

FULLERSBURG WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
3609 Spring Road
Oak Brook
Du Page County
Illinois

HALS IL-11
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

FULLERSBURG WOODS FOREST PRESERVE

HALS NO. IL-11

- Location:** 3609 Spring Road, Oak Brook, DuPage County, Illinois
41.823816, -87.934040 (Preserve Entrance, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84)
- Significance:** Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve was home to a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp from 1933 until 1938. The camp housed Company V-1668, a unit comprised of military veterans. Workers from this camp constructed improvements at several forest preserves in DuPage County, including Fullersburg Woods, York Woods and Rocky Glen (now Waterfall Glen). The improvements at Fullersburg Woods were designed by G.F. Ingalls, and constructed under the supervision of Chance S. Hill, the Forest Preserve District's Supervising Landscape Architect. The work completed at Fullersburg Woods by the CCC was extensive, including significant alteration of Salt Creek and construction of several structures. Many of these features are still found within the preserve today.
- Description:** Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve is a 226 acre preserve comprised of lowland forest, prairie, wetland and riparian habitats. The preserve is located along Salt Creek, which was extensively modified by the CCC, expanding the river and constructing multiple islands within it.
- Fullersburg Woods contains several CCC-built structures, including a former boat house and picnic shelter, which has been converted to a visitor and nature education center, several bridges, picnic shelters, bank protection, and an incinerator. An inventory of structures documented is listed below:
- Boat House (Fullersburg Nature Education Center). The boathouse was constructed by the CCC in 1936. The structure included boat storage on the lower level and a picnic shelter on the upper level. It is constructed of a masonry foundation with timber framing above. A large chimney is located on the south side of the structure, with fireplaces on the interior and exterior of the structure connected to it. The boathouse is located on the west side of Salt Creek (41.826661, -87.932189, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84). The structure underwent major modifications in the early 1970s, which included enclosing the structure and reprogramming it as a Nature Education Center.
- Shelter (Fullersburg Shelter 7). This Shelter is a large masonry and timber structure with a fireplace and chimney on the north side of the structure. It was one of the first structures constructed at Fullersburg Woods, sometime between

1935 and 1936. It is located on the south side of Salt Creek (41.827233, -87.935248, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84).

Foot and Horse Bridge (Rainbow Bridge). The Rainbow Bridge is an arched wooden bridge with masonry abutments spanning Salt Creek. Construction of the bridge was completed in September of 1936. The Bridge has undergone some minor modifications, including construction of masonry wing walls and replacement of the wooden deck and railings. It is located in the western portion of the preserve (41.827397, -87.937977, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84).

Foot Bridge (Flat Bridge). The Flat bridge was a wooden bridge with masonry abutments and piers, spanning Salt Creek approximately 400 feet south of the boat house (41.825505, -87.931544, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84). The bridge consisted of a flat deck supported by masonry abutments and four masonry piers located in the Salt Creek channel. In the summer of 2010, severe flooding caused structural damage to one of the piers, causing the bridge deck to partially collapse. Following a structural analysis of the bridge, the Forest Preserve District moved forward with plans to remove the CCC bridge and replace it with a single span bridge, elevating the new bridge deck above flood elevations. The bridge was removed in 2012.

Shelter (Fullersburg Shelter 4). This shelter is an octagonal wood shelter located on the south side of Salt Creek, west of the north island (41.830204, -87.933042, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84). The exact construction date of the shelter is not known, although it was prior to January 1937, as the shelter is documented in a photographic report by the National Park Service. The original shelter included masonry and timber benches between the shelter columns. Those benches have since been removed and replaced with a masonry seat wall along one side of the shelter.

Well #4 (Fullersburg Shelter 6). This shelter is a timber shelter that was constructed as a pump shelter over a hand pump for drinking water. It was constructed by the CCC in 1937. The shelter is located on the south side of Salt Creek (41.828652, -87.935000, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84). The hand pump has been removed, and the shelter now includes a small log bench.

Well #5 (Fullersburg Shelter 8). This shelter is another timber shelter that was constructed as a pump shelter over a hand pump for drinking water. It was constructed by the CCC in 1937. The shelter is located on the south side of Salt Creek, approximately 80 feet west of Fullersburg Shelter 7 (41.827074, -87.935534, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84). The hand pump has been removed, and the shelter now serves a small trailside shelter with removable chairs.

Trail Shelter (Fullersburg Shelter 3). This is a small trailside shelter constructed with an integrated timber bench. The shelter was constructed by the CCC, although the date of construction is not known. The shelter is located on the south side of Salt Creek (41.828666, -87.932386, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84).

Shelter (Fullersburg Shelter 1). This is a wood and masonry picnic shelter located on the north island within Salt Creek (41.828741, -87.931044, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84). The shelter has a masonry foundation wall with timber posts and beams.

Bridge to South Island. This is a small arched wooden bridge, approximately 36 feet long with stone abutments, which connects to an island also constructed by the CCC (41.824281, -87.933183, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84). The date of construction is not known.

Preserve Entrance. The CCC constructed a masonry entrance gate at Spring Road (41.823816, -87.934040, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84). Some of the masonry has been removed to accommodate road widening and the wooden gates have been removed. The original masonry monuments remain along the edges of the preserve entrance road.

History:

The land encompassed by and around the present day Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve contains much that is significant in the local history of the area. The area is named for Benjamin Fuller, one of the earliest European settlers of the area, who moved to the area in 1834. One of the structures built by the Fullers was a balloon frame home, built to the south of the area that is now Fullersburg Woods. The structure was moved onto Forest Preserve District property, and is currently scheduled to be renovated as an interpretive center.

In 1837, Nicholas Torode, another early settler of the area, built a sawmill and dam along Salt Creek, providing lumber for new construction around the growing community of Fullersburg. Fullersburg continued to grow, becoming an early stop on a stage coach route. Although Fullersburg was platted as a town in 1851, it was never officially incorporated.

Unfortunately, the Torode sawmill was destroyed by fire in 1848. In 1852, Frederick Graue and William Asche built a grist mill at the sawmill site. This mill operated for more than 60 years.

The mill, the relocated Fuller House and the Frederick Graue House are all located at what is today the southern end of Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve and are part of the Fullersburg Historic District, which also includes the nearby York Tavern. The Graue Mill is the subject of a Historic American Buildings

Survey in 1934 (HABS IL-26-6) The former York Road bridge crossing Salt Creek, which bisects Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, was the subject of a Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Report (HAER IL-140). The bridge documented in the HAER report has been removed and replaced with a new bridge.

Fullersburg Woods began its history as a forest preserve with the purchase of a 65 acre tract of land from Frank and Fannie Butler along Salt Creek in 1920. This tract became the fifth preserve established by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Over the next decade additional parcels adjacent to the preserve were acquired, including the Graue Mill property.

In the 1930s the Forest Preserve District had a limited budget for preserve development, with only \$10,000 allocated for improvements throughout the county in the 1931-32 fiscal year. In September of 1933, Robert McKee, the President of the Forest Preserve District, requested the placement of Civilian Conservation Corps camps on Forest Preserve District property to aid in making improvements to various preserve properties. In December 1933, Camp Fullersburg opened as home to CCC Company V-1668, the letter "V" indicating that this was a camp composed of military veterans.

The workers of V-1668 constructed numerous improvements at Fullersburg Woods, including work on the restoration of Graue Mill (HABS IL-26-6) along with its dam and millrace. In addition, the enrollees of Camp Fullersburg completed projects at York Woods and Rocky Glen (now Waterfall Glen) Forest Preserves.

Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve is home to numerous structures constructed by the CCC enrollees. The most significant structure is the large boathouse and concession building, built on the banks of Salt Creek. Other CCC structures constructed at Fullersburg Woods included bridges, shelters, well houses and an incinerator. The trail system at the preserve also contains segments originally constructed by the CCC. In addition, the CCC dredged Salt Creek, building up islands to create an area suitable for recreational use. The CCC also planted and transplanted several trees at the preserve.

In April of 1938 Camp Fullersburg was disbanded as a CCC camp and the enrollees of Co. V-1668 were moved to the barracks of Camp McDowell located in McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in Naperville, Illinois.

Fullersburg remained a popular recreation spot over the coming decades and the CCC-built boathouse, shelters, trails and bridges saw heavy use. The heavy recreational use took its toll on the grounds of Fullersburg Woods and increasing pollution of Salt Creek made the water unsafe for continued recreational use. In the early 1970s the Forest Preserve District began to re-envision the preserve as

a center for environmental education to show the effects of human activity on the natural environment and to highlight efforts to restore damaged areas. The boat house was reprogrammed as a visitor center when the preserve was re-opened to the public in 1973. The Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center continues to serve visitors to Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, which has grown to encompass 226 acres.

Sources: Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. "Fullersburg Woods – From Degradation to Education: New County Achievement Award Entry." Wheaton, IL. February 12, 1977.

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Meeting Minutes for September 19, 1933. Wheaton, IL.

"Co 1668 Vets Occupy McDowell." The Vets' Gazette. Naperville, IL. April 29, 1938. Microfilm available from Center for Research Libraries

"National Park Service." The Fullersburg Grit. Hinsdale, IL. April, 1936. Microfilm available from Center for Research Libraries.

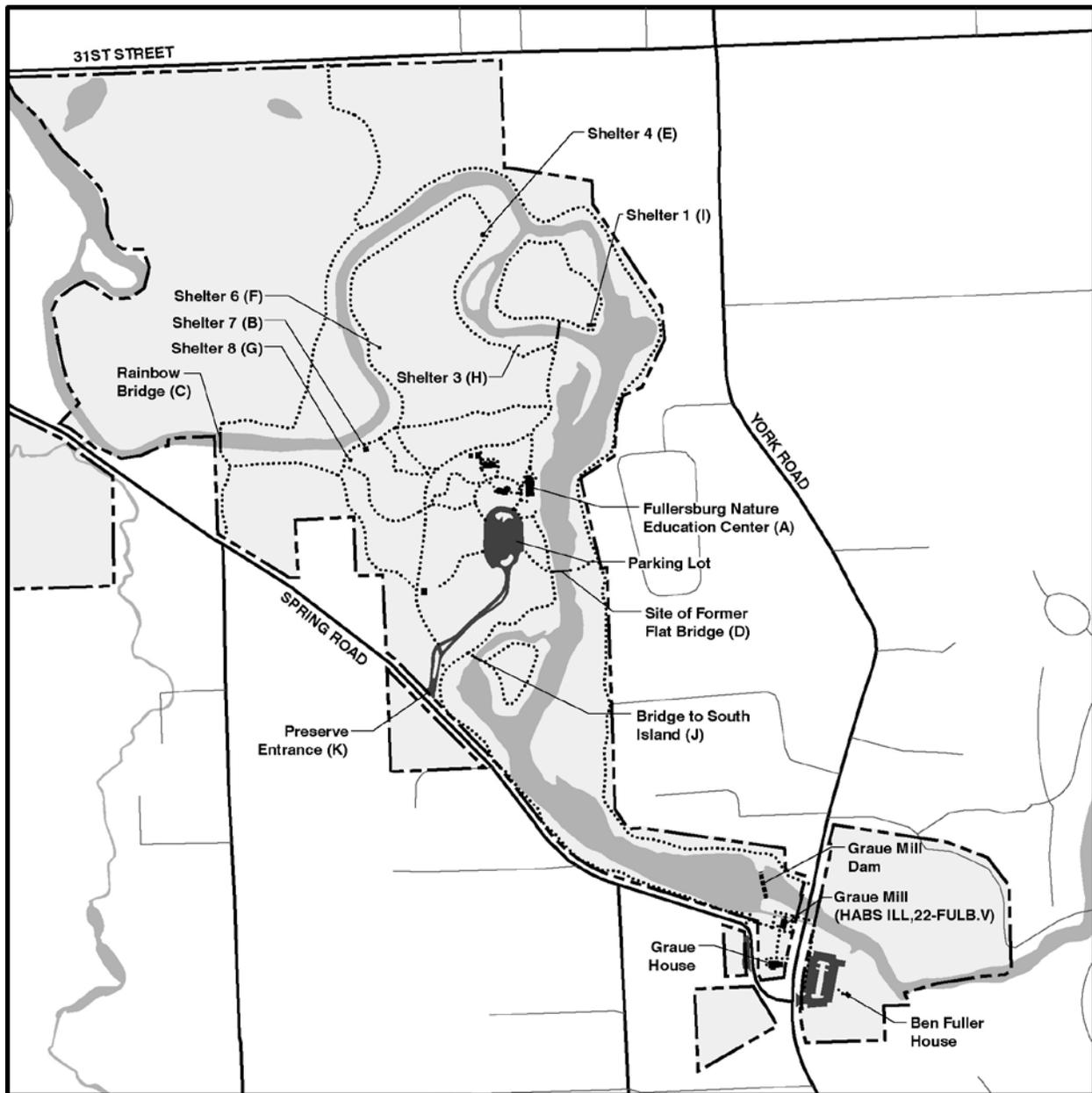
"More Forest Preserve Land." Brookfield Suburban Magnet. Brookfield, IL July 9, 1920.

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July 30, 2014.

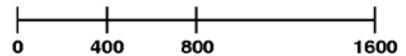
Entry 2014 HALS Challenge: Documenting Landscapes of the New Deal



LEGEND

- 2014 Forest Preserve Boundary
- Water
- Structures
- Trails

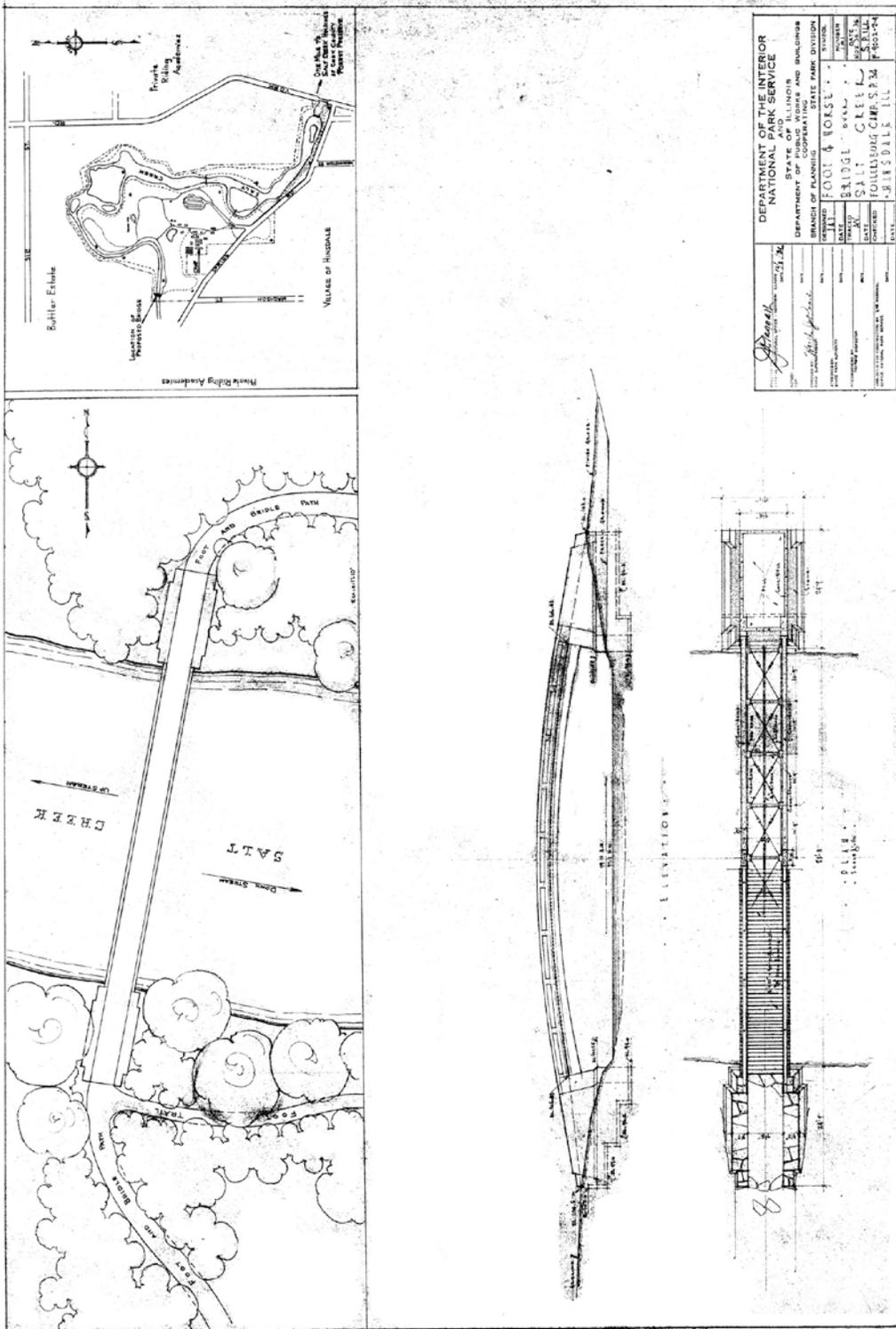
Note: Letter in parentheses indicates
HALS Feature Inventory Designation



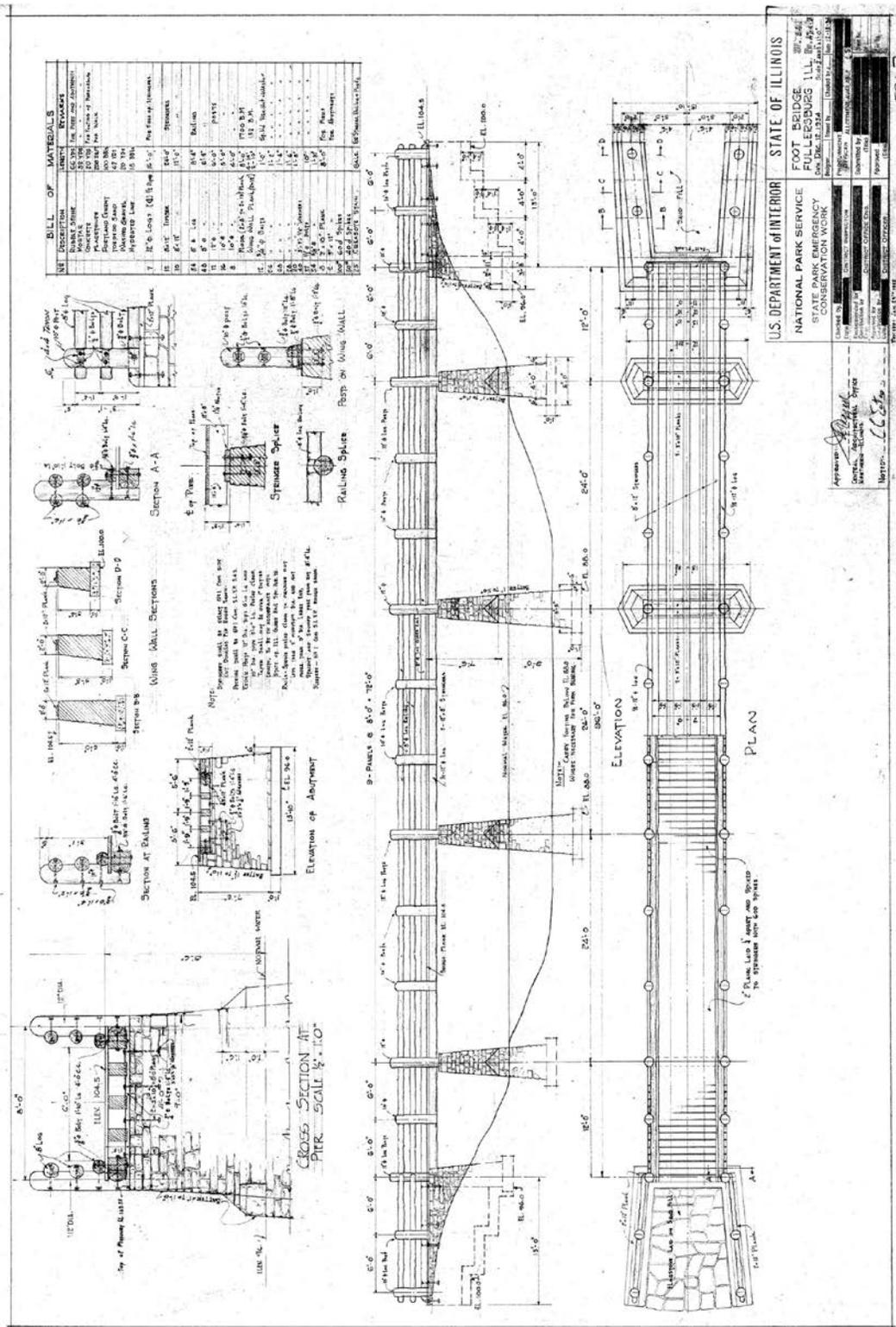
Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve Map of CCC work, 2014 (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County)



Illinois State Park No. 34 DuPage General Development Plans (Proposed), Sheet 2 of 2, December 27, 1933. (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Foot and Horse Bridge Plan and Elevation (Constructed), November 30, 1936. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. (Forest Preserve District of Cook County Records, [FPDCC.06.04.0000.0066.016], University of Illinois at Chicago Library, Special Collections)



Foot Bridge Plan, December 12, 1934 (Constructed 1937, Removed 2011). United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Horse and Foot Bridge at Fullersburg Woods, September, 1936. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Hand Grading of Channel and Islands of Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods, September 1936. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Hand Grading of Channel and Islands of Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods, September 1936. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Construction of Boat House at Fullersburg Woods, September 1936. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



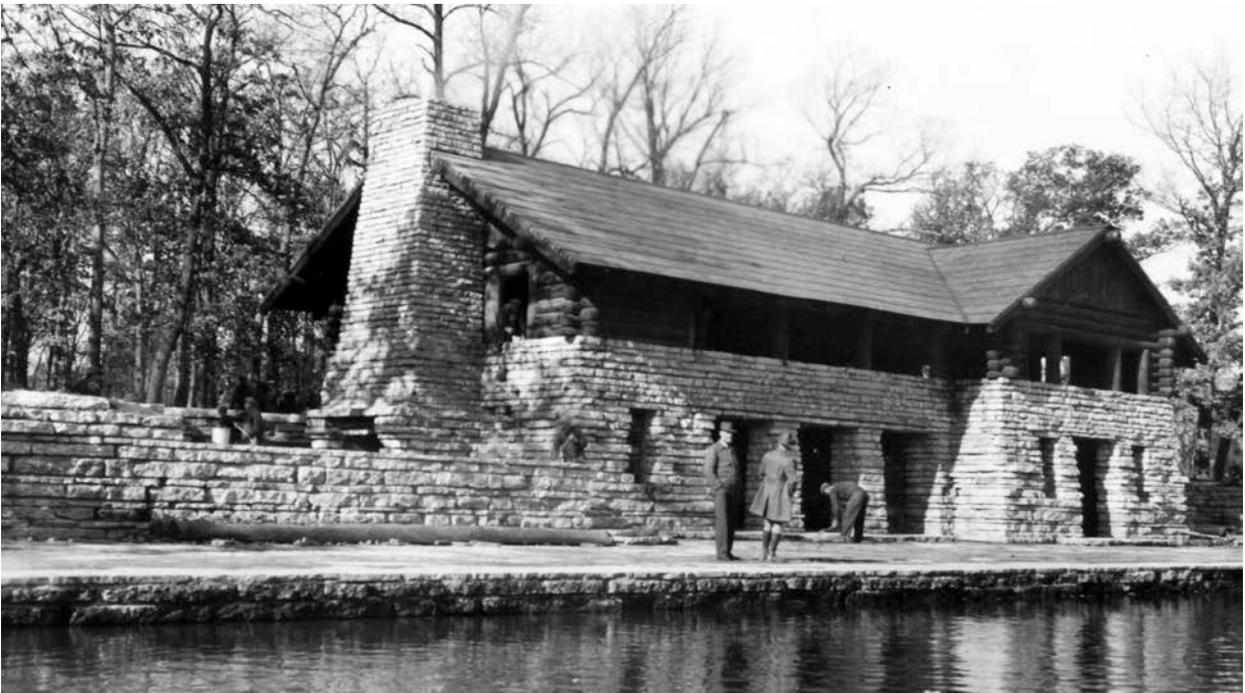
Construction of Boat House at Fullersburg Woods, September 1936. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Construction of Boat House at Fullersburg Woods, November 1936. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Construction of Boat House at Fullersburg Woods, November 1936. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Completed Boat House at Fullersburg Woods, November 1936. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Completed Boat House at Fullersburg Woods with CCC Enrollees, November 1936. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Construction of Foot Bridge at Fullersburg Woods, January 1937. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Construction of Foot Bridge at Fullersburg Woods, January 1937. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Tree planting along Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods, January 1937. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Completed shelter (Fullersburg Shelter 4) and fine grading along Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods, January 1937. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



CCC enrollees moving a large elm tree at Fullersburg Woods, March 1937. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Construction of Well #4 at Fullersburg Woods, March 1937. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Construction of Well #5 at Fullersburg Woods, March 1937. Photo by United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Fullersburg Entrance, May 1940. (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Collections)



Damage to Flat Bridge from 2010 flooding. (Mark Decker, May 2011)



Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center, east façade view from across Salt Creek. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Entrance to Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center, west side of structure. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center north façade. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center south façade and fireplace. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Stone courtyard south of Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



1936 Dedication Plaque Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Fullersburg Woods Shelter 7. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Fireplace and roof framing of Fullersburg Woods Shelter 7. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Rainbow Bridge at Fullersburg Woods. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Rainbow Bridge at Fullersburg Woods. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Fullersburg Woods Shelter 4. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Fullersburg Woods Shelter 8. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Fullersburg Woods Shelter 3. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Fullersburg Woods Shelter 1. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Fullersburg Woods Shelter 1. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Bridge to south island at Fullersburg Woods. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



Bridge to south island at Fullersburg Woods. (Mark Decker, July 2014)



CCC stonework along edge of north island in Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods.
(Mark Decker, July 2014)



CCC stonework along edge of north island in Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods.
(Mark Decker, July 2014)