

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL
SIGNED

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 Shakamak State Park Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 6265 West State Road 48

N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Jasonville

☒ vicinity

state Indiana

code IN

county Clay

code 021

zip code 47438

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 36CFR 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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

1/25/00
Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or 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

Name of Property

County and State

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
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
34	11	buildings
1	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
37	11	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National RegisterNew Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands0**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Park Rustic**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

BRICK

walls

WOOD: LogBRICK

roof

ASPHALT

other

STONE**Narrative Description**

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

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 Bibliographic 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)

ARCHITECTURE

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1930 - 1949

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps

Works Progress Administration

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 685

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6
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4	8	0	0	6	0
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4	3	3	7	2	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing3

1	6
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4	8	0	4	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	3	5	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing2

1	6
---	---

4	8	0	4	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	3	6	0	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4

1	6
---	---

4	7	9	4	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	3	5	0	0	0
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☒ 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 Byname/title Glory-June Greifforganization _____ date 3/22/99street & number 1753 South Talbott telephone 317-637-6163city 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 Division of State Parks and Reservoirs, Department of Natural Resourcesstreet & number 402 West Washington Street, Room W298 telephone 317-232-4020city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46204**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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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

CLASSIFICATION OF RESOURCES

The 34 contributing buildings are the gatehouse, the saddle barn, the "Lenape Shelter," the log cabin, the former beach shelter, 18 group camp buildings (12 sleeping cabins, restroom/shower building, dining hall, cooks' quarters, administration building, craft hall, recreation pavilion), the maintenance shed, 6 family cabins overlooking Lake Shakamak and the restroom building serving them, the West Shelter, the "4-Poster Shelter" near it, and the restroom building in the west picnic grove.

The 2 contributing structures are, the amphitheater, and the former coal mine exhibit.

The contributing site is the entire district, which includes stone culverts and small bridges, retaining walls, remains of stone check dams, brick-and-concrete fountain bases, Lake Lenape, and Lake Shakamak.

The 11 non-contributing buildings are the assistant property manager's residence, the park office, 4 frame service buildings, 3 family cabins adjacent to the park road, the fish cleaning station and the boat rental at the west end of the Lake Shakamak dam.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Shakamak State Park lies amidst southwestern Indiana's coal country at the junction of Clay, Greene, and Sullivan counties just west of Jasonville. The general terrain is uneven and much of the surrounding area has been strip-mined. Some of what is now the state park was also mined, but the scars on the land are masked by now-mature forests and artificial lakes. The Shakamak State Park Historic District includes most of the north and east parts of the park along State Road 48. The district encompasses somewhat less than half of the present park property.

Approaching Shakamak State Park from the east out of Jasonville, one first passes the assistant property manager's residence (a

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

area immediately south and west of it. All of these buildings are either much remodeled or are postwar functional structures. Immediately south of the present park office (photo 1) is what is believed to be the service building erected by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1940-1941, a plain rectangular building with a gabled roof and tongue-in-groove siding that retains little of its historic character.

Rounding the curve of the highway northward, the main park entrance southwest off SR48 is a wide lane flanked by mature deciduous trees that were planted by the CCC in the 1930s. An attractive brick-and-timber gatehouse (photo 2) stands before a fork in the road. Completed in 1936, it resembles a tiny gabled cottage. Proceeding south from the gatehouse, the road leads past a brick-and-timber saddle barn (photo 3) in a wooded setting on the east side. One-and-a-half stories high, it is gabled and contains nine stalls and three box stalls. Adjacent to the saddle barn on the north is a corral. The road continues southward, passing a drive leading northeast to the service area already mentioned (see photo 1), then turns west to parallel the northern shore of Lake Lenape. The road passes a drive leading to a CCC-built "four-poster" oven shelter (photo 4) that has been altered but the park plans to restore. It stands in a grove mostly comprised of oak trees, overlooking the lake (photo 5). Originally the road continued westward, but that route now ends in Lake Kickapoo, a large body of water dammed in the 1960s. Today the road turns southward to cross a causeway--actually the dam that impounds Lake Lenape--between that lake and Lake Kickapoo. (The historic district includes this dam and most of Lake Lenape.)

Proceeding from the gatehouse in the other direction, the road leads west toward the beach area, which has been altered a great deal in the last few decades. For that reason, the district boundary follows the northern edge of the parking lot straight to the lake's edge, excluding the former beach, remodeled bath house, and recent swimming pool. Northwest of the parking lot, and included in the district, is an attractive brick and timber shelterhouse (photo 6) today called the "pool shelter"--but originally referred to as the "beach shelter." Stylistically it is similar to many other shelterhouses throughout the park system, with its enclosed (former) concession area on the west end and the

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large fireplace chimney on the east, but this structure uses brick where the others have stone. Nearby to the southeast is a log cabin--originally called the community cabin--of indeterminate origin, probably constructed by the Department of Conservation when the park first opened; it has been on that site from at least 1931. South of the parking lot is a picnic area located on what used to be a campground; most of it is not included in the district.

The main park road leads northerly from the beach area through a mature woods and circles around Lake Shakamak (photo 7). Lake Shakamak resembles in shape a hand with three fingers and a thumb. Between the first two "fingers" and west off the park road is the former 4-H group camp. The southern part of the camp, which contains a large dining hall (photo 8), cooks' quarters, small administration building, restroom/shower building, and eight identical sleeping cabins, is clustered around a large clearing or parade ground. Down the hillside toward the lake is a natural amphitheater that was enhanced in the 1930s. The benches have long been replaced and another brick wall added, but along the northwest side a curving retaining wall (photo 9) constructed by the CCC survives. Around the north loop of the camp are six more frame buildings: four sleeping cabins, a craft hall and a recreation pavilion (photo 10). Although no longer administered by 4-H, the group camp is still used, albeit irregularly, by various organizations in something close to its original use.

A little further north along the main park road is what is known today as the "old barn," formerly a maintenance shed that was part of the CCC camp in the 1930s. Across the park road to the northeast is the site of the CCC camp (photo 11); no evidence remains. The clearing is now the Youth Tent Area. Three postwar frame family cabins line the road at the southwest edge of the clearing. In the woods southeast of the cabins along Trail 2 is what appears to be an abandoned mine (photo 12); in reality the concrete "entrance" was constructed by the CCC to create an educational exhibit around an exposed drift of coal.

From the youth camp the road circles around Lake Shakamak through the sixty-year-old forest at the north edge of the park. After rounding the westmost finger (or "thumb") of the lake, there is a

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including a small bath house. Nearby a log "Community Cabin" was erected. On higher ground to the north, a group camp was begun, which would be administered by regional 4-H clubs. The park opened to visitors in 1930 and was named for the nearby Eel River. The word "Shakamak" comes from the Kickapoo, who once dwelt in the region, and means "river of the long fish"--or eel. People flocked to the park, which erected six housekeeping cabins overlooking the lake in 1932, following the success of similar units that had opened in Brown County State Park that same year.

Shakamak still had a long way to go before it could take its place with the other parks in the system, but fortunately several New Deal programs were soon available to hasten the process. A Civil Works Administration (CWA) project employed several hundred local men in the winter of 1933-34 to work on trails and shelters, all "centered around the proposed new lake" southeast of the first. The duration of the CWA was too brief in which to complete the necessary dam, but the Federal Emergency Relief Administration funded further work on it. Workers also constructed fish rearing ponds as a means to keep the lakes stocked and built a pen for large birds and corrals to display deer, elk, and bison (located south of the saddle barn). By 1937 the Works Progress Administration (WPA) completed the animal exhibits, fish hatchery, and the reservoir project, first called Lake Jason and later named Lake Lenape.

CCC Company 522 occupied the buildings of the group camp in November 1933, establishing Camp SP-3. Four years later they built a regular CCC camp northeast of the group camp, freeing it for public use again. The CCC boys constructed the main park roads, worked on foot trails, and built additional family cabins on the west side of Lake Shakamak. They planted hundreds of thousands of trees that have since matured into a lovely forest. CCC workers developed a picnic area, complete with a shelterhouse, drinking fountains, and oven shelter, west of the first lake and fashioned a fine brick-and-timber shelterhouse out of a simple frame open shelter near the beach. As clay was plentiful and much used in this region, the choice of brick for many of the park structures reflected the history of the area. Indeed, brick was a "native material" and took the place of the more typical stone found in other state parks. Another project that highlighted the

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Bounded on the north by the present boundary of the park that runs along State Road 48. At the northeast corner of the park property follow the boundary south then east (essentially paralleling SR48), then follow the present boundary south to the point where the park property boundary turns east. From that point continue due south to the south shore of Lake Lenape, then follow the shoreline westward to the dam. Cross northward and include the dam, then follow the main park road north, then east (from the "T"), continuing to follow the road to the service lane south of the saddle barn. Proceed west to a point twenty feet west of the saddle barn, then turn due north to the abandoned road (today a pedestrian way), then follow the road west to its intersection with the drive connecting the main picnic area to the pool and bath house parking lot. Follow that drive northerly to the parking lot and follow the north edge of the parking lot toward the northwest; continue on an extension of that line to the shore of Lake Shakamak. Follow the lakeshore around in a clockwise (southerly) direction to the dam. Proceed west across (and include) the dam, on the former road, and continue due west to the park's western boundary. Follow the boundary north to a point due west of the north edge of the road leading to the family cabins; from that point proceed east to the road and follow it in a southeasterly direction to the west edge of the drive leading to cabins 2-8. From that point proceed northeast in a straight line that parallels and lies about fifteen feet from the northwest facade of the restroom building. After about one hundred feet the ground drops off into a draw and down to the lakeshore. Follow the lakeshore clockwise; at that finger's (the westernmost) northernmost point, it is contiguous to the main park road. From that point proceed due west to the park boundary, and follow it to the park's north boundary along SR48.

Boundary Justification

Encompasses the bulk of the park's surviving historic landscape and resources.

