

LOLETA RECREATION AREA, PICNIC SHELTER
Allegheny National Forest
Six miles southeast of the
intersection of State Highway
24041 and State Route 66
~~Marionville~~ Vicinity
Elk County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5963-B

HABS
PA
24-LOL.V,
2B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U. S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOLETA RECREATION AREA, PICNIC SHELTER

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Location: Allegheny National Forest
Six miles southeast of the intersection of
State Highway 24041 and State Route 66
LOLETA ~~Marienville~~ Vicinity
Elk County
Pennsylvania

U.S.G.S. Marienville East Quadrangle
U.T.M. Coordinates:
17.660220.4584760

Significance: Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps between the years of 1933 and 1936. The CCC work project was initiated by President Roosevelt to put young men to work while at the same time assisting in the national conservation of the state and national forests and parks. The rustic style of architecture is unique to the CCC work project and is evident on the picnic shelter.

Description: Three picnic shelters are located in the Loleta Recreation Area. All are identical in design and have minor size differences. The three structures are identified as shelter A, B and C for easier reading. Picnic Shelter A is located in the lower loop of the Loleta Recreation Area campground facility. This shelter measures 21'8"x21'2"x21'4"x21'5" and is square in shape. The irregular dimensions are due to the slope of the shelter caused by soil erosion and frost heave of the ground. The entire shelter slopes eastward. The shelter measures 7'5" from the ground to the edge of the roof and has an overall height of 9 feet. The roof is pyramidal in design and is covered with new asphalt shingles which were placed over the original bark shingles. The roofing joists are symmetrically placed forming the pyramidal shape of the roof line. The exposed joist ends are angled at the edge of the roof line. The structure is two bays wide on all four sides with eight log framing supports measuring 7'4" tall by 3'6" round. There is 8'5.5" space between the log framing supports. The supports are set in the ground with square concrete block bases measuring 14"x14". The log supports are used as framing supports for the pyramidal roof. These log supports are braced by log cross beams measuring 4'10" in length. The fieldstone flooring has stone sizes ranging from 1'3"x7" to 3'7"x 5" in mass. The stones are set within the ground.

Picnic shelter B is located in the day use area of the Loleta Recreation Area. This shelter measures 21'6"x21'6" and is square in shape. The shelter measures 7'5" from the ground to the edge of the roof and has an overall height of 9 feet. The roof is pyramidal in design and is covered with new asphalt shingles which were placed over the original bark shingles. Inspection of the interior roof base indicates that the wood planking alternates in sizing from 6" to 2". There was evidence of irregular unbleached marks the size of the roof joists on the interior roof base. These markings were irregular in placement on the west, north and south roofs. This could mean that some of the wood planking was replaced and possible could have come from another structure. The markings are possibly where the roof joists were positioned on the original structure. The support joists are symmetrically placed forming the pyramidal shape of the roof line. The exposed joist ends are angled at the edge of the roof line. The structure is two bays wide on all four sides with eight log framing supports measuring 7'4" tall by 3'2" round. There is 8'8.5" space between the log supports. The supports are set on square concrete block bases measuring 16"x16" square. These log supports are used as framing supports for the

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pyramidal roof and are braced by log cross beams measuring 4'10" in length. The fieldstone flooring has been removed from this shelter. Packed ground, uneven in portions, is beneath the shelter.

Picnic shelter C is located on the northern side of Millstone Creek near the upper dam in the Loleta Recreation day use area. This shelter measures 21'4"x21'4" and is square in shape. The shelter measures 7'5" tall from the ground to the edge of the roof and has an overall height of 9 feet. The roof is pyramidal in design and is covered with new asphalt shingles which were placed over the original bark shingles. Inspection of the interior roof base indicates that portions of the original 2 inch wide size wood planking has been replaced in some of the roofing. This is evident by the coloring of the wood, as it is lighter and not stained like the original wood. The support joists are symmetrically placed forming the pyramidal shape of the roof line. The exposed joist ends are angled at the edge of the roof line. The structure is two bays wide on all four sides with eight log framing supports measuring 7'4" tall by 3'6" round. There is 8'8" space between the log framing supports. The log supports are set on square concrete blocks bases measuring 16.5"x16.5" square. The log supports are used as framing supports for the pyramidal roof. These log supports are braced by log cross beams measuring 4'10" in length. The fieldstone flooring has stone sizes ranged from 2'10.75" down to 1'2.75". All the stones are of irregular sizing and are set within the ground.

History:

In 1933, work began at the Loleta Recreation Area for the Allegheny National Forest by the CCC camp located near Marienville. On June 26, 1935, Company 2329 was established in a tent camp near the Big Salmon Bridge in the Allegheny National Forest approximately four miles from Marienville. In September, 1935 the company abandoned the tent camp and moved into barracks constructed one mile closer to Marienville. In May of 1936, projects included the improvement of the Loleta Forest Camp located six miles southeast of Marienville. Land was cleared for campsites, trails forged, phone lines installed, stationing of lifeguards at the swimming pond and landscaping were conducted. The picnic shelters were completed at this time.

The three picnic shelters located at the Loleta Recreation Area follow the same styling common to the Civilian Conservation Corps rustic architectural design for the National Forests situated throughout the country. The blue line drawings have been altered as was not uncommon throughout the park system. The shelters have undergone repair work over the last sixty years due to their constant exposure to the natural elements. Roof planking has been replaced with similar wood and covered with asphalt shingles. Picnic shelter B has had its fieldstone flooring removed. The dates of this repair work has not been documented.

Sources:

A. Historic Photographs: Photographs of the Loleta Recreation Area HABS No. PA-5963 show several views of the picnic shelters located near Millstone Creek during construction of the recreation area. The date and photographer are unknown. The original photographs are in the possession of the United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service - Allegheny National Forest Supervisors Office in Warren, Pennsylvania.

B. Architectural Drawings: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Eastern Region 20'x20' picnic shelter drawing dated September 20, 1937 and signed by ACW-LTD-AAG (2 pages). Also refer to photographic copies of the Loleta Recreation Area HABS No. PA-5963 documentation for landscape plans. All of these original plans are located in the map room of the Allegheny National Forest Supervisors Office in Warren, Pennsylvania.

C. Additional Sources Checked: Elk County Historical Society; Forest County Historical Society; Marienville Public Library; National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni 2329 Files, St. Louis, Missouri; Oral Interview with Michael Schultz, Historian; United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service 1993 Allegheny National Forest Supervisors Office Cultural Resource Files.

Historian: Deborah L. Dobson-Brown, M.S., Archaeological Services Consultants, Inc., 1993