

CHOPAWAMSIC RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AREA -  
CABIN CAMP 1, DINING HALL  
(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 - Goodwill, Building 60)  
Prince William Forest Park  
Prince William Forest Park  
Triangle  
Prince William County  
Virginia

HABS VA-1494-A  
*HABS VA-1494-A*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### CHOPAWASMIC RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AREA – CABIN CAMP 1, DINING HALL (Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building 60)

HABS No. VA-1494-A

Location: Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, Prince William County,  
Virginia

The coordinates for Camp 1 are 77.212 159 W and 38.354944 N, and they were obtained through Google Earth in November 2011 with, it is assumed, WGS 1984. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

Present Owner: National Park Service, US Department of the Interior

Present Occupant: National Park Service, US Department of the Interior

Present Use: Recreational/Camping Facilities

Significance: The Dining Hall at Cabin Camp 1 is the largest and most important building in the administrative group for the camp. It was built by the National Park Service with Civilian Conservation Corps labor as part of the development of Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA) in 1935-38. The RDA program was a New Deal initiative which repurposed underutilized agricultural land near urban centers into outdoor recreational areas. The five cabin camps at Chopawamsic were intended to serve social service groups in Washington, DC that offered group camping experiences to underprivileged children. Camp 1 was used as Camp Lichtman for many years, hosting groups of African-American boys from the Twelfth Street YMCA in Washington, DC. By the 1960s, Camp 1 was used as co-ed and integrated Camp Goodwill by Family and Child Services of Washington, DC.

Like the other historic Camp 1 buildings, the Dining Hall features rustic log and heavy timber construction representative of the National Park Service/Civilian Conservation Corps aesthetic of the 1930s. Characteristic features include waney-edge siding that retains the irregular profile of the log and is applied in vertical and horizontal sections. The porch has log posts and the roof was originally covered with wood shingles. A large stone fireplace with external chimney is located at one end of the dining room. The Dining Hall includes kitchen and pantry areas and it is

grouped near the entrance to Camp 1 with the infirmary, staff quarters, administration building, craft lodge, staff bath house, and helps' quarters. These buildings served the approximately 100 campers in the four cabin units.

Historian: Lisa Pfueller Davidson, Ph.D., HABS Staff Historian

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: March 1936 - May 1937
2. Architect: National Park Service architects, engineers, and landscape architects
3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: The Camp 1 Dining Hall has been owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service since its construction in 1936 and used almost continually for group camping meal service. Starting in 1942 during World War II, the Dining Hall was part of the Area C Communications Branch training facility of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency. It was returned to NPS control and camping use in 1946.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Using Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) funding, the Camp 1 Dining Hall was built by CCC enrollees living on site at Camp SP-22-VA and by Local Experienced Men (LEMs) hired with WPA relief funds to provide skilled labor. Much of the construction material was acquired and processed on site, including the stone, timber, and gravel. Millwork such as window sashes and doors were purchased.
5. Original plans and construction: Camp 1's Dining Hall was designed by NPS architects likely following the publication "Typical Layout Studies for Organized Camp."<sup>1</sup> It has a timber frame with wood siding and sits on a concrete piers. Characteristic rustic details include the use of log-faced timbers, peeled log posts, and waney-edge siding. Camp 1 structures reflect the recommendations codified in consulting architect Albert Good's 1938 book *Park and Recreation Structures*. The Dining Hall is similar to the other

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<sup>1</sup> The regional office was sending copies of this publication to the project office in November 1935. See correspondence in Folder 600-01 Land Use Study, Master Plan, 1935-40, Box 124, Entry 100 Recreational Demonstration Area Program Files, 1934-47 (formerly Entry 47), RG 79 Records of the National Park Service, National Archives and Records Administration II, College Park, MD [hereafter Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II].

four Chopawamsic camp dining halls, but not identical. It most closely resembles the Camp 2 Dining Hall, which has a mirror-image plan.

6. Alterations and additions: The Dining Hall originally had a wood shake roof, but it was replaced with mottled grey asphalt shingles in 1942 and updated with similar materials over the decades. The light creosote stain finish on the exteriors has been replaced by a darker brown stain. The OSS winterized the Dining Hall in 1942-43 and added improved fixtures.<sup>2</sup> Maintenance and some small changes have continued over the years, including changed openings and stoops on both sides of the kitchen ell, adding ramps, and new linoleum floors.

#### B. Historical Context:

See HABS report HABS No. VA-1494, Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area - Cabin Camp 1 for an overview context and list of additional individual building reports.

Located approximately thirty-five miles south of Washington, D.C., Cabin Camp 1 (or Camp Goodwill) at Prince William Forest Park was one of five cabin camps constructed by the National Park Service at this site during the 1930s. The area was originally known as the Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA) and viewed as a model project for bringing the character-building benefits of group camping to underprivileged urban children. The site consisted of roughly 11,000 acres of Piedmont forest along the watershed of Quantico Creek, which when the RDA was established included an abandoned pyrite mine and submarginal farmland. Chopawamsic was the fourth largest RDA in the country and one of six located in the Commonwealth of Virginia.<sup>3</sup> The Chopawamsic RDA is an excellent example of the overlap between various New Deal initiatives and national and state park development in this period, combining funding and labor from the Civilian Conservation Corps, Works Progress Administration, and Federal Emergency Relief Agency to promote the expansion of the National Park Service. It is also indicative of New Deal-era approaches to organized camping that favored a naturalistic setting and social outreach.

CCC work took place at Chopawamsic RDA from May 13, 1935 to April 25, 1942. At the height of construction three CCC companies were located in Chopawamsic at camps designated SP-22-VA, SP-25-VA, and SP-26-VA. The three camps were established in different areas of the RDA for easy access to adjacent work projects. Camp SP-22-VA was located at the northern edge of the site and primarily responsible for construction of Camp 1.<sup>4</sup> Construction started with Camp 1-B(oys) (later known as

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<sup>2</sup> John Whiteclay Chambers II. *OSS Training in National Parks and Abroad in World War II*, (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2008), 166. Chambers does not specify which fixtures were upgraded.

<sup>3</sup> *Recreational Demonstration Projects: As Illustrated by Chopawamsic, Virginia*. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, c. 1936), 21.

<sup>4</sup> See Lisa Pfueller Davidson and James A. Jacobs, "Civilian Conservation Corps Activities in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service," HABS No. DC-858. Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2004.

Camp Goodwill) near the northeast corner of the site and Camp 2-G(irls) (later known as Camp Mawavi) near the southwest edge in spring 1935. CCC Company No. 1374 arrived in March 1935, and Camp SP-22-VA was officially established May 13, 1935. WPA funds also were used to hire skilled workmen to supplement the labor force. Local men eligible for work relief were registered for employment at the RDA. The CCC enrollees simultaneously worked on constructing roads and trails, and on site preparation for the group cabin camps such as grading, clearing brush, and improving drainage.<sup>5</sup>

At Chopawamsic each camp was planned for approximately 100-150 people and subdivided into smaller cabin units for about thirty campers each. Each camp included a group of buildings shared by all the camping units - a central kitchen/dining hall building, administration building, infirmary, arts and crafts lodge, staff quarters, central washroom/latrine, and water and septic facilities. Each unit within the camp included camper cabins, leaders' cabins, a unit lodge, and unit washroom/latrine.<sup>6</sup> These deliberately rustic buildings utilized local wood and stone, as well as a set of modern standards for building types and site planning at an organized camp. In her history of summer camps, architectural historian Abigail Van Slyck discusses how the new standards developed by the NPS during the 1930s replaced the regimented military model of earlier camps and transformed private camps in the succeeding decades.<sup>7</sup> The decentralized unit plan layout placed in a naturalistic landscape, like Chopawamsic, characterized this new approach.

By December 1935, the master plan for the boys' area at Camp 1 was being reviewed and detailed building plans were still being prepared.<sup>8</sup> Construction of Camp 1 buildings began in early 1936 with the camper and leader cabins. The Dining Hall was the first building constructed in the administration area, indicating its importance to the camp. It could be used for food service as well as camper gatherings and activities. By the end of March, the floor framing for the Dining Hall was being put in place and work proceeded rapidly (Figures 1 and 2).<sup>9</sup> At the end of April the Dining Hall was 90 percent framed, with siding and other enclosures 20 percent complete. The masonry work on the stone chimney was 25 percent finished and subfloor in place throughout the building.<sup>10</sup> A month later the Dining Hall project was 80 percent complete, with the finish floor and interior paneling being installed and the shingling 25 percent finished. The stone dining room chimney was finished, but the brick one in the kitchen had not yet been started. The kitchen also still lacked plumbing and equipment.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Sara Amy Leach, "Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Architecture at Prince William Forest Park, Multiple Property Documentation," Prince William County, Virginia. (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1988. U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, DC), Section E, 13.

<sup>6</sup> *Recreational Demonstration Projects: As Illustrated by Chopawamsic, Virginia*, 3-4.

<sup>7</sup> Abigail A. Van Slyck, *A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth, 1890-1960*. (Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 2006)19-31.

<sup>8</sup> "Project Manager's Report," (16 December 1935), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>9</sup> "Project Manager's Report," (31 March 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>10</sup> "Project Manager's Report," (30 April 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>11</sup> "Project Manager's Report," (30 May 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

At the end of June a supplemental project request was approved for the materials and labor needed to complete the Dining Hall. Up to this point, the CCC had devoted 1801 "man days" to construction, in addition to \$666.45 of skilled labor at a rate of \$1 per hour. Skilled labor was used to construct the chimneys and assist with the carpentry work. The tight schedule required skilled labor assistance to ensure that the building was completed in time for the 1936 camping season. The supplement asked for 300 additional CCC man days and 30 hours of skilled labor.<sup>12</sup> Enough work was done for the Boys' Club of Washington to use Camp 1 during July and August. The available buildings were the Dining Hall, 15 camper cabins, three leader cabins, two unit lodges, three latrines, and the central bath house, in addition to the water and septic system.<sup>13</sup> Additional cabin units and the rest of the administrative group would be built later.

The rustic aesthetic associated with National Park Service buildings during this period was being developed and codified by NPS architects and others around the country. Consulting architect Albert H. Good prepared a small volume in 1935 entitled *Park Structures and Facilities*, and a three-volume edition entitled *Park and Recreation Structures* in 1938. New buildings were to be subordinate to their environment and executed in earth tone materials such as peeled logs with the knots and texture preserved.<sup>14</sup> The "Overnight and Organized Camp Facilities" section of Good's book includes a number of examples from Chopawamsic, including the Camp 2 Dining Hall, which closely resembles Camp 1's (3).<sup>15</sup> As the signature communal building in each camp, the Dining Hall was a particularly good example of the rustic aesthetic as executed at Chopawamsic with waney-edged exterior siding, peeled log porch posts, and a stone chimney.

On organized camp dining halls, Good offered very specific advice that is echoed in the design of Camp 1's Dining Hall. He called for a T-shaped plan to achieve "wide and pleasing views from the dining room, ample light and cross ventilation for both dining room and kitchen, and a relationship between these two units which will result in a service of maximum efficiency with a minimum of steps."<sup>16</sup> The Camp 1 Dining Hall follows this approach, with roughly rectangular dining room and a perpendicular kitchen/pantry wing. The dining room has windows on four sides and the sash can be stored under the sill to create a larger screened opening. Good also recommended a fireplace for chilly and wet weather.

Other functional aspects of the Dining Hall reflected new camp ideals coming into favor during the 1930s. According to Van Slyck:

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<sup>12</sup> "Project No. 120-D, Camp 1 Dining Hall and Kitchen, Project Estimate and Allotment Request," (1 April 1936) and (29 June 1936), File 3457, PRWI Archives.

<sup>13</sup> "Project Manager's Report," (30 June 1936 and 15 July 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>14</sup> Albert H. Good, *Park and Recreation Structures* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1938, reprint Boulder, CO: Graybooks, 1990), Volume I, 4, 6-7.

<sup>15</sup> Leach, Section 7, 5.

<sup>16</sup> Good, Volume III, p. 161

By the 1930s, changes in camp philosophy transformed mealtime rituals along with the rest of the camp landscape. Convinced that children moved through distinct developmental phases that no amount of instruction or discipline could hurry them through, camp organizers not only adopted the decentralized unit plan, they also increasing de-emphasized activities associated with the adult world of work. Instead of building camp programs around routine food preparation, they placed renewed emphasis on activities associated with play and leisure.... In camps that adopted the unit plan, meals were served in what was now called the dining lodge, one of the shared facilities located at the center of camp.<sup>17</sup>

The Chopawamsic camps were very much part of this trend. In the Dining Hall, kitchen help prepared the food and campers were served meals family style. Cafeteria style was avoided as too institutional. As recommended by Good, campers took turns serving as waiter and assisting with minor kitchen duties. He also called for tables with benches, as still seen at Camp 1, and a service porch at the kitchen to keep campers out of the professional kitchen staff's areas.<sup>18</sup>

*Park and Recreation Structures* also includes guidelines for arranging the camp kitchen into three zones - food preparation, food serving, and dishwashing. All three of these zones were incorporated into the modest Camp 1 kitchen, with a separate refrigerator and pantry space at the far end. Camp 1 also includes several features mentioned including a long, low roof ventilator with louvers, windows placed for cross ventilation, and higher kitchen window sills than the dining room to provide unrestricted counter space.<sup>19</sup> During the first season a small "reach-in" refrigerator proved to be inadequate so a double compartment walk-in refrigerator was added in 1937. One side was for meats, the other vegetables and the remaining space in this room was used as a pantry. The refrigerator would be built into the available space but supplied with manufactured doors. It was cooled via an overhead ice supply; the ice compartment doors were accessed from the exterior and loaded by block and tackle (Figure 4). A piped drain in the refrigerator floor removed water.<sup>20</sup> The final cost of the Dining Hall including the refrigerator was \$3,164.77.<sup>21</sup>

Starting with the 1937 season, serious discussion began to take place regarding making the cabin camps available to African-American campers. Within the limits of pre-civil rights era segregation, the NPS took care to provide facilities for both whites and blacks.<sup>22</sup> According a recent National Register nomination, Chopawamsic became

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<sup>17</sup> Van Slyck, 137.

<sup>18</sup> Good, Volume III, 162.

<sup>19</sup> Good, Volume III, 162-63.

<sup>20</sup> "Project No. 120-D Supplemental, Camp 1 Dining Hall and Kitchen, Project Estimate and Allotment Request," (15 March 1937), File 3457, PRWI Archives.

<sup>21</sup> Camp 1 Inventory - Dining Hall, (August 1951), File 2683, PRWI Archives.

<sup>22</sup> Patti Kuhn and John Bedell, "Prince William Forest Park Historic District," Prince William County, Virginia. (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2011. U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, DC), 108-110.

the first RDA in the country to welcome black campers.<sup>23</sup> During the 1937 season, Camp 1 was used by the Family Service Association of Washington, DC as a co-ed "Camp Pleasant" for black campers. Camp Pleasant had been operated for underprivileged children at sites within Washington, DC for thirty-four years.

Starting on June 27, 1938, Camp 1 became home to Camp Lichtman, a program of the Twelfth Street YMCA in Washington, DC. The Twelfth Street YMCA (now Anthony Bowen YMCA) was the oldest black Y in the country, having been chartered in 1853 and operating from its 12th Street, NW building since 1912. The camp program for 8 to 17 year-old African-American boys was sponsored by white Jewish theater owner Abe Lichtman.<sup>24</sup> Camp 1 was fully completed for the 1938 camping season. Four cabin units were available, each with six four-camper cabins and one two-person leader cabin. Each unit had a finished lodge and washroom/latrine. In addition all of the communal buildings were complete, including the Dining Hall, infirmary, central washhouse, administration building, staff quarters, help's quarters, and main craft lodge.<sup>25</sup>

The approach of World War II and the gradual shift of the CCC towards defense-related projects signaled the end of CCC recreational projects at Chopawamsic. The desire of the War Department to utilize various National Park Service sites around Washington, DC in this period put the NPS in a difficult position between wanting to help the war effort and their responsibility to protect park land and make it publically available. On May 16, 1942, the War Department obtained a retroactive use permit for the entire area, including the former CCC camps and the recreational camps. The camping permits to various groups were canceled and other arrangements had to be made. Camp Lichtman was moved to Blue Knob RDA in central Pennsylvania for the duration of the war.<sup>26</sup> The War Department moved to acquire any remaining private land within the Chopawamsic RDA and planned to transfer it to the NPS when the war ended.

When the War Department personnel moved in, Chopawamsic went from being a public park to a heavily guarded and controlled military outpost. Chopawamsic and Catoctin were to be training areas for a new top secret program - the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Considered a precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency and Special Forces, many aspects of the OSS's wartime activities remained shrouded in secrecy until recent years. Communications Branch training took place at Area C, 4,000 acres in the northeastern section of Chopawamsic including Camps 1 and 4. At Area C the Communications Branch trained enlisted men to serve as radio operators for Special Operations teams, teaching International Morse Code, direction finding, codes and

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<sup>23</sup> Kuhn and Bedell, 75.

<sup>24</sup> Kuhn and Bedell, 112. Lichtman's employees and customers were predominantly African-American and he became a staunch advocate of economic racial equality. He sponsored several African-American sports teams and established Camp Lichtman at George Washington National Forest in 1932.

<sup>25</sup> "Report of Organized Camp Facilities - Camp 1-B Chopawamsic," (15 March 1938), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>26</sup> See File 600 Lands, Buildings, Roads and Trails, 1935-42, Memorandum, (16 June 1942), Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

ciphers, radio techniques and repairs.<sup>27</sup> The trainees at Area C were military servicemen who also received weapons instruction in preparation for overseas missions.

The Communications Branch began preparing Camps 1 and 4 for expanded training programs during the fall of 1942. NPS Site Manager Ira Lykes reported in early October 1942 that a contract had been let by the Army for winterizing Camps 1 and 4.<sup>28</sup> The winterizing efforts including placing glazed window sash in buildings currently only having screens, installing Celotex-lined tongue and groove wainscoting, heating stoves, and asphalt shingle roofs.<sup>29</sup> Camp 1 served as the administrative and maintenance facilities for Area C, as well as housing the commanding officer and his staff. In addition to winterizing, the Dining Hall received improved kitchen fixtures and continued to be used by the OSS for meal service.<sup>30</sup>

As the war drew to a close, the War Department needed to declare the Chopawamsic property surplus in order to transfer it back to the NPS. This process was initiated on November 1, 1945, but first a Corps of Engineers detachment from Fort Belvoir was called in to help clear any ordnance out of the former training areas.<sup>31</sup> The temporary buildings built by the War Department were removed and sold for salvage where possible. These efforts were complete by January 1946 and it was agreed that the property would be transferred back to the Department of the Interior “without further restoration, provided that the additional buildings which have been erected, and the alterations and improvements which have been made, are permitted to remain.”<sup>32</sup>

Organized camping was resumed spring 1946 and work began on improving the park road system, and day use areas. Camp Lichtman returned to Camp 1 that year. On August 20, 1948, the park name was changed from Chopawamsic RDA to Prince William Forest Park.<sup>33</sup> In 1950, the recreational camps were in high demand, with Camp 1 still leased to the Twelfth Street YMCA for Camp Lichtman, Camp 2 to the Camp Fire Girls, Camps 3 and 4 to the Washington Family Service Association for low income white and black groups, respectively, and Camp 5 to the Salvation Army.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Chambers, 42, 46-47.

<sup>28</sup> Ira B. Lykes, Manager, "Narrative Report, Month of September 1942, Chopawamsic RDA, National Capital Parks", Box 125, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II. Lykes also was pleased with the forest fighting equipment the Army was able to provide and their efforts to acquire remaining private tracts.

<sup>29</sup> Ira B. Lykes, Manager, "Narrative Report, Month of October, 1942, Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area, National Capital Parks," File 6665, Prince William Forest Park. A permit was issued in June 1943 allowing the Marines to use 4,862 acres of parkland south of Joplin Road for six months past the duration of the war. See Chambers, 178

<sup>30</sup> Chambers, 166.

<sup>31</sup> Chambers, 510.

<sup>32</sup> "Declaration of Surplus Real Property - Chopawamsic RDA," (23 January 1946), File 6530, Prince William Forest Park.

<sup>33</sup> Public Law 736, 80th Congress, Chapter 596, 2D Session, (22 June 1948), copy in Box 6, Entry 13, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>34</sup> "Report of Camp Operations - Prince William Forest Park," (1950), File 6796, PRWI Archives.

A shift towards desegregated camp use at Prince William began around 1956 when the camps began to be used interchangeably rather than strictly designated by race. Camp 1 began to be known as Camp Goodwill of the Washington, DC Family and Child Services around this time. Photographs of campers in the mid to late 1960s show casually integrated groups of youngsters at the Dining Hall.<sup>35</sup> (Figures 5 and 6) The Twelfth Street YMCA continued to operate Camp Lichtman at Chopawamsic until 1964 when it was discontinued in favor of integrating YMCA Camp Letts in Edgewater, Maryland. Physically Camp 1 had been changed very little in these years, except for the addition of a concrete in-ground swimming pool in 1956 and upgraded bathroom and kitchen fixtures. The pool was built by Family and Child Services with a donation and continued to be used into the 1980s.<sup>36</sup>

After a 1970s use study, it was decided to rehabilitate the Dining Hall and many other Camp 1 buildings and replace the camper cabins.<sup>37</sup> The Dining Hall was renovated between 1977-1978. In addition the entry ramp was added c. 1980.<sup>38</sup> Camp 1, along with Camps 2, 3, and 4, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 in recognition of its historic New Deal origins. An expanded National Register listing was added in April 2012. The Dining Hall is a contributing structure in the Camp 1 Goodwill Historic District. Season-long group camping continued through the 1980s, including a visit from First Lady Nancy Reagan, who watched a camp performance in the Dining Hall (Figure 7). Now most rentals are for short term groups. The Dining Hall continues to be used periodically for its original purpose. Currently the non-profit group Nature Bridge is planning to expand its educational programs to the East Coast at Prince William Forest Park. Plans are being developed to use Camp 1 for year-round environmental and science education programs, a change that will necessitate some new winterizing and upgrading of the historic facility. Today Prince William Forest Park is the largest Piedmont forest in the National Park system and the largest green space in the Washington, DC metropolitan region, continuing a legacy of accessible nature recreation begun in the 1930s.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

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<sup>35</sup> Photographs in PRWI files, Boxes 24-A and 24-B, National Capital Region Museum Resource Center (MRCE), Landover, MD. Many southern RDAs which had reverted to state control remained segregated until passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

<sup>36</sup> Susan Cary Strickland, *Prince William Forest Park: An Administrative History* (Washington, D.C.: History Division, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, January 1986), 88. Silt problems in the nearby lake had made it unsuitable for swimming.

<sup>37</sup> "Visitor Use and Facilities Survey Cabin Camps 1-5, Prince William Forest Park," (February 1984), 1, PRWI Archives.

<sup>38</sup> Saylor Moss, "Camp 1 Prince William Forest Park," (National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2011), 50. Drawings from 1979 indicate the addition of the ramp at the west dining room porch, the railings at the loading dock, and repair of the service porch on the west side of the ell (now removed). See Drawings No. 860/41021, Building No. 73 Dining Hall, (8 November 1979), PRWI Archives.

1. Architectural character: The Camp 1 Dining Hall is a one-story log and heavy timber building with a roughly T-shaped plan. Its rustic appearance is representative of the National Park Service/Civilian Conservation Corps aesthetic of the 1930s. Characteristic features include waney-edge siding that retains the irregular profile of the log and is applied in vertical and horizontal sections. The porch has log posts and the roof was originally covered with wood shingles. A large stone fireplace with external chimney is located at one end of the dining room. The front section of the building contains the dining room while the kitchen and pantry are located in the perpendicular wing to the rear. The Dining Hall is grouped near the entrance to Camp 1 with the infirmary, staff quarters, administration building, craft lodge, staff bath house, and help's quarters. These buildings served the campers in all four cabin units.
2. Condition of fabric: Good. The Dining Hall has been well maintained and retains many original features.

#### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 87 feet, 4 7/8 inches by 78 feet, 7 3/8 inches
2. Foundations: The Dining Hall sits on poured concrete piers. The wood log posts rest on the piers with a thin sheet of metal in between functioning as a termite shield. The foundation is open except for some later cinder block infill on the west side and fieldstone infill on the north side where the foundation is much higher. The infill is not structural and large sections of the fieldstone have collapsed.
3. Walls: The Dining Hall walls are sheathed with alternating sections of horizontal and vertical waney-edge siding. Waney-edge siding is wide wood clapboard with the rustic log outline retained on the visible edge. Peeled quarter log vertical posts at the corners and log faced timbers flanking openings add to the varied wall texture. The wood was originally stained and preserved with creosote and now has a dark brown/black color.
4. Structural system, framing: The Dining Hall is a load-bearing, heavy timber structure on concrete piers. The roof is supported by large trusses formed from sistered two by eight planks held together with metal bolts. The ends of the trusses rest on a heavy timber tilted false plate. The vertical truss members are tenoned into the horizontal ones. There is a large timber ridge beam, and rafters rest above each truss (Figure 8).
5. Porches and stoops: The porch is inset within the hipped roof west end of the main dining room. The roof is supported by peeled logs grouped near the outer corners. A wood log railing is located between the posts that includes thick, short vertical logs topped by a thinner horizontal log and a wide

horizontal board at the center. The porch is accessed via two concrete stairs on the west and an added wood ramp (c. 1980) with simple wood railings on the south.<sup>39</sup> The porch has wood deck flooring and a plywood ramp added at the dining room doorway.

A stoop at the east side of the kitchen ell has a large wood deck on concrete piers with stone infill and a wood railing. The middle section on the wood rail is on metal hangers, presumably for removal to allow large deliveries to be more easily brought inside the pantry area. Sections of the nonstructural stone infill have collapsed. The stoop is accessed via five open wood steps from the south arranged parallel to the building. It is an alteration and enlargement of the original stoop in this location. Another service porch on the west side of the kitchen ell has been removed.

A modest stoop consisting of two fieldstone steps is located at the east end of the dining room, south of the fireplace in the cross gable wing.

6. Chimneys: The Dining Hall has a large exterior fieldstone chimney at the east end of the dining room. The stone work is lightly dressed random coursing. The chimney has a metal cap over a terra cotta flue. Portions of the roof extend over the rounded shoulders of the chimney.

A more utilitarian internal red brick chimney is located near the rear of the kitchen ell. It is situated perpendicular to the kitchen ridge line and has corbelled brick at the top.

7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The wide opening at the west end porch has a two-leaf wood door with diagonal boards. These doors have a thin, wrought iron door pull. A two-leaf wood frame screen door is attached to the outside and has a spring closing mechanism. This opening has a plain, flat frame. The doorway at the east dining room stoop has a door and screen door with no trim. The wood frame screen door has a wire mesh top section and beaded and notched paneling below. The door behind is formed by vertical boards with notched grooves and visible nail heads. The door handle is metal thumb latch type. The east kitchen stoop also lacks trim and has a similar screen door. The inner door is wood with two recessed panels and a silver metal knob with a keyed lock. There is a wood door at the stone foundation infill on the north side of the building. Another opening was originally located on the west side of the pantry space at the removed service porch.

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<sup>39</sup> See Drawings No. 860/41021, Building No. 73 Dining Hall, (8 November 1979), PRWI Archives.

- b. Windows: The typical Dining Hall window is a six over six wood sash with removable wood frame screens. The windows have thin muntins and are usually closely grouped in sets of three or four. In the cross gable niche at the fireplace on the east end of the dining room some windows are six over nine. The kitchen windows are six over three .

There is a louvered fan opening at the east cross gable north of the fireplace, west end at the porch, and on the west side of the kitchen cross gable. Several window openings on the west kitchen ell have been infilled with wood. There is a smaller window opening at the kitchen cross gable. There is a wood louvered opening at the north foundation.

#### 8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The Dining Hall has a cross gable/hip roof sheathed with brown asphalt composite shingles. Originally the building had wood shingles produced on site. The west end of the dining room and rear kitchen ell are hipped while the east end of the dining room is gabled. An additional cross gable is oriented north/south across the east end of the dining room.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The Dining Hall has open, slightly overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends. It does not have gutters.
- c. Monitor: There is a gable roof monitor with louvered sides at the center of the kitchen ell ridge.
- d. Dormer: There is a small dormer with a metal hood and a grate over the opening at the east slope of the kitchen ell roof.

#### C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: The Dining Hall is roughly T-shaped in plan. It has a large dining room with short side wings at the fireplace end and a perpendicular rear kitchen ell with pantries and refrigerators at the far end. The kitchen ell is off center and also has a short cross wing at the pantries.
- 2. Stairways: None. There is a wall mounted wood ladder in the pantry food storage room. This ladder is now blocked by the plywood ceiling and unusable.
- 3. Flooring: The Dining Hall flooring is gray sheet linoleum over wood in the dining room and six inch square red quarry tile in the kitchen and pantry areas. The quarry tile is also used as a baseboard in those areas. There are

wood floors inside the large food storage closet on the west side of the pantry area. The floors inside the walk-in refrigerator are metal.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior dining room walls are sheathed with horizontal tongue and groove paneling. Upper wall sections in the fireplace side wings have vertical wood paneling with v-notch seams. The dining room has six inch wood baseboard covered with linoleum. The kitchen area walls are white sheet paneling. There are sections of vertical paneling with grooved seams over the openings on the north and south ends of the kitchen. Sections of the pantry area have a board and batten vertical wood sheathing or white fiberboard over wood.

The dining room ceiling is unfinished wood beam trusses while the kitchen has a white painted plywood tray ceiling. Photographs from the early 1980s (see Figure 7) show a plywood or fiberboard ceiling which has been removed. There is a hatch in the kitchen ceiling near the range. The pantry area also has white plywood ceilings.

5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The inside of the exterior doorways have no applied trim and are heavy boards with horizontal bracing. There are two large cased openings between the kitchen and dining room with signs above reading “IN” or “OUT.” There are replacement hollow core wood doors between the kitchen and pantry with simple mitred corner trim. There is a similar door and trim for the small water closet at the pantry area, except the white wood trim has butt joints. There is a thin, two leaf wood board door at the pantry in the northwest corner of the kitchen ell.
  - b. Windows: The dining room windows are set directly into the wall and have thin tapered muntins. The double-hung sash is held in place with pins at the sides and sash locks instead of counterweights. Both sashes can be recessed down through the sill into a compartment inside the wall. The sill is hinged to allow access to the compartment. Each bottom sash has a metal plate finger recessed at the center of the bottom. Each row of kitchen windows has a continuous wood sill that projects 1 ½ inches with a rounded corner. There is thin applied trim around the windows with mitred corners. The kitchen windows do not have any hardware and were propped up with sticks. They are painted white inside. The water closet has a small six over six window with mitred corner trim. The only window screens present were on the west side of the pantry area – here the openings only have wood frame screens.

6. Decorative features and trim: There are plain wood window seats flanking the fireplace. The seats have a hinged top for storage below. The large stone fireplace at the east end of the dining room has a simple segmental arch over the firebox opening and no mantel. The Dining Hall appears to contain some CCC-vintage movable furnishings as well. Several wood benches have stamps on the underneath reading “Catoctin CCC” and the wood tables with metal trestle legs seem to be from the same period. The kitchen has wood cabinets and drawers with stainless steel handles and countertops that probably date to the 1950s/60s.
7. Hardware: Notable hardware includes the window pins and door hinges.
8. Mechanical equipment:
  - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The Dining Hall relies on the stone fireplace for heat and natural ventilation for cooling. In addition there are electric fans mounted in the walls at each end of the dining room and in the pantry area. An exhaust hood over the range vents to the monitor on the kitchen ell roof.
  - b. Lighting: The Dining Hall has external electrical conduits for outlets and switches. The dining room has six chandeliers that hang from the ridge pole on chains between the large trusses. Each chandelier consists of a metal ring with wood cross bar and curved metal bases holding ceramic electrical sockets with bare incandescent bulbs. These fixtures are present in early photographs and appear to be original. In the kitchen there are three rows of fluorescent tube ceiling fixtures. There are three industrial-style metal shade pendant ceiling fixtures in the pantry area. The water closet has a wall fixture over the sink with a plastic cover. The food storage area of the pantry has a porcelain ceiling fixtures with bare incandescent bulbs.
  - c. Plumbing: The Dining Hall has one small water closet with toilet and sink at the center of the pantry area.<sup>40</sup> The northwest corner of the kitchen has a wall mounted porcelain-coated cast iron sink with mixer faucets designated the hand washing station. The kitchen has a double stainless steel sink integrated into the stainless steel counter along the west side of room. There is a large stainless steel utility sink on the east side.
  - d. Other: There is an eight burner Vulcan gas stove and separate Vulcan commercial griddle in the kitchen. There is also an Aerohot steam

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<sup>40</sup> New fixtures and partitions for this area were indicated on the 1979 drawing. The existing configuration of the bathroom and pantry area partitions seem to date to this renovation. See Drawings No. 860/41021, Building No. 73 Dining Hall, (8 November 1979), PRWI Archives.

table with four serving trays. A Hobart walk-in refrigerator is located in the northeast corner of the pantry area, replacing the original walk-in ice box in the same location.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design: There are five fieldstone steps and small retaining wall at the northeast corner of the kitchen cross gable.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: Original blueprints for the Dining Hall are located in the PRWI Archives including plans, wall construction and truss details. The Chopawamsic plans published in Good's *Park and Recreation Structures* (1938) are similar types - the Chopawamsic Dining Hall example is the one at Camp 2. Schematic plans from 1951 and a set of renovation drawings from 1979 are located in the PRWI Archives.
- B. Early Views: In addition to the photographs accompanying the plans in *Park and Recreation Structures*, key early views of Chopawamsic RDA are located in the collections of the National Archives in College Park. Record Group 79 - Records of the National Park Service, contain construction photographs of CCC enrollees working on Camp 1 and other cabin camps. Photographs of Camp Lichtman c. 1950, including interior views of the dining room and kitchen of this building, are located in the Scurlock Photographic Studio Records, Archives Center, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, DC. These images could not be reproduced in this report due to copyright restrictions.
- C. Bibliography:

**Manuscript/Photographic Collections:**

RG 35, Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps, National Archives and Records Administration II (NARA II), College Park, MD.

RG 79, Records of the National Park Service, National Archives and Records Administration II, College Park, MD.

Prince William Forest Park (PRWI) Archives, Turkey Run Education Center (TREC), Prince William Forest Park.

Prince William Forest Park (PRWI) Files, National Capital Region Museum Resource Center (MRCE), Landover, MD.

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**PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION**

Documentation of the Dining Hall at Cabin Camp 1, Prince William Forest Park (PRWI) was undertaken in 2011-2012 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Heritage Documentation Programs division of the National Park Service (Richard O'Connor, Chief). The project was sponsored by the NPS National Capital Region (NCR), Perry Wheelock, Chief, Cultural Resources. Project planning was coordinated by Catherine Lavoie, Chief, HABS; Robert Arzola, HABS Architect; and by Paul Petersen, Chief of Resource Management, PRWI. The field work was undertaken and the measured drawings were produced by HABS Architects Paul Davidson, Daniel De Sousa, and Jason McNatt. The historical reports were written by HABS Historian Lisa P.

Davidson. The large-format photography was done by HABS Photographer James W. Rosenthal. Crucial assistance was provided by Superintendent Vidal Martinez, Cultural Resource Specialist Colette Carmouche, and by other PRWI staff.

## PART V. ILLUSTRATIONS



Figure 1: Camp 1 Dining Hall Under Construction, 30 March 1936.  
Source: Record Group 79, National Archives & Records Administration II.



Figure 2: Construction of Camp 1 Dining Hall Trusses, c. April 1936.  
Source: File 3764, PRWI Archives.

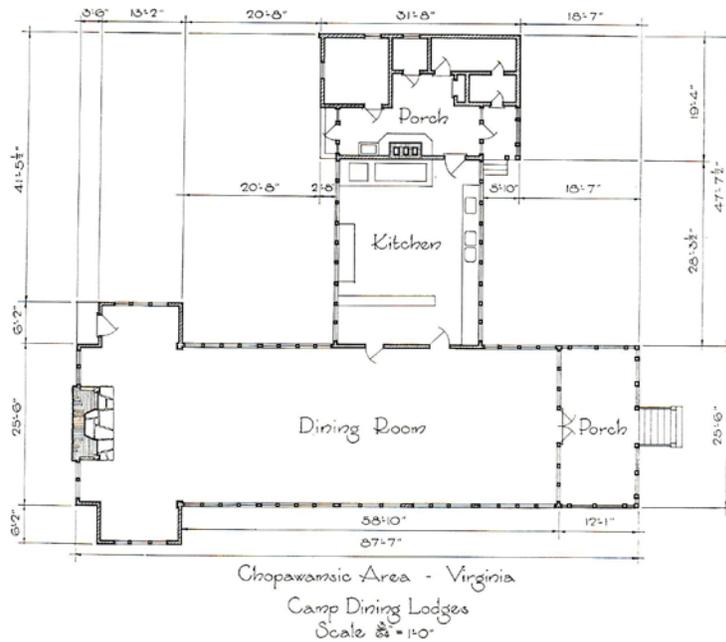


Figure 3: Chopawamsic RDA Dining Hall Floor Plan (Camp 2).  
Source: adapted from Good, *Park and Recreation Structures*.

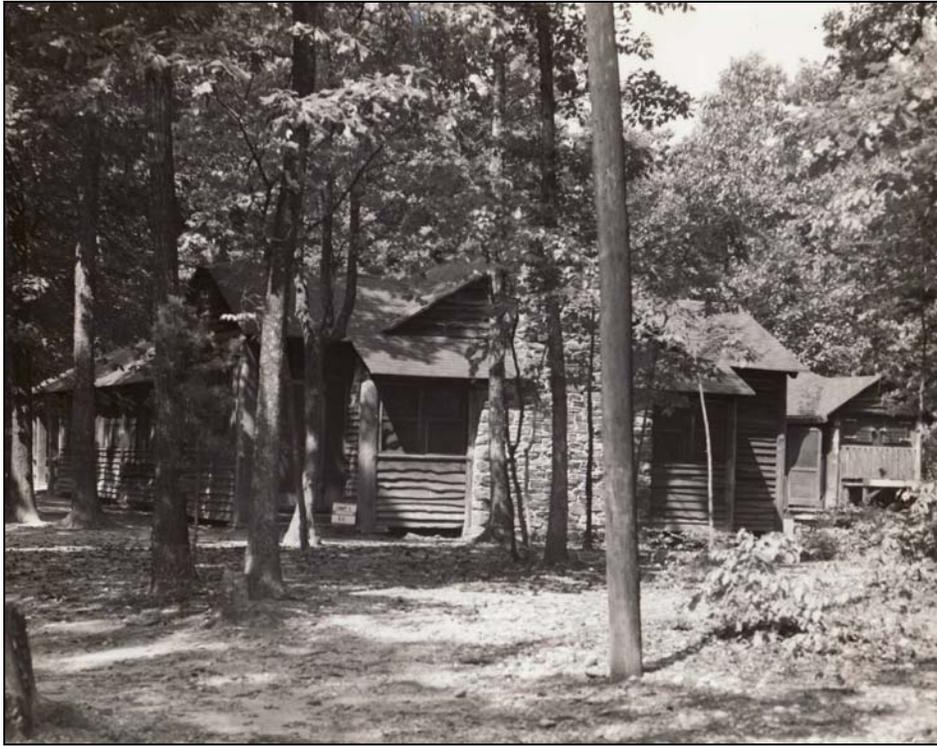


Figure 4: View of Camp 1 Dining Hall, 1951. Note exterior ice box doors at right.  
Source: File 2684, PRWI Archives.



Figure 5: Campers Outside the Camp 1 Dining Hall, 17 July 1966.  
Source: National Capital Region Museum Resource Center (MRCE).



Figure 6: Campers Inside the Camp 1 Dining Hall, 17 July 1966.  
Source: National Capital Region Museum Resource Center (MRCE).



Figure 7: First Lady Nancy Reagan Inside the Camp 1 Dining Hall During a Visit.  
Source: File 1754, PRWI Archives.

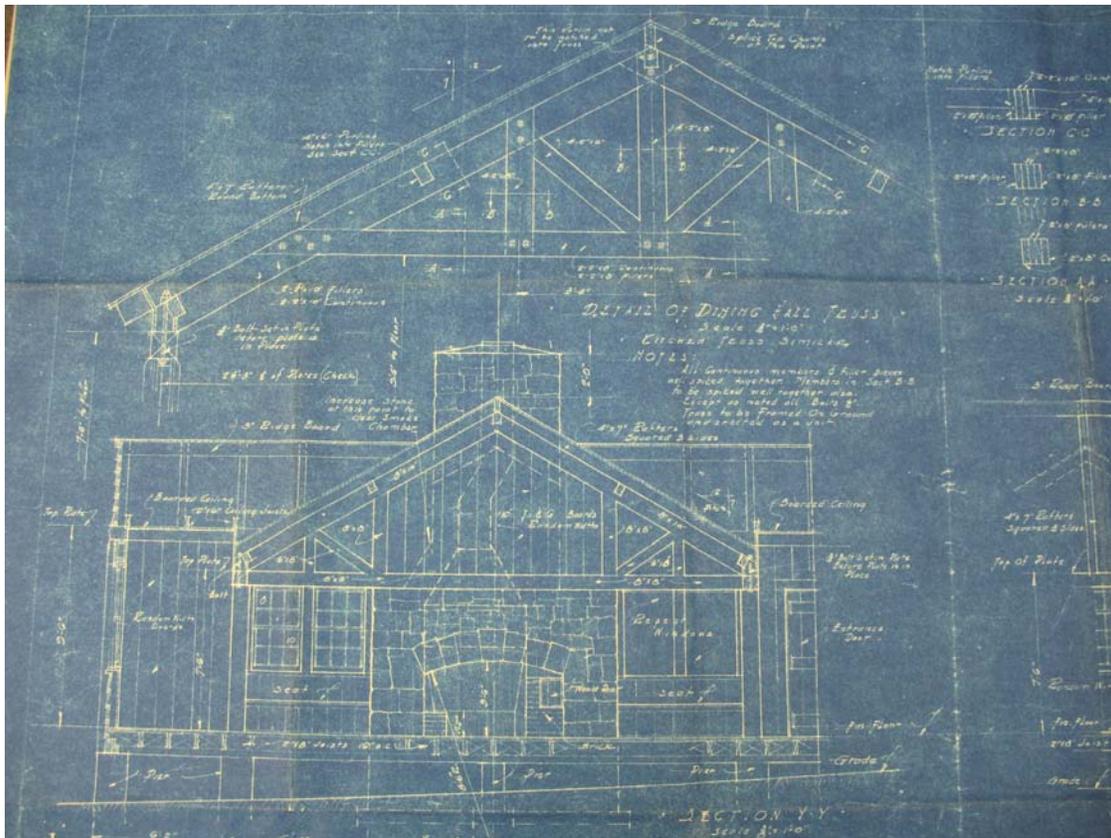


Figure 8: Blueprint Detail of Camp 1 Dining Hall Truss and Fireplace, 17 March 1936.  
Source: File 3662, PRWI Archives.