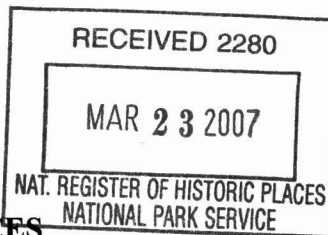


(Rev. 10-90)
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 Staunton River State Park Historic District

other names/site number Staunton River State Park
DHR Number: 041-0100

2. Location

street & number 1170 Staunton Trail ☐ not for publication
city or town Scottsburg ☒ vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Halifax code 083 Zip 24589

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] 3/22/07
Signature of certifying official 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

[Signature]

Date of Action

5/4/2007

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceStaunton River State Park Historic District
Halifax County, Virginia**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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>buildings</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>sites</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>structures</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>objects</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>Total</u>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

Virginia Civilian Conservation Corps State Parks**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>camp</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>restaurant</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>department store</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>public works</u>
<u>RECREATION/CULTURE</u>	<u>outdoor recreation</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>park</u>
<u>TRANSPORATION</u>	<u>road-related, pedestrian-related</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>camp</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>department store</u>
<u>RECREATION/CULTURE</u>	<u>outdoor recreation</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>park</u>
<u>TRANSPORATION</u>	<u>road-related</u>
<u>TRANSPORATION</u>	<u>pedestrian-related</u>

7. Description**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTSMODERN MOVEMENT**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	<u>BRICK, CONCRETE, STONE: sandstone</u>
Roof	<u>ASPHALT</u>
Walls	<u>CONCRETE, WOOD: weatherboard/log</u>
Other	<u></u>

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

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Halifax County, Virginia

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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance 1933-1938

Significant Dates 1933—creation 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

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 # _____

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceStaunton River State Park Historic District
Halifax County, Virginia

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office.
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1597 acres

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

X 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 HistorianOrganization _____ date: 31 March 2006street & number P. O. Box 7638 telephone 757/623.3456city 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 Recreationstreet & number 203 Governor Street, Suite 302 telephone 804/786.1712city 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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**Staunton River State Park Historic District
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Architectural Description

Summary Architectural Description:

Staunton River State Park is situated in Halifax County, Virginia at the confluence of the Dan and Staunton (Roanoke) Rivers. The park is generally made up of two triangles, one with a major road oriented east-west connecting the entrance to the cabin area. The terrain of the landscape comprises gently rolling hills and heavily forested areas. The major roadway accesses a campground, restaurant/visitor's center, pool with bath house, and boat ramp, and a minor roadway accesses the picnic areas and boat ramp situated on the Staunton River. The cabin area is situated on a bluff overlooking the Staunton River with a commanding view of the confluence of the Staunton and Dan rivers. Geologically, it is an example of the Southern Piedmont region. The park features cabin areas, campgrounds, restaurant, and recreational areas such as hiking trails, a pool with bath house, and picnic areas dating to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-era. Staunton River 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 at the east terminus of Staunton Trail, which is labeled as State Road 344. The asphalt-paved roadway in the park is oriented east-west. This major roadway leads from the park entrance, terminating at the cabin area near the confluence of the Staunton (Roanoke) and Dan Rivers. All park facilities are located along the roadway, or can be accessed by minor roadways that intersect with the major roadway. The major and minor roadways are asphalt paved. The roadway follows the National Park Service (NPS) guidelines for establishing a park entrance road to reflect the natural beauty and terrain of the park.

The park office is situated near the park entrance and was constructed in 1997. The contact station is situated east of the park office and was constructed in 1973. The contact station was modeled after early CCC-era contact stations, and features stone curbing consistent with CCC-era landscaping and design. The roadway then passes the Custodian's House situated north of the roadway near the park entrance. It is a modest board and batten dwelling, consistent with the architectural characteristics of the cabins and architecture designed for the state park system.

The restaurant and pool area are situated on the south side of the major roadway leading to the cabin area. They serve as the major public day-use area at the park. The restaurant is a wood frame building

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**Staunton River State Park Historic District
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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 graveled parking lot to the building's north façade. The interior of the building is rustic, with an exposed roof system and large fireplace. It has large window openings overlooking the open lands near the middle of the park.

The pool house and pool were the major recreational features constructed at the park. The pool house is on a slight hill overlooking the pool. It is a massive one-and-one-half story building with a steep roof marked by intersecting gables at the ends of the north façade. The roof pitch between the intersecting gables is marked by dormers. The pool originally had stone walkways and decking, and is a concrete structure. It was filled with a liner in the late 1970s and the stonework was covered with the edges of the liner. A circular wading pool was formerly situated north of the pool. It was removed and the location of the wading pool was filled. A wading pool was added to the west of the main pool.

Staunton River State Park was also developed with tennis courts, unique within the park system. The tennis courts are situated southeast of the pool house and are surrounded by a chain-link fence.

Since there were two waterfronts to the park, boating became the primary focus. There are boat ramp areas situated on each river. A boat storage building was constructed during the CCC-era, but was replaced with a virtually identical building in 1994. The boat storage building is a board and batten clad wood frame building with a hipped roof. It is located near the Staunton (Roanoke) River boat ramp along the major roadway near the cabin area.

The Dan River boat ramp area is sited near two picnic areas, accessed from a minor roadway dividing to each picnic one. The picnic areas overlook the Dan River and have prominent picnic shelters of wood frame construction with stone foundation covered in concrete. Stone chimneys are situated at each end. The structures are topped with side-gable roofs clad in asphalt shingles.

The campground, added in 1940 after plans made in 1936, has an hourglass form with pull-through and spur sites. It is situated between the boat storage building and the Custodian's House. A bath house was added in 1952, situated near the center of the campground. It is clad in board and batten siding similar to other buildings in the park. The campground follows National Park Service plans for campground construction, reflected in the mixed use of the campground for both tent and trailer camping. Within each circular area are bisecting pull-through trailer sites that have been currently divided into tent and trailer sites. Around the outside of the hourglass form are spurs for tent sites. Each site is marked by timber-framed graveled areas.

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The cabin area is situated at the east terminus of the major roadway. The cabins overlook the Staunton (Roanoke) River and are sited on a bluff. They are accessed by gravel driveways approximately two-hundred to fifty-feet from the major roadway. Some cabins are barely visible from the roadway. The cabins feature efficiency, one-bedroom and two-bedroom plans. There are eight CCC-era cabins within the cabin area along the north side of the roadway. These cabins have stone foundations, and are wood frame construction clad in board and batten siding. The cabins at this park follow general cabin plans found at the other CCC-era Virginia State Parks, but were designed specifically for this park.

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. Staunton River State Park's terrain varies from low hills to ravines. The primarily dirt hiking trails are cleared of growth. They meander through the wooded areas of the park in an effort to maximize the view of the natural terrain and features. With the flooding of the shorelines in 1952, most of the original trail was flooded, though some portions remain. The trail plan thus required modification in the late 20th century.

Inventory of Resources

The following inventory of resources was conducted in January 2006, and reflects resources that are contributing and non-contributing to the historic district. Those resources considered contributing were constructed during the period of significance, 1933-1942, and are associated with the CCC and National Park Service design concepts developed during the period of significance. Resources considered non-contributing were constructed outside of the period of significance, or for those constructed during the period of significance, do not retain sufficient integrity, which makes them examples of architectural design concepts dating to the period of significance.

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 Staunton Trail, State Road 344, eastward into the park. The roadway commences at the park boundary on Staunton Trail and terminates at the cabin area, meandering along an east-west route, passing park facilities. A minor roadway leads south from the major roadway to the picnic areas and boat ramp on the Dan River. The major road and minor road to the picnic areas are asphalt paved without curbing. Other minor roadways lead to the boat ramp on the north side of the park on the Staunton River west of the Cabin Area, and to the Cabins within the Cabin Area. These roads are gravel paved.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0024

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CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

Custodian's House/Superintendent's Residence/Chief Ranger's Residence/District Manager's House

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 board and batten siding. The roof is side gable clad in asphalt shingles. There is an interior stone chimney piercing the roof near the intersecting gable on the south facade. The windows are 6/6 wood double-hung. An addition was made to the east in 2005.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0001

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Superintendent's Garage/District Manager's Garage

This CCC-era building constructed in 1934 is a garage of one story with a gable roof. The building is frame construction clad in board and batten siding. The garage features wood casement windows and a double-leaf garage door. The doors feature original strap hinges.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0009

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Restaurant/Visitor's Center

This building is a one-story restaurant constructed in 1935-1936. 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. There is a brick chimney on the east elevation. 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. The interior of the restaurant area features exposed roof trusses and timbers. The fireplace is brick with a wood mantel. 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. The restaurant closed circa 1992, and the building is currently vacant and scheduled for restoration.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0006

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Pool Area

The pool area is defined by a bath house and swimming pool situated near the restaurant. The complex is located on the south side of the major roadway near the approximate center of the park. The pool is sited north of the bath house, while the bath house itself faces the pool and is on an elevated site overlooking the pool.

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DHR Number: 041-0100-0028
CONTRIBUTING (1 – site)

Pool Bath House/Concession Building

This building is located east of the Restaurant and south of the major roadway leading to the Cabin Area. It faces north to the pool, has a stone foundation, and is wood frame clad in board and batten siding, and weatherboard. The building has a prominent three-bay façade with intersecting gables on the on the east and west ends of the north façade. The central bay is articulated with three gabled dormers. The roof is complex, with a general hipped form with intersecting gables. The central bay is dominated by an enclosed concession area that has been modernized. The windows on the building are 6/6 wood double-hung sash. A prominent stair descending from the façade to the pool area was originally stone, but has been covered in poured concrete.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0007
CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Pool

The pool is rectangular, and lined with a plastic lining extending to the areas around the pool apron. The original pool is located under the plastic lining and has been covered in poured concrete in areas. A small wading pool is situated to the west of the main pool, and was added in 1994. The original circular wading pool located north of the main pool was removed.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0007
CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

Picnic Areas

The two CCC-era picnic areas were planned in 1933-1934, and constructed in 1934-1935. They are situated along the Dan River off a minor roadway that divides, terminating at the picnic and boating areas. The east picnic area is situated on a hill overlooking the Dan River. The picnic shelter is situated at the south terminus of the roadway, and the latrine is situated to its northeast. The west picnic area overlooks the Dan River near the boat ramp, on land sloping toward the shoreline, and is planted with mature trees. The picnic shelter is located at the approximate center, and the latrine is situated to its northwest. Both picnic areas have modern picnic tables scattered throughout the picnic areas. The tables are moveable, and date to the late 20th century.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0025
CONTRIBUTING (2 – sites)

Picnic Shelters

Two 1935 picnic shelters are situated within the Picnic Areas. They have stone foundations and chimneys. The shelters are open and replacement wood posts support the gable roofs, clad in asphalt

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shingles. The roof structure is visible on the interior and features collar beams. The flooring is poured concrete over the original stonework. The fireplaces are stone with metal grills. Decks have been constructed on the south elevations overlooking the Dan River.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0004 and 041-0100-0005

CONTRIBUTING (2 – structures)

Picnic Area Latrines

The picnic area latrines are simple rectangular buildings constructed in 1935-1936. The buildings have stone foundations that are partially visible and have been reinforced with concrete block. The buildings were updated in 1940 and again in the 1970s. They are frame construction clad in replacement board and batten siding. The roof forms are gable over hip clad in asphalt shingles. There are doors at each end accessing the women's and men's restroom areas. The fixtures and interior finishes have been updated.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0002 and 041-0100-0003

CONTRIBUTING (2 – buildings)

Cabin Area

The Cabin Area is situated at the east terminus of the major roadway leading from the park entrance. The cabins are located on the north side of the roadway at the top of a steep hill overlooking the Staunton (Roanoke) River. They are set back between approximately two-hundred to fifty feet from the roadway, and are accessed by gravel driveways. The cabins are sited approximately one hundred to two hundred feet from each other in a line. Mature trees are planted between the cabins and roadway.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0026

CONTRIBUTING (1 – site)

Cabins

Eight CCC-era cabins, constructed from 1934-1936, are within the original CCC-era cabin area. There are four general cabin forms, including efficiency, one bedroom and two bedroom plans. The cabins have fieldstone foundations, and are frame construction clad in replacement board and batten siding. The roofs have been re-clad in asphalt shingles. Each cabin has a stone fireplace and chimney with rustic wood mantles. The interior of the cabins feature vertical board walls, wood flooring and modernized kitchen and lavatories. The general forms of the lavatories and kitchens are intact. Electrical outlets and light fixtures have been replaced with upgraded modern wiring and outlets, and ceiling fixtures. Fieldstone porches are oriented north overlooking the Staunton (Roanoke) River. The porch columns have been replaced with modern wood posts. Modern wood decks have been appended to the porches on the north elevations, except on Cabin 8. Single leaf replacement wood doors access

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the cabins from the porches and kitchen.

Cabins 1 and 2

Cabins 1 and 2 have similar forms and plans. They cabins have two bedrooms with living space, kitchen and lavatory. Their roofs feature cross gable forms.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0010 and 041-0100-0011

CONTRIBUTING (2 – buildings)

Cabins 3 and 7

Cabins 3 and 7 have similar forms and plans. They have one bedroom with living space, kitchen and lavatory. Original drawings reflect that the cabins did not include lavatories, but featured an incorporated porch within the south façade intersecting gables with a single-leaf door. During the construction process, the area where the intended porch was located was enclosed to include a lavatory for the cabins. The door originally situated within the porch was relocated to a window opening adjacent to the intersecting gable. These cabins feature side-gable roofs with an intersecting gable of the south elevation containing the bedroom and lavatory.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0012 and 041-0100-0016

CONTRIBUTING (2 – buildings)

Cabins 4 and 6

Cabins 4 and 6 have similar forms and plans. These cabins have two bedrooms with living space, kitchen and lavatory. The roofs on these cabins have a side-gable form.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0013 and 041-0100-0015

CONTRIBUTING (2 – buildings)

Cabins 5 and 8

Cabins 5 and 8 have similar forms and plans. These cabins have an efficiency plan with a combined living and sleeping space, kitchen and lavatory. The roofs have gable forms.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0014 and 041-0100-0017

CONTRIBUTING (2 – buildings)

Campground

The campground at Staunton River State Park was planned in 1936, but construction was not executed until 1940. The campground has an hourglass form with a bath house located at the center. There are campsite spurs situated on the outer rings of the hourglass. Pull-through trailer sites are located within

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the circles. These also feature small campsite areas similar in form to the campsite spurs.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0027

CONTRIBUTING (1 – site)

Tennis Courts

The tennis courts are situated southeast of the Pool Area. The courts were constructed in 1937 and are asphalt paved in a rectangular shape with nets at the center of each court. The courts are enclosed by a tall chain-link fence. Metal poles for former lights are situated at the corners.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0029

CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

Boat Storage Building

Originally constructed in 1952, this building was reconstructed in 1994. Modeled after CCC-era design concepts, it is a wood-frame building clad in board and batten siding. The building rests on poles set into the ground. The roof is hipped, clad in asphalt shingles. There are double-leaf board and batten doors lining the east and south elevations. The Boat Storage Building is situated near the Staunton (Roanoke) River boat ramp.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0018

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Metal Shop—Maintenance Area

The Metal Shop was constructed in 1955, and modeled after earlier CCC-era buildings. It is a simple frame building with a rectangular footprint. The building is clad in board and batten siding and is topped with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. There is a double-leaf door on the façade. A concrete block chimney is situated on the gable end.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0019

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Oil House/Oil Shed

The Oil House was constructed in 1994. This small shed has a rectangular ground print and is wood frame construction clad in board and batten siding. It is topped with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. There is a single-leaf door on the façade.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0020

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Carpentry Shed

This Carpentry Shed was constructed in 1955. It has a wood frame structural system clad in board and

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batten siding. The building is topped with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0021

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Vehicle Storage Building/Pole Shed

This 1994 storage building has a shed roof clad in corrugated metal supported by plain wood posts.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0032

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

Filter Pump House

Constructed in 1952, this pump house is a concrete block building with a concrete block foundation, topped with a gable roof. It features a screened open porch containing the water purifier plant.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0030

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

River Pump House

The River Pump House is of poured concrete, constructed in two stages. It is set out within the Dan River and comprises a tower with a wood frame shed atop it. There is a metal catwalk extending to the tower and shed from the ground. The foundation of the pump house was constructed in the CCC-era, circa 1934. In 1952, the Kerr Reservoir Dam was installed, raising the level of the Dan River and forcing the relocation of the waterworks facility at Staunton River State Park. The tower was built up and increased in height on the existing tower foundation.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0023

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

Waterworks Lab

The Waterworks Lab was constructed in 1980, and is a concrete block building topped with a hipped roof. There is a wood single-leaf door accessing the interior.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0031

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Pressure Pump House

The Pressure Pump House was constructed in 1952, and is a wood frame building clad in board and batten siding with a poured concrete foundation. The building lies on a slope and has two stories. The interior is an open space. There are six-light wood casement windows on each elevation. The building is topped with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0022

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NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

10,000 Gallon Water Tank

This water tank was constructed in 1972 and comprises a tall metal tank resting on a concrete slab foundation.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0033

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

Cypress Water Tanks

The Cypress Water Tanks were constructed in the 1970s at the water treatment facility. They have vertically laid planks banded with metal. The tanks rest on concrete slab foundations and are topped by conical roofs.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0034

NON-CONTRIBUTING (2 – structures)

Campground Bath House

This is a one-story building resting on a concrete block foundation. The concrete block building is clad in board and batten siding, and features an asphalt-shingled gable over hipped roof. The sliding windows have metal frames. There are solid wood single-leaf doors with storm doors accessing the interior. There are incorporated porches on the southwest and southeast corners sheltering the entry doors.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0035

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Hiking Trails

Constructed in 1933-1936, the hiking trails meander through the landforms near the Staunton (Roanoke) and Dan Rivers. The hiking trails incorporate former truck trails used by the CCC for their erosion and landscaping projects. In 1952, the Kerr Reservoir was created, which flooded both shorelines and much of the original trails. The trails were modified and improved in the late 1970s, using original areas of the trails where accessible and newly cut areas. The trail system was expanded in the late 20th century to include multi-use trails for horses as well as pedestrians.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0024

NON-CONTRIBUTING (6 – structures)

Tobacco Barn

There is a tobacco barn situated south of the Restaurant. It was constructed circa 1950 and relocated from private lands to the park in 1972. It is log construction with a gable roof.

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DHR Number: 041-0100-0006
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Park Office

Constructed in 1997, the Park Office is the first building approached along the major roadway into the park. It has a concrete foundation and is wood frame clad in board and batten siding. The roof is side-gable clad in asphalt shingles. The facade is dominated by a projecting intersecting gable forming the building entrance. The main doors are single-leaf and plate glass within metal frames. The windows are fixed with metal frames. There is a one-story, one-bay porch appended to the west elevation. It is topped with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0036
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Contact Station

This is 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 weatherboard siding. The building is topped by a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. There are metal sliding and double-hung sash windows. The building divides the main road leading to the park near the park entrance. There is stone curbing in an elongated oval surrounding the contact station.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0037
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Old Office

This building has an L-shaped plan and is concrete block construction, with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. There is a concrete block chimney on the north end of the building and an interior brick chimney at the south end. The doors are single-leaf with three panels and one light. There is a screened porch at the north end on the west elevation. The windows are 2/2 metal double-hung sash.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0038
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Shed

There is a shed west of the old office. It has a concrete slab foundation and wood frame structural system clad in board and batten siding. The roof is gable clad in asphalt shingles. The east façade is dominated by a single-leaf metal door. There is a three-bay, one-story wood porch appended to the south elevation.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0039
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

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Park Manager's Residence

This single-family dwelling was constructed in 1999, and has a parged concrete block foundation and wood frame structural system clad in weatherboard. The roof is side gable clad in asphalt shingles. Windows punctuate the walls and are 2/2 metal double-hung sash. The main entrance is single-leaf with a metal door. There is an incorporated porch on the south façade of four bays with plain posts. A weatherboard clad chimney punctuates the roof.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0040

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Staunton Pit Toilet

A pit toilet is located at the Staunton (Roanoke) River boat ramp site,. It has a concrete block foundation and wood frame structural system clad in pressure treated lumber. There are two single-leaf wood doors accessing the interior. The building is topped by a shed roof clad in asphalt shingles.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0041

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

Staunton Shelter

The shelter is an open structure topped with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The foundation is concrete slab, and the enclosed railing is clad in board and batten siding. The posts supporting the roof are plain.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0042

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

Piers and Boat Ramp

There are three piers and a boat ramp on the waterfront. The Staunton (Roanoke) River boat ramp comprises two parallel slab concrete ramps descending from the gravel parking lot into the river. The boat ramps were added after the 1952 flooding of the Staunton (Roanoke) and Dan rivers. The Dan River boating area comprises a boat ramp and pier added circa 2005. The ramp and pier are parallel. The pier is wood with wood pilings and decking. The ramp is concrete slab.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0043

NON-CONTRIBUTING (4 – structures)

YCC Bunkhouse

The YCC Bunkhouse is a log building brought to the campground area on a trailer. It is constructed of smooth cut logs and topped by a side-gable roof clad in metal. The windows are double-hung and the doors are single leaf.

DHR Number: 041-0100-0044

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NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

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Statement of Significance

Summary Statement of Significance

Staunton River State Park was one of the six original state parks planned within the Virginia State Park system. The system developed out of the National Park system through the New Deal 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 National Park Service provided architectural drawings and plans developed at the National Parks. Two CCC camps of 200 men each provided construction labor. Developed between 1933 and 1938, Staunton River State Park has a number of remaining CCC-era buildings, and retains its original development plan. The park, then comprised of 1299 acres, reflected the Southern Piedmont region of Virginia. Its varying terrain and location at the confluence of the Staunton (Roanoke) and Dan rivers made it an ideal location for a state park. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its association with the CCC project and as one of the first six original parks planned in Virginia, and its park plan, respectively.

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 were developed in the west, including Mount Rainier 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 1916.¹

State parks were initially created in the western United States for the purpose of "public use and recreation".² The concept for the development of recreational parks was conceived as early as the mid-19th 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 19th century and early 20th century,

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but were confined by train travel and the destinations accessible by train. With the increased popularity of the automobile in the early 20th 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.³

While national parks had been conceived in the 19th 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.⁴ Also, an increased demand on national parks led to the suggestion of creating state parks to help relieve the attendance at National Parks.⁵ The first director of the NPS, Stephen Mather, is credited with 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.⁶

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.⁷ The Commission's first chairman was William E. Carson, 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 of the first state park on the Virginia coast, celebrating the natural beauty of Virginia's varying geology, as a companion to the Shenandoah National Park.⁸ When 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 horticulturalist and landscape designer living in southwest Virginia. His position was as 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.⁹

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. 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 National Conference was held

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in Virginia Beach, at which representatives from various states. The proposed site of Seashore State Park was used for conference sessions, which included presentations on the history of the site as the location of the first landing of English settlers in Virginia. The conference inspired the fledgling Commission on Conservation and Development to actively seek creation of a state park system.¹⁰

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 reflected the various natural areas of Virginia and highlighted the varying geography of the state.¹¹ In addition, the parks functioned as companions to establish or develop 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 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.¹²

The establishment of the CCC solved two problems facing the United States. The first was to provide employment for young men who were unemployed during the Great Depression. It was found the young were highly problematic. 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."¹³

The lack of conservation management of natural areas in the United States was also an issue. 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 the men were providing, they also received educational courses to make them marketable for employment after their tours of duty. The initial employment of the CCC included two hundred and

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fifty thousand young men in the first year of its creation.¹⁴

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. It also was responsible for establishing a water system, and digging wells as needed for a fresh water supply. The first company was also required to build the maintenance buildings to be used in the fabrication of materials for the erection of the park buildings on site. In addition, they built the roadways within the park. Later 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.¹⁵

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 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 and Building Design Concepts

Supervising the development of State Parks in emerging state park systems was a new role for the NPS in the New Deal era.¹⁶ The availability of a workforce, and 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" for its parks, 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

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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.¹⁷

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.*¹⁸

In addition to preserving the natural scenery and historic objects incorporated in some parks, 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 years at the NPS level.

The development of the "Master Plan" for state parks came about through collaboration between the state park design representative or landscape architect, and the NPS design representative. In addition, NPS engineers, horticulturalists and architects were consulted on the concept of the park's design.¹⁹

The Virginia State Park System sought to represent the various regions of Virginia adequately. 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. Additional requirements included that the natural features of each park should include a water feature 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.²⁰

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

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park planners in developing the roadways and a circulation system in 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, to blend in with the natural features of the park, and have a minimal impact to the existing landforms.

The road system was organized into major and minor roadways. The major roadways were comprised of 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.²¹

Park staff residences were situated away from the main public park area in a secluded area of the park near the park entrance. They also were convenient to the park administration buildings, and in a location where the park could 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. Various historical sources were also adapted for the design of the park staff residences.²²

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 served as a hub and 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.²³
In the CCC-era parks, maintenance buildings served originally as workshops for the park's

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development. Maintenance buildings were adapted after the completed construction of the park for its perpetual maintenance. These buildings have minimal architectural details and 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 of the natural area. The environment and planning of these areas was important in 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 need for camper privacy, and was thought to be as important as clean and safe drinking water and adequate sewage. As 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.²⁴

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 of similar scale. The layout of the cabin was to be compact, so 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.²⁵

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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 simple, with numerous window openings to provide ventilation and light, along with an entrance door and gabled roof.²⁶

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 simple pull-offs or spurs on a main one-way loop, with an adjacent 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, necessitated 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 within 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

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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 included various alternatives in campground planning.²⁷

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 placed 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 human enjoyment of them.

Creation of Staunton River State Park

On October 27, 1933, 1196.5 acres of land on which Staunton River State Park is located, were sold for \$10,000.00 to the Virginia State Commission on Conservation and Development for the creation of Staunton River State Park.²⁸ The parcel was sold at auction on October 6, 1933, at which point the State Commission on Conservation and Development became the landholder. Funding for the purchase of the site was shared between the State, and the counties of Mecklenburg, Halifax and Charlotte. The three counties provided a combined total of \$2500.00 to contribute toward the park land purchase.²⁹ The land was a former plantation site named the "Fork Plantation," primarily open farmlands with timbered areas along the waterfronts. Additional lands were acquired in 1933, making the total acreage 1640.³⁰ By 1937, the total acreage of the park was 1776.³¹

Upon acquisition of the site, planning was underway for the creation of the park. Two CCC Companies, SP-16 and SP-17, were assigned the park in 1933 for its construction.³² CCC works began arriving on October 16, 1933. Company 1220, which had been organized at Fort Niagara, New York on June 1, 1933, was assigned the park and denoted as SP-16. The Company had originally been assigned to Glacier National Park. The camp was provided a generator for electric lighting, and was equipped with a radio for official telecommunications. Camp SP-16's first task was to erect tents in

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the corn field near the Staunton (Roanoke) River. The permanent camp was constructed by the CCC-men in November and December of 1933. This company remained at Staunton River State Park until August 8, 1935, when it was relocated to Carmel, New York.³³

Fort Niagara, New York drew its recruits from the depressed areas within the five boroughs of New York City and northern New York.³⁴ Though the CCC recruited men from the depressed cities, some Virginia youth were brought to Staunton River State Park, but an overwhelming number of young men had come from the north.³⁵

Company 1227 arrived at Staunton River State Park on October 16, 1933, relocated from Bovill, Idaho. They lived in tents from October 16 to December 18, 1933. During this period, they erected their barracks and camp buildings, as did Company SP-16. Company 1227 was designated as Company SP-17. According to documents provided, the cost of the barracks was \$30,000.³⁶ The water supply for the CCC Companies came from a well drilled on the site. The wash water came from the Staunton (Roanoke) River. The company used pit latrines, and drainage was carried from the CCC camp to the Staunton (Roanoke) River through a tile drain.³⁷ In addition to erecting barracks and a mess hall, they also erected a recreation hall, which became a popular destination for area citizens. The recreation hall was erected by March 1934.³⁸ The Companies provided local entertainment, including the production of plays and boxing matches.³⁹

The initial construction plan for the park was the erection of the swimming pool, truck trails, forest improvements, trails, and landscaping. According to the members of Camp SP-16, landscaping efforts, which included the relocation of trees and other native plants, were difficult and fruitless.⁴⁰ By the end of 1934, the major tasks set for the Camp SP-16 members were the construction of the swimming pool and cabins.

The site of the park followed the requirements of the National Park Service and Virginia Department of Conservation and Development through its location along the Dan and Staunton (Roanoke) rivers, the water features with which all parks should be associated. The site at the confluence of the rivers gave the park vistas across the rivers, and allowed for access for boaters. However, the Dan and Staunton Rivers were thought to be too polluted for swimming, so William Carson requested the construction of a pool. The location of a swimming pool was not initially considered due to the water feature. The cost of the pool was slated at \$12,000.00 and was initially denied by the NPS, but then approved in 1934. Carson had argued that without the pool, the park would have been a failure, and the need for the park in this area of Virginia was to provide recreation, more for the local community than outside tourists.⁴¹ The swimming pool was touted as being the largest within the Commonwealth of Virginia upon its completion, and was 150 feet by 60 feet in size, with a 40-foot in diameter wading

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**Staunton River State Park Historic District
Halifax County, Virginia**

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pool.⁴²

At the end of January 1936, Company 1227 left Staunton River State Park. They had completed the water supply system, as well as a septic system to the cabins and lavatories.⁴³ By the end of 1937, the remaining Company, SP-17, had transplanted trees and completed soil erosion projects within the park. Transplanting of trees to the cabin areas was a priority, and gave the area a more scenic “realistic” effect.⁴⁴ Company SP-17 was replaced by Company 2381, who occupied the barracks formerly occupied by Company 1220.⁴⁵ They completed the water treatment plant in 1938, which was the last project at the park.⁴⁶

Electricity was not initially provided in Staunton River State Park for park users and cabin renters. It was added in 1941, and primarily used for lighting.⁴⁷

By the park’s opening in 1936, the cabins, picnic areas, and swimming pool with bath house had been completed and were ready for use. In the opening year, Staunton River State Park saw an attendance of 12,581, and had the third highest park attendance of Virginia’s first six state parks.⁴⁸ The park, while having successful day use attendance, was not a popular destination for tourists. According to Mr. J. C. Lindsey, the first Park Superintendent, the cabins had not been rented extensively. This was attributed to the inability of people in the immediate surrounding area to afford renting the cabins. Lindsey encouraged the construction of a bridge connecting the park to the south side of the Dan River, in an effort to attract visitors from North Carolina who would be more financially able to rent the cabins.⁴⁹

The lack of use of the park’s cabins led the Commission on Conservation and Development to make an agreement with a girls’ school from Appalachia, to lease the cabins during the summer season. The lease included the rental of seven of the eight cabins from the period June 1 to September 1, for the 1938 and 1939 seasons. The contract signed also gave the school an option to extend the period of use.⁵⁰ The cabins were rented modestly during the 20th century, and while other parks within the park system received funding for additional cabins in the 1950s, Staunton River State Park’s overnight accommodations were not increased. In addition, the campground area which had been cleared in 1934 was not developed until 1940 for overnight use.⁵¹

Flooding along the Staunton (Roanoke) and Dan rivers was common in the late 19th and early 20th century. Most of the facilities constructed along the waterfront at Staunton River State Park were situated on higher ground to avoid damage from the periodic flooding. Between 1899 and 1940, there were fifty floods causing damage to the waterfront areas at the confluence of the two rivers. To alleviate the flooding, a dam was proposed downstream and east of the park. The function of the dam

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was to control flooding of the Roanoke River Basin. Planning was underway during the 1940s, and on December 22, 1944, the construction for the project was authorized by Congress. Work commenced in March 1947. The project was completed in early 1953, and raised the level of the Staunton (Roanoke) and Dan rivers twenty feet. The damming of the Roanoke River basin caused the shoreline of Staunton River State Park to recede approximately three-hundred feet. This loss of landmass by the rise in water level reduced the park's acreage by three-hundred acres (1476). The original waterfront water treatment facility constructed by the CCC was within the flood plain and required replacement. The facility was replaced in 1952. The reservoir that was created was originally named Buggs Island Lake, and was renamed the Kerr Reservoir.⁵² Due to siltation, which is the settlement of silt along the banks of a river as it flows to a larger body of water, lands are being reclaimed along the waterfront, and the acreage of the Staunton River State Park is increasing to its original size, now at 1597 acres.

From 1933 to 1938, the CCC workers erected twelve cabins, cut in trails and roadways, constructed a pool and pool house, 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, Staunton River State Park, along with Virginia's other five original state parks, would have not been created for the public enjoyment. Staunton River State Park continues to fulfill its function as a public recreation facility and retains integrity of building types, park plan and landscape features. The Staunton River State Park Historic District is eligible under Criteria A and C for its association with the CCC and state park creation during the early 20th century, and for its park and building design and landscape features.

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Endnotes:

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 Press, 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 Halifax County Deed Book 78, page 145.

29 Hall, Wilbur C., "Virginia's State Parks," (The University of Virginia Newsletter, Vol. XIII, No. 14), April 15, 1937.

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Halifax County, Virginia**

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30 "Emergency Conservation Work Report, SP-17, Scottsburg, VA." February 28, 1934.

31 Hall, Wilbur C.

32 "The CCC Camps in Virginia," The University of Virginia Newsletter, Vol. XI, No. 6, December 15, 1934.

33 Company 1220 History on file at Staunton River State Park.

34 Ibid.

35 Data from CCC file Staunton River State Park files.

36 "Emergency Conservation Work Report on Company 1227, SP-17, Scottsburg, VA." December 1, 1934.

37 Ibid.

38 Undated newspaper article March 1, 1934 from Staunton River State Park Files

39 Undated articles housed at Staunton River State Park.

40 Company 1220 History on file at Staunton River State Park.

41 Smith, Langdon, Jr., "The Democratization of Nature: State-Park Development during the New Deal," (Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Geography, University of Kansas, 2002), 79.

42 Undated articles housed at Staunton River State Park.

43 United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service, State Park Division, "Staunton River State Park, Scottsburg, VA, Narrative Report," December 1935 and January 1936.

44 United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, State Park Division. Staunton River State Park, Scottsburg, VA, Narrative Report December and January 1937, 1938.

45 Ibid.

46 "The CCC in Virginia." and Custodian's review notes from files at Staunton River State Park, n.d. (based upon narratives it is assumed that the reviews were conducted after the second season at the park, 1937).

47 Barbour, Dr. W. B., "Halifacts," (Danville, VA: J. T. Tones Printing Co., Inc., 1941), 245.

48 Hall, Wilbur C.

49 Minutes of the Custodians Meeting at Douthat State Park, Clifton Forge, VA, November 9-11, 1936.

50 "Staunton River Park Cabins Are Rented as Camp," May 19, n.d.

51 "Master Plan—Staunton River State Park, Halifax County, Virginia." September 17, 1934, and Barbour, Dr. W. B., 245.

52 www.kerrlake.com/lakeinfo/lake2.htm.

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Halifax County, Virginia**

Section 9 Page 28

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“Emergency Conservation Work Report, SP-17, Scottsburg, VA.” February 28, 1934.

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

“Master Plan—Staunton River State Park, Halifax County, Virginia.” September 17, 1934.

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“Merry Christmas, 1933,” CCC SP-16, Company 1220, Scottsburg, VA. December 1933.

“Minutes of the Custodians Meeting at Douthat State Park, Clifton Forge, VA.” November 9-11, 1936.

“Progress Pictures for SP-16, VA, Staunton River State Park, Scottsburg, Virginia.” March 31, 1936.

“Project: A Bath House, Staunton River State Park, Halifax County.” February 26, 1934.

Schemmer, Elsa W. L. “The Civilian Conservation Corps in Virginia: a brief history and survey of extant properties.” (unpublished paper, Mary Washington College, Department of Historic Preservation, Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 1991).

Smith, Langdon, Jr. “The Democratization of Nature: State-Park Development during the New Deal.” Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Geography, University of Kansas, 2002.

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Staunton River State Park History. (housed at Staunton River State Park).

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Geographical Data (con't)

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	704736	4064876
B	17	707541	4065204
C	17	709400	4064173
D	17	709568	4064028
E	17	709684	4063819
F	17	709784	4063563
G	17	709770	4063463
H	17	706303	4062119
I	17	704354	4061958
J	17	704269	4061987

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are comprised of the current park boundaries, currently 1597 acres. The north boundary is the Staunton (Roanoke) River; the south boundary is the Dan River, the east boundary is the confluence of the two above listed rivers, and the west boundary borders privately and publicly owned lands. Scaled map with resources included.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of Staunton River 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.

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Section Photographs Page 31

The following information is true for all photographs:
Staunton River State Park #041-0100, Halifax County, Virginia
Photographer: Kimble A. David
Taken: January 2006

Photograph List:

- Photo 1 of 8: Negative 22955
View of Bath House and Swimming Pool
- Photo 2 of 8: Negative 22955
Northwest oblique of Restaurant
- Photo 3 of 8: Negative 22956
Northwest oblique of Custodian's House
- Photo 4 of 8: Negative 22956
Southeast oblique of Picnic Shelter
- Photo 5 of 8: Negative 22956
View north toward River Pump House
- Photo 6 of 8: Negative 22956
View of Stone Walls at Staunton River Boat Ramp
- Photo 7 of 8: Negative 22956
Northeast oblique of Cabin 5
- Photo 8 of 8: Negative 22956
Southwest oblique of Cabin 1

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 07000402

Date Listed: 5/04/2007

Property Name: Staunton River State Park Historic District County: Halifax State: VA

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

5/4/2007
Date of Action

=====

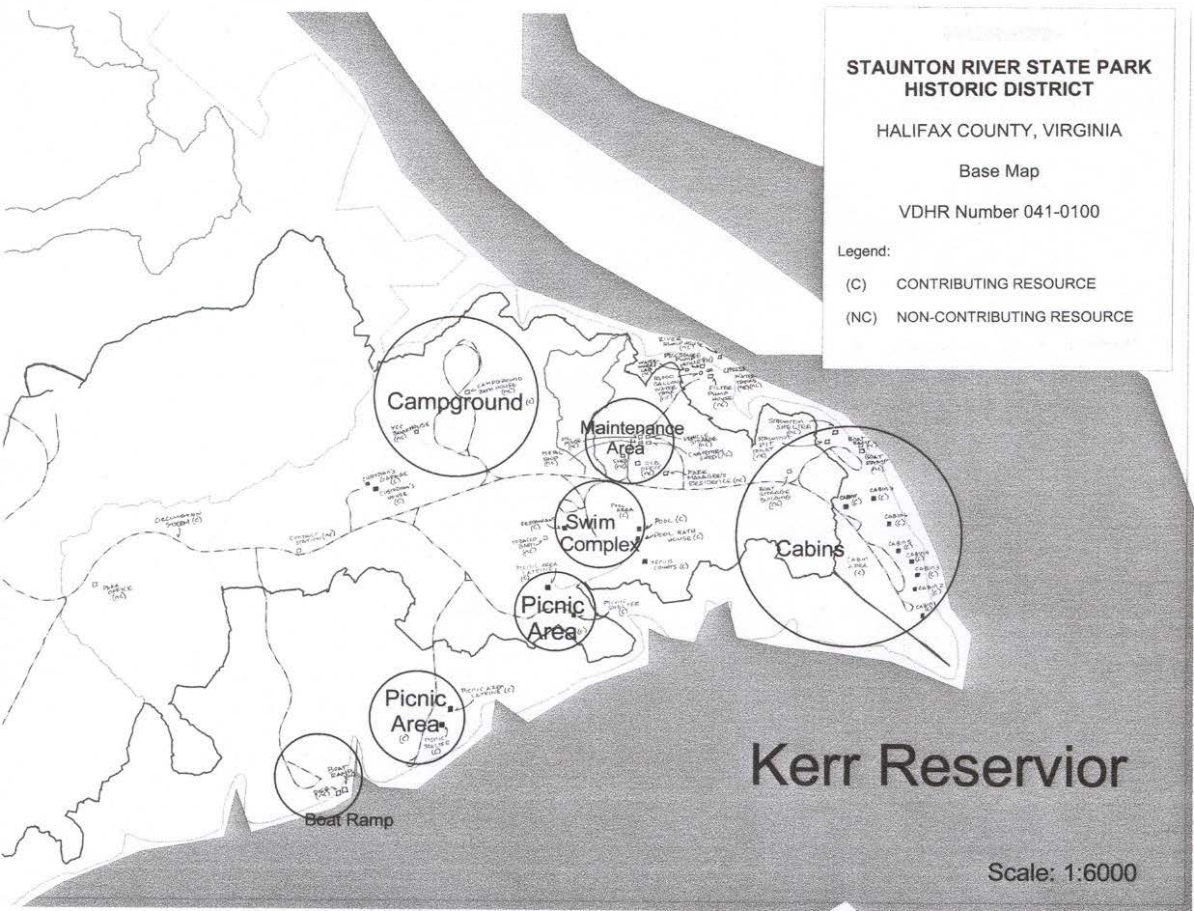
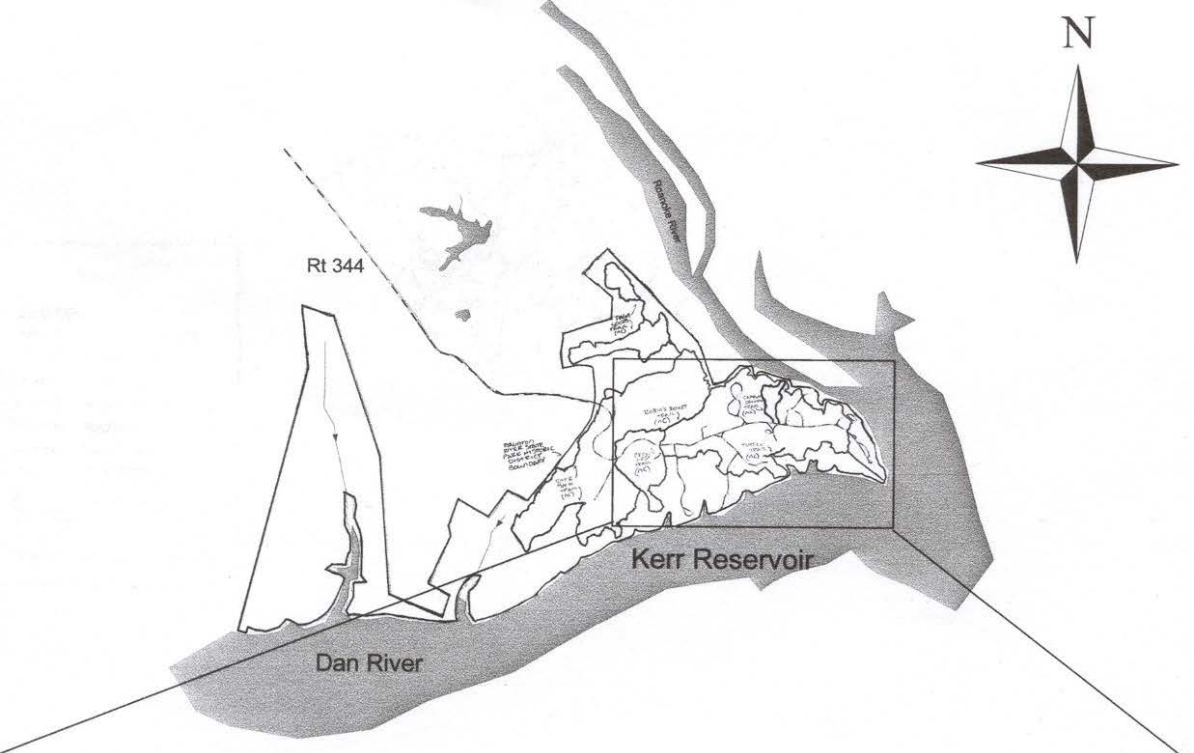
Amended Items in Nomination:

In Section 5 of the nomination form it states that the historic district is being nominated as part of the Virginia Civilian Conservation Corps State Parks Multiple Property Submission. The State has informed us that the MPS has not yet been submitted to the National Register. The Period of Significance for the district is defined as ending in 1942. In consultation with the State, this is changed to end in 1938, the year that the CCC completed construction of the park.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



**STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK
HISTORIC DISTRICT**

HALIFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Base Map

VDHR Number 041-0100

Legend:

(C) CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

(NC) NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

Kerr Reservoir

Scale: 1:6000



4065
42°30"
CLARKSVILLE 8 MI.
OXFORD, N. C. 31 MI.

STAUNTON
RIVER
STATE PARK
041-0100

- (CLARKSVILLE NORTH)
5257 II NE
- A 17/704736/4064876
 - B 17/707541/4065204
 - C 17/709400/4064173
 - D 17/709568/4064028
 - E 17/709684/4063819
 - F 17/709784/4063563
 - G 17/709770/4063463
 - H 17/706303/4062119
 - I 17/704354/4061958
 - J 17/704269/4061987

1170 SCOTTSBURG
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VA 24589
BUFFALO
SPRINGS, VA
QUADRANGLE