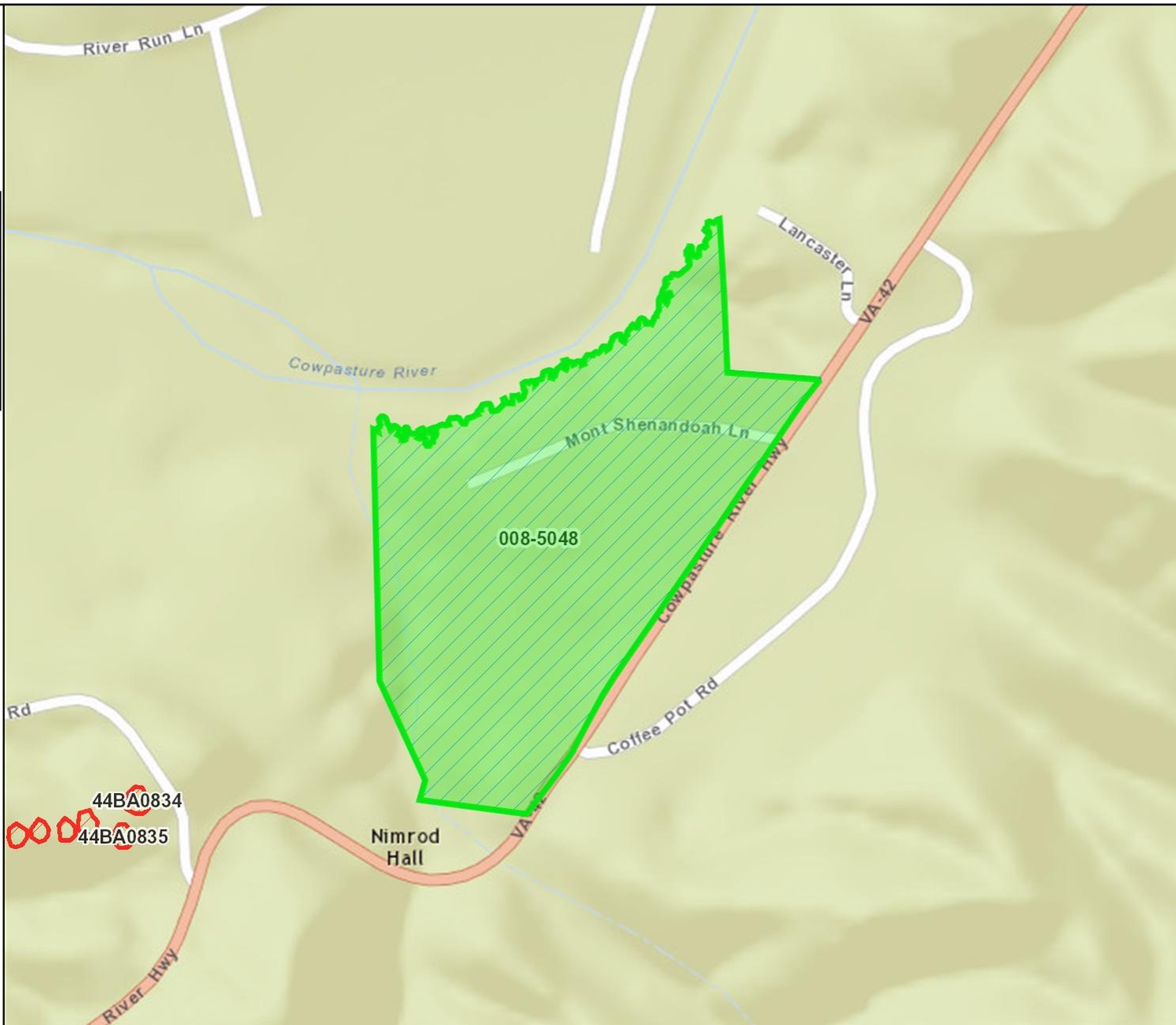
Date: 9/2/2014

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



Road Map,
Camp Mont Shenandoah
Historic District
Bath County, Virginia
DHR No. 008-5048



Feet



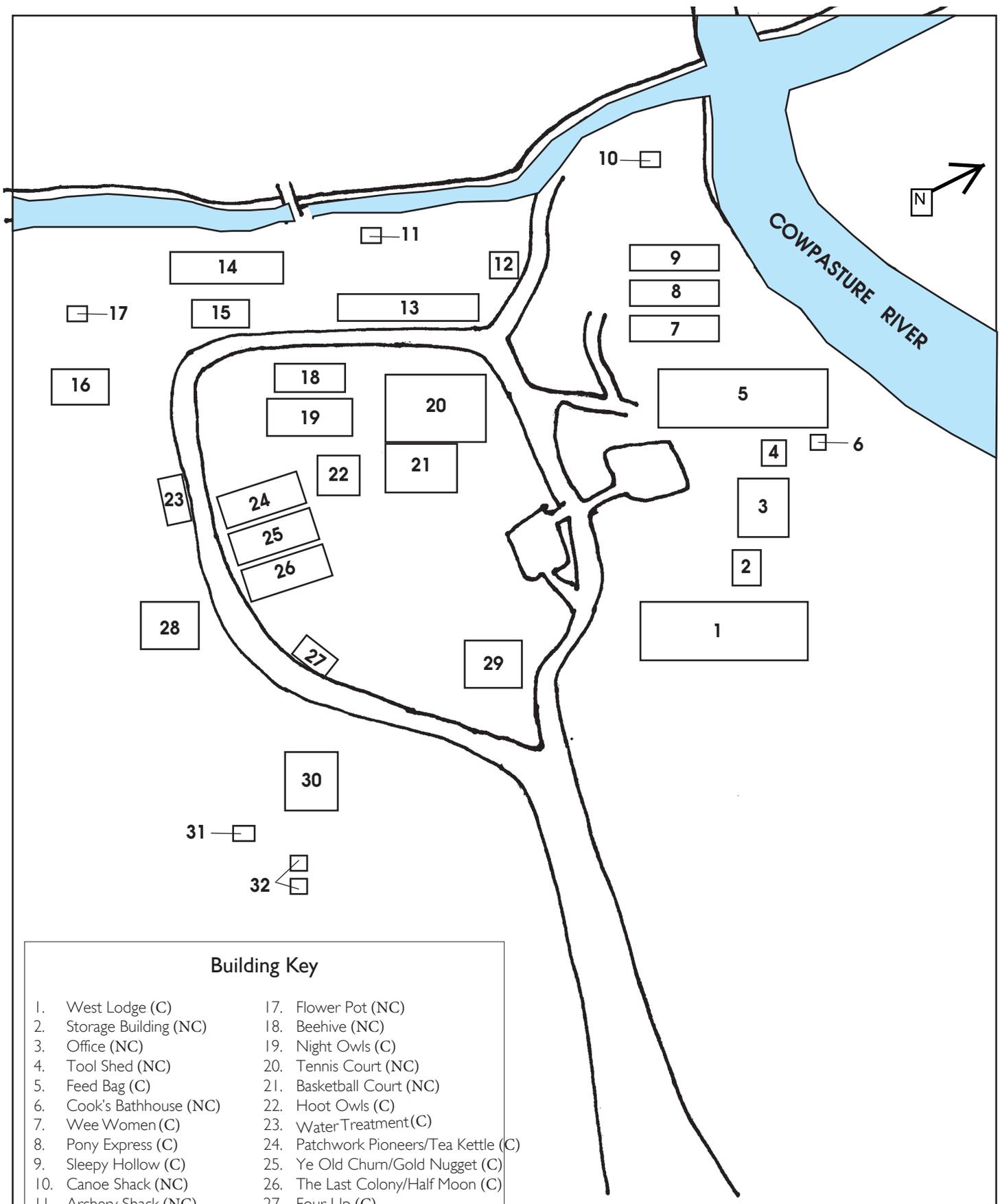
1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet

Title: Camp Mont Shenandoah

Date: 9/2/2014

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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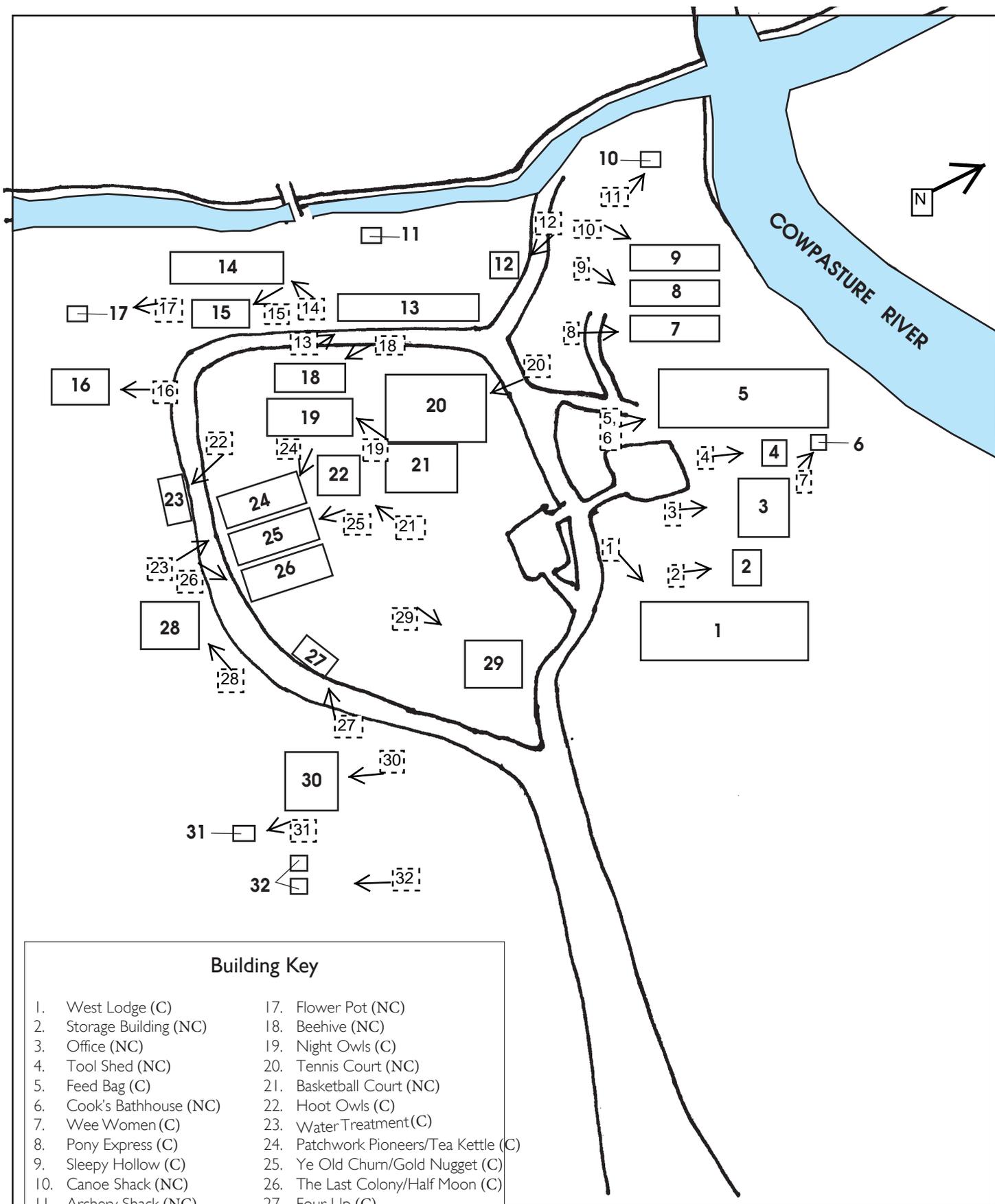


Building Key

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. West Lodge (C) | 17. Flower Pot (NC) |
| 2. Storage Building (NC) | 18. Beehive (NC) |
| 3. Office (NC) | 19. Night Owls (C) |
| 4. Tool Shed (NC) | 20. Tennis Court (NC) |
| 5. Feed Bag (C) | 21. Basketball Court (NC) |
| 6. Cook's Bathhouse (NC) | 22. Hoot Owls (C) |
| 7. Wee Women (C) | 23. Water Treatment (C) |
| 8. Pony Express (C) | 24. Patchwork Pioneers/Tea Kettle (C) |
| 9. Sleepy Hollow (C) | 25. Ye Old Chum/Gold Nugget (C) |
| 10. Canoe Shack (NC) | 26. The Last Colony/Half Moon (C) |
| 11. Archery Shack (NC) | 27. Four-Up (C) |
| 12. Junior 4 (NC) | 28. Bath County (NC) |
| 13. Mouse House (C) | 29. The End (C) |
| 14. Pill Box (C) | 30. Deerwood (C) |
| 15. Guest Cabin (C) | 31. Tea Pot (NC) |
| 16. Briar Patch (C) | 32. Equestrian Sheds (C - 2) |

C = Contributing; NC = Non-Contributing

Sketch Map: Camp Layout
 Camp Mont Shenandoah Historic District
 Bath County, VA
 DHR No. 008-5048



Building Key

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. West Lodge (C) | 17. Flower Pot (NC) |
| 2. Storage Building (NC) | 18. Beehive (NC) |
| 3. Office (NC) | 19. Night Owls (C) |
| 4. Tool Shed (NC) | 20. Tennis Court (NC) |
| 5. Feed Bag (C) | 21. Basketball Court (NC) |
| 6. Cook's Bathhouse (NC) | 22. Hoot Owls (C) |
| 7. Wee Women (C) | 23. Water Treatment (C) |
| 8. Pony Express (C) | 24. Patchwork Pioneers/Tea Kettle (C) |
| 9. Sleepy Hollow (C) | 25. Ye Old Chum/Gold Nugget (C) |
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Photo Location 

