

FINAL

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 an 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 McCormick's Creek State Park Entrance and Gatehouse  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number McCormick's Creek State Park N/A not for publication  
city or town Spencer  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Owen code 119 zip code 47460

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

*Ronald L. Rubin* 2/3/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

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

New Deal Resources in Indiana  
State Parks

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION: Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION: Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: PARK RUSTIC

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls STONE: limestone  
WOOD: log

roof WOOD: shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

McCormick's Creek Entrance and Gatehouse  
Name of Property

Owen Co IN  
County and State

**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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1935-1942

**Significant Dates**

1935

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Civilian Conservation Corps

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

McCormick's Creek Entrance and Gatehouse  
Name of Property

Owen Co., IN  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 0 |

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 Glory-June Greiff, Consulting Historian

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 10 August 1992

street & number 1753 South Talbott Street telephone 317-637-6163

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225

#### 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Indiana Department of Administration/Indiana Department of Natural Resources

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Owen County, Indiana

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The gatehouse/entrance is centered on a short access road that leads the visitor north off State Road 46 into McCormick's Creek State Park. The entrance is approximately three miles east of Spencer in Owen County and well above the flood plain of the West Fork of the White River that forms the western boundary of the park. The gatehouse is bracketed by a stone-and-timber fence in two sections that on each side of the access road curves southward toward the highway. (These sections count as two additional resources, along with the gatehouse itself.) The fence consists of rough limestone masonry piers, about 28 inches high, separated by eight-foot sections comprised of two logs about four inches in diameter. The section of fence west of the access road has 22 piers; the section on the east has thirty. At each end of the fence nearest the gatehouse is a larger stone masonry structure giving the effect of a gate; these stand about six feet high and are topped with four-sided carriage lights (see photos 1, 2). Between the two sections of fence and the access road are wide grassy spaces, but the gatehouse itself seems virtually buried in forest. Large hardwood trees surround the gatehouse except on the south, and the entrance road through a substantial woods narrows considerably immediately north of the building.

Visitors enter the park to the right (east) of the building and exit to the west of it. A small grassy space set off by short timber posts lies on the south of the gatehouse between the entrance and exit lanes.

The gatehouse is a completely symmetrical one-story T-gabled building of random limestone masonry and roofed with wood shingles. On the east and west elevations (see photos 3, 4) are identical open entrance porches supported by four hewn posts beneath the extended gable ends, in which hewn beams comprise the bracing. The tripartate entrances in each case consist of a wooden frame door with a ten-light fixed sash, and two ten-pane sidelights. The large window on the south facade (see photo 3) is of three parts as well, two ten-light sashes bracketing a fifteen-light fixed sash. The north elevation is dominated by a large limestone fireplace chimney on the gable end with a small sash window, each with a hewn timber lintel, on either side.

The interior of the gatehouse remains largely as it was constructed, with a stone floor, uncovered stone walls, and open rafters and bracing of hewn timbers above. A large stone fireplace, no longer used, is built into the north wall (see photo 5). The only alteration in the space has been the partitioning off in the northwest corner enough space for a small restroom.

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McCormick's Creek Entrance and Gatehouse Owen County, Indiana

## NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nestled beneath its forest canopy just off SR46, the gatehouse/entrance at McCormick's Creek State Park is among the best examples of a park rustic gatehouse built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in any Indiana state park. As such, it offers a splendid material record of an important area of New Deal public works and recreational development in Indiana state parks during the 1930s, as described in the historic context "New Deal Work Programs in Indiana State Parks." As noted in the associated property type identified as "Properties associated with New Deal work projects related to infrastructure development," the gatehouse/entrance, a resource related to public access, is eligible under Criterion A (in the areas of recreation and in social history) because it is associated with the New Deal's work programs and park development in the 1930s. The building is also eligible under Criterion C because it is representative of the work and the style of architecture typical of the CCC. The gatehouse/entrance meets all the standards of integrity established in the multiple property nomination "New Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks." The building stands in its original location in its original setting. But for minor interior alterations noted in the description (i.e., the addition of a small restroom) the design and materials remain intact, and the building is representative of and associated with typical CCC workmanship—timber construction and stone masonry.

McCormick's Creek State Park was the first of Indiana's state parks, established in 1916 even before the Indiana Department of Conservation was created. Within a few years, an existing building was remodeled into a park inn, some picnic areas established, and a few trails built. The park was very popular, and the Department of Conservation saw to the construction of a swimming pool and bath house near the inn in the late 1920s. McCormick's Creek also boasted group camping facilities. With the establishment of CCC Company 589 at Camp SP-4 from November 1933 until July 1935, McCormick's Creek undertook an ambitious and much-needed new development program. Besides extensive landscaping and additional road and trail building, the CCC boys worked on the construction of numerous outdoor recreational facilities and their supporting infrastructure, into which category falls the entrance and gatehouse. It was completed in 1935 shortly before the camp closed and Company 589 relocated to a new camp near Lagro.

The building is an especially fine example of local adaptation of the park rustic style favored by the National Park Service. Such a style, interpreted with native materials, harmonized visually with the park environment, a goal stated both by NPS and the state Department of Conservation. The CCC workers used local timber and limestone to construct a charming cottage-like gatehouse that to this day seems to suggest some of the delights of nature to be found within the park.

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McCormick's Creek Entrance and Gatehouse Owen County, Indiana

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archival Collections

National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Records of the National Park Service: Civilian Conservation Corps  
Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps

Indiana Division, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis

Clipping Files, CCC  
Clipping Files, Indiana State Parks  
Outdoor Indiana, 1934-1942

Archival Files, park office, McCormick's Creek State Park

Government Publications

"Annual Report of Department of Conservation," Yearbook of Indiana, 1919-1945.

United States Department of Interior, National Park Service. Park and Recreation Structures. 3 Vol. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1938.

Other

Greiff, Glory-June. "New Deal Resources in Present Indiana State Parks." June 1990-May 1991. Sponsored by Indiana University, Indianapolis, and on file with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA), 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis IN 46204. Field survey and inventory of existing CCC- and WPA-constructed buildings, structures, and sites.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded on the south by the north edge of State Road 46; on the east by a line extending due north from a point on the highway just south of the eastern portion of the stone-and-timber fence to a line running east-west that is ten feet north of the north wall of the gatehouse, said line being the northern boundary, and south from this east-west line to the highway, along a line that is just west of the westernmost extension of the western portion of the stone-and timber fence. See also - enclosed scale map with boundary.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Such boundaries encompass the gatehouse and its accompanying fence.

McCORMICK'S  
 CREEK STATE  
 PARK ENTRANCE  
 AND GATEHOUSE  
 OWEN CO., IN  
 UTM's:  
 1) 16 523550 4348180  
 2) 16 523620 4348200  
 3) 16 523690 4348030  
 4) 16 523600 4348060





