

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

HABS No. PA-5963-C

HABS
PA
24-LOL.V,
2C-

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, OFFICE BUILDING

HABS No. PA-5963-C

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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:
17.660400.4584780

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 office building (tool shed).

Description: The office building has an irregular L-shaped massing measuring 11'10"x11'10"x6'11"x6'x4'10"x5'11". Irregular dimensions are due to the placement of a porch entryway in the angle of the 'L' of the structure. The exterior of the structure has half-timbered logs of uniform shape and sizing set in a horizontal pattern. The ends of the logs are angled and fit snugly onto the 1" thick framing. Four windows have shutters which are fashioned out of the half-timbered logs and are flush with the exterior facades. All of these windows measure 2'6"x2'3.5" and are attached to the structure by strap metal hinges attached to simple 1" wide window framing. The structure displays three door/entries all of various sizes. The main entrance into the structure which is on the south facade measures 2'9"x6'11". This door is made of vertical half-timbered logs and sits in its original wood framing. The east door is 2'7"x6'1". A front concrete porch is nestled within the 'L' of the structure. This concrete pad measures 6'7.5"x5'8". This porch entrance has a 4"x4" squared, milled beam which supports the overhang of the porch. The interior roof base wood beams are also of a different sizing than those found within the interior of the structure. These beams are 2"x4" and support a 5" wide wood planking roof. The interior roof base has alternate 2" and 4" planking. The east facade of the structure has a new sloped roof overhang supported by 4"x4" squared, milled posts. These posts are set within a concrete slab which measures 7'10"x11'11". The pyramidal roof has been covered with asphalt shingles which are placed over the original bark shingles.

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 office building was built at this time to accommodate the tools needed to perform the construction of the recreation area.

The office building appears to have been the tool shed according to original photographs and

design plans prepared by the CCC in 1933 for the development of the Loleta Recreation Area. There are no blue line drawings for this structure. This structure appears to have been originally located near the bath house on the south bank of the Millstone Creek near the edge of the lower dam. It is unknown as to when the structure was moved to its present location at the eastern end of the parking lot. Today it is used as an office building for the camp host who provides information to day use and overnight campers to the recreation area. The building also stores brochures and signage for the Allegheny National Forest.

Sources:

A. Historic Photographs: Photographs of the Loleta Recreation Area HABS No. PA-5963 show several views of the office building (tool house) during construction of the recreation area. The photographs show the location of the office building near the bath house and close to the lower dam. 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. Landscape Architectural Drawings: Original drawings are available on the design plan of the Loleta Recreation Camp Area. These drawings are available under the Loleta Recreation Area HABS No. PA-5963 documentation. Drawings on which the office building (tool shed) are depicted are: the Original Design Plan drawing dated April 16, 1936, and signed by A. W. Crosby; Loleta Recreation Site Plan dated 1979 and signed by R. Gallo; and Loleta Recreation Area Renovation Site Plan dated May, 1990 and signed by J. Ball. All of these drawings are located in the map filing room of the Allegheny National Forest Supervisors Office located in Warren, Pennsylvania.

C. Additional Sources Checked: Elk County Courthouse; 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