

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Turkey Run State Park

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands, 1933-1942

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

2. Location

Street & number: roughly bounded by SR 47, Narrows Road, Coxford Road, and the east-west leg of Smedley Road

City or town: Marshall State: Indiana, IN County: Parke

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PRESERVATION SERVICES <u>Tracy D. Paul</u> <u>1.18.2019</u>	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title:

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ 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 ☐

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Structure ☐

Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>26</u>	<u>7</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>45</u>	<u>9</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 5

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Parks Rustic

OTHER: split log cabin

OTHER: Suspension bridge

OTHER: concrete filled spandrel bridge

OTHER: Burr arch truss

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Sandstone

walls: WOOD: Log, Shingle

BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

WOOD: Shake

other: CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Turkey Run State Park Historic District comprises 59 resources in rural Parke County, Indiana; 50 of these are historic (the contributing count is 45, due to 5 previously listed resources). The district lies within the boundaries of a state park and has recreation-related resources and early rural resources that were either extant in the area when the park was established or were moved into the park in the early years after its establishment. Portions of the park are excluded from the district boundary because of date of acquisition, lack of assimilation to New Deal themes, or lack of cultural resources. The types of resources include trails constructed for hiking, park roads, old log cabins, Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.)

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constructed shelters and restroom facilities, a large inn, a coal mine and home of the early settler of this land, among others. The district is eligible for listing under the Multiple Property Nomination Form for New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands; however, the period of significance begins before the C.C.C. era and extends past the period of significance of the multiple property nomination to include significant resources constructed or added to the park as late as 1964. The district is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with recreation in Parke County and under Criterion C for its intact state park architecture.

Narrative Description

Turkey Run State Park Historic District is located in rural Parke County, Indiana. The district lies almost entirely within a state park and has recreation-related resources and early rural resources that were either extent in the area when the park was established, have been moved into the park, or were incorporated into the park through the addition of acreage. The district boundaries are approximately 2,000 feet north of Sugar Creek on the north, to Narrows Road on the east, to SR 47 on the south and Cox Ford Road on the west. Trails and the Lusk Home are the farthest north resources, Ford Covered Bridge is the farthest west resource, both are considered to be within the park boundaries and are counted within the historic district boundaries. The district comprises both early rural resources, such as the Lusk home and coal mine, which were influential in the choice of this area for the establishment of the park, and recreation-related resources of the state park from 1917 to 1965 when the Cox Ford Bridge was annexed into the park's boundary.

To be considered contributing to the historic district, resources had to have been built in the historic period – generally up to 1965 – and to retain enough physical characteristics: form, foundation and wall materials, footprint, and original openings in the case of buildings– to convey their historic function and look. All buildings, structures and objects within the district that were constructed up to and including the year 1965 met the above criteria; therefore, all of these were considered contributing to the historic district. The site, with its controlled landscape, winding roads, trails, parking spaces, campground, and open lawns was also a contributing resource. A few buildings were constructed after 1965; some are quite new. These were considered non-contributing. There are 45 contributing resources. Twenty-six are buildings; eight are structures, nine are objects, and there are two sites--the coal mine, and the park. Not included in this count are National Register listed resources: Lusk Home and Mill Site (1 building, 2 structures); Cox Ford and Narrows Covered Bridges (1 structure; Narrows Bridge was listed as part of the Lusk Home and Mill Site in 1974, before the Parke County Covered Bridges Thematic nomination was accepted in 1978), and the Richard Lieber Log Cabin (1 building), for a total count of 5 previously listed resources.

Turkey Run State Park is a significant recreational site with numerous manmade resources. The developed elements associated with the state park were constructed beginning in early 1917. Development as a state park included clearing of trails, planting of trail markers, construction of

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bridges, cutting out rock steps in stone ledges, cutting bridle paths, constructing buildings, landscaping and other activities. Trail maps from the 1930s, 1960s, and the present show that the nominated area includes an extensive system of man-made pathways that have changed little since over 50 years ago (compare park maps included with nomination package). These features are still visible on the land, as are more recent interpretive signs and name plaques on most of the shelter houses. Other manmade controls or uses of the land in Turkey Run have taken place even in the “natural” areas of the park, including, but not limited to clearing brush and invasive species, selective retention of tree species, watching out for and controlling fires, managing pests, controlling erosion and fencing perimeters.¹ The introduction of human control and human land uses on the landscape has transformed Turkey Run State Park into a cultural landscape; one that is being maintained and developed for the enjoyment of citizens. Based on this, park itself is a contributing site.

Entry Area

One enters the park from tree-lined, rural SR 47. Mowed lawns flank the turn-off road into the park. Two monument-style signs are placed on the lawns flanking the drive into the park. These are composed of stacked limestone with signs that say Turkey Run. The signs appear to date to the historic period and are 2 contributing objects, constructed c. 1960. See Photograph 1.

The first building encountered is the one-story gatehouse. The February 1936 issue of *Outdoor Indiana* mentions and pictures the building on page 21. It faces south. An entry door with wide six-light sidelights is in the center of the gable-front building, recessed several feet and additionally sheltered by a shallow wood-shake-clad overhang. The walls are roughly dressed, irregularly-coursed sandstone, the base courses being of larger stone than the upper courses. There is rustic, rough-split, heavy weatherboard wooden siding in the gable ends, stained brown. The roof is clad in wooden shakes. The eastern side of the building has a board-and-batten clad rectangular bay window with six lights; it breaks through the eaves line and has a shed roof. The interior retains a stone fireplace and the original two-room floor plan (photo 3). The gate house was originally on the east side of the driveway. In 1990-1991, after the drive was split into two lanes, it was moved to the median between the lanes. Gatehouses are noted as one of the associated property types in the documentation form (Associated Property Types, 4). Although the registration requirements mention that resources should be in their original locations, the gatehouse is in close proximity to its original location and it continues to serve its intended function (Associated Property Types, 5). The building otherwise retains integrity with original stone walls, original windows and shake roof. In fact, it looks very similar in a late 1930's photo of the park. It was constructed c. 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and is a contributing building. See Photographs 2 and 3.

Southeast of the gatehouse is a stacked and mortared sandstone wall. The approximately four-foot high wall has six courses visible. The wall parallels the drive and turns to the east for several yards. The wall was constructed either as the foundation of or a short wall around the gatehouse

¹ “Roosevelt’s Tree Army,” <https://dp.la/exhibitions/civilian-conservation-corps/nature-conservation-recreation/> (accessed August 22, 2018).

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at its original location. The wall is built of native materials and retains original design, and craftsmanship. It is a contributing object, c. 1937. See Photograph 4.

Southeast of this wall is the Garage or Service Building, a circa 1939 sandstone building with rock-face sandstone walls. The building has 10 bays and there are three dormers on the roof. The entry is in the farthest west bay and has a paneled door with a single light flanked by single-light sidelights and each opening has a wooden, multi-paned transom window. East of this, the paired windows are six-over-nine light double-hung sashes resting on projecting sill stones (there is no lintel treatment). The four eastern bays have garage doors. These, too, have no lintel treatment and the doors are recent metal roll-up units. The roof is clad in composite shingles. The symmetrically-placed shed dormers have three windows each. Unlike the typical construction methods and materials mentioned in the registration requirements, which focus on wood-clad service buildings--this building, and several others at Turkey Run, was constructed of native stone. Constructed c. 1939 by the C.C.C., it is a contributing building. See Photograph 5.

East northeast of the Garage is the Office Building, probably once the superintendent's or caretaker's quarters. This bungalow has vinyl siding and replacement windows, but it retains its original form and general historic look with a three-bay façade, one-over-one light double-hung sash windows flanking an original Prairie-style wooden door with one light. There is a shed dormer on the roof. The roof is clad with composite shingles. The small, hip-roofed front porch is supported by recently-installed turned posts. The chimney rises on the exterior western wall. Constructed c. 1939, it is a contributing building. See Photograph 6.

Down the lane and southeast of the Office Building is the Saddle Barn. The one-story building rises from a stone foundation and floor and has rock-faced sandstone walls. The building has seven bays. The entry is in the second bay from the east. The door has five lights over a panel. There is a four-light side light east of the door. The entry is beneath a simple wooden canopy supported by square posts. Five sets of paired four-light windows occupy the other bays. Projecting sill stones define each window opening, none of the openings have a lintel treatment. The walls rise from rock to board-and-batten beneath the eave; this sets it apart from the typical "timber or stone and timber" saddle barns described in "Associated Property Types: I. Properties associated with New Deal work projects related to recreational activities" section of the multiple property document (p. 7). A band of vertical board wall is above the stone walls on the long sides, on the gable ends, the board-and-batten treatment rises several feet, enough to frame out an opening for hay storage on each end. Above that, horizontal clapboard, laid flush to the eaves edge, caps the gable end. The interior has an office in the front room with a Dutch door opening into the stable behind. The roof is composite shingles. A stone chimney, aligned with the entryway, rises through the roof about two-thirds of the way up the slope. A fenced outlot is beside the saddle barn. Constructed c. 1937, it is a contributing building. See Photograph 7.

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Pool, Suspension Bridge and Tennis Area

Leaving the Saddle Barn and taking the lane west to the main park drive and then north you reach the Big Log Shelter. The gable-end building is a large shelter. The lower part of the building is a foundation/knee wall, which rises several feet, built of random-coursed sandstone. Above it, massive split logs form the rest of the walls. The logs are of such dimension that about three are sufficient to make a high wall above the stone base. Corners are full dovetail notched, and the logs and trim are stained dark brown. Dressed, split-log members line openings and provide an anchoring point for wall's logs. Two in-line gabled sections comprise the shelter, the northernmost, smaller section has a lower roofline and is several feet narrower than the main section behind it. The main section is marked by its massive rectangular sandstone chimneys at each gable end. The middle of the east and west sides of the building are open and there are large stone fireplaces at both ends of this room. To the north, a massive stone fireplace divides the large room into two areas. To the south an attached restroom is behind the wall of the fireplace; a not uncommon design for C.C.C. shelterhouses, according to the multiple property document (Continuation Page 7). Visible scissors trusses support the roof. The roof is clad in composite shingles. Constructed c. 1935-1936 using both C.C.C. and W.P.A. labor, it is a contributing building. The Big Log Shelter is shown in Good's *Park and Recreations Structures*.² See Photographs 8 and 9.

North up the main road is the Nature Center. This building was constructed in 1942 by the C.C.C. as a commissary and finished by the park staff. Its interior was remodeled in 1986, including addition of a rear room with windows for bird viewing. It has three bays. The center bay is the entry beneath a wide canopy. The walls beneath the canopy are clad in stone, the other bays are clad in wooden clapboard. The building has a recently-installed metal roof. Despite changes, it is a contributing building. See Photograph 10.

East from here and down a short trail is a circa 1970s brick utility building with mansard roof. It is a non-contributing building built outside the historic era.

North of the utility building is a modern restroom building with cast cement fiber walls made to look like wood. Constructed c. 2014, it is a non-contributing building.

Slightly south of this restroom is the location where a rustic fireplace shelter (IHSSI #008) once stood. It is no longer extant, but at this location there is a stone water fountain from the historic era. Typical of the "masonry pedestal drinking fountains," shown in Good's *Park and Recreation Structures* (1938), it is a contributing object, constructed c. 1939.³ The fountain is a resource

² Albert H. Good, *Park and Recreation Structures* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999, reprint of 1938 edition published by United States Department of the Interior National Park Service), 61.

³ Good, *Park and Recreation Structures*, 111.

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associated with New Deal infrastructure development, as outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form Associated Property Types, Continuation Page 4. See Photograph 11.

North toward the river on the trail that runs beside the nature shelter is a structure called the "Fireplace Shelter". The nearly square building is open-sided with hip roof supported by rustic log posts. The roof rafters and beams converge at the squat central chimney/fireplace of sandstone, which rises from floor through the roof. The fireplace is two-sided. This is one of the newer shelters in the park. A metal grill on a wide concrete post sits beside the shelter, which is located in a cleared area beside the trail. It is a contributing building, constructed c. 1938 by the C.C.C. and modified with the addition of concrete pier foundations c. 1950. It is shown in *Good's Park and Recreation Structures*.⁴ See Photograph 12.

Further along the trail toward the river is the 70 Steps Shelter. This circa 1990s building has four posts supported a gabled canopy. It is a non-contributing building.

A National Register of Historic Places marker on a stone is at the end of the trail. It was added in 1973 and is non-contributing object.

The 70 Steps, concrete steps carrying a trail down to the suspension bridge, were constructed in 1921. It is probable that the C.C.C. added the stacked sandstone wall along the outcropping and on the exterior side of one section of steps, and the integral stone benches at the landings of the steps, as this was typical work performed by the agency (Multiple Property Form, Continuation page 7). The 70 Steps are a contributing structure, constructed 1921 and c. 1937. See Photograph 13.

At the river is the Suspension Bridge, intended for pedestrian traffic. On the north side, the bridge is attached to the rock wall on the opposite side of Sugar Creek. On the south side, the bridge has a mission-style concrete portal with arched opening. The deck is 4 feet wide and is hung on steel cables. The suspension lines are attached to a 50-ton base of concrete several feet south of the bridge portal. In 1918, this bridge replaced an earlier swinging bridge at this location. The Suspension Bridge was constructed by the Lafayette Engineering Company. In 1988 the bridge was rehabilitated. It is a contributing structure, constructed 1918. See Photograph 14.

A historic bronze marker on a stone in honor of Arthur C. Newby is on the trail southeast of the suspension bridge. It is a contributing object, constructed 1940.

The trail winds around and back to the southwest to the Pool House and Pool. The sandstone Pool House has five bays and clerestory windows. The interior retains original floor plan. The Pool also retains its original form and the baby pool retains a mushroom-shaped fountain. Both pool and pool house are from 1970. The pool house is a Non-contributing building; the pool is a non-contributing structure. See Photograph 15.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 69.

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The Outdoor Theater is southwest of the pool house. It is a wood-clad building with one open side. Benches are placed in front of the theater. The Theater is modern, constructed in the 2000s, and is a non-contributing building.

The Tennis Court Shelter, c. 1935, is west down the trail from here and it is located north of the tennis courts. This substantial one-story building is half-timbered with random-coursed sandstone nogging. The center of the building has a wide-open space flanked by two window openings on each side. A large fireplace/chimney is on the eastern wall flanked by built in stone shelves; visible scissor trusses support the roof and the floor is the typical random-size flagstone. The roof is hipped, with open eaves, and is clad in composite shingles. The shelter was a substantial remodeling task, executed by the C.C.C. (November 1936 *Outdoor Indiana* pictures the "remodeled 30x60 shelter house" on page 27 with further explanation on page 33). It is a contributing building. See Photographs 16 and 17. Shelterhouses are identified as a significant property type on continuation page 7 of the MPDF.

The Tennis Court is south of the Tennis Court Shelter and is a contributing structure.

West of the tennis court shelter is a Tennis Court Shelter Restroom, also constructed c. 1941. The building is one-story with a composite-shingle pyramidal roof and a vented monitor on top of the roof. It has sandstone corners and a reverse board-and-batten wood siding in front and back. Constructed c. 1941, Contributing building. Restrooms are properties associated with New Deal infrastructure development, as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (Associated Property Types, 6); they often replaced simpler privies. One of the Tennis Court Shelter Restrooms is shown in Good's *Parks and Recreations Structures*.⁵ Taken together, the tennis courts, shelter house and restroom building best represent the "fully developed picnic site" as described in the multiple property document.⁶ However, while outdoor ovens (considered part of a developed picnic site in the multiple property document, Continuation page 7) were constructed in several locations around the park by the 1920s, none remain and so there is none in this grouping. There is a metal grill top on a concrete post immediately south of the shelter. Drinking fountains were also extant on the grounds prior to the 1930s, but they are also not found in the vicinity of shelter houses here (aside from the lone fountain mentioned above, that no longer has a shelter house near it). A May 20, 1939 map of activities that have been completed by or were about to be undertaken by the C.C.C. does not show a shelter or restrooms at this location. Only the tennis courts are depicted where they currently are located (which is a different location from where they were originally located; they were installed at this location in 1939).⁷ See Photograph 16.

Middle Shelter is northeast of the Tennis Court Shelter cluster and behind the nature center. Unlike most shelters built by the C.C.C., this shelter is more rustic and eclectic in design. the

⁵ Good, *Parks and Recreation Structures*, 149.

⁶ Glory-June Greiff, "New Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks, 1935-1942," Multiple Property Documentation Form, Associated Property Types," 6.

⁷ "Turkey Talk," May 20, 1989.

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main section is open-sided and open-fronted with round wooden posts support a side-gable roof; a short-gabled stem forming a "T" extends off of main section to house the fireplace. It was constructed c.1935. The back wall, along the southwest long side, is roughly coursed sandstone with a wide fireplace flanked by stone benches. The ceiling has open trusses. The roof is clad in wooden shakes. A stone knee wall with bench-ledge extends from the eastern side of the shelter. This shelter is shown in a late 1930's newspaper photograph, appearing much as it does today. A metal grill top on a concrete post is located north of the shelter. The building meets the registration requires of the MPDF. Middle Shelter is a contributing building. See Photograph 18.

Continuing down this trail to the northeast is the Middle Shelter Restroom identical to the Tennis Court Shelter Restroom in design. Constructed 1941, it is a contributing building. See Photograph 18 (left).

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Inn and Cabin Area

Southwest of the Tennis Court is the Turkey Run Inn. Parking lots are located south of the inn in areas designated as parking since at least 1964. The inn building is located at the opposite side of a semi-circular green lawn from the parking lots. The green lawn is encircled with a drive. The east-facing two-story Inn is brick with two wings, arranged so that each wing angles forward at 45 degrees. The diagonal-set entry pavilion is in the center section which has three bays. Four broad steps across the whole pavilion's width serve as a base. Stone pilasters rising between the bays continue to the roof and form piers on the second story where there is an open-sided balcony beneath a pyramidal hipped roof. The pilaster-piers are styled as "Doric" with generic moldings and are of dressed stone ashlar with varying courses. The enclosed first floor is variegated red brick, window openings have brick-quoined jambs and flat-arch headers topped with a brick stringcourse with corbels. Wood windows on the pavilion are six-over-six double hung sash. The segmental arched front door has recessed archivolt of brick and a similar, but arched, stringcourse. The wood doors are multi-paned and are surmounted by a wood multi-paned transom. The brick is brought back into play at the top of the entry pavilion piers, which are banded below the capitals with polychromed brick diaperwork. The same corbel/stringcourse is repeated below the stone balcony floor ledge. Iron railings enclose the balcony and a shallow perimeter beam, styled generically as an entablature, is supported by the piers. The pyramidal hip roof of the central pavilion rises higher than the gable roof of the wings. Eaves are fairly narrow. The wings have little ornament. The wing to the south has eleven bays and wood double-hung four-over-one light windows, mostly paired. Windows on the wings generally have no lintel treatment and rowlock sills. The ten-bay north wing has a section close to the entry pavilion that features a projecting chimney and segmental arched windows on the ground floor. Other windows in this north wing are wood six-over-six light double-hung windows, except for two casement windows east of the projecting end bays. The wings have gable roofs with two hipped dormers on each, facing the front. The end sections have hipped roofs with a perpendicular orientation. The interior of the inn retains most of its period floor plan with the lobby opening to a lounge and into the dining room. Lobby and lounge areas retain historic elements, but the interior finishes were generally replaced after a 1970s rehabilitation, particularly in the guest rooms. Internally, the wings have double-loaded halls, as they have had since original construction. In about 2002, the south wing suffered a minor fire which resulted in more smoke and water damage than actual fire damage. The wing was in process of being rehabilitated; the fire meant that a more extensive rehab was executed, however, the wood windows were retained, and rooms were fitted with new drywall and other finishes throughout. Additions have extended the Inn to the rear, but the front elevations have retained the popular image that patrons of the park have enjoyed for nearly 100 years. Although the Inn has been altered somewhat in the non-historic era, it has sufficient integrity to be contributing within a historic district. Constructed c. 1919, designed by Bishop, Knowlton and Carson, architects, with additions in 1930, 1940 and c. 1970, the inn is a contributing building. See Photographs 20 and 21.

South of the Inn and across the drive and a green, tree-dotted lawn from the inn are five double cabins. The wooden-clad cabins have double-hung windows with four-over-four light double-hung sash windows and paneled doors. These cabins were built by the C.C.C. in 1941. The two

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easternmost cabins were resided with cement-fiber siding c. 2002. The resided cabins retain the same massing, footprint, and pattern of openings as the others. Sleeping cabins are discussed as a property type in the MPDF on page 8; the Turkey Run cabins meet the registration requirements. All five are contributing buildings. See Photographs 22.

On a defined section of lawn bordered by driveway and trees north of the cabins is the Juliet Strauss Memorial Sculpture, titled *Subjugation*. The bronze sculpture was originally designed as a fountain. It sits upon a large, flat-topped rock. It was crafted by Myra Reynolds Richards, an Indianapolis artist, in 1922. It features a nude woman holding up a chalice. Around her feet are a tiger, a lion, a peacock, and a monkey. The sculpture was originally located elsewhere on the property: at first near Sunset Point, where it was part of a fountain, animated by water that tumbled out of the chalice; secondly, from 1939 to the 1990s, it was placed a beautiful but hard to reach setting down in the canyon of the park; lastly, it was placed where it stands today, after cleaning and restoration work. The plaque on a second rock near the figure says the piece was erected by the Women's Press Club of Indiana. The club intended the bronze to honor the fellow journalist for her efforts in saving the lands of the park from timber harvesting, as well as her efforts in securing the lands for use as a state park. The Strauss Sculpture is a contributing object. See Photograph 23.

West of this sculpture is Maintenance Shed #1. It has wooden clapboard siding and a gable-end roof. It was built c. 1950 and is a contributing building.

Two Family Cabins with wooden clapboard siding, four-over-four double-hung windows, and pyramid roofs are next to the Maintenance Shed. They probably date to the 1930s; they appear on maps that predate New Deal activity at the park. They retain original form, windows and cladding and both are contributing buildings.

South of the Family Cabins is the Old US 47 Bridge. The trail crosses the bridge. This concrete filled spandrel arch bridge with paneled rails was constructed in 1914 over Turkey Run. H. L. Davis was the engineer and W. E. Ireland constructed the bridge, according to a bronze plaque on the northern abutment of the bridge. When SR 47 was rerouted circa 1920 this part of the old route became internal to the park, and so, has served all but several years of its existence as a scenic and practical asset to the park. The bridge is a contributing structure.

Directly southwest of the concrete bridge and on the west side of Turkey Run is an Old Stone Abutment. The stacked limestone abutment supported an early bridge at this location. It is the only remnant of that former bridge. It is a contributing object, c. 1890. As with the bridge, its significance is as part of the cultural setting of the park, which has always included historic or otherwise man-made elements along with natural resources.

South along the trail from the bridge and abutment is Maintenance Shed #2. The shed is clad in wood panels and has a wooden shake roof with one bay holding a solid metal door. Constructed c. 1960, it is a contributing building.

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Continuing northwest and winding along the trail through the woods, one reaches the Log Church. The gable-front church rises from a stone foundation to dressed log walls, to clapboard siding beneath the gable. Corners are half-dovetail notched. A double-door entry is beneath the gable. There is a six-light transom above the doors. Flanking walls have three six-over-six wood windows, probably dating to the 1930s. Eaves are open and shallow in overhang. Wood shingles provide the roofing. Constructed 1871, the church was moved to this location in 1923. It was likely completely disassembled and totally reconstructed as part of the 1923 move; likely the roof structure was replaced along with the gable end clapboarding, which appears to be mill-sawn dimensional lumber. As with other such resources at the park, the Log Church is significant for its association to the park, as part of the cultural experiences the property had for the public. It is a contributing building. See Photograph 24.

Returning back along the trail, south of the church is the Colonel Richard Lieber Memorial. Until 2015 it was located at the top of the rise about 30 feet to the south on this trail. The memorial has two parts, a large stone amid a semi-circle of small stones holds a bronze marker. On a plinth a few feet from the marker is a bronze bust of Lieber, first placed in the park in 1932. The Lieber bust is signed E. H. Dannel. Lieber's ashes were interred in a concrete base beneath it in 1944. The memorial has been moved recently and reconstructed to look almost as it was before. Its two main components, the bust on its plinth and the tablet, remain. The memorial has been moved and the hardscape around it has been altered, but the two commemorative elements of the memorial retain integrity and they are considered two contributing objects, 1932 and 1944. See Photograph 25.

Northeast of the memorial and on the east side of Turkey Run is the Lieber Cabin (listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) 5/4/2001). The cabin rises from a mortared stone foundation to wide dressed logs that are half-dovetail notched. It has vertical wooden siding beneath the gables at each end. The information sign in front of it says that the cabin is tulip poplar with 6" thick timbers. The hall-and-parlor cabin has a fixed sash 12-light window in the west bay, a fixed sash, square 12-light window in the east bay and the plank door in the center. The roof is clad in wooden shakes, the chimney rises along the east exterior wall. The interior holds exhibits. An interpretive sign is located east of the cabin. The cabin was constructed in 1848 and moved here in 1918. It is a contributing building. See Photograph 26.

Northwest along the trail just above where Turkey Run meets Sugar Creek, is Sunset Point. This is a remarkable structure, and it exemplifies the park's role in providing an experience both natural and man-made to patrons. A walk terraced with stones climbs to the two-story stacked stone wall that rises up the bluff to form a knee wall at the top. At the base, six stone posts attached with spilt rails form a fence around the lower section of the wall. This is a contributing structure, c. 1918; perhaps altered with C.C.C. changes in hardscape c. 1935. Hiking trails and related improvements are discussed on page 7 of the MPDF; Sunset Point is an excellent example with good integrity. See Photograph 27.

To reach the Overlook/Roost Cabin, travel back down the trail to the main drive of the park, exit the park and cross Turkey Run on SR 47. To your right just past Turkey Run the cabin is in a

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short drive off the road. Rising from a rock-faced sandstone foundation the cabin has an upright-and-wing form. Walls are clad in stained wood clapboard. An exterior chimney rises on the one bay of the façade to above the gable-front roof. The porch is recessed in the other bay. The cabin resembles to some degree the Harris Brothers M-1000 kit house, but it does not have (or no longer has) the exposed rafter tails and knee brackets found in that pattern.⁸ Constructed c. 1920s, it is a contributing building.

Canyon Area

The Canyon Shelter is reached by the main drive of the park, past the Saddle Barn and winding around to the north. Canyon Shelter rises from a sandstone foundation to a stone water table and then to horizontal board-and-batten walls. The shelter has a gable-end roof and mostly open sides. Notched rafter tails are visible beneath the composite shingle roof and the purlin beams are exposed on the gable ends. Unlike the known C.C.C. shelters, Canyon Shelter is a less elaborate, less rustic building. The November 1936 edition of *Outdoor Indiana* shows a “new campground lavatory” building that resembles this building’s form and horizontal board-and-batten construction. Furthermore, a c.1937-c.1941 map of the park shows an oven shelter (now gone) and a “Latrine (Stone & Timber)” in this approximate location. It is possible that this building was later remodeled into a shelter when camping was no longer encouraged near this site. Removal of windows, doors, and internal partitions would easily turn the building into a picnic shelter. This would explain, for example, the lack of flagstone flooring. Constructed c. 1935, the shelter house retains adequate integrity and is a contributing building. See Photograph 28.

Near the Canyon Shelter is the Canyon Shelter Restroom, a brick, gable-end restroom/maintenance building. Constructed c. 1980, it is a non-contributing building. See Photograph 28 (left).

Newby Gulch Shelter is farther down the main park drive to the north almost to the end of the drive where it loops around in a cul-de-sac. The side-gabled shelter is constructed of random-coursed, rough-dressed sandstone, gable ends are covered in random-width rough weatherboarding. It is open on the east side except for the narrow walls that frame the wide opening. Corbels support the eave of the gable-end roof on these narrow walls. On the interior, the rear wall holds a large fireplace which is double-sided. The back of the fireplace on the rear of the building is beneath a canopy with exposed rafter tails and supported on each side by half-arch wooden corbels. A stone knee wall extends east from the sides of the building, defining a rectangular enclosure. Constructed circa 1935 by the C.C.C., it retains high integrity and is a contributing building. It is shown in Good’s *Park and Recreation Structures* as a “kitchen shelter”.⁹ See Photograph 19.

⁸ “Harris Homes,” *Antique Home* <http://www.antiquehome.org/House-Plans/1920-Harris/M1000.htm> (accessed August 22, 2018)

⁹ Good, *Park and Recreation Structures*, 69.

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In an area called Box Canyon, steps were cut out of stone by R. P. Luke and his State Penal Farm workers in circa 1921.¹⁰ These steps may have been enhanced by C.C.C. workers, but they were extant before the C.C.C. began working at the park. The steps are a contributing structure. See Photograph 32, looking up the steps and Photograph 33, looking down.

Campground Area

The Camp Store is southeast of the Overlook/Roost Cabin and just north of SR 47. It was constructed circa 1970 and is a non-contributing building near the campground area on the west side of the park. First developed in 1964 as primitive camping, this area has since been greatly expanded and reconfigured in layout with paved roads and restrooms. There are some modern restroom buildings, electrical hookups, a parking lot and paved roads through the campground area that were added after 1964.

Narrows Covered Bridge, Lusk House Area

Drive west on SR 47 to Cox Ford Road, turn north to Cox Ford Covered Bridge. The Burr Arch wooden bridge has vertical wooden siding on the exterior. It was constructed in 1913 by J. A. Britton and was incorporated into the park by 1965. It is listed on the NRHP in a listing that is part of the Covered Bridges of Parke County Thematic Resources and is a contributing structure.

Back to SR 47, drive east to Narrows Road. Turn left on the county road to reach the Narrows Bridges. The concrete Narrows Road Bridge crossing Narrows Road is a filled arch spandrel state highway bridge. Engineers Pierce, Gruber, and Beam and the Parke County Commissioners chose a type and design of bridge that was no longer state of the art by the late 1950s; the choice was possibly an aesthetic one, or, possibly, the bridge was planned much earlier and delayed during WW II. There are arched cutouts formed in the concrete rail. The abutment on the northwest side extends down the rock wall with an iron pipe hand rail atop the concrete rail. The June 1958 *Outdoor Indiana* edition includes a photo of the bridge showing construction well underway. It was completed c. 1960 and is a contributing structure. Completion of the concrete bridge allowed the covered bridge to become a purely cultural asset of the park, which it was, de facto, prior to its formal acquisition by Department of Conservation/DNR (the department was reorganized into DNR in 1965, the year of acquisition). The Concrete Bridge served and serves as a critical infrastructure aid to the park, allowing visitors to have auto access between the Turkey Run Inn and Lusk Home area, as well as to trails north of Sugar Creek. See Photograph 29.

Just west of Narrows Road is the old Narrows Covered Bridge. This Burr Arch bridge has vertical wooden siding on the exterior. It was constructed in 1882 by J. A. Britton and

¹⁰ Richard Lieber, Charles C. Deam, *Report of the State Board of Forestry and of the State Park Committee of the State of Indiana for the Year 1917* (Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford, 1918), 12.

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incorporated into the park at the park's inception. It is a contributing structure and is listed on the National Register under the Lusk Home and Mill Site listing (1974) and in the 1978 Covered Bridges of Parke County Thematic Resources. See Photograph 30.

The Lusk Mill remnant is just off Narrows Road directly east of the Concrete Bridge. The Mill remnant consists of carved steps in the rock ledges and a cutout mill race constructed c. 1840. The nomination form for Lusk property mentions "the site of the Lusk Mill, a covered bridge (since listed individually), and the sites of other buildings that were close to the mill." Aside from the Lusk House and the covered bridge, only the mill foundation and steps, carved into the bedrock, survive. The steps and mill footings are taken collectively to be one contributing structure that was previously listed with the Lusk Home and Mill National Register nomination. Although it is just on the east side of Narrows Road, mill foundation and the area around it have been considered part of the state park from its inception.

The Lusk House sits just west of Narrows Road. The two-story, five-bay I-house with Federal details rises from a stone foundation to a stone water table to brick walls, laid in common bond, varying between four and five stretcher courses between header courses. The symmetrically-designed front of the house faces southeast, photo 31 shows the rear elevation, which faces northwest. The house's first story, front elevation, has four windows and a centered entry door. Windows have gauged brick flat arches and wood sills. From the east to west there are two four-over-six double-hung sash wood windows, then the wooden entry door with four-light sidelights flanking it and a multi-light transom above it, then two identical windows on the other side of the entry. The wooden porch is generically styled as Doric, with heavy square columns and pilasters resting on stone blocks, supporting a simplified entablature/second floor structure. On the second story a balcony configured exactly like the first-story porch (but shorter) sits atop the porch roof. The second story windows are shorter than those on the first story and are six-over-six light double-hung sashes. Wide brick chimneys pierce the roof on both ends. The simplified wooden entablature consists of wide frieze board, transitional bed molding, and box cornice. Returns are on the gable ends. The roof is clad in wood shingles. A cupola with two fixed sash windows perches on the roof peak. An interpretive wooden sign and a fenced garden are found on the property several yards north of the rear of the house. The house retains good integrity. It was constructed c. in 1841 has been part of the park since inception and is listed on the NRHP in a nomination that also includes the Lusk Mill Site and Narrows Covered Bridge. It is a contributing building. The rear of the house faces the existing driveway and garden area. See Photograph 31.

Following a trail along the north bank of Sugar Creek one eventually reaches the Coal Mine that was part of the Lusk industry on this land in the 19th Century. The coal mine is a contributing site and was incorporated into the park at its inception.

A third set of carved stone steps - the "140 Steps" is found on the north side of Sugar Creek. Contributing structure. (See Boundary Map for approximate location).

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Pedestrian trails, bridle trails and the park road are part of the manmade elements of Turkey Run State Park site. These trails were begun in the first years of the park and were expanded and improved significantly during the years of the C.C.C. operation here. A c. 1930's map shows that at that time there were nine trails marked on the map. In 1964, there were 10 trails.¹¹ These and the park road appear to be identical or very close to the current configuration shown on a 2014 map of the park. *New Deal Resources on State Lands* specifically addresses trails on page 7 of the continuation sheets. While the document states that trails often change, the accompanying maps and on-site investigation show that this has, for the most part, not occurred at Turkey Run, while makes the trails a contributing resource. See Photographs 34, 35 of a pedestrian trail and a bridle trail next to the park road, respectively. These are all considered part of the park site. Photograph 36 shows the view toward the swimming pool and nature center from the park road in front of the Saddle Barn. Photograph 37 shows the view from the gate house to SR 47. Trails are a significant recreational resource that connected park patrons to the managed landscape. Since its first year of existence as a state park, workers cut and maintained trails at Turkey Run; over the years, as the park expanded, so did the number and, more often, the extent of trails, ribbons of manmade design weaving through the park's maintained natural beauty.

¹¹ Conservation Department, Department of Public Works, "Trails in Turkey Run State Park," 1930s brochure.
<https://www.turkeyrunstatepark.com/history/historic1930brochures/trails.htm>
(accessed August 26, 2018).

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Inventory:

Buildings- Contributing

Gatehouse (Inset Map 4)
Garage (Inset Map 4)
Park Office (Inset Map 4)
Big Log Shelter (Inset Map 3)
Fire Place Shelter (Inset Map 3)
Nature Center (Inset Map 3)
Tennis Court Shelter (Inset Map 3)
Tennis Court Shelter Restroom (Inset 3)
Middle Shelter (Inset Map 3)
Middle Shelter Restroom (Inset Map 3)
Inn (Inset Map 5)

Buildings- Non-contributing

Canyon Shelter Restroom (Inset Map 2)
Camp Store (Inset Map 6)
Saddle Barn (Inset Map 4)
Restroom (Inset Map 3)
Utility (Inset Map 3)
70-Steps Shelter (Inset Map 3)
Pool house (Inset Map 3)
Outdoor Theatre (Inset Map 3)

Buildings- Contributing

Cabins by Inn (5) (Inset Map 5)
Maintenance #1 (Inset Map 5)
Family Cabins (2) (Inset Map 5)
Overlook Cabin (Inset Map 5)
Maintenance #2 (Inset Map 5)
Log Church (Inset Map 5)
Lieber Cabin (Inset Map 5)
Canyon Shelter (Inset Map 2)
Newby Gulch Shelter (Inset Map 2)
Roost Cabin (Inset Map 5)
Lusk House (Inset Map 1)

28 (subtract 2 previously listed)

Buildings- Non-contributing (continued)

7

Structures- Contributing

70 steps (Inset Map 3)
Suspension bridge (Inset Map 3)
Tennis Court (Inset Map 3)
Old US 41 Bridge (Inset Map 5)
Sunset Point (Inset Map 5)
Cox Ford Bridge (Boundary Map)
Narrows Road Concrete Bridge (Inset Map 1)
Narrows Covered Bridge (Inset Map 1)
Lusk Mill site (Inset Map 1)
Box Canyon steps (Inset Map 2)
140 steps (Boundary Map)

11 (subtract 3 previously listed)

Structures- Non-contributing

Pool (Inset Map 3)

1

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Objects- Contributing

Post signs – (2) (Inset Map 4)

Foundation Wall (Inset Map 4)

Stone water Fountain (Inset Map 3)

Newby marker (Inset Map 3)

Strauss Sculpture (Inset Map 5)

Stone Bridge abutment (Inset Map 5)

Lieber bust (Lieber Memorial, Inset Map 5)

Lieber bronze tablet (Lieber Memorial, Inset Map 5)

9

Objects-Non-contributing

National Register marker (Inset Map 3)

1

Sites- Contributing

Coal Mine (Boundary Map)

Park (Boundary Map)

2

Sites- Non-contributing

0

Many resources contained in this nomination were evaluated using the types and registration requirements developed in the Multiple Property Documentation Form “new Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks” (NRHP 1992). Discussion of each type is in the description. One of the earliest parks in a statewide system, Turkey Run has always drawn visitors from the entire state and beyond. Its level of significance is statewide.

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.

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Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment/Recreation

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1840-1841 (Lusk Home and Mill Site NRIS #7400017)

1882 (Narrows Bridge NRIS # 78000404)

1913 (Cox Ford Bridge NRIS # 78000390)

1917-1964 (Park)

Significant Dates

1917

1935

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Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Bishop, Knowlton & Carson

Civilian Conservation Corps

Reynolds, Myra Richards

Lafayette Engineering Company

Period of Significance (justification)

Several periods of significance accommodate the individually listed resources of the park. The first manmade changes at what became Turkey Run State Park occurred when the Lusk Home and Mill Site were constructed, circa 1840-1841. In 1882 the Narrows Bridge was constructed and in 1913 the Cox Ford Bridge was constructed.

Turkey Run State Park was established in 1916, comprising an area that included the house, mill site and Narrows Bridge. Other historic features within the park predate the park's founding, however, in all cases except those cited in this section, the true significance of those features or buildings lies with their association with the park. For example, the Log Church predates the park, as does the concrete U.S. 41 bridge, but they are significant as park assets only. Parke County Commissioners built the Concrete Bridge at The Narrows in 1958-1960, allowing the 1882 Narrows Covered Bridge to become a period display piece, and also greatly facilitating traffic between the Lusk Home/Narrows area and the rest of the park. The Cox Ford Bridge became part of the park's assets in 1965; it was the last significant historic structure added to the park. In 1965, Department of Conservation became Department of Natural Resources. After 1965, DNR concentrated on improving already existing resources in the park; the property's

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development was largely complete. Therefore, the longest period of significance begins when the park was established and ends when the Cox Ford Bridge was added in 1965.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Turkey Run State Park meets Criterion A for its close association with the development of Indiana's state park system. It is a prime example of the kind of complete experience that the framers of the state park system sought: both cultural and outdoor recreational resources in a natural but carefully managed environment. In 1916, the Centennial Memorial Commission, including Richard Lieber, Juliet Strauss and others, formed and raised \$20,000 to purchase the pristine land that would become Turkey Run State Park after owner John Lusk's death. The commission lost the bid for the property to a veneer company which won it for \$30,200. It appears that in late 1916, an agreement with the lumber company was reached, so that state park operations could begin. The following year, the 1917 state legislature appropriated \$20,000 for the purchase and the state bought the land from the Hoosier Veneer Company for \$40,200. Because of the delay in the purchase, Turkey Run became the state's second state park, rather than its first, losing that position to McCormick's Creek. Work began immediately on trails and construction and continued with regularity throughout the history of the park. Starting in 1935, Civilian Conservation Corps workers made a number of additions and changes in the park with several new shelters and infrastructure improvements to help manage the landscape. The park meets Criterion C for its many noteworthy examples of park architecture. The efforts of the Indiana Department of Conservation and C.C.C. architects and engineers in Turkey Run embodied the Parks Rustic style, as seen in the use of roughly dressed local stone; rough, stained wooden siding; and an overall simplicity of design. The Inn, designed by Bishop, Knowlton, and Carson in 1919, well before the New Deal, helped establish this vernacular trend. Following World War II, the park added more buildings and made more changes, including an ongoing addition of acreage, culminating in 1965 with the purchase of land that brought the Cox Ford Covered Bridge into the park. The bridges complemented the historic buildings added to the park in its early years. The park includes trails, roads, ditches, culverts, signs and other manmade improvements intended to improve the ability of visitors to commune with and appreciate the natural beauty of the setting.

Many of the resources included in this district are directly associated with the MPDF, *New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands*. Where appropriate, those resources are identified and

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measured against the registration requirements (see Description). No property type was identified for entire parks.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Turkey Run State Park is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the history of outdoor recreation in Indiana. Upon its creation in 1916, the park became a public outdoor recreation asset that lured visitors from the entire state and region.

Local lore and some written documentation, including the park's own website and historic materials found on that site, hold that Turkey Run was established in late 1916 after the lumber company that owned the land agreed to a purchase price, and that some work began on the state park that year. Other sources state that the park was purchased after the state legislature appropriated funds in 1917. Because there was already a private recreation area on the land in 1916, it may be true that some visitation and park work began that year once the deal was worked out and the funds were promised. Taking into account the murky records, this nomination uses 1916 as the date that the park was established and the beginning date for the period of significance.

In 1915, John Lusk, who had fended off numerous offers of lumber companies to buy his wooded land, died. Governor Ralston appointed a commission to buy the land for the state as a park. The commission included Juliet Strauss, William Watson Woollen, and Vida Newsom. This commission determined that Tract 3, comprising 288 acres of the Lusk land, should be the park and could be bought for \$18,000. Strauss suggested that the funds be raised by popular subscription, however, the commission was unable to raise the funds and disbanded.¹²

In 1916, the federal government formed the National Park Service.¹³ That year, a new commission, the Centennial Memorial Commission, with members including among others Juliet Strauss and Richard Lieber, Chairman; L. M. Rappaport, Secretary; Sol Kiser, Treasurer, formed and raised \$20,000 with which they planned to purchase the property at auction. Arthur C. Newby and his Indianapolis Motor Speedway associates, Carl G. Fisher, James A. Allison and Frank H. Wheeler all donated substantial amounts. Newby alone gave \$5,000.¹⁴ But the commission lost the bid to a veneer company, which paid \$30,200 for the property. Either with private funds for a portion of the land, or by agreement with the lumber company, it appears that Turkey Run State Park opened for business in late 1916.

¹² *Turkey Run State Park, A History and Description*, (Indianapolis: W. A. Burford, 1919), 11.

¹³ Daniel McLean, Linda Dayer-Berenson, Brian Luke Seaward, Amy Hurd, Daniel McLean, *Kraus' Recreation and Leisure in Modern Society*, (Sudbury, Mass: Jones and Bartlett Learning, LLC, 2012), 55

¹⁴ *Indianapolis News*, 7/20/1918, p 13, "State Parks, Turkey Run," Clipping File, Indiana State Library (ISL).

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Discouraged but not daunted, Lieber and the others refused to give up on the plan to purchase the land and the following year, in 1917, the state legislature appropriated \$20,000 for the purchase of the land. This doubled the amount that the commission had previously, and the state bought the land from the Hoosier Veneer Company for \$40,200 that year.¹⁵

The park was bought to celebrate and mark the centennial of Indiana Statehood in 1816. The land was intended to be left in a natural state, as much as possible, to demonstrate the way Indiana appeared in 1816.

The delay caused by the veneer company's initial purchase robbed Turkey Run of the honor of being the state's first park. While negotiations were still underway for the purchase of the Lusk land, the state bought land in Owen County and established McCormick's Creek as the first state park.¹⁶

Governor Goodrich appointed Richard Lieber as Secretary of the Forestry Board and R. P. Luke to be Superintendent of the two parks.¹⁷ Labor was performed by a group of 30 men from the State Penal Farm.¹⁸ They began the work of clearing trails as Luke made plans about how to access some of the natural wonders of Turkey Run.

Salmon Lusk's son, John, had leased part of the family holdings to a railroad in the 1880s. The railroad operated a small excursion camp with tents for overnight guests and a frame restaurant. The railroad ended their lease and in 1884, John Lusk leased the camp site to William Hooghkirk and then in 1910 to R.P. Luke. This camp site area, now occupied by the 1919 Inn, had a frame concession stand and a small inn/dining hall. Word spread among outdoorsmen about the beauties of the area. Using these frame buildings, the state operated the park in the first years. Truly transformative work began at the park in 1918. At Richard Lieber's request, R. P. Luke and his State Farm laborers were busy reconstructing an old log cabin that Lieber had found on a nearby country road. When Lieber approached the owner of the cabin with the idea of buying it, the owner said he would not part with it because he needed it for a shed. At Lieber's request, Luke put his state farm laborers to work building a shed for the cabin owner. The new shed cost about \$85.00 and the log cabin owner was happy to accept it in trade for the log house. In 1918, the cabin was being reconstructed. That reconstruction was not necessarily true to the building's original form so much as it was a replica of the type of log cabin that the old-timers around Turkey Run remembered from their youths.¹⁹ Lieber called in the old farmer neighbors of the

¹⁵ *Turkey Run State Park*, 15.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Fred Cavinder, *The Indiana Book of Records, Firsts and Fascinating Facts* (Bloomington, Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1985), 100.

¹⁷ "Richard Lieber," in David J. Bodenhamer and Robert G. Barrows edited, *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994), 907-908.

¹⁸ Richard Lieber, Charles C. Deam, *Report of the State Board of Forestry and of the State Park Committee of the State of Indiana for the Year 1917* (Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford, 1918), 12.

¹⁹ *Turkey Run State Park*, 19.

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park to consult on the design of the cabin. Where it was necessary to replace parts of the building, the men in charge of it used the tools and materials of pioneer days. The building's logs, which were the original ones used when settler, Daniel Gay, first built the cabin, were massive, some were 30 feet in length, 34 inches wide and 6 inches thick, all of yellow poplar. One of its most interesting features, the "cat-and-clay chimney," came from consultation with the county pioneers about settlement-era construction.²⁰

The Lieber Cabin, along with the Log Church, Lusk Home and the two covered bridges illustrate a crucial aspect of Turkey Run, one that perhaps only Spring Mill State Park can be grouped alongside. Turkey Run was, from the start, to be a cultural and natural experience. The forests and water features at the park were exploited for recreational purposes and connected with trails. But, combined with the natural assets were a strong cultural component. Unlike Spring Mill State Park, where a Williamsburg-like pioneer village was created, the key historic buildings – the wooden bridges and Lusk Home – were not moved or altered.

The cabin was probably – and rarely in a park where buildings, structures and objects were often moved around– placed in the location where it still stands, overlooking Sugar Creek. A memorial bench had been suggested to honor Juliet Strauss at this same spot, but the Strauss Memorial would not be installed for several years, and would not be a bench when it was finally added to the park. In 1918 Luke and his helpers worked to cut a trail to Bear Hollow. This involved clearing the trail and cutting steps in the limestone to make a navigable path. That year Luke also cut a ledge path through Rocky Hollow above the water line so that visitors could access that location even when the creek was in flood stage.²¹

As noted above, the park had been used as a private recreation area for years before the state purchased it, so an "eating house" already stood on the ground and Luke and his workers also put up tents for overnight tourists. They also cut an open path to the old Lusk homestead that was within the park's original purchase of 288 acres. Lieber planned to use the Lusk House as a shelter house and museum. He wanted to fill it with "relics of bygone days...to give a real historic value to the building that demonstrated the changes in living quarters of the county's earliest pioneers from log cabin to brick home. For Lieber the juxtaposition of the two types of housing in the park would offer bricks-and-mortar evidence of "Hoosier progress."²²

Toward the end of 1918, the Lafayette Engineering Company replaced an old swinging bridge over Sugar Creek with a new suspension bridge. Wallace Marshall of the bridge company built the bridge at cost. And it was a beauty. Four-feet wide and swung on steel cables, on the north side of the creek they anchored the bridge in natural rock. On the south side a concrete tower supports the cables and they were stretched out to a 50-ton base of concrete, buried well back from the creek. The bridge allowed easy access to interesting natural spots on the north side of

²⁰ *Indianapolis News*, 7/20/1918, p 13, "State Parks, Turkey Run," Clipping File, ISL).

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² *Ibid.*

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the creek, such as the Devil's Ice Box and Bear Hollow and to interesting manmade features, such as the Lusk coal mine and stone quarry. It also became an attraction in its own right.²³

Even more changes were on the way in 1919. Now visitors arriving at the park were greeted by an entrance gate of massive construction—built in “pioneer fashion” of sassafras logs with the bark left on and held together by wooden pegs.²⁴ Driving north along the early road, “One enters upon a plateau of several acres, where is situated the hotel and camping grounds. The area is well covered with magnificent beech, oak and tulip trees.” The new hotel was situated in the midst of this grove of trees. The large brick structure, constructed by the State Penal Farm laborers, who also made most of the Inn's furniture, was completed in July 1919, equipped with electric lights and running water. On the first floor, visitors could gather in a large room perfect for “rest and dancing” in front of the “mammoth fireplace.” A dining room capable of seating 100 guests was in the basement. R.P. Luke's wife, Della, maintained the kitchen, and it was noted for its “wholesome, well cooked food, which is served in abundance. Wednesday and Sunday are marked by great platters of fried chicken.”²⁵

Many years after working at the park as a teen, Indianapolis *News* columnist, Wayne Guthrie, remembered the first year it was open. “There was one two-story brick structure...The guest rooms on second floor totaled eleven... None of them had toilet or bath facilities...one common bathroom at the end of the hall...The ground floor had a large lobby with fireplace, a small inset office for the clerk, the stairway to the upper level and one room which provided living quarters for the park superintendent, R. P. Luke and his wife Della, who ran the hotel. In busy season, people stayed in rooms in nearby farms and the park help erected tents with portable wooden floors all around the grounds. Each tent had 2 chairs, [and] an electric light bulb.”²⁶

Paid attendance at the park that year was 33,145.²⁷ Admission of 10 cents per person helped fund construction and maintenance. Such a huge attendance meant that the park superintendent had to establish rules of conduct to protect the many natural and manmade resources available to the visitors. It was prohibited to pick ferns and wild flowers. Fires were allowed only in designated areas and trash should be disposed in the “the large wire baskets which are provided for this purpose.”²⁸ It was “prohibited to deface the rocks and canyon walls by inscribing initials and figures upon them. Automobiles will only be parked in the space provided. There is ample parking space.”²⁹

²³ *Ibid.*, *Turkey Run State Park*, 24.

²⁴ *Turkey Run State Park*, 15.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ “Turkey Run Trip Thrills Ex-Clerk,” *Indianapolis News* 8/3/1966, in “State Parks, Turkey Run” Clipping file, ISL.

²⁷ Legislative Reference Bureau, *Yearbook of the State of Indiana for the Year 1921* (Indianapolis: W.B. Burford, 1922), 275.

²⁸ *Turkey Run State Park*, 48.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

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By 1921, State Parks had become a topic of scholarly concerns. The Director of the National Park System, Stephen Mather, organized a national conference on state parks.³⁰ The fledgling parks movement was still tiny when Mather called the conference. Only nineteen states had parks, and of these seven still had only one.³¹ Richard Lieber, the father of the Indiana State Park system, was a proselytizer for parks when he spoke at the conference that year. Some states were allowing free access to these public lands, but Lieber defended his fee-based system. He believed that state parks ought to support themselves out of user fees.³²

Turkey Run was growing in popularity and improving its facilities. That year five cottages were constructed. They doubled the sleeping facilities of the hotel.³³ 58,000 visited Turkey Run. The park has 480 acres. The proceeds from hotel, concessions and fees “show a return of 7 percent on an investment of \$150,000”. The hotel rate was \$2.50 per day, which included a water closet on the floor and three meals a day. In addition to the hotel, an annex of 32 rooms, two log houses and five bungalows had been built for visitors by the end of 1921.³⁴ Even with these additions, the Legislative Reference Bureau reported that year that “hotel accommodations can’t keep up with demand. The park turned away 4 to 5 times the number it could accommodate this year. Heating was installed as the park proved as popular in winter as summer. It also serves as “a community center to the people for twenty miles around” in the winter. Dances, socials and reunions were held there.”³⁵

Another 181 acres were purchased south and east of the old park boundary in 1921. The entrance was moved near to state highway 47 and construction of a “very beautiful drive through this new section as an approach to the hotel” was completed. A newly constructed “trestle carried the road through the new addition across Newby Gulch,” named for Arthur C. Newby in honor of his financial help to purchase the park. The trestle was 145-feet long, designed by the state’s Division of Engineering and built by Superintendent Luke.³⁶ Erosion threatened the overlook near the Lieber cabin above Sugar Creek, “Sunset Point.” So, a concrete retaining wall and terraces were constructed there “without marring the natural landscape at all.”³⁷ Concrete steps “designed to make a natural descent” were constructed to the swinging bridge to replace the earthen steps that Luke and his state farm workers had previously constructed there.³⁸

In an effort to treat park management more scientifically, a field corps of seven men began to accurately map Turkey Run State Park in June 1921. It was the first of the state parks to be

³⁰ *Kraus' Recreation and Leisure*, 55.

³¹ “State Park Agencies” <http://www.ti.org/Parkstext.html> (accessed January 29, 2016).

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*, 277.

³⁴ H. H. Swaim, editor, *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society for the year 1920* (Fort Wayne, Indiana: Fort Wayne Printing Company, 1921), 87-88.

³⁵ Legislative Reference Bureau, *Yearbook of the State of Indiana for the Year 1921* (Indianapolis: W.B. Burford, 1922), 275.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 277.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.*

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mapped. The map included the by-then approximately 470 acres of the park and an additional 300 acres or so of adjoining land. An extensive survey of water supply and sewage treatment at Turkey Run also took place this year.³⁹

A memorial for Juliet Strauss, which had been under discussion since 1918, was finally dedicated by the Woman's Press Club of Indiana in 1925. Although a bench had been the original idea, the memorial was a fountain, crafted in bronze by Indianapolis sculptor, Myra Richards Reynolds. Titled "Spirit of Strauss Fountain" and first located in a wooded area north of the Inn and south of Sugar Creek the fountain was somewhat controversial and more than a bit confusing. Standing eleven-feet high with a base nine-foot in diameter, it is composed of a beautifully depicted lithe young woman holding aloft a goblet. Water poured from the goblet into the basin at her feet. Surrounding the woman were several animals with allegorical meanings; a peacock represented pride; a lion, brute force; the tiger, treachery; an ape, imitation; and a wild boar represented gluttony. In its entirety the allegory of the fountain represented the subjugation of the material world to the spiritual. The fountain was initially placed near Sunset Point, then in 1939, it was moved to a location "in a sort of grotto-like spot along the west wall of the sheer cliff of Turkey Run Hollow, 30 yards west of the Inn" according to a 1974 newspaper article.⁴⁰ In the 1990s it was moved east of the Inn to its current position.

Richard Lieber, now Director of the Department of Conservation, continued to think of Turkey Run as his crowning achievement and a place for rest and play. When he came to the park, he would stay in the Lieber cabin near Sunset Point. The cabin, called "Richard Lieber's playhouse" by one reporter, was full of historical ephemera: a spinning wheel, old rifles, pistols, scythe, plow, antlers, but there was also a cozy fireplace and four beds with wash stands, and a curtain to separate the beds from the guests.⁴¹

In 1922, Lieber's right-hand man, R. P. Luke, supervised the reconstruction of a log church that had previously stood Bristle Ridge a couple of miles from the park. That year there would also be a 32-room addition to the inn, and a log lodge near the new entrance at the Rockville-Marshall-Attica Pike, the "gatekeeper will live there." A 45-foot observation tower was planned, and built, overlooking the Lusk homestead.⁴² Lieber and Lusk wanted to preserve the natural park while making it more accessible to the many visitors. Their enhancements, including buildings and structures, were built of dressed log and stone to look like rustic pioneer construction.

By 1926, the park comprised 750 acres. Lieber, who believed that conservation and education were the most important tenets of the park system, made sure that all the parks in the system, including Turkey Run, had a nature guide on staff who taught classes, led guided walks, and educated visitors on the importance of conserving the state's natural places. A two-day bird census was one of the conservation activities carried out at the park in 1926. At least 1,004

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 333.

⁴⁰ "Spirit of Strauss Fountain," *Indianapolis News*, 8/30/1974, p 25.

⁴¹ *Indianapolis News*, 2/12/22, "State Parks, Turkey Run" Clipping file, ISL.

⁴² *Ibid.*

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individual birds from 22 different species were counted. Sadly, the bald eagle seen in 1925 was not encountered in 1926. It was known that local hunters had shot at least one of the birds in the last year, and it was presumed that it had been the one spotted at the park, since they were already rare in the state by then.

By 1930, the United States was in the financial depths of the Great Depression. During this and the war years, the park served as a significant and affordable public attraction for Indiana and beyond. In 1930, there were more than 128,000 paid visitors to Turkey Run. In 1931 there were 31 miles of trails, stretched across 1,200 acres of the park, according to one newspaper article "each night, except Saturday, lectures at the Inn on the history of the mill, on Saturday night there are dances... Building activities were closed with the construction of the [i.e., another] new wing to the Inn the first of April." There are now 120 rooms, 50 steam-heated. There were 10 cottages, some equipped with stoves, campsites, a combination refreshment stand and grocery, swings, sand piles, a playground with teetertotters and clay courts for tennis. "The Inn offers wholesome food served in "good, old Hoosier style. With a view to making prices agreeable to the average citizen, the cost of eating at the Inn has been reduced to a minimum this year. Breakfast is 50 cents, Dinner and supper 75 cents each. The hotel is on the American Plan."⁴³ There were already "attractive shelter houses, modern comfort stations and bridle paths at the park by 1931. These attractions proved so compelling that they drew visitors from all over the state and beyond. Chicagoans would load their bikes onto trains, disembark at stations near the park and ride their bikes to Turkey Run "for weekend outings."⁴⁴ One of the photographs accompanying the article shows a simple, open-sided log building that is still extant in the park north of the Inn (Middle Shelter, Photograph 18).⁴⁵

As the 1930s progressed, the country fell deeper into the depression. Unemployment soared. President Franklin Roosevelt began to establish work programs in these years, designed to put men and women back to work. He signed a bill establishing the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) on March 31, 1933. Initially named "Emergency Conservation Work" the program fell under the purview of the Departments of Agriculture and Interior and was intended to give single, young men work in exchange for room and board and a small salary, most of which they were required to send home to their families.⁴⁶

In Indiana, Governor Paul V. McNutt reorganized state government, creating the Governor's Commission on Unemployment Relief to capitalize on federal work programs and administer the programs in Indiana. In the new reorganized government, the Department of Conservation became a section of the Department of Public Works. McNutt named Virgil M. Simmons Public Works administrator and Commissioner of the Department of Conservation. This move effectively demoted Richard Lieber, whom McNutt named the director of the Division of State

⁴³ "Turkey Run State Park, Haven for Lovers of Outdoors, Rest and Comfort, proves Indiana Mecca for Vacationists and Motorists," *Indianapolis News*, 4/11/1931, "State Parks, Turkey Run" Clipping File, ISL.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ Glory-June Greiff, "New Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks, 1935-1942," Multiple Property Documentation Form," 4.

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Parks and Lands and Waters. In 1932, a bronze memorial plaque celebrating Richard Lieber's seminal role in establishing Indiana's state parks was installed at Turkey Run. On it was inscribed: "Builder of State Park...Public Servant...Benefactor."⁴⁷ A few months later, in July 1933, Lieber, who had been effectively demoted in the reorganization of the Department of Conservation to the director of the Division of State Parks and Lands and Waters, resigned from his position with the state parks. Myron L. Rees was named director of state parks after Lieber's resignation. He would serve in that position for the next five years ⁴⁸

In May 1933, the National Park Service assigned the first state park C.C.C. encampments to Lincoln and Spring Mill parks. Encampments were set up similarly to military camps with barracks, latrines, a mess hall, and other buildings, sometimes they also included school buildings. The companies occupying these camps were generally composed of about 200 men.

When the companies finished work at one state park, they moved their work and dwelling buildings to the next one on their list. So, it was that the encampment from Lincoln State Park, Company 1543, moved their company of 80 men and their buildings to Turkey Run after their work at Lincoln was completed in 1934.⁴⁹

The park had 28 miles of cleared trails in 1936. The following year, "new picnic and camp areas, new trails and other conveniences" were mentioned in newspaper articles. By 1937 Turkey Run already boasted "comfort stations" and shelter houses, but none of the numerous newspaper articles state that these were C.C.C.-constructed projects; none of them mention the C.C.C. at all, in fact.⁵⁰ The C.C.C. had left Turkey Run in the fall of 1935, replaced by W.P.A.-funded workers for two years.

C.C.C. work began again in earnest at Turkey Run in 1938, when Company 2580 arrived, but even before this changes and activities were occurring through the middle years of the 1930s, and they were being reported on in a new publication produced at Turkey Run. "Turkey Talk" informed visitors and neighbors of activities happening in the park, including a sort of society page report about the workers, visitors and groups at the park. The April 1938 "Turkey Talk" reported on some activity taking place outside the park boundaries at the intersection of US 41 and IN 47, 2 miles from the Inn.⁵¹ The construction of 12 cabins formed the nucleus of "Gobbler's Knob" a settlement mentioned in succeeding "Turkey Talk" newsletters; and one that probably offered overnight housing for visitors to the park when the Inn and cabins on the grounds were full.

⁴⁷ Plaque in Lieber Memorial, Turkey Run State Park.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 3.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 6; "C.C.C. improving Turkey Run Park, *Daily Clintonian*, February 6, 1935, p. 2.

⁵⁰ "McCormick Creek has Park has Scenic Setting", *Angola Herald*, August 13, 1937, p. 12; "Turkey Run State Park is Widely Known," *Kokomo Tribune*, September 27, 1937, p. 7

⁵¹ "Turkey Talk," April 23, 1938.

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The July "Turkey Talk" announced that there was a "Turkey Run Club of Chicago" Lillian Zekas, a member, "is vacationing here this week". The paper also mentioned that 80 persons had gone on tours from the Inn within the last week, and the Unitarian-Universalist Midwest Religious Education Institute would be meeting there that week.⁵²

In early 1939 "Turkey Talk" reported that the park would have a unit of the American Youth Hostels Association, offering a place to stay for .25 cents a night to youth traveling through the area on bike or foot. Sponsored by the Turkey Run Rotary Club and Crawfordsville Rotary, this would be a local "link in the chain of hostels throughout the country." The hostel would be at Gobbler's Knob and would accommodate 10 boys and 10 girls at a time, targeted at those "youth looking for fresh scenes and new friendships to satisfy their inherent wanderlust."⁵³

In May 1939 "Turkey Talk's" cover had a map of the park that reveals changes that had and were about to happen. "Remove cabins" is noted in area where the Juliet Strauss memorial is now located. At the entrance, the Gatehouse is shown on the east side of drive, where the remnant of a stone foundation is seen today. The "Saddle Barn, Custodians dwelling, service building" are shown in the locations they still occupy today. By Sunset Point, the Lieber log cabin is noted and "commissary removed" is written just east of the log cabin; "Road to be obliterated," is still further east. The "Play Field" and tennis court are shown to the northeast.⁵⁴

Text accompanying the article fills in the details and reveals a bit about both what was at the park before the C.C.C. began its work there and what changes were wrought by the C.C.C. at Turkey Run.

the side lawn of the Inn is destined to become the front lawn...some of the present roadways will disappear and ones will be made, the Commissary and the Garage, the tennis courts and the cottages will be moved...there will be new buildings ... "the place will be face lifted in fine style . . . [at] the gate-house you will see the new auto parking lot...on the left-hand side of the drive...accommodate 450 cars...[the] Garage will be moved a little east of where it now stands and across the road...perched on the cliff above Turkey Run Hollow... Commissary will be rebuilt and stand at the northeast corner of the present parking lot down in the picnic area near the C.C.C. garage building. The tennis courts will be moved so that they will be located near the present site of the Commissary... the present parking lot and surrounding territory ... will be part of the hotel lawn...Guests ... will arrive by way of the regular driveway in front of the Inn, but ... the present main entrance will become a sort of back door, for the front lawn of the Inn will be on the northside of the building, sloping toward Sugar Creek and Sunset Point.

[Cabins will be moved to the] "other side of the cement bridge, south of where they now are. There will be new cabins in addition to the old ones, located on each side of the gravel road. A new saddle barn, built of stone which will stable eighteen horses and will be a model of its kind...southwest of the present riding stable, work on the new park service building that you

⁵² "Turkey Talk," Volume III, Gobble 26, July 23, 1938.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, February 4, 1939.

⁵⁴ "Turkey Talk," May 20, 1939.

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may see to your right as you enter the park. All of this work will be done by the C.C.C. boys under the direction of Jack Saylor, C.C.C. superintendent. At present there are 140 boys working on the project, and while the changes will not be completed this year, yet when you come to Turkey Run this season you will see that much progress is being made, and by the end of the summer months the work will be well under way.”⁵⁵ A year later, Turkey Run could boast 1,301 acres, nine trails, picnic and camping grounds, Sugar Creek for bathing, the “finest hotel” recently remodeled and a “new parking arena.”⁵⁶

The Civilian Conservation Corps terminated in 1942 after the war provided more than enough work for America’s young men. It has been argued that the C.C.C. transformed the “majority of Indiana’s state parks” into the type of resource we now expect to see in a state park, and “...the vast majority of historic resources in Indiana’s state parks are from the New Deal period.”⁵⁷ Historic research supports the argument that the C.C.C. made significant changes to the landscape of Turkey Run, but it could also be said that the C.C.C. was less transformative in Turkey Run than in many other state parks in Indiana. It is mainly in the landscape that Turkey Run differs from other Indiana state parks that benefited from the New Deal. Brown County State Park, for example, was extensively reforested, while Turkey Run was more of an exercise in selective conservation, with trails making the land accessible for recreation. While the New Deal period brought many changes to Turkey Run, so did the years prior to the 1930s. And while the National Park Service created guidelines and designs for C.C.C. park projects, calling for the use of native materials and rustic designs, these designs were in harmony with those that Richard Lieber and R.P. Lusk had instituted at Turkey Run from the beginning of the land’s transformation into a state park. Their designs, like the C.C.C.’s were rustic in nature, built with historic methods and constructed in native materials to harmonize with their surroundings. At Turkey Run the most changes may have taken place in the shortest period of time between 1939 and 1942.

America was at war in 1942. On the Homefront, rubber rationing affected the availability of tires and so stymied car travel. But that year Turkey Run had more than 200,000 visitors and Charles A. Deturk, then Director of State Parks, predicted increased attendance during the coming season from the “thousands who will be working on [the war effort at] the Wabash Powder Works, Vermillion County. Deturk expected this gathering of workers would “compensate for loss of patronage due to tire conservation”.⁵⁸ Rotarians from four Indiana towns risked their rubber ration on a trip to join their Rotary brethren at Turkey Run — “the club without a town”— in 1942. Forty-one Rotarians traveled a collective total of 415 miles to spend a night of brotherhood in the Turkey Run Inn.⁵⁹

At war’s end, American once again hit the road. Statistics at the national level show that visits to National Parks increased by 302% between 1947 and 1963. Government recreation and park

⁵⁵ “Turkey Talk,” May 20, 1939.

⁵⁶ *Indianapolis Star*, 4/28/40 “State Parks, Turkey Run,” Clipping File, ISL.

⁵⁷ Greiff, Multiple Property Documentation Form, 13.

⁵⁸ News, 1/1/1942 “State Parks, Turkey Run” Clipping File, ISL.

⁵⁹ “State Parks, Turkey Run,” Clipping File, ISL.

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agencies dramatically expanded their personnel, budgets and facilities in this period and into the 1970s.⁶⁰ By the 1950s, there was an increasing emphasis on making children physically fit because a number of young men had failed physical fitness tests during WWII. Also following the war, some studies showed that American children were less fit than their European counterparts. In 1956 President Dwight Eisenhower established the President's Council on Youth Fitness to motivate communities and individuals to become more physically fit.⁶¹

Expenditures on state parks climbed to \$27,000,000 across the U. S. in 1957. Most of that money was spent on improving lodging because overnight visitors climbed to new heights in also.⁶² These larger trends played out at the local level at Turkey Run. By 1952, "Indiana's answer, on the Hoosier scale, to the West's rugged wonders" had expanded to 1,500 acres and now had 10 trails wandering through its scenic woodlands, a new nature center had been constructed. The Inn and cabins could sleep more than 200 guests but were bursting at the seams on most weekends.⁶³ The Inn set new records just two years later, when, in 1954, there was an increase of 30 percent. It was the busiest year the Inn had yet experienced and Turkey Run Inn was the busiest in the state park system that year.⁶⁴

By the early 1960s, Turkey Run had again expanded in size, growing by more than 300 acres from 1,500 in 1952 to 1,814 acres by 1965. The park now included the Cox Ford Covered Bridge on the west boundary on Narrows Road. Although the park had continued to grow in acreage, the facilities were becoming noticeably dog-eared.

An *Indianapolis News* reporter visited the park in 1966 and mostly talked about what was wrong and what was there. The "buildings look run down at the heel." The state had appropriated only \$15,000 for general repairs at Turkey Run and half of that amount was for upkeep of the inn and cabins. The reporter wrote "guests cannot fail to be aware of foul odors in the vicinity of the hotel itself;" a new sanitation plant was needed. Also, swimmers were no longer satisfied with swimming in the clear waters of Sugar Creek; now it was believed that they needed a swimming pool. "The park has lacked a swimming pool for years" and \$175,000 was needed to build a pool and a pool house.⁶⁵

Reporters were still lamenting the poor situation of the park inn and the need for other upgrades and especially a swimming pool. The park's 10-year plan, produced that year, called for those changes, which finally began to occur in 1970, when the swimming pool and pool house were constructed. The inn received a massive facelift three years later in 1973 when the rooms were

⁶⁰ Kraus' *Recreation and Leisure in Modern Society*, 64.

⁶¹ Kraus' *Recreation and Leisure in Modern Society*, 65.

⁶² Ney C. Landrum, *The State Park Movement in America* (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 2004), 168.

⁶³ Richard S. Simons, "Turkey Run," *Indianapolis Star*, September 7, 1952, 118.

⁶⁴ "Howard Foust resigns State Park Hotel Job," *Garrett [Indiana] Clipper*, September 9, 1954, 1.

⁶⁵ "Reflections on Saturday trip to Turkey Run," *Indianapolis News* 10/13/1966, 8.

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enlarged, the lobby was remodeled, and a new convention center was added.⁶⁶ In 1986, a new nature center was installed in the C.C.C. commissary. The 4,700 square foot building cost the state \$418,000 to renovate for its new use.⁶⁷

Humans have managed the land of Turkey Run State Park for as long as it has been a state park. Early workers cleared trails by cutting down trees and removing brush, carved steps in stone and maintained the trails they had crafted. They built bridges and cleared areas to make space for buildings, parking lots and open areas.⁶⁸ As time passed more trails were cleared, trail markers were installed, and more land was added to the park. Workers managed this land in many ways, in addition to clearing trails. Sometimes this management included returning the land to its original state with tree replanting. Comparing the 1939 aerial with a modern aerial, it is easy to see that areas that were cleared, probably farmland, were reforested after that time and, today, are part of the forests of Turkey Run (see aerials on Continuation Sheet). Tree planting was part and parcel of C.C.C. work and it is likely the C.C.C. did much of the replanting of these areas.⁶⁹ Workers cleared invasive species and did controlled burning, as well as watched out for fires that they sought to keep under control. The C.C.C. and succeeding generations of park workers controlled erosion, including by building a substantial concrete retaining wall at Sunset Point, and reclaimed land by ditching, culverts and other drainage installations.⁷⁰ It is this intentional tending that lends cultural significance to the collection of natural and manmade features that comprise the park's historic district and make it significant under Criterion A for its association with recreation and entertainment.

Architectural and Artistic Significance

Turkey Run is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its intact architecture dating from 1841 to 1964. The earliest architectural resources in the park, the existing Lusk Home, coal mine and Mill site, were part of the park's reason for being when it was formed in 1916. Other early resources include the 19th century Log Church and Lieber Cabin, both moved to the park after its formation, and the Cox Ford and Narrows Road Covered Bridges, which were extant at the time of the park's foundation. Although these resources were constructed prior to the establishment of the park, they are contributing resources and retain integrity from their period of construction and in association with their park use (or, period of reconstruction, in respect to the Log Church and Lieber Cabin). Rustic shelter houses, trails, stone steps cut into the outcroppings, some rustic cabins, and the suspension bridge were constructed soon after the park was established. These resources retain a high enough degree of historic integrity to contribute to the district.

⁶⁶ "'New' Turkey Run is First Class Inn," *Indianapolis News*, March 13, 1973, 18.

⁶⁷ *Indianapolis News*, April 22, 1986, "State Parks, Turkey Run," Clipping file, ISL.

⁶⁸ *Turkey Run State Park*, 23-25.

⁶⁹ Landrum, *State Park Movement*, 129.

⁷⁰ Indiana Division of Outdoor Recreation, *Indiana Trails Construction and Maintenance Manual*, (Indianapolis; Division of Outdoor Recreation, 1979), 3.

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The Turkey Run State Park Inn, designed by the Indianapolis architectural and engineering firm of Bishop, Knowlton and Carson, was built in 1919. The firm had already designed the inn for McCormick's Creek State Park in 1916 and the even earlier club house for the Highland Golf and Country Club in Indianapolis in 1908. They went on to design state parks inns at Brown County, Clifty Falls and Pokagon state parks. Part of the continuity of style in Indiana's state parks is due to Richard Edgar Bishop's skills. Bishop was Supervisor of State Park and Recreational Planning for the Indiana regional office of the National Park Service in the 1930s, and so, he likely designed a number of the park shelters that were built next to the inns he had designed privately for the Indiana Department of Conservation. He was also the Planning Director for Department of Conservation from 1942-1946. At least one of Bishop, Knowlton and Carson's non-park buildings, the Indiana Oxygen Building in Indianapolis (1930), is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The inn at Pokagon State Park is listed as part of the Pokagon State Park (historic district) designation.

The Juliet Strauss sculpture by Myra Reynolds Richards adds a fine arts touch to the park. Indianapolis artist, Richards, was an instructor at Herron School of Art in Indianapolis at the time she sculpted the Strauss piece. Other works by her are found in Indianapolis and in several other Indiana towns and cities, including a lifelike full-figure bronze of James Whitcomb Riley on the courthouse square in Greenfield, Indiana, and the Murphy Drinking Fountain, featuring a delicate young girl in a filmy dress holding a vase, on the courthouse square in Delphi, Indiana.⁷¹

During the years that the C.C.C. worked in the park most of the existing shelterhouses, designed in rustic style and making use of native materials, were added, including the Big Log and Tennis Court shelters and several smaller shelterhouses. The C.C.C. also added new cabins and created new trails in the ever-expanding park during the years of the Great Depression. All of the C.C.C.-related buildings and structures retain good integrity. All exemplify the Parks Rustic style. As explained in *Architecture in the Parks National Historic Landmark Theme Study*, the style or, perhaps more correctly, design intent, came from early railroad visitor lodges such as the Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone National Park (1904), which featured minimally-finished logs as structural supports, stained wood siding and interiors, and a lack of high-style design elements. The acceptance of the Arts & Crafts movement in the early 1900s meant that bungalows were becoming commonplace, along with their simple lines and emphasis on natural materials. General acceptance of the Craftsman Bungalow gave context to the development of the Parks Rustic style. The National Park Service manual, *Parks and Recreation Structures*, published in 1935 and expanded in 1938, codified the mature Parks Rustic design ethic. The publication describes the approach: a style that uses native materials in proper scale, is not overly sophisticated, and appears to have been built by pioneer craftsmen. The New Deal and even the previous shelters and buildings of Turkey Run clearly embody this design approach. Newby Gulch Shelter has roughly coursed and dressed local sandstone walls. The Tennis Shelter features structural half-timbering with local stone for the nogging, a more novel structural approach, but one that evokes pre-industrial construction. The Big Log Shelter's massive timbers

⁷¹ Connie Zeigler, *Urban Times*, September 2014.

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are in scale with the forest trees around it, and its adzed surfaces certainly recall pioneer construction techniques. At Turkey Run, of course, the Parks Rustic design approach was augmented by actual historic buildings and structures, several moved into the park, the two wooden truss bridges, and the Lusk Home. Together, all were and are part of the cultural experience available to park patrons.

Finally, a few resources have been added to the park after the 1940s and before 1965 (when the park boundary was expanded to include the Cox Ford Bridge). Most of these resources, including the concrete county bridge over Narrows Road, the monument signs at the park entrance, maintenance sheds and at least one shelter also retain good integrity from their period of construction and contribute to the collection of resources contributing to the historic district.

These varied resources in numerous architectural styles and from a number of periods all contribute to the architectural significance of Turkey Run State Park Historic District.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

The Lusk Homestead

Salmon Lusk and his wife settled in Parke County, Indiana, in 1826. They constructed a log home and he built a mill at a narrow section of Sugar Creek, which was the locus of much business activity in the region. Stores were built, and pork packing and other primitive manufacturing plants were started nearby. Flatboats loaded with the products of the settlement around the mill were floated from their starting point on Sugar Creek, then to the Ohio River and finally to New Orleans or other southern points.

By 1841, Lusk was prospering, and he built a new brick home more fitting of his station. The bricks were made by Lusk and fired on the ground. Lusk's mill business activity continued until 1847, when a flood on Sugar Creek carried the mill into the gorge and wrecked it, also destroying most of the other nearby buildings. The dam in the creek was also destroyed and activities of the hamlet of Lusk's Mills basically ended.⁷²

One story told about the Lusk homestead is that in the 1860s during the Civil War the Knights of the Golden Circle, an organization which favored the Southern cause, was active in the vicinity. At one point it became necessary to call out the home guard to prevent a raid by the Golden

⁷² *Turkey Run State Park*, 8, 37.

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Circle on Rockville, the county seat. A company of the local guard was stationed at the Narrows to guard the road there and Salmon Lusk, a loyal Union supporter, took good care of them during their stay, furnishing food for men and horses “and refusing to accept a cent pay for it.”⁷³

When the Lusks died, their property passed to their only living child, John Lusk. John became famous, or notorious, regionally for refusing to allow timber to be cut on his land. What he did allow, starting in 1881-1882 was the Indianapolis, Decatur & Springfield RR to use the land as a resort for nature seekers. The railroad erected an “eating house” and tents for guests and advertised the place as Bloomingdale Glens.⁷⁴

The railroad let the lease lapse in 1884. At that time John Lusk rented the land to William Hooghkirk, who operated a resort of the same name and plan as the railroad. Lusk continued to refuse to allow any logging on the property until his death in 1915. By that time, Richard Lieber had been to Yosemite. He came home with a desire to save natural space in Indiana for the people of the state and he set his sights, first, on the gorgeous land that Salmon Lusk had settled just ten years after the state formed.⁷⁵

⁷³ *Ibid.*, 37.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, 10.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, 11; *Interim Report*, 45.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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 # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 121-659-06001-06018, 06020-06031

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1,600

Use the UTM system

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UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 480799	Northing: 4417189
2. Zone: 16	Easting: 484280	Northing: 4417184
3. Zone: 16	Easting: 484387	Northing: 4414154
4. Zone: 16	Easting: 480831	Northing: 4414119

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of State Road 47 and Narrows Road, proceed north along the west right-of-way of Narrows Road for approximately three-quarters of a mile to approximately the midpoint of the bridge spanning Sugar Creek. Turning northeast, the boundary travels approximately 225 feet, then turns north northwest and travels approximately 145 feet, taking in the Lusk Mill site, to the south right-of-way of County Road 375, then turns southeast for approximately 185 feet to the west right-of-way of Narrows Road. The boundary turns north-northwest and travels along the west right-of-way of Narrows Road for approximately three-quarters of a mile. The boundary then turns due west for an additional 615 feet, then turns south for approximately three-tenths of a mile, then west for approximately one-half mile, then north for approximately four-tenths of a mile, then west for approximately three-tenths of a mile, crossing Sugar Mill Creek, to the western edge of the creek. The boundary then turns north-northeast, following the creek, for approximately 480 feet, then west for approximately three-quarters of a mile to the east right-of-way of N County Road 295 W. The boundary turns south for approximately six-tenths of a mile to the northern edge of Sugar Mill Creek, then turns east for 550 feet, then south, crossing Sugar Mill Creek, for seven-tenths of a mile to the northern edge of Sugar Creek. The boundary then turns southwest and follows the north bank of Sugar Creek for approximately 840 feet, crossing Coxford Road/N Country Road 293 E. The boundary then turns southeast, crossing Sugar Creek and taking in Cox Ford Bridge, for 270 feet, then turns east, crossing Coxford Road/N County Road 293 E, for 35 feet, to the east right-of-way of Coxford Road/N County Road 293 E. The boundary follows the east right-of-way for approximately six-tenths of a mile to the north right-of-way of State Road 47. The boundary then travels east along the north right-of-way of State Road 47, past the main entrance to

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Turkey Run State Park, to the northwest corner of the intersection of State Road 47 and Narrows Road, the point of beginning. Refer also to the attached USGS Quad Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic district boundary includes all manmade resources, sites, buildings, structures and objects constructed in or included within the park between 1917 and 1964. The oldest managed forested and riverine areas of the park are included in the nomination because of their association with and exploitation as outdoor recreation areas. Though the forest areas are "natural" resources, management has purposefully preserved the landscape. Man-made trails, nearly all of them at least 50 years old, lace these parts of the park, allowing patron access specifically for the purpose of recreation. Comparison of trail maps through the years, as noted in the Description, confirm the relatively unchanged quality of the trails, some of which were literally set in stone. In other parts of the park, cultural features from settlement through park creation times such as camping areas, contributing buildings, bridges, groups of cabins, a former coal mine, foundation traces of a mill, and the inn building provide more formal evidence of human activities. The boundaries include the greatest concentration of these cultural and managed resources, and largely conform to the boundaries of the park as they were in the early to mid-1960s, at the end of the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Conne Zeigler
organization: C. Resources
street & number: P.O. Box 2948
city or town: Indianapolis state: IN zip code: 46206
e-mail: connie@cresourcesinc.com
telephone: 317.908.6046
date: 2/8/2015

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Photo Log Turkey Run State Park, Parke County, Indiana

The following information is the same for all photographs:

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Name of Property: Turkey Run State Park Historic District

City or Vicinity: Marshall

County: Parke

State: Indiana

Photographer: Connie Zeigler

Date Photographed: July 26, 2015

1. Looking east at property sign.
1 of 37.
2. Looking north at the gate house.
2 of 37.
3. Looking north at the interior of the gate house.
3 of 37.
4. Looking northeast at old foundation/wall where the gate house was once located.
4 of 37.
5. Looking north at the park garage.
5 of 37.
6. Looking north east at the park office and park garage.
6 of 37.
7. Looking south at the saddle barn.
7 of 37.
8. Looking south east at Big Log shelter house
8 of 37.
9. Looking south at fireplace and interior of Big Log Shelter.
9 of 37.
10. Looking northwest at Nature Center.
10 of 37.
11. Looking east at drinking fountain.
11 of 37.
12. Looking northeast at Fireplace Shelter
12 of 37.

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13. Looking north east down the 70 steps.
13 of 37.
14. Looking north at the Suspension Bridge.
14 of 37.
15. Looking north at the Swimming Pool.
15 of 37.
16. Looking northwest at Tennis Court Shelter and restroom.
16 of 37.
17. Looking northeast inside Tennis Court Shelter
17 of 37.
18. Looking northeast at Middle Shelter.
18 of 37.
19. Looking northwest at Newby Shelter House
19 of 37.
20. Looking west at Turkey Run Inn
20 of 37.
21. Looking north at Turkey Run Inn.
21 of 37.
22. Looking southwest at family cabins near the Inn.
22 of 37.
23. Looking west at Juliet Strauss statue.
23 of 37.
24. Looking north at the Log Church.
24 of 37.
25. Looking southwest at Lieber Memorial.
25 of 37.
26. Looking southwest at Lieber Cabin
26 of 37.
27. Looking west at Sunset Point.
27 of 37.

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28. Looking southwest at Canyon Shelter.
28 of 37.

29. Looking north northwest at Narrows Road concrete bridge and Narrows Covered Bridge.
29 of 37.

30. Looking north at Narrows Covered Bridge.
30 of 37.

31. Looking south at Lusk Home.
31 of 37.

32. Looking southeast at steps in Box Canyon
32 of 37.

33. Looking northwest down steps in Box Canyon.
33 of 37.

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34. Looking north at hiking trail.

34 of 37.

35. Looking west at bridle path and park road.

35 of 37.

36. Looking north northwest at lawn and swimming pool from park road to Saddle Barn.

36 of 37.

37. Looking south at exit onto 47 from gate house.

37 of 37.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.