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12/20 11/16/5

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Westmoreland State Park Historic District

other names/site number Westmoreland State Park  
DHR Number: 096-0089

#### 2. Location

street & number 1650 State Park Road  not for publication  
city or town Montross  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Westmoreland code 193 Zip 22520

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

[Signature]  
Date

#### Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_



U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Name of Property: Westmoreland State Park Historic District  
Location: Westmoreland County, Virginia

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

MODERN MOVEMENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation BRICK, CONCRETE, STONE: sandstone

Roof ASPHALT

Walls CONCRETE, WOOD: weatherboard/log

Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Name of Property: **Westmoreland State Park Historic District**  
Location: **Westmoreland County, Virginia**

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- 
- 
- 

**Period of Significance**      1933-1942

**Significant Dates**    1933—creation of Civilian Conservation Corps  
1942—elimination of Civilian Conservation Corps  
   
 

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**    N/A

**Architect/Builder**    E. L. Myers, Jr.  
National Park Service  
Virginia Commission on Conservation and Development  
A. C. Barlow  
Mattern and Mattern  
CEGG Associates LC  
Wiley and Wilson Inc.

**See Continuation Sheet for other Architects**

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

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

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- X State Historic Preservation Office.
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Name of Property: Westmoreland State Park Historic District  
Location: Westmoreland County, Virginia

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1299

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	335007	4226583	3	18	337155 4226441
2	18	335352	4226827	4	18	337206 4226411

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kimble A. David, Architectural Historian

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ date: 31 July 2005

street & number P. O. Box 7638 telephone 757/623.3456

city or town: Norfolk state: VA zip code: 23509

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Department of Conservation and Recreation

street & number 203 Governor Street, Suite 302 telephone 804/786.1712

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Architectural Description**

Summary Architectural Description:

Westmoreland State Park is located in Westmoreland County, Virginia along the Potomac River. The park is situated adjacent to Stratford Hall, the birthplace of Robert E. Lee and east of the George Washington Birthplace National Historic Park. Westmoreland State Park occupies the “Horsehead Cliffs” that overlook the river and is flanked by marshlands and the beachfront on the river at its south and north ends, respectively. The landforms of the park feature a waterfront beach, rolling hills, ravines, marshlands, cliffs, and heavily forest areas. Geologically, it is an example of the transition of the Upper Coastal Plain in the Tidewater region. The park features cabin areas dating to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-era through the post-World War II period, campgrounds, and recreational areas such as hiking trails, a beach, and picnic area. Westmoreland State Park is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its association with the CCC and state park development in Virginia, and its integrity of design in its park plan and buildings.

Architectural Description:

Access to the park is gained through a roadway off of State Park Road, which is labeled as State Road 347 at the south end. The roadway is oriented north-south and divides around forested medians as it leads to the restaurant and camping areas. The medians between the lanes obstruct the oncoming traffic’s view and follow the National Park Service (NPS) guidelines for establishing a park entrance road to reflect the natural beauty of the park.

This major roadway leads from the park entrance and terminates at the beachfront on the Potomac River. The roadway connects the camping areas, maintenance area, residences, and restaurant at the top of the “Horsehead Cliffs”. The roadway then curves to the west accessing the CCC-era cabin areas and descends toward the beachfront and picnic area at the base of the cliffs. At the restaurant a road oriented east-west leads to the visitor’s center terminating at the post-World War II cabin area. The roadway is asphalt paved with stone culverts dating to the CCC-era. At the roadway where it descends to the beachfront, there is a stone retaining wall on the north side as the roadway curves down the side of the ravine that divides the Horsehead Cliffs with the CCC-era cabin area.

The entrance is marked by a 1973 contact station and the Superintendent’s Residence. Slightly to the north is a stone fountain and maintenance area. Like in NPS plans, the maintenance area and residences are situated near one another at the park entrance. This provided access to the park for the staff, but also gave them adequate privacy away from campers. The CCC-era Superintendent’s

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Residence is located at the Park's entrance and is visible from the roadway. The style of building is that a Colonial-era one-and-one-half-story house typical of the Chesapeake Bay region. The building uses rusticated stone for the foundation and chimney and is typical of the Tidewater Cottage style. The building goes so far as to emulate Colonial characteristics, such as a carpenter's mark on the ends of the boxed cornice.

The maintenance area is situated north of the Superintendent's House along the main road into the park. Originally located across from the CCC-camp site, remaining CCC-era maintenance buildings include the Blacksmith's Shop, Net House Storage, and Maintenance Building. New buildings have been added to the area to meet the needs of new equipment.

Campground Area A is located north of the current office and former storage building on the east side of the main roadway south of the restaurant. Campground B is located southwest of the current office on the west side of the main road leading into the park. Campground C is located south of the office and Campground Area D (overflow camping) is located near the entrance on the site of the former CCC camp.

Campground Area A was planned during the CCC-era as a recreational vehicle campground and has a circular asphalt-paved one-way roadway that loops to a common entrance and exit. The CCC-era bathhouse is situated on the south end of the campground. The bathhouse is wood frame with a central laundry facility flanked by restrooms for men and women. Campsites are comprised of pull-off spurs that accommodate two vehicles originally planned as pull through sites. The campground plan has been slightly altered to accommodate added camping. Within the campground, there are one-story overnight cabins. They are primarily sited near the bathhouse. They are small rectangular buildings, which accommodate four built-in cots and small closets. Window openings punctuate the walls with screens and solid wood awning coverings. Each site has a fire ring and modern picnic table. Tent camping is restricted to a wood bordered area set near the parking spurs. Trees shelter the sites and low ground cover and low growth divides the campsites. The terrain slopes slightly throughout the campsite. The south end terminates in a steeper slope that overlooks the current office and former bunkhouse.

Campground Area B has a similar plan to Campground Area A. It is also a one-way loop with campsite spurs off the main one-way roadway. Also planned during the CCC-era its organization is slightly different than Campground Area A as it was planned for tent camping. It features a modern bathhouse. The roadway is gravel in this campground. Sites are sheltered by mature trees, and low ground cover and low growth divide campsites.

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Campground Area C is situated south of the office and southeast of Campground Area B. It is planned in a similar manner with a minor roadway leading to a loop. The roadway is paved with asphalt and the campsites flank the roadway. The bathhouse is situated at the center of the circular one-way roadway. The sites are comparable to those at the other camping areas.

The original CCC-era cabin area is located west of the main entrance road off of the main road to the beach and picnic area to the west. The early cabin area is south of this road. The cabins are situated on both sides of the gravel paved dead-end minor road. The cabins are separated by approximately one-hundred feet and are sited near the roadway to give each cabin adequate privacy. Mature trees and low brush shade and shelter the cabins. The cabin area is sited on a hill at the edge of the ravine on the northwest end of the park. Each cabin has an enclosed parking area nearby and a grill in the front. The cabins are log with wide chinking. Logs are oriented horizontally and vertically. The cabin roofs are gable and clad in asphalt shingles. These CCC-era cabin forms vary in general form and plan.

Cabins are one room, one bedroom and two bedrooms. Cabin interior treatment is similar with exposed log rafters, wide wood plank flooring and rusticated stone fireplaces. The lavatories and kitchens have been updated. Windows were also updated, but retain the 6/6, wood double-hung sash form. Cabins 1 and 4 are one room with a kitchen, lavatory, and porch. Cabins 2 and 7 have a similar plan with one bedroom, living room, kitchen, lavatory, and porch incorporated under the main roof. Cabins 5 and 9 have similar plans with one bedroom, living room, kitchen, and lavatory. These have no porch. Cabins 3, 6, 8 and 10 have two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and lavatory. Cabins 3 and 10 have a similar plan with a front porch. Cabins 6 and 8 have unique plans. Cabin 6 has a small incorporated porch.

Most cabins within the CCC-era cabin area have horizontally-oriented logs with wide chinking. Cabins were also designed with vertically-oriented logs and wide chinking. The cabins follow the rustic pioneer spirit that the early parks conveyed. The timbers are unimproved and reflect hand hewn marks, rough ends and simple articulation. Doors are rustic with carved wood doorknobs and metal hardware. The strap hinges were forged at the park and have rustic forms and tool markings. The quarried stone used for the foundations and chimneys is largely roughly cut to follow the rustic style of the cabins.

Within the CCC-era cabin area, post-World War II cabins were added. Cabins 15 to 18 are situated on the south end of the roadway near its east end. These are not in keeping with the original cabins though their siting attempts to continue the original plan of the cabin area. Most of these cabins are sited closer to each other than the original CCC-era cabins. These cabins are concrete block construction with applied board and batten siding. They have a rectangular form and house two

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bedrooms, living room, kitchen and lavatory. They also feature wood decks.

West of the rustic CCC-era cabin area is Cabin 32, which was originally constructed as a latrine. It is a horizontally-laid log building with entrances on each gable end. The building has similar proportions and form of the cabins constructed during the same period. It features four-light casement windows versus the double-hung windows found on the CCC-era cabins. This building was converted to the Naturalist's Cabin in 1936 with the opening of the park. It was later converted to a public cabin.

North of the rustic CCC-cabin area is a gravel roadway leading to four cabins that overlook the "Horsehead Cliffs". Cabins 11 and 12 were the last CCC-constructed buildings at Westmoreland State Park and date to 1941-1942. They have a different form from the earlier rustic pioneer log cabins found in the CCC-era cabin area. These have wood frame structural systems with board and batten siding. They are also more simplified with minimal architectural detail and are more in keeping with designs for public buildings such as the office and shop buildings. Two additional cabins, Cabins 13 and 14, were added in this area in the 1950s like those added to the CCC-era cabin area.

At the east end of the park at the top of the "Horsehead Cliffs" are additional cabins, Cabins 19 to 24, added during the 1950s. The cabins at the east end are sited primarily north of the roadway at the cliff's edge overlooking the river. Cabin 25 was added in the 1990s in the same form as the 1950s cabin at the east terminus south of the roadway. All these cabins have similar features to those added within the original CCC-era cabin area.

The beach area at the terminus of the main road to the west stretches along the waterfront to the "Horsehead Cliffs". The beach is bulkheaded with timbers forming a level beach and picnic area. There are three piers extending out over the river. At the end of the roadway, there is a gravel parking lot developed during the 1930s CCC-era. East of the parking area is a CCC-era picnic shelter nestled into the hillside. It is built upon a landmass near the parking area. A similar picnic shelter is located at the west end of the beach area, set back from the river and nestled into the hillside. The shelters are open wood frame with chamfered posts supporting a hipped roof. There is a rusticated stone chimney at the south enclosed end of the shelter featuring a fireplace nook.

The restaurant, which has been converted to use as a meeting facility, lies at the top of the "Horsehead Cliffs". It is a wood frame building resting on a rusticated stone foundation. The building features a camp store wing appended to the south façade. The entrance to the building is accessed by a rusticated stone walkway leading from the parking lot to the building's south. The interior of the building is rustic with an exposed roof system and large fireplace. The location of the restaurant is the focal point of the park's public area. It has large windows, outside dining area and deck overlook the Potomac

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River.

The hiking trails are an integral part of the park. They provide access to the unspoiled natural area and land features within the park's boundaries. Westmoreland State Park's terrain varies from steep hills, ravines, cliff, marshlands to beachfront. The hiking trails are cleared of growth and are primarily dirt. They meander through the wooded areas of the park in an effort to maximize the viewing of the natural terrain and features.

### **Inventory of Resources**

The following inventory of resources was conducted in 2005 and reflects resources that are contributing and non-contributing to the historic district.

#### **Circulation System (Roadways)**

Constructed in 1933-1936, the circulation system has characteristics of the development plans outlined by the National Park Service in the early 1930s. The circulation system is comprised of a main roadway leading from State Road 3 northward into the park. The two way entrance road divides around medians and landforms. The roadway leads toward the beach and picnic area at the base of the Horsehead Cliffs. The roadways feature stone culverts. In addition retention walls protect the roadway as it descends to the beach from the cabin area. Minor roads lead from the major roadway to the cabin areas, staff residences and maintenance area. These are all dead end roadways of gravel. The major roadway has been paved with asphalt.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0034

CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

#### **Hiking Trails**

Constructed in 1933-1936, the hiking trails meander through the landforms at the east end of the park. They access the marshlands and hills and traverse the dense forest. They are cleared of plantings and are have some improvements such as wood steps, and an observation deck. There are seven trails comprising 6.1 miles of trail ways leading to various areas of the park.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0039

CONTRIBUTING (7 – structures)

#### **Beach Area**

The CCC-era beach area is located west of the Horsehead Cliffs on the Potomac River. It features a sandy beach area that is bulkhead with wood timbers. This area was constructed by cutting trees that originally extended to the waterfront. The original bulkheading timbers were replaced in the late 20<sup>th</sup>

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century.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0038

CONTRIBUTING (1 – site)

**Picnic Area**

The CCC-era picnic area is situated at the base of the cliffs and between the cliff and beach area. The land has been leveled and picnic benches have been added. The picnic benches are moveable and date to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0035

CONTRIBUTING (1 – site)

**Well**

This is a CCC-era cylindrical well east of the fountain near the park entrance. It is rusticated stone and its shelter is missing.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0001

CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

**Fountain**

This fountain was constructed in 1934 at the entrance to the park adjacent to the main roadway leading into the park across from the maintenance area. It is constructed of rusticated stone and features a stone spout. The fountain is currently inoperable and has been filled with earth and flowers.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0040

CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

**Dam/Rock Spring Pond/Water Filtration Plant/Water Tower**

West of Campground Area B is a water filtration complex that was constructed in 1934 by the CCC workers. It is comprised of a pond dammed on the west by a rusticated stone dam. The dam has a concrete spillway emptying into a creek. To the east of the dam is a water filtration plant. It is a low structure with a rusticated stone structural system. It features concrete steps. At the top of the hill, north of the dam and water filtration plant is a steel water tower. The tower is in the CCC-era cabin area near Cabin 10. It has an open steel structural system with a cylindrical water tank atop of the steel structure. The pond serves as a recreation area and the water filtration plant is no longer in operation. The water tower is used but the water supplied comes from a new well source.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0041

CONTRIBUTING (4 – structures)

**Blacksmith's Shop**

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The CCC-era Blacksmith's Shop is located in the maintenance area. It is situated at the east end of the maintenance area and is a wood frame building clad in board and batten siding. It has a rectangular footprint and a gable roof. The windows have been replaced with late 20<sup>th</sup> century one-light windows.  
DHR Number: 096-0089-0007  
CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Oil House Storage**

The CCC-era storage building is located in the maintenance area. It is situated at the east end of the maintenance area and is a wood frame building clad in board and batten siding. It has a rectangular footprint and a gable roof. The windows are 6-light casement and wood.  
DHR Number: 096-0089-0005  
CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Storage/Maintenance Building**

The CCC-era storage building is located in the maintenance area west of the oil house storage building. It is situated at the east end of the maintenance area and is a wood frame building clad in board and batten siding. It has a rectangular footprint and a gable roof. The windows are 6-light casement and 6/6 double-hung sash and wood. There is a brick chimney on the north elevation.  
DHR Number: 096-0089-0006  
CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Storage/Maintenance Building**

The CCC-era storage building is located in the maintenance area west of the net house storage building. It is situated at the east end of the maintenance area and is a wood frame building clad in board and batten siding. It has a rectangular footprint and a gable roof. The windows have been replaced with late 20<sup>th</sup> century one-light windows. There is an interior brick chimney punctuating the roof at the north end.  
DHR Number: 096-0089-0042  
CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Net House Storage Building**

This CCC-era building is located in the maintenance area between the two storage/maintenance buildings. It is pole construction clad in board and batten siding. The south elevation is open and comprises three open bays.  
DHR Number: 096-0089-0004  
CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

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**Superintendent's Residence**

Constructed in 1934, this building is a single-family dwelling of one-and-one-half stories. It has a solid stone foundation and is wood-frame clad in weatherboard. It has a three bay facade with a central entrance flanked by 6/6, double-hung sash windows. The side gable roof is punctuated by three dormers which accentuate the three bay façade. On the south elevation, there is an exterior stone chimney. Appended to the west elevation (rear) is a one-story addition.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0001

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Superintendent's Garage**

This CCC-era building constructed in 1934 is a garage of one-story with a prominent hipped roof. The garage features wood casement windows and a double-leaf garage door. The hipped roof is crowned by a dovecote with a metal roof.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0001

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Bunkhouse/Park Manger Residence**

The CCC workers originally constructed this in 1936 as a bunkhouse for employees working at the park. It has a rectangular form with a gable roof. It has a concrete block foundation and is wood frame construction clad in board and batten siding. There is a hipped roof ell appended to the west elevation. The porch is incorporated under the main roof. A deck has been appended to the south elevation. The interior is comprised of a hall with rooms on each side. Entrances are located on the east end and on the south elevation at the west end. The interior is treated with beaded board and the floors are wood plank.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0002

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Office/Administration Building/Staff Dwelling**

This building is located west of the bunkhouse and currently serves as the park office/administration building. Constructed in 1936, this building is a wood frame building with a T-shaped plan. The building rests on a concrete block foundation and is clad in board and batten siding. The roof is cross-gable clad in asphalt. Windows punctuate each elevation and are 6/6 wood double-hung sash. There is a stair on the west elevation leading to the main entrance. The entrance doors are comprised of single leaf wood doors with a single light. There are additional double-leaf doors on the east elevation. The interior of the building has been clad in wood paneling and the flooring is wood.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0009

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CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Garage**

Immediately to the east of the Office is a garage. This building is one-story constructed in 1936 by the CCC. It has a concrete slab foundation and wood frame structural system clad in board and batten siding. The roof is side gable clad in asphalt shingles. There are three oversized door openings on the west elevation comprised of wood core doors clad in metal.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0010

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Restaurant**

This building is a one-story restaurant constructed in 1936. It has a stone foundation and is frame clad in board and batten, and weatherboard. The roof is side gable with exposed rafters under the eaves. There is an exterior brick chimney on the east elevation. The south façade is dominated by a double-leaf entrance with replacement multiple-light doors. The windows are paired and double-hung sash. Projecting from the façade is a wing containing the camp store. It features a bay window on the façade. There is a stone walkway leading to the restaurant and camp store entrance. Appended to the north (rear) elevation is a screened porch with a concrete foundation. In addition, an open deck is also appended to the north elevation. The interior of the restaurant area features exposed roof trusses and timbers. In 1941, the camp store was added by the CCC and was originally called the concession area.

The addition was designed by A. C. Barlow.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0011

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Campground Area A and B**

These original CCC-era campgrounds were constructed during the CCC-era. Campground A was constructed in 1935 and Campground B was constructed shortly thereafter. Campground Area A served as a trailer campground and was designed with pull-through sites for cars towing trailers. It features an asphalt paved one-way roadway with crescent-shaped pull off lanes that rejoin the roadway and allow for pull-through camping. Campsite spurs are situated along the roadway and pull-off lanes to maximize camping. There are thirty-eight campsites in this campground. Bath house A is located near the south end of this campground. Campground B is a tenting campground with a one-way gravel paved roadway with spur sites off of the roadway for tent sites. This campground now also serves trailers. There are fifty-one campsites in this campground along with one buddy site, which is a large site for multiple campers. Bathhouse B is located in the approximate midpoint. The campsites feature picnic tables and fire rings.

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DHR Number: 096-0089-0037  
CONTRIBUTING (2 – sites)

**Bathhouse Campground Area A**

This is a one-story wood frame building resting on concrete block foundation. The building is clad in board and batten siding and features an asphalt-shingled side gable roof. The windows are replacement casements. The north façade features a shed-roof overhang sheltering a poured concrete stoop that extends the length of the façade. The interior plan is divided into three spaces. The central area is a laundry facility and features a concrete floor and replacement wallboard. Flanking the laundry area are the men's and women's restroom facilities. The building was completely remodeled in 2001.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0003  
CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Cabin Areas**

There are three cabin areas within Westmoreland State Park. The earliest CCC-era (1933-1934) cabin area is situated on the south side of the main roadway prior to its descent to the beachfront. Cabins are situated on each side of the gravel roadway. There are fourteen cabins located on this roadway. The late CCC-era (1942) cabin area is situated on the north side of the main roadway opposite the earlier CCC-era cabin area. It contains four cabins situated on each side of the short lane. The 1950s cabin area is situated at the west end of the park overlooking the Horsehead Cliffs. There are seven cabins situated on the north side of the roadway and one at the southeast end of the roadway.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0036, 096-0089-0069  
CONTRIBUTING (2 – sites)  
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – site)

**Cabins 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10**

There are ten circa 1934 to 1936 cabins within the original CCC-era cabin area. They feature horizontal and vertically oriented log structural systems with wide chinking. The roofs are gable and cross gable. These buildings were designed by the National Park Service in conjunction with the Virginia State Commission on Conservation and Development. (These buildings are described more fully in the architectural description above.)

DHR Number: 096-0089-0015, 096-0089-0016, 096-0089-0017, 096-0089-0018, 096-0089-0019, 096-0089-0020, 096-0089-0021, 096-0089-0022, 096-0089-0023, 096-0089-0024  
CONTRIBUTING (10 – buildings)

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**Latrine/Naturalist's Cabin/Concessionaire's Cabin/Cabin 32**

Now a cabin, this building was originally a latrine constructed in 1934 east of the cabin area. The building features a stone foundation and is log construction with wide chinking. The roof is gable clad in asphalt shingles with exposed wood pole rafters. There are single-leaf wood, board doors on each gable end. The windows are four-light, wood casement under the eaves. The building was converted to the Naturalist's Cabin in 1936 and in the post-World War II period converted to a public cabin.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0033

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Overnight Cabins 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31**

There are six overnight cabins within Campground Area A constructed in 1937. They are interspersed within the campground, but are primarily located near the Area A bathhouse. They have concrete block foundations and wood frame structural systems clad in board and batten wood siding. The main roof is gable clad in asphalt shingles. The main door is centrally located and is sheltered by a gabled overhang. Windows punctuate all elevations and are comprised of screened openings with wood, awning coverings that can be propped open.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0027, 096-0089-0028, 096-0089-0029, 096-0089-0030, 096-0089-0031, 096-0089-0032

CONTRIBUTING (6 – buildings)

**Bath House/Concessions/Snack Shack**

This building is located on the beachfront adjacent to the pool and men's and women's bathhouses. It is frame construction clad in board and batten siding. The roof is hipped and forms an open porch on the north, east and west elevations. The porch columns are rusticated wood posts with bracketed capitals similar to those found on the picnic shelters. The concession area occupies the north façade and is canted. The south end of the building is plain with a projecting ell of similar construction with a gable over hip roof. The roofs are clad in asphalt shingles.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0012

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Picnic Shelters**

There are two picnic shelters at the picnic area near the beach area on the Potomac River. Constructed in 1934, the picnic shelters have rusticated stone foundations with flagstone flooring. The shelter is open on three sides with a heavy hipped roof is supported by bracketed wood posts. The fireplace located on the south elevations of the shelters is constructed of rusticated stone with a cooking grill. The fireplace forms a nook at the back of the picnic shelter and is flanked by two wood bench seats.

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The shelters are situated at the base of the cliff away from the general picnic area and at opposite ends of the picnic area.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0013, 096-0089-0014  
CONTRIBUTING (2 – structures)

**Cabins 11 and 12**

Cabins 11 and 12 were the last two buildings constructed by the CCC prior to the end of the CCC program. Constructed in 1942, these buildings differ from earlier cabins with the log form. They have a brick foundation and wood frame structural system clad in board and batten. Two-bedroom cabins, they have simpler interiors and a brick chimney. They are also situated north of the main cabin area on a minor road along the cliffs overlooking the Potomac River. E. L. Meyers, Jr. designed these buildings.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0025, 096-0089-0026  
CONTRIBUTING (2 – buildings)

**Campground Area C**

This campground was added in the 1960s near the site of the former CCC-era camp. It is comprised of a circular one-way asphalt-paved roadway. The roadway has gravel spurs for campsites. There are thirty campsites with one group site and two buddy sites, which is a large site for multiple campers. The campsites feature picnic tables and fire rings.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0043  
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – site)

**Bathhouse Campground Area B and Bathhouse Campground Area C**

Constructed in 1967 and 1968 respectively, the Bathhouses at Campground Area B and C are concrete block with men's and women's lavatories that occupy each end of the building. The bathhouse at Campground Area B features a gable over hip room clad in asphalt shingles. The plan of the bathhouse in Campground Area C is a cross-form with a gable roof.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0044, 096-0089-0045  
NON-CONTRIBUTING (2 – buildings)

**Cabins 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24**

These cabins were designed in 1950 and erected in the early 1950s. Original exposed concrete block buildings, they were clad in the mid-1990s with board and batten siding. The buildings have two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and lavatory. They also have decks. Locations of the cabins are addressed above. The cabins were remodeled in 1993 to include new kitchens and the application of

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board and batten siding. These cabins were designed by the architecture firm of Mattern and Mattern Engineers of Roanoke, Virginia.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0046, 096-0089-0047, 096-0089-0048, 096-0089-0049, 096-0089-0050, 096-0089-0051, 096-0089-0052, 096-0089-0053, 096-0089-0054, 096-0089-0055, 096-0089-0056, 096-0089-0057

NON-CONTRIBUTING (12 – buildings)

**Cabin 25**

This cabin was erected in 1998 to replace Cabin 25 that had been constructed in 1950. The original Cabin 25 was situated west of Cabin 24, but due to erosion was a safety hazard. Cabin 25 was demolished and a “new” Cabin 25 was erected to the south of Cabin 24 on the opposite side of the roadway. It exhibits the same exterior features as Cabins 13 to 24. It has a rectangular form with board and batten siding. This cabin was designed by the architecture firm of CEGG Associates, LC.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0058

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Visitor’s Center**

The Visitor’s Center is situated east of the Restaurant. It was constructed in 1967 and is a wood frame building resting on a concrete block foundation. The building is clad in board and batten siding and the north façade features a double-leaf wood door flanked by fixed windows. There are casement windows on the east and west elevations. The low-pitched gable roof has wide eaves. To the rear of the building are benches placed in an amphitheater orientation.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0059

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Water Tank**

This is a metal water tank with an open steel structural system. Resting atop the structural system is a cylindrical metal water tank. Erected in 1950, it still serves its original function.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0060

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

**Pool and Pool House**

There is a pool located in the picnic area adjacent to the concession’s stand. It is a rectangular pool with a wood frame pool house. There is a small wading pool at the east end. A chain link fence surrounds the pool. Designed in 1979 and constructed in 1980-1981, the pool and pool house were designed by the architecture firm of Wiley and Wilson Inc., Engineers, Architects, and Planners of

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Lynchburg, Virginia.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0061

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Men's and Women's Bathhouse at Beach**

These buildings were constructed in 1980-1981 and designed by the architecture firm of Wiley and Wilson Inc., Engineers, Architects, and Planners of Lynchburg, Virginia. They are concrete block buildings with monitor roofs. There are entrances on the east elevation comprised of solid metal single-leaf doors.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0062

NON-CONTRIBUTING (2 – buildings)

**Assistant Superintendent's House**

This single-family dwelling was constructed in 1972. It has a concrete block foundation clad in brick veneer. The building is wood frame clad in board and batten siding. The roof is side gable clad in asphalt shingles. The door accesses a three bay porch. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash and wood.

There is a wood carport to the west of the house.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0063

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

**Contact Station**

This a wood frame contact station at the park entrance constructed in 1973. It has a concrete slab foundation with a wood structural system clad in board and batten siding. It divides the main road leading to the park at the park entrance.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0064

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Piers and Boat Ramp**

There are three piers and a boat ramp on the beachfront. Two piers are clustered together near the Conference Center. One pier is near the Bathhouses and Pool. They are wood with wood pilings and decks. They were constructed circa 1990. The boat ramp is situated near the westernmost pier. It is comprised of a poured concrete ramp.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0065

NON-CONTRIBUTING (4 – structures)

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**Water Storage Buildings and Well House**

There are three water facilities in the park comprised of water storage buildings and well house. A water storage building is located south of the parking area at the beachfront and north of Campground Area B. The water storage building is located west of Campground Area C. They are wood frame buildings clad in pressure treated lumber with asphalt gable roofs. They were constructed circa 1990. DHR Number: 096-0089-0066

NON-CONTRIBUTING (3 – buildings)

**Conference Center/Retreat**

Acquired in 1996, this building is currently under a renovation and expansion. It is a brick veneered wood frame building resting on a concrete block foundation. The windows are 6/6 double-hung sash metal and the doors and replacements. The original portion of the building is situated at the east end, but is not recognizable under the additions and modifications. Erected circa 1940 it is not considered contributing due to its heavy modification and land acquisition in 1996.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0067

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**District Office**

The District Office is situated south of the conference center and west of the parking lot at the beachfront. It is a wood frame building resting on a brick wall foundation. Clad in aluminum siding it is one-and-one-half stories. Gabled dormers and an incorporated porch dominate the east façade. The main entrance is single leaf with two panels and three lights. The windows are wood, 6/6 double-hung sash. Constructed circa 1940, this building was acquired in a land acquisition in the 1996.

DHR Number: 096-0089-0068

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

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**Statement of Significance**

Summary Statement of Significance

Westmoreland State Park was the sixth planned state park within the Virginia State Park system. The State Park system developed out of advancement of the National Park system through the New Deal Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program. Prior to the enactment of the federal legislation creating the CCC, Virginia had planned six parks throughout the state and had initiated acquisition of the lands and sought funding and support for their creation. The availability of the CCC to provide funding and a workforce to develop the state parks was a fortuitous opportunity that not only created state parks across the country, but also recreational facilities, reforestation projects and other public works projects, while providing employment for the nation's poor during the Great Depression. The park was planned and designed in consultation with the Virginia State Commission on Conservation and Development and the National Park Service. The Park Service provided architectural drawings and plans developed at the National Parks. One CCC camp of 200 men provided construction labor. Developed between 1933 and 1942, Westmoreland State Park has a number of remaining CCC-era buildings and retains its original development plan. The park, comprised of 1299 acres, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its association with CCC project and as one of the first six original parks planned in Virginia, and its park plan, respectively.

Statement of Significance

Westmoreland State Park is one of the first six state parks created in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It was constructed between 1933 and 1942 by CCC workers and designed in cooperation between the National Park Service and the Virginia State Commission on Conservation and Development. Westmoreland State Park reflected the Upper Coastal Plain region of Virginia in the Tidewater area. Its varying terrain and location along the Potomac River made it an ideal location for a state park. In addition to its location along the river, it is situated between George Washington Birthplace National Monument, the place of George Washington's birth, and the Stratford Hall, Robert E. Lee's home. The site offered the natural beauty of the region and access to historic sites significant to American history.

The Development of a State Park System in Virginia

The state park concept was an offshoot of the National Park system developed in the post-Civil War era. The first National Park created was Yellowstone National Park in 1872. Numerous national parks

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were developed in the west including Mount Rainer National Park in the state of Washington (1899), the Grand Canyon in Arizona (1908) and the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado (1915). The formation of these parks was the impetus of the passage of the National Parks Act and the formation of the National Park Service (NPS) in 1916.<sup>1</sup>

State parks were initially created in the western United States for the purpose of “public use and recreation”.<sup>2</sup> The concept for the development of recreational parks was conceived as early at the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century with the formation of public green spaces near urban areas. Remote recreational areas did not become popular destinations until the rise of the automobile era in the post-World War I era. Many people sought to escape the crowded urban areas in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but were confined by train travel and the destinations accessible by train. With the increased popularity of the automobile in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, auto-camping also became a fashionable recreation activity. Since there was a lack of camping locations, many people camped by the side of the road.<sup>3</sup>

While national parks had been conceived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a formal state park system was not formulated until the 1920s. The first two states to study the creation of a state park system were New York and California.<sup>4</sup> Also an increased demand on national parks led to the suggestion of creating state parks to help relieve the attendance at National Parks.<sup>5</sup> The first director of the NPS, Stephen Mather, is credited with the initiating a conference to encourage the formation of state park systems. In 1921 the first National Conference on State Parks was held to guide creation, management and protection of state parks. Of the twenty-five states represented at the conference, Virginia did not attend because it had not yet formed an agency for the creation of a state park system.<sup>6</sup>

In 1924 the Shenandoah National Park was established in the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains. Two years later in 1926, Virginia legislation was enacted authorizing the establishment of a state park system and the Virginia State Commission on Conservation and Development was formed to create and administer a statewide park system.<sup>7</sup> The Commission’s first chairman was William E. Carson, who was a successful businessman and park proponent. During his decade long tenure leading the Commission on Conservation and Development he saw the initial creation and development of the Virginia state park system.

In 1929 Carson conceived the first state park as a companion to the Shenandoah National Park on the Virginia coast celebrating the natural beauty of Virginia’s varying geology.<sup>8</sup> With interest in creating a state park on the seashore developed in 1929, a resolution was recommended to hire a landscape architect and engineer to design parks for the newly created system. In June 1930, Robin (Bob) E. Burson was hired to study the park location in the east part of Virginia. Burson was a British-born

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horticulturalist and landscape designer living in southwest Virginia. His position was as the head of the Division of Landscape Engineering in the Department of Conservation and Development as a Landscape Engineer. His first task was to tour three other state park systems to document their formation and operation.<sup>9</sup>

In 1931 and 1932 Burson promoted the creation of a state park system in Virginia. During his promotional travels around the state he also searched for potential state park sites. In 1931 he attended the National Conference on State Parks in St. Louis, Missouri. Along with him were representatives from the proposed Seashore State Park. They returned to Virginia from the conference with a “broader vision of the real value of State parks.” The following year in 1932, the conference was held in Virginia Beach at which representatives from various states attended the three-day conference. The site of the proposed Seashore State Park was used for meetings and presentations linking the history of the site as the first landing of English settlers and its natural setting for the creation of the park. The conference inspired the fledgling Commission on Conservation and Development to actively seek creation of a state park system.<sup>10</sup>

The goal of the state park system was not only to provide Virginians with recreational sites, but also to encourage tourism to Virginia. It was felt that the proposed parks reflect the various natural areas of Virginia and highlighted the varying geography of the state.<sup>11</sup> In addition, the parks functioned as companions to established or developing historic sites. By 1932 Burson had six park locations in mind as the foundation of the Virginia State Park system. Parks were located throughout the state to serve various regions. These proposed parks were: Seashore State Park and Westmoreland State Park in the Tidewater region, Staunton River State Park in the middle of the state, Fairy Stone State Park in the Virginia Piedmont, Hungry Mother State Park in the Valley of Virginia, and Douthat State Park in the mountain and valley region.

#### Civilian Conservation Corps and State Parks in Virginia

In 1933 The Emergency Conservation Work Act (ECW) was enacted as a part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal. A portion of the ECW funding was allocated for the construction of public infrastructure and buildings. Shortly after the ECW’s enactment, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created to provide a workforce to fulfill the mission of the ECW. The CCC functioned as a mechanism to employ unemployed youth between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five. These men enlisted in a CCC corps administered by the United States Army to work on public works projects including the creation of state and national parks.<sup>12</sup>

The establishment of the CCC solved two problems facing the United States. The first was to provide

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employment for young men who were unemployed during the Great Depression. It was found the young and old were the most problematic of those unemployed. In many cases the young, with no hope of employment, had “abandoned all pretenses to a settled existence, and simply taken to the road, traveling in freight cars or on foot, sleeping in caves or in shanty towns, aimlessly drifting in search of vanished security.”<sup>13</sup>

The other major issue was the lack of conservation management of natural areas that had developed in the United States. Over harvesting of timber had caused severe erosion problems in one-sixth of the United States. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt believed he could solve these two problems with the CCC, which was employing young men and re-vitalizing the depleted environment. In addition to payment for services that the men were providing, they also received educational courses to make them marketable in the job market after their tours of duty. The initial employment of the CCC included two hundred and fifty thousand young men in the first year of its creation.<sup>14</sup>

The Department of Labor was assigned the oversight of the CCC and its operation on United States Army organizational concepts. Recruitment of young men between eighteen and twenty-five was conducted in many major cities throughout the county. Upon joining the CCC, men were immediately taken to a training camp to prepare them for their year-long tours.

For the Virginia parks, once men were assigned to a CCC company, they were transported to the park in Virginia where they would work. The first CCC Company would be required to erect the camp where the young men would be living. The first company also was responsible to establishing a water system, digging wells as need for a fresh water supply. The first company was also required to build the maintenance buildings to be used of the fabrication of materials for the erection of the park buildings on site. In addition to building their own camp, the required maintenance buildings and water system, they also were required to build the roadways within the park. CCC companies would erect cabins, clear trails, and perform other landscape functions such as planting within the park.

CCC workers had a regimented daily schedule. Within the CCC camp there were barracks, a mess hall and an administrative building for the men hired to lead the workers in their projects. The CCC work days were scheduled much like the military with reveille, breakfast, lunch, dinner, education or recreation, and work. The day began approximately at 7:30 and ended at 4pm. After dinner, men could attend educational courses provided by teachers hired by the CCC or participate in recreational activities.<sup>15</sup>

With Burson’s recommendations of park locations throughout Virginia and the available labor force through the CCC, Virginia was able to realize its plans for the creation of a State Park system. The

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first step for the creation of the park system was for the Commission on Conservation and Development to acquire lands on the proposed park locations. In addition to the acquisition of lands, a “Master Plan” had to be created for each proposed park to show the overall design and plan of each park.

Park and Building Design Concepts

The NPS undertook a new role during the New Deal era to include supervising the development of State Parks in emerging state park systems.<sup>16</sup> The availability of a workforce, planning and funds for the development of state parks systems led to an overwhelming demand from developing state park systems for NPS plans and CCC workforces.

The NPS had developed “Master Plans” plans for its parks which was a concept that began in the late 1920s as a part of comprehensive park planning. The NPS’s Branch of Plans and Designs had first developed “General Development Plans”. These plans showed existing development in the park as well as proposed additions and modifications. The new director of the NPS, Horace Albright, was so impressed with the “General Development Plan” concept that he asked Chief Landscape Architect, Thomas Vint, to prepare “General Development Plans” for each National Park.<sup>17</sup>

The “General Development Plan” was renamed “Master Plan” in 1932 and was hailed as a useful tool in the creation and future planning of national and state parks. The “Master Plan” was not a firmly set plan but served as a basis for the initial construction and development of proposed parks. The function of the “Master Plan” as a guide gave the state park agencies and the NPS the ability to preserve the character of the landforms and scenery during the construction process and allow for the park’s development for recreational purposes. This flexibility supports the purpose of the NPS as outlined in the NPS Act of 1916;

*to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.*<sup>18</sup>

In addition to preserving the natural scenery and historic objects, the concept of the “Master Plan” allowed for the use of new design and construction methods during future development. The “Master Plan” was meant to be altered over time and was expected to be modified every one or two year interval at the NPS level.

The development of the “Master Plans” for state parks was through collaboration between the state

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park design representative or landscape architect, and the NPS design representative. In addition to the consultation of the NPS landscape and park designer, NPS engineers, horticulturalists and architects were consulted with on the concept of the park's design.<sup>19</sup>

The Virginia State Park System sought to adequately represent the various regions of Virginia. The site selection was distributed through the state to represent the four largest physiographic regions of Virginia and exhibit the natural features of each region. NPS requirements for park size and surrounding population distribution were employed for park site selection. The parks were limited to a 1000-acre size minimum, and a surrounding area of fifty miles should have at least a population of 200,000 people. Other requirements included that the natural features of each park should include a body of water for swimming or bathing, or boating and fishing. Other considerations were the surrounding area of the proposed park and the visual impact to the natural areas of the parkland.<sup>20</sup>

The road system was an important design feature in the park system. The main access road was planned to be integrated into the existing road system in the region. The NPS worked with Virginia's park planners in developing the roadways and circulation system of the park to emphasize and preserve the natural beauty of the park. In addition, the circulation system organized the park and connected the various areas to the main entrance. The impact of the roadways was to be minimal and blend in with the natural features of the park and also have a minimal impact to the existing landforms.

The road system was organized into major and minor roadways. The major roadways were comprised to the park's entrance road and roads leading to major recreational features in the park. The minor roads were spurs off the major road, did not connect to other roadways and terminated at dead ends. In addition, the minor roadways were not constructed to accommodate high levels of traffic and were designed to serve limited traffic flow. Examples of major roadways are the roads to natural areas, beach areas, lake areas, and the entrance road. Minor roadways are those leading to camping areas, cabin areas, and park residences.

The entrance road was the main access to the park and provided the first impression to the visitor. The planning of this roadway became the most important design feature of the road system. The road provided access to the park where stops would be made along the way to collect information, register for campsites or cabins, and access the natural recreational features provided at the park. The main access roadways of the circulation system provided a view of the natural features within the park in their planning. In addition, the entrance road was planned as a curving roadway that meanders to its terminus giving the overall feeling of connecting the visitor to the natural areas of the park. The first impression of the park and its associated buildings and natural areas were important in the planning process of the park.<sup>21</sup>

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Park staff residences were situated away from the main public park area in a secluded area of the park near the entrance. They also were convenient to the park administration buildings and in a location where the park can be supervised by the staff assigned to it. The architecture of the buildings was in keeping with building design of the region and of the character of park's architecture. Since the public did not necessarily view the residence of the park staff it was important for it to at least maintain the overall feeling of the park. Various historical sources were also adapted for the design of the park staff residences.<sup>22</sup>

Administration and maintenance building design was given the same types of concerns as those of the park staff residences. While maintenance buildings would be situated in locations out of the public view, the administration building was a hub for the park and served as a headquarters for the park. Administration buildings could be combined with other functions, such as a community building, but specifically served as the location of conducting the park's business. The location of the administration building was key in establishing its prominence within the park. Usually located at the park's entrance, it served as the first contact with the park aside from the entrance road.<sup>23</sup>

In the CCC-era parks, maintenance buildings served originally as workshops for the park's development. Maintenance buildings were adapted after the completed construction of the park for its perpetual maintenance. Erected for a maintenance function, these buildings have minimal architectural details are usually clustered near the entry to the park. Over time the early buildings would have been replaced by modern facilities to accommodate changes in the technology of park maintenance.

The overall goal of the organization of cabin and tent campgrounds was to provide the visitor with a sense the natural area. The environment and planning of these areas was important to establishing the connection to the natural setting. The location of the cabins and campsites was purposely sited away from other public areas such as a community building, waterfront area or restaurant. NPS had developed park plans that separated these functions in a variety of settings, but as with master planning, the overriding thought was that the topography of the site would dictate the location of facilities and that the NPS guidelines were advisory only.

Cabin plans proposed by the NPS suggested an average distance between cabins of 50 feet. This distance was based upon the significance of privacy of the campers and was thought to be as important as clean and safe drinking water and adequate sewage. Like in NPS "Master Plans" the suggestion of 50 feet was a guide and not a fixed number. The topography of the site played a factor in the siting of cabins.<sup>24</sup>

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Cabins were contained within a specific area on a minor road that usually dead-ended on a secluded site within the park. The cabins were placed within the cabin area to have partial exposure to the sun and shade during the day. One factor in the siting of the cabins was that they be exposed to morning sun so that bedding could be aired and sunned. Shade was desirable in the afternoon especially in warm climates.

Design of the cabins was a reflection on the character of the park and the available building materials. Rock was quarried from the site where available and timber was cut on site for clearance purposes and used to erect buildings. Cabin design sources were to be inspired by the region and of the pioneer era. Cabins were also designed to be modest in their amenities. Sleeping areas were compact and living space served multiple uses including dining and resting. Kitchens were to be modest and small in size and lavatories were to be of similar scale. The layout of the cabin was to be compact as to not cause a costly building price.

In addition to the consideration of size, a cabin was to accommodate the average sized family of four to five persons. While in some cases cabins slept numerous people in one room, it was important to create private spaces through dividers and walls. Cabins were unheated, though fireplaces were a design feature that could be added in cabins if needed. While the cabins were to reflect the pioneer spirit, they presented more of an idyllic spirit of the pioneer era.<sup>25</sup>

In addition to cabins, camp sleeping facilities were provided at some locations, which sheltered campers. The rustic building provided cots and closets in addition to screened window openings. The facilities provided an alternative to campers who did not have tents but wished to sleep in a building that provided similar amenities to tent camping. These building forms were very basic and were comprised of an open space that could accommodate four cots and four closets. The buildings were approximately twelve feet wide by seventeen to twenty feet long. The exterior features were basic with numerous window openings to provide ventilation and light along with an entrance door and gabled roof.<sup>26</sup>

The plan of trailer and tent campsites had a specific goal of providing space for camping while preserving the parks from misuse. In the immediate post-World War I period, tent camping proved to be the most popular form of camping. By the 1930s, there was an increase in the number of campers towing trailers. By 1938 it was estimated that at some parks one-third of all campers were camping in trailers. With changes in camping, campsites were divided into separate areas for trailer campsites and tent campsites.

Tent campsites were comprised of a simple pull-offs or spurs on a main one-way loop with an adjacent

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tent site. The spur could accommodate a single car and gave the tent camper the flexibility to depart the site and return with convenience. Tent sites were comprised of a location for the pitching of a tent, fire-ring for the construction of a fire, and a seating area, such as a picnic table. Fire rings could provide a covering for cooking or a barbeque pit, depending on the site and location. Sites were divided by undergrowth at the fringe of the site creating a screen between campsites. A centrally located bath house was provided with men's and women's lavatories. Guidelines for the size of a campground were based upon distance to lavatories and other service. The NPS guidelines provided that clean drinking water was not more than 200 feet from a campsite, toilets should not be more than 400 feet from a campsite, and a washhouse and laundry facility not more than 1,500 feet from a campsite. In addition to designating distances of amenities within the campground, a campground should not be closer than 50 to 100 feet from the park entrance.

The use of trailers within campgrounds planned for tent camping proved to be a difficult adaptation. Limits in parking and the difficulty of backing trailers into sites planned for tenting provided for new design concepts in campground planning. Various solutions were available and specifically focused on the ease of parking the trailer within the site. Land use was the primary focus and incorporated into the proposed drawings with a range of plans. Some proposals provide longer parking spaces angled to the main one-way roadway through the campground. Other proposals provided an additional parking space within the campsite. In these plans the trailer was to be backed in to the site. Other sites were comprised of pull-through or pull-up sites in which the car towing a trailer could be pulled off the main campground roadway to its site. This plan was comprised of various alternatives in campground planning.<sup>27</sup>

An integral part of the park was the creation of a trail system which allowed visitors to view the natural beauty of the park. The main purpose of the park in addition to providing locations for sleeping was to provide recreation. The variety of recreation provided depended on the park. As parks were to be planned preferably near a body of water, the park could provide water recreation such as swimming, fishing and boating. These recreational activities required bath houses and the construction of piers and boat ramps. These buildings and structures were erected based upon the number of visitors expected at the park. The trails were developed based upon available land and accessibility of areas for hikers.

Through a collaborative effort the NPS was able to provide the Commonwealth of Virginia guidance in designing their original parks. The fortuitous creation of the CCC enabled the Virginia Park system to be constructed for continued use and enjoyment. The parks retain their original forms and plans though expanded over time as initially proposed as a part of the "Master Plan" process. Their main feature was the natural landforms and the human enjoyment of them.

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Creation of Westmoreland State Park

On October 11, 1933, 1266.5 acres of land on which Westmoreland State Park is located were sold for \$15,000.00 to the Virginia State Commission on Conservation and Development for the creation of Westmoreland State Park.<sup>28</sup> The land was used for timbering through the 19<sup>th</sup> and into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Upon acquisition of the site, planning was underway for the creation of the park. CCC works arrived in October 14, 1933. The original CCC camp assigned to Westmoreland State Park was Company 287, Camp SP-19 from Camp Dix in New Jersey. Company 287 was formed in April 1933 at Camp Dix, New Jersey and was originally sent to Big Smoky, Idaho.<sup>29</sup> It was relocated to Westmoreland State Park in late 1933 for the creation of the CCC camp and initiation of labor at the park. According to one of the first corpsman assigned to the camp, there were no buildings and just tents. The company erected their barracks in time for Thanksgiving dinner in late November.<sup>30</sup>

Camp Dix, New Jersey drew their recruits from the depressed areas within New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Many young men who were assigned to Westmoreland State Park came from Pennsylvania. Though the CCC recruited men from the depressed cities, some Virginia youth were brought to Westmoreland State Park, but an overwhelming number of young men had come from the north.<sup>31</sup>

In 1939, the CCC Company 351<sup>st</sup>, Camp NF 8 was reassigned from the George Washington Forest near Lyndhurst, Virginia to the George Washington Birthplace National Monument near Westmoreland State Park. This camp provided workforce labor to Westmoreland State Park once projects were completed at George Washington Birthplace National Monument.<sup>32</sup>

By September 1934, two cabins (Cabins 4 and 10) had been erected in the cabin area along with a latrine (currently Cabin 32), two picnic shelters, bath house on the beachfront, water system, road system, and the maintenance area.<sup>33</sup> Construction continued through 1934 to 1936 prior to the park's opening on 1 June 1936. During this period, the cabin area was finished along with the concession area at the beachfront. Other buildings erected during this period were the restaurant, current office, bunkhouse and Campground Area A. The Latrine, which is now Cabin 32, had also been converted to a cabin by the opening of the park.

Construction continued on Westmoreland State Park until 1942 when the CCC was disbanded by the United States government. In the years following the opening of the park, construction had diminished

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along with number of CCC workers. By 1941 the two hundred strong camp that had began work on the park had diminished to one hundred young men. The last buildings erected at the park were two cabins, Cabins 11 and 12, which were completed just prior to the dissolution of the CCC.

Interest in acquiring additional lands for the park was considered as early as 1933. The lands on the waterfront were noted on early maps for acquisition to round out the park's waterfront access. These lands were privately held through the 20<sup>th</sup> century until portions were deeded to Westmoreland State Park in 1949 and 1996. In addition to the land acquisitions, a parcel of land was leased to the R. E. Lee Memorial Foundation in 1954 to increase the natural area of Stratford Hall. Two properties were not sold to the park and have retained private ownership. The additional land in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century increased the park's size to 1299 acres.<sup>34</sup>

During the eleven years facility, the CCC workers had erected twelve cabins, cut in trails and roadways, extended and graded the beachfront, erected their own camp (which was dismantled), erected public buildings such as the restaurant, and constructed maintenance buildings for the park's operation. Without the labor force provided by the Federal government during the Great Depression and the creation of the CCC, Westmoreland State Park along with Virginia's other five original state parks would have not been created for the public enjoyment. Westmoreland State Park continues to fulfill its function as a public recreation facility and retains integrity of building types, park plan and landscape features. The Westmoreland State Park Historic District is eligible under Criteria A and C for its association with the CCC and state park creation during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and for its park and building design and landscape features.

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- 1 Land and Community Associates, "Survey of State-Owned Properties: Division of Parks and Recreation," (Charlottesville, VA, July 1988), 1.
  - 2 Ibid, 2.
  - 3 Ibid, 3.
  - 4 Lotspeich, Stephen H., , "The Design Intentions and the Planning Process of the Virginia CCC State Park "Master Plans" 1933-1942," Master's thesis, University of Virginia, 1984, 4.
  - 5 Ibid., 11.
  - 6 Land and Community Associates, 4.
  - 7 Lotspeich, 17.
  - 8 Ibid., 18.
  - 9 Ibid., 20.
  - 10 Ibid., 24.
  - 11 Ibid., 26.
  - 12 Ibid., 14.
  - 13 Ibid., 13.
  - 14 "A handbook for Local Selection Agents on CCC Camp Life," State Department of Public Welfare Bureau of CCC Selection, 1940, 22.
  - 15 Ibid., 15.
  - 16 Lotspeich, 14.
  - 17 Ibid., 32.
  - 18 Ibid., 33.
  - 19 Ibid., 30.
  - 20 Good, Albert. "Park Recreation Structures," (New York: Princeton Architectural Pres, 1938, reprint 1999), Part III, 109-113.
  - 21 Good, Part I, 9-10.
  - 22 Good, Part I, 73.
  - 23 Good Part I, 5-8
  - 24 Good, Part III, 110-111.
  - 25 Good Part III, 17-20.
  - 26 Good Part III, 173-175.
  - 27 Good Part III, 5-16.
  - 28 Westmoreland County Deed Book 78, page 145.
  - 29 Company 287, C.C.C. Christmas Dinner, December 25, 1934 program.
  - 30 Letter from Tom Salenger to Fritz Lange March 1995

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31 Data from CCC file Westmoreland State Park files.

32 Letter from Fritz Lange to Tom Salenger January 6, 1992.

33 Map to be Used in Connection with Water Supply Facilities, Westmoreland State Park, Office of  
State Park Superintendents, September 28, 1934.

34 Westmoreland State Park Survey map, no date.

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Westmoreland State Park History. (housed at Westmoreland State Park).

Westmoreland State Park Survey Map. (housed at Westmoreland State Park), no date.

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**Geographical Data (con't)**

**UTM References (con't)**

	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
5	18	337658	4226020
6	18	337983	4225024
7	18	338074	4224054
8	18	335837	4224369
9	18	335517	4223759
10	18	335287	4223817
11	18	335426	4223680
12	18	335621	4223700
13	18	335426	4223789
14	18	335777	4224485
15	18	335426	4225186

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries are comprised of the current park boundaries. The north boundary is the Potomac River; the west boundary is privately owned lands; the south boundary is State Road 3 and State Road 347 and private lands; and the west boundary is privately owned land occupied by Stratford Hall.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of Westmoreland State Park include lands acquired during the initial park formation along with lands acquired in the post World War II period. The area of the boundaries reflects the park's function and use as a recreational facility. In addition, the boundaries support the period of significance and the arguments presented in Section 8 of this nomination.



