

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary, Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

September 22, 2021

Cassius M. Cash
National Park Service
Great Smokey Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

cassius_cash@nps.gov

Re: Mission 66 Identification - Deep Creek Campground/ Picnic Area determination of eligibility, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Swain County, ER 21-1942

Dear Superintendent Cash:

Thank you for your letter of August 3, 2021, transmitting the Consensus Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area (SW0220) in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Swain County. We apologize for the delay in our response and any inconvenience it may have caused.

After reviewing the DOE, we concur that the site is eligible for the National Register for the reasons stated in the report.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

for Ramona Bartos, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc Scott Hussey, NPS

robert_hussey@nps.gov



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Park Headquarters Building
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

IN REPLY REFER TO:

I.A.2.

Ms. Ramona Murphy Bartos
Division of Archives and History
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4617

August 3, 2021

Re: Section 110 NHPA Consultation for the Consensus Determination of Eligibility for Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area

Dear Ms. Bartos:

As part of the National Park Service's (NPS) efforts to fulfill the stewardship responsibilities set forth in Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act ("NHPA," 54 USC § 306101), the National Park Service (NPS) is commencing a nationwide effort to identify historic properties that were built between 1945 and 1972, a period widely known as the Mission 66 period of construction.

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is located in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Park) in Swain County, North Carolina, as shown on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Bryson City Quadrangle, 7.5-minute series map. The National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources Multiple Property Documentation Form (2015) and the Historic Resources of Park Multiple Property Documentation Form (2016) describe the national and Park-specific historic contexts for Mission 66-era properties. Given the national and Park historic contexts and the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area's good level of integrity as described in the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area Consensus Determination of Eligibility, the NPS has applied the National Register criteria and determined it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) as a historic site.

We are enclosing relevant documents for your reference. Notably, the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area Consensus Determination of Eligibility was developed in partnership with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) to assist parks in their efforts to improve accessibility and utility of National Register information, facilitate NPS planning efforts, and advance the NPS's stewardship of Mission 66 resources.

We request your reply to our determination within 45 days of receiving this letter so that the Park can update our databases and proceed with management activities with the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area. If we do not receive a reply from you within that period, we will assume that you concur with our determination. Should you have questions, please contact Dr. R.

Interior Region 2 • South Atlantic-Gulf

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi
North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands

Scott Hussey, Cultural Resource Manager, at (865) 430-0339 or robert_hussey@nps.gov. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cassius M. Cash".

Cassius M. Cash
Superintendent

Enclosures:

- PDF and word format of Consensus DOE
- PDF of Photo proof sheets
- PDF of Site Form/Property Summary Report
- Survey Site Database
- Photographs (JPGs)
- GIS Shapefile of Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area boundary

cc:

NPS Regional 106 Coordinator

CONSENSUS DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Swain County, North Carolina

Prepared for:
National Park Service
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

Prepared by:
Quinn Evans
2121 Ward Place NW
Washington, DC 20037

July 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

Campground Name and Location

Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (SW0220)
Bryson City, NC 28713
Swain County

Methodology

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is being evaluated under the Multiple Property Submission (MPS) National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources (NRIS# 64501248, accepted in 2015)¹ and the MPS *Historic Resources in Great Smoky Mountains National Park* (NRIS# 64501273, accepted in 2016).² On November 16-19, 2020, Quinn Evans Historical Landscape Architect Brenda Williams and Architectural Designer Lauren Strauss visited the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area and documented the property. The Quinn Evans project team, which included Architectural Historian Patti Babin, accessed records through the NPS Electronic Technical Information Center (eTIC) and the archives at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Quinn Evans also used online research tools and resources, including the web-based subscription service Newspapers.com and the Open Parks Network.

Preparer(s)

Prepared By: Quinn Evans, Brenda Williams, FASLA – Principal-in-Charge/Historical Landscape Architect; Patti Kuhn Babin, Architectural Historian; Lauren Strauss, Architectural Designer; Kate Bolton, Senior Landscape Designer; and Addison Warren – Landscape Designer

Date: July 2021

Classification

Ownership of Property

public – federal

Category of Property

Site

¹ Ethan Carr, et al, *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources, National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Park Service, 2015), 79-83.

² Stephen Olausen, John Daly, Laura Kline, *Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park* (National Park Service 2016).

Related Multiple Property Listing

National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources (NRIS # 64501248); Historic Resources in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NRIS# 6450127)

Preparer's Determination:

Eligibility Recommended

Eligibility Not Recommended

Level(s) of significance: National Statewide Local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Applicable Considerations:

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance: Recreation, Community Development (park planning), Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Recommended Period of Significance: 1952 to 1968

SHPO Concurrence:

Concurs with Recommendation

Does Not Concur with Recommendation

[SHPO Name]

Date:

North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer

2. DESCRIPTION

Summary Description/Overview

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is located at the south edge of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Swain County, North Carolina. The 48-acre property contains 12 buildings, and 128 campsites.

The property is comprised of day use, administrative, and overnight camping areas arranged around a roadway system laid out in response to natural features. The overall design and organization of the landscape demonstrates key components of a Mission 66 campground landscape. The Mission 66 theme of expanding visitor access to a range of cultural history and wilderness experiences is expressed in the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area.

The National Park Service (NPS) initially built a combined campground and picnic area at Deep Creek between 1952 and 1958 and expanded the facilities between 1959 and 1968 with a total of six comfort stations, a shelter, a water and sewage system, roads, parking spurs, and related camping and picnicking facilities.³ The 1959-1968 improvements transformed the initial picnic and campground area on the west side of Deep Creek to a picnic-only area and added a new campground on the east side of the creek.⁴

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area description is organized by resource type. Resources within the property include one site (campground landscape), 12 buildings, and three structures.

Narrative Description

Campground Landscape (1 Contributing Site)

The overall Deep Creek landscape is described according to nine landscape characteristics: natural features, topography, land use, spatial organization, circulation, cluster arrangement, vegetation, views, and small-scale features. The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area landscape is composed of three main areas that contain key features of the Mission 66-designed property associated with day use, administration, and camping. The Picnic Area is where visitors can picnic and access trailheads. This area includes extant buildings, roads, parking, and landscape features associated with use by visitors for picnicking, hiking, and horseback riding. The Administrative Area is where employees work and live and where visitors gain access, through a controlled entrance, to the campgrounds. The area includes extant buildings, roads, parking, and landscape features associated with employee offices, housing, and maintenance. The Deep Creek Campground Area contains 42 densely arranged tent campsites, three group campsites, and 49 trailer-coach campsites, as well as parking, comfort stations, and trail access. The area includes extant buildings, roads, parking, and landscape features associated with camping.

³ "More Funds Sought for Smoky Park," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 26 October 1959.

⁴ "Deep Creek Development Plan," (1959), Drawing No. 133_3211C, ETIC.

Natural Features and Topography

In keeping with the Mission 66 goal to offer visitors to the park the opportunity to “camp near the unspoiled forests, sparkling streams, and turbulent waterfalls,” the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is situated directly on the banks of Deep Creek at an exceptionally beautiful position surrounded by forested mountains and easy access to scenic hiking trails. Proximity to the swiftly flowing creek offers opportunities for fishing and playing along the banks, and the sound of water rushing over rocks can be heard by picnickers and campers throughout the area. Hiking and equestrian trails lead to backcountry areas including three scenic waterfalls (Juney Whank Falls, Tom Branch Falls, and Indian Creek Falls).

Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is aligned along the steep grade ascending from the east side of Deep Creek and takes advantage of the native geology and topography. The Campground is laid out on terraces along the grade with campsites above to the east and below to the west. The eastern-most campground loop climbs a steep grade and campsites have a sense of privacy and enclosure with the surrounding steep slopes and vegetation. Many sites are separated from roads by several feet of grade, which improves views and character, but can create challenges for visitors with mobility limitations.

At the west side and lowest elevation, a walk-in and group campground is aligned along the bank of the creek. The creek curves to the west and the relatively flat area between the road and creek contains the tent campsites, group campsites, and two comfort stations. Topography was a critical factor in the design of this Mission 66 campground, grounding the visitor experience in the surrounding wilderness and maximizing privacy between campsites.

Character-Defining Features:

- Campground layout in relation to Deep Creek
- Use of steep slopes for privacy between campsites
- Graded roads in response to topography

Land Use

The primary land uses at Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area are visitor services and recreation associated with the Picnic Area, Campground, and adjacent nature and horse trail access. Administrative use is associated with the Kiosk where camper registration takes place and fees are collected, as well as in the Administrative Area. Utility use is associated with water, sewer, and electrical infrastructure that service buildings including the comfort stations. Utility poles and lines parallel the Deep Creek Campground Tent/Group Access Road and are well camouflaged by the surrounding trees.

Character-Defining Land Uses:

- Visitor Services
- Recreation
- Administration
- Utility

Spatial Organization and Circulation

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is organized by the road system, which is laid out in response to the natural topography, geology, and hydrology of the landscape. The overall layout reflects the

“section type” campground layout, standardized by the National Park Service in 1959 for Mission 66 campgrounds.⁵

The Picnic Area is aligned along the northwest banks of Deep Creek, with the picnic area loop road and trails providing access to the creek, picnic sites, comfort stations, a large shelter, and a parking area for hiking trails that lead to three scenic waterfalls to the north.

Two vehicular bridges extend over Deep Creek and are described in detail below as structures. One is located at the far southern end of the property and the other is at the northern end. The northern bridge (Toms Branch Bridge) connects West Deep Creek Road and Tom Branch Road. The southern bridge (Deep Creek Campground Entrance Bridge) extends toward the Administrative and Campground Areas.

The approach to the Campground Area extends northeast from Toms Branch Bridge to the Deep Creek Campground Kiosk building, located at the convergence of the Deep Creek Campground Entrance Road, the Campground Loop Road, and the Tent/Group Access Road. The building is encircled by the roads.

Between Deep Creek and the Tent/Group Access Road are 42 walk-in tent campsites, three group campsites in a group campground, and two comfort stations. This area is aligned along the banks of the creek and defined by linear asphalt parking lots on the west side of the road in three groups of 20 to 26 spaces each.

On the east side of the Tent/Group Access Road, the landscape slopes up to a vegetated buffer and an unpaved road grade that separates the rest of the campground, composed of campsites arranged along a series of one-way, asphalt loop roads in Section Type style. The Campground Loop Road runs east from the kiosk building and up the slope to the campground. The one-way loop road exit connects to the Campground Loop Road as it ascends. Halfway up the slope, the road forks, and the middle loop with sites 43 through 52 continues north along the grade. The eastern-most loop climbs a steep grade and curves south, then east, and finally north, passing campsites 53 through 77 before meeting the middle loop road as it descends the slope. After the junction, the Campground Loop Road passes campsites 78 through 92 and a dumping station. The loop roads and most campsite parking spaces are paved in asphalt. Vertical pedestrian transitions are made with simple paths, stairs, and steep slopes of gravel, dirt, or asphalt. Concrete pavement surrounds the comfort stations but trails leading to them are inconsistent in surface material.

The Administrative Area is located on the south side of the property between East Deep Creek Road and the campground. The area includes four buildings arranged around a short, paved access road that extends via a gravel route to East Deep Creek Road. The buildings are described in detail below.

Character-Defining Features

- Organization around road system
- Loop Type layout at Picnic Area
- Section Type layout at Campground

⁵ National Park Service, *Campground Study: A Report of the Committee to Study Camping Policy and Standards* (San Francisco: National Park Service, 1959), Plate 1.

Cluster Arrangement

The layout of campsites at Deep Creek reflects Mission 66 standards representing Type 1 Standard, and Type 2 Basic campsite types, standardized by the National Park Service in 1959 for Mission 66 campgrounds.⁶ Each includes a tent pad, picnic table, fire ring, and bear pole.

The Deep Creek campground tent sites reflect a modified version of the Mission 66 Type 2 Basic campsite type with multiple perpendicular parking spaces grouped along the west side of the Deep Creek Campground Tent/Group Access Road. The walk-in tent campsites each include a picnic table, tent pad, and fire pit. They are clustered densely between the parking areas and the creek, with many sites being less than ten feet apart from each other. Because of this density, the area seems more like one very large campsite, rather than 42 discrete sites. The area is divided roughly in half from north to south by a drainage swale that channels water from the hills to the east into Deep Creek. Campsites 1 through 30 are located on the south side of the swale. A comfort station (Building 430/63525) is located midway between the drainage swale and the southern end of the walk-in tent area. All sites are within about 300 feet of a comfort station.

The group campground includes three sites (201, 202, and 203) at the far north end of the road. Each site includes five tent pads, a site marker, one large grill, and four picnic tables. Split rail fences surround the sites providing boundaries between them. A second comfort station (Building 431/63526) is located between the cluster of tent sites 31-42 and the Group sites (201-203).

At the eastern portion of the property the main campground includes sites 43-92 and is laid out in a modified version of the standardized Section Type Mission 66 campground layout. Campsites reflect the Mission 66 Type 1 Standard camp with one of four campsite typologies: loop, parallel, arc, or single spur. Each campsite includes an asphalt-paved parking area, gravel tent pad, picnic table, fire ring, and bear pole. Some tent pad areas have wood edging.

Character-Defining Features:

- Type 1 or 2 campsites
- Four campsite typologies (loop, parallel, arc, or single spur)

Vegetation

Vegetation throughout the property includes a mixture of deciduous and evergreen trees, with broadleaf evergreen and deciduous shrubs in locations with less foot traffic. Species include a mixture of oak, beech, hemlock, holly, and pine. Groundcover is mostly leaves, pine needles, grasses, moss, ferns, and likely forbs not visible at the time of the site investigations.

The surrounding forest encloses the overall area. Canopy trees within the campground and picnic areas provide shade and character, but understory vegetation is sparse in the Picnic Area and at the tent campsites and group campground. The trailer-coach campground at the east side of the property has

⁶ National Park Service. "Campground Study: A Report to the Committee to Study Camping Policies and Standards, Region Four," 1959. National Park Service Pacific West Regional Office files.

more understory vegetation that combines with steep topography to provide privacy between many campsites.

Character-Defining Features

- Mature forest canopy
- Native understory vegetation

Views and Vistas

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area was designed purposefully to provide camping and day use facilities with physical access and views of Deep Creek and the surrounding wooded slopes. Prominent views include those from the picnic area, tent and group campgrounds, and roads to Deep Creek and visual relationships to the surrounding forest.

Potentially negative views are screened by topography and vegetation at campsites on the eastern portion of the property, and between the campground and administrative areas. Long views are limited due to dense vegetation, giving the camp sites a sense of enclosure. At the walk-in/group campground area, views are dominated by campsites and parking due to the density of campsites and lack of understory vegetation.

Character-Defining Features

- Views to Deep Creek from walk-in and group campsites
- Views of surrounding hillsides and vegetation

Small-Scale Features

Throughout the property, small-scale features present are directional signs, fences, gates, barriers, hydrants, utility poles, picnic tables, and refuse containers.

Each campsite has a site marker (3' high, 4"x4" plastic timber), picnic table (6' Pilot Rock brand steel base with recycled timber seat and top), tent pad (15' square gravel surface with wood edging), fire grill (32" diameter Pilot Rock brand circular steel), posts (bear pole) for hanging food away from bears' reach (80" high 4"x4" post with metal hinge and large nail, or steel post with hooks at two levels).

Each comfort station has a stone drinking fountain with spigot on a concrete pad and a message board. Bear proof garbage receptacles are located around the campground. All picnic sites have picnic tables while some have grills, firepits, and edged pads. A split-log bridge spans a small drainage in the Administrative Area. Large rocks are used to define edges of roads, campsites, and trails. Power poles are disguised by the surrounding trees. Small stone, concrete, and pipe culverts facilitate drainage under roads and paths throughout the campground/picnic area.

Most small-scale features are compatible with the character of the historic landscape but have been added or altered since the end of the period of significance. Those features that date to the historic period are the stone drinking fountains, edge rocks, message boards, fences (at the comfort stations), site markers, and the split-log bridge.

Character-Defining Features

- Stone drinking fountains
- Edge rocks
- Message boards
- Comfort station fences
- Site markers
- Split-log bridge

Comfort Stations, Buildings 430/63525, 431/63526, 552/63528, 558/63529 and 559/63530 (5 Contributing Buildings)

The five comfort stations in the Deep Creek Campground (Buildings 430/63525, 431/63526, 552/63528, 558/63529 and 559/63530) were built between 1960 and 1962. Loop C (tent site and group site area) has two comfort stations one at the south end and one at the north end of the loop. Loop 2 has one comfort station, while Loop 1 has two comfort stations. All the comfort stations were built from standardized plans and have features that are typical of comfort stations built during the Mission 66 era. Typically, the comfort stations have paths leading from the loop roads or the adjacent campsites and are asphalt, gravel, or worn footpaths. Adjacent to the comfort stations are drinking fountains as well as new wood message boards.

Building 430 is located at the south end of Loop C at the tent site area. There is a large parking area at the west edge of the Deep Creek Campground Tent/Group Access Road and the comfort station is set back from the parking lot. There is no direct path from the parking lot, but gravel footpaths connect the comfort station to nearby campsites. A wood message board stands northeast of the building.

Building 431 is located at the north end of Loop C at the group sites area. The comfort station is set back from the parking area along the Deep Creek Campground Ten/Group Access Road. There is an accessible concrete sidewalk to the building from the parking lot and one to the group site areas. A wood message board stands southeast of the building. A new drinking fountain is attached to the building on the east wall.

Building 552 is located in the middle of Loop 2, set back from the Loop 1 Road, and surrounded by campsites. There are two gravel paths leading from the road to the building and footpaths connect the comfort station to the nearby campsites. A freestanding drinking fountain, installed as part of the original construction of the campground, stands in front of the building on the west side.

Building 558 is located at the north end of Loop 1, set back from the Loop 1 Road, and surrounded by campsites. There is one gravel and one concrete sidewalk leading from the road to the building and footpaths connect the comfort station to the nearby campsites. A wood message board stands northeast of the building. A new drinking fountain is attached to the building on the west wall.

Building 559 is located at the south end of Loop 1, set back from the Loop 1 Road, and surrounded by campsites. There is one gravel path leading from the road to the building and footpaths connect the

comfort station to the nearby campsites. A freestanding drinking fountain, installed as part of the original construction of the campground, stands to the north of the building.

The comfort stations are one-story, rectangular buildings set on concrete slab-on-grade foundations with walls of concrete masonry units (CMU) laid in a decorative square pattern and vertical siding. The buildings have gabled, asphalt-shingled roofs with extended eaves and deep overhangs that come to a distinctive point or prow on the gable ends, sheltering the entrances to the restrooms below. The standard layout has men's and women's restrooms at either end with single-leaf doors on the end walls shielded by wing walls made of either CMU or wood picket fence. The restrooms are separated by a central utility room accessed from a single-leaf door on the long wall, with an exterior sink on the opposite side. Ribbon windows consisting of horizontal fixed one-light wood-sash units with privacy wire-glass or other forms of privacy glass panes are set directly below the roofs. At the peak of the gable ends are paired louvered metal vents flanked by triangular fixed windows. The triangular windows are not original to the building. Modifications to the buildings since construction include the replacement of wing walls, original doors, and interior fixtures. Differences to the standard layout include the locations of the sink and utility doors. Variations to the building include different types of doors constructed of either wood or metal, some of which have half lites.

Comfort Station, Building 462/63527 (1 Noncontributing Building)

Deep Creek Comfort Station (Building 462/63527) was built in 2010 at the location of an original 1954 comfort station. It is located in the north end of the Picnic Area and is set back from the parking area. Two concrete sidewalks and one gravel walk lead to the building from the parking lot. A new freestanding drinking fountain stands near the southwest corner of the building.

The comfort station rests on a concrete slab-on-grade foundation with aprons extending on all sides of the building. It is a one-story, square building with men's and women's restrooms at either end separated by a central utility room. The lower three-quarters of the building is clad in stone while above is wood frame and clad in vertical board. The roof rises to a double height and has a post and beam construction. The side gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles and features deep, overhanging split eaves that cover changing room areas located on either side of the building. The mechanical room is accessed by a door on the west wall.

Picnic Pavilion, Building 63524 (1 Contributing Building)

The Picnic Pavilion (Building 349/63524) was built in 1956 and is located on the west end of the Picnic Area along the West Deep Creek Road. The Picnic Pavilion is surrounded by a large grassy area with trees beyond. There are two concrete sidewalks leading from the parking area off West Deep Creek Road to the east side of the building. A wood message board is on the east side of the building near the concrete sidewalk.

The Picnic Pavilion consists of a rectangular, open bay shelter on the south end and a smaller, attached comfort station on the north end that houses two restrooms and a utility room. The one-story open bay shelter rests on a concrete slab-on-grade foundation and is post and beam construction. It has a side gabled, asphalt shingle roof that replaced an original slate shingle roof. Six battered, stone piers and three large wooden trusses support the roof. At the north end of the open bay shelter is a large stone

fireplace built into a stone wall that separates the open bay shelter from the comfort station. The north wall is battered to mimic the columns of the shelter.

The small, attached comfort station is constructed of wood frame with a stone veneer, similar to the stone of the open bay shelter. It also has a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles with deep overhangs. The south end of the building is attached to the wall of the open bay shelter while the north wall is wood frame above the stone and clad in vertical board and batten siding. Both entrances to the comfort station have stone privacy wing walls. The men's entrance is L-shaped, extending from the plane of the east wall and turning 90 degrees to the west, while the women's is one wall extending from the south wall. The doors to the restrooms are on the east ends of the north and south walls and are metal with a top and bottom vented panel. A door to the utility room is centered on the west wall and is metal with a bottom vented panel. The utility room door is flanked by two sets of fixed, nine-light, wood-sash windows.

Campground Kiosk, Building 63522 (1 Noncontributing Building)

Deep Creek Campground Kiosk (Building 648/63522) was built in 1975. It is located at the campground entrance and is surrounded by the Deep Creek Campground Entrance Road that extends towards the campground loop roads.

The kiosk building rests on a concrete slab-on-grade foundation with aprons extending on the south side of the building. It is a one-story, square building that is constructed of wood framing clad in board-and-batten siding. The front gable, asphalt-shingle roof extends over the apron to cover a patio/information area. There is one metal door at the front (south) elevation with a fixed window adjacent. The east elevation has a double-hung window, the north elevation has two double-hung windows, and the west elevation also has a single double-hung window. All of the windows are vinyl.

Ranger and Maintenance Office, Building 63491 (1 Contributing Building)

Built in 1961, the Deep Creek Ranger and Maintenance Office (Building 437/63491) is located in the Administrative Area. Building 437 is located at the northeast corner off of the East Deep Creek Road. It has an asphalt-paved driveway connecting the road to the garage and another asphalt-paved parking lot connecting to the road at the south end of the building. A gravel walk leads from the road to the front entrance of the building. The rest of the building is surrounded by a grassy lawn area with forest behind.

The Deep Creek Ranger and Maintenance Office was originally built as an employee residence following standardize plans. Set on a concrete block foundation, the one-story, wood-frame building has a rectangular footprint and is clad in wood horizontal siding. It has a side-gable, asphalt-shingle roof. A former carport, located on the north end of the main (west) elevation, has been enclosed and is covered in board-and-batten siding. A double-leaf metal door is located on the west (front) elevation of the former carport.

The main entrance to the building, a single-leaf metal paneled door, is centered on the west elevation. On the north side of the entry door are three small awning windows with three large, fixed windows

above. The windows are all wood sash with metal storm windows. On the south side of the entry door are two pairs of double-hung, wood-sash windows, separated by a flat wood panel. The south elevation has two double-hung, wood-sash windows at the south elevation. The east (rear) has two single-leaf metal paneled doors, one near the south end of the building that is in the location of a former window, and one near the center of the building. Between the two doors are two wood-sash, double-hung windows, separated by a flat panel. North of the center door are paired wood-sash awning windows with two fixed windows above. A small double-hung wood-sash window is north of the paired windows. All windows are fitted with metal storm windows.

Seasonal Quarters, Building 63521 (1 Contributing Building)

Deep Creek Seasonal Quarters (Building 519/63521) was built in 1961 following standardized plans for park residential buildings. It is located in the Administrative Area at the southwest corner off of the East Deep Creek Road. There is an asphalt-paved driveway leading from the road to the attached carport on the north end of the building. The rest of the building is surrounded by a grassy lawn area with forest behind. East Deep Creek Road continues past the north end of the quarters into a gravel storage area and then eventually reconnects with the main portion of East Deep Creek Road.

The one-story, rectangular building faces east and rests on a concrete block foundation. Constructed of wood-framing and clad with wood horizontal siding, the building has a side-gable, asphalt-shingle roof. The carport is wood frame with vertical wood siding and has a side-gable, asphalt-shingle roof. A three-unit storage closet is located at the north end of the carport. Each storage closet has wood double doors.

On the center of the east (main) elevation is a flat panel door with a transom above. On the north side of the entry door are three small awning windows with three large, fixed windows above. On the south side of the entry door are two pairs of double-hung windows, separated by a flat wood panel. On the south elevation are two double-hung windows. The west (rear) elevation has a centered, metal-panel door with a transom above. North of the door are two awning windows with two fixed windows above and a double-hung window. South of the door are three double-hung windows, each separated by a flat wood panel. All windows are wood sash fitted with metal storm windows.

Maintenance Storage Building, Building 63523 (1 Noncontributing Building)

Deep Creek Maintenance Storage Building (Building 316/63523) was built in 1990. It is located in the Administrative Area at the southeast corner off of the East Deep Creek Road. An asphalt-paved driveway connects the road to the garage. There is an additional asphalt parking lot adjacent to the maintenance garage at its west side.

The building rests on a concrete slab-on-grade foundation and has a concrete apron that extends to the front of the building forming a driveway. The small one-story, prefabricated building has a rectangular footprint. It is clad in metal siding and has a front gable metal roof. A roll-up metal overhead door is on the north elevation of the building and a metal exterior door is located on the west elevation.

Deep Creek Maintenance Trail Building (1 Noncontributing Building)

The Deep Creek Maintenance Trail Building was built in 1990. It is located in the campground ranger office and maintenance area at the southeast corner off of the East Deep Creek Road. An asphalt-paved driveway connects the road to the front (west) side of the trail building.

The building has a concrete block foundation with a gravel pad at the front of the building. The one-story, rectangular building has an open front terrace area that is covered by the roof. The building is prefabricated with metal siding and a front gable metal roof. A roll-up overhead door and a metal single-leaf door are located on the west elevation.

Toms Branch Bridge, 5460-106P/62008 (1 Contributing Structure)

The one-lane bridge has a wood deck and carries Toms Branch Road over Deep Creek. Large mortared granite cut stones of varying sizes and rectangular shapes form abutments that extend about two feet high above the road surface and curve out and away from the bridge deck. Heavy timber wood railings have a horizontal drainage detail at the base and two additional horizontal rails at the inside of the bridge. Externally, heavy wood posts extend down from the wood railing along the outside of the bridge floor enhancing the rustic appearance of the abutments. The first bridge at this location predates the construction of the campground/picnic area and was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) ca. 1936. The CCC bridge was replaced in 1952 during the initial development phases of the picnic area/campground.⁷ In 1999, the superstructure of the bridge was replaced, and the stone abutments were rehabilitated.⁸

Deep Creek CG Entrance Bridge, ST 5460-100P/62003 (1 Noncontributing Structure)

The Deep Creek Campground Entrance Bridge was originally built ca. 1961 as part of the campground expansion. The bridge was completely replaced in 1999.⁹ The bridge carries the Deep Creek Campground access road over Deep Creek from West Deep Creek Road. The two-lane concrete bridge has a raised concrete sidewalk on north side. Two broad concrete supports are spaced evenly and taper with a horizontal banding detail just below the bridge deck. Large, mortared granite cut stones of varying sizes and rectangular shapes form substantial abutments that curve and taper down from approximately four-feet high to one-foot high as they move away from the bridge. Heavy timber wood railings have horizontal drainage detail at the base and two additional horizontal rails at the inside of the bridge. Externally, heavy wood posts extend down from the wood railing along the outside of the bridge

⁷ The 1952 bridge was documented by the Historic American Engineering Survey in 1996. Open Parks Network, "Deep Creek Bridge Opposite Warden Station," accessed online 16 June 2021 at https://openparksnetwork.org/single-item-view/?noop=noop&lid=frag&oid=OPN_NS:8C8CEF7FA44E18F32AFF5497C1E41FA6, Open Parks Network, Repair of bridge opposite ranger station," accessed 16 June 2021 at <http://purl.clemson.edu/DD7D647DAB1737D008F2AFA2550AD259>; Historic American Engineering Survey, "Great Smoky Mountains National Park Roads and Bridge, Deep Creek Road," HAER No. TN-35-K (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1996).

⁸ "Smokies Officials Making Progress at Deep Creek," Asheville Citizen-Times," 31 March 1998.

⁹ The former bridge was documented by the Historic American Engineering Survey in 1996; Historic American Engineering Survey, "Great Smoky Mountains National Park Roads and Bridge, Deep Creek Road," HAER No. TN-35-K (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1996).

floor enhancing the rustic appearance of the abutments. Because the bridge was rebuilt, it is recommended noncontributing.

Stone Retaining Wall (Undetermined)

A large stone retaining wall supports West Deep Creek Road and reinforces the west bank of Deep Creek between the picnic area and the trail parking area. Composed of large, unmortared rubble stone, the wall adjoins the built-up embankments that taper to grade at the north and south. The stone wall height is approximately eight to ten feet. A wood railing sits atop the wall at the east edge of a concrete sidewalk that is raised about four inches above the road surface. Wood posts provide a protective barrier between the sidewalk and road. While the retaining wall likely dates to the work completed by the CCC in the 1930s or the construction of the campground/picnic area in the 1950s and 1960s, it is likely that the railing and guard posts were added more recently. Because the date of construction of the retaining wall is unknown, the contributing/noncontributing status of this resource is undetermined.

3. SITE HISTORY AND CONTEXT

The historic context for Mission 66 campgrounds and development during the Mission 66 Era of the National Park Service has been established in the MPS *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources*. The contextual documentation in the MPS establishes the significance of Mission 66 campgrounds within the historical and architectural context of the type and style.¹⁰ The historic context for the Mission 66 program in Great Smoky Mountains National Park has been established in the MPS *Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*.¹¹

Development and Construction of Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area

Initial Campground Planning and Construction (1952-1958)

During the initial improvements to Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), one of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal public work programs, built the Deep Creek Trail, located north of the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area. The Deep Creek CCC camp (NP-16) was located at the present site of the Deep Creek Campground from October 1933 to January 1936. The camp was one of 22 CCC camps established in the park between 1933 and 1942.¹²

By the early 1950s, the only existing permanent campgrounds in the park were located at Smokemont and Chimneys, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1933 and 1942. These two campgrounds had running water, toilets, and individual campsites into which cars could be driven. Temporary campgrounds existed in the Tennessee portion of the park on Anthony Creek near Cades Cove, on Little River along Highway 73 at Elkmont, and in Greenbrier. An additional temporary campground was in Deep Creek near Bryson City, North Carolina. Unlike the permanent campgrounds, the temporary campgrounds did not have water systems.¹³

Development of a permanent campground at Deep Creek occurred in the early 1950s prior to the official start of the Mission 66 program. The National Park Service announced in February 1952 that \$62,100 in funds were available for the development of the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area.¹⁴ Plans for the initial development, located on the east side of Deep Creek, included a combination open shelter and comfort station that was adjacent to a "group area" and parking lot. An additional comfort station stood between the picnic area, which was along the creek, and the tent camping area to the northwest.¹⁵ The plans included 12 trailer sites, 18 tent sites (or nine trailer sites when required), and the "interim" picnic area with 58 sites. In addition to the campground, the NPS planned for a future permanent picnic area on the west side of Deep Creek, which would allow the former temporary picnic area to be converted into 44 tent camp sites.¹⁶ The following August (1953) the NPS announced that \$5,100 of the fiscal year

¹⁰ Ethan Carr, et al, *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources, National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Park Service, 2015).

¹¹ Olausen et al, *Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*.

¹² "Swain County is Famed for Rugged Mountain Scenery," *Ashville-Citizen Times*, 10 June 1934; Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., *Historic Resource Study, Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, 92.

¹³ Two Kinds of Campers Visit Park," *The Knoxville Journal*, 30 September 1951.

¹⁴ "New Construction Projects Are Planned in Smoky Park," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 8 February 1952.

¹⁵ "Deep Creek Campground and Temporary Picnic Area," (1952), Drawing No. 133_2107, ETIC.

¹⁶ "Deep Creek Campground Interim Development," (1953), Drawing No. 133_2107A, ETIC.

1954 budget for the GRSM would be spent on fireplaces and picnic tables in the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area.¹⁷

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area opened to the public for limited use in July 1954. Covering eight acres, the new campground featured a hard-top access road, comfort stations, running water, picnic tables, and fireplaces. The park announced that all major installations of the campground area would be completed by August 1, 1954, although landscaping would not be finished before next spring. The picnic area stood at the right of the entrance in a “creek-side grove,” the trailer parking was on the left of the entrance, and the tent sites were in the center of the area.¹⁸ The campground provided access to “45 miles of trout waters and network of maintained trails through a ruggedly beautiful Park area which includes a 35,000-acre stand of virgin forest and three waterfalls.” Near the Deep Creek picnic area, “children and adults who aren’t too proud to sit down to get wet can splash and cool off in the rushing water of Deep Creek.”¹⁹

The Deep Creek Campground remained half-finished in the spring of 1955.²⁰ The 1956 Mission 66 prospectus for Great Smoky Mountains National Park stated that “when additional camping facilities are required, the area will be converted as use indicates.”²¹ An “As Built” drawing from 1957 illustrates the initial development of the campground and picnic area. The shelter/comfort station stood in the east corner of the campground/picnic area, next to the campsites. Adjacent to the shelter/picnic area were rows of seats, used for interpretation programs and showings of the “Mission 66” slide program. A sign for the campground stood near the entrance. In between the trailer and tent camping areas was the additional comfort station.²² Faced in stone, the shelter/comfort station and single comfort station combine the preferred rustic style of the decades prior with the emerging modern style of Mission 66, illustrated by the shelter’s battered stone piers and deep overhanging eaves.

In the summer of 1958, the *Ashville Citizen-Times* described the Deep Creek Campground as a “Popular Tourist Mecca,” on its way to becoming “one of the most popular campgrounds in the Park.” In the summer of 1958, despite unseasonable rainy weather, the campgrounds were almost constantly filled with campers from across the country. “In a ride through the camp you can see tents of all sizes and shapes clustered around the 90 some fireplaces. You can see all types of people from Boy Scouts to artists (well-known Russian-born artist [Jacob] Anchutin is painting there this summer for example). You can see people cooking, snoozing in this sun, washing clothes, horseback riding, or taking a dip in the icy waters of Deep Creek. . . Campfires are going everywhere. Groups of children are playing ball and all kinds of outdoor games. In the far end of the area near the ranger station, a huge group of Boy Scouts is camped with large tents set up in neat, precise order. Camp chairs with people sprawled in them are

¹⁷ “Smoky Park Gets \$425,538 For Year,” *Knoxville Journal*, 27 August 1953.

¹⁸ “Deep Creek Campground is Opened,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 11 July 1954; “New Campground in North Carolina,” *Fort Lauderdale News*, 1 August 1954.

¹⁹ “Deep Creek Campground is Opened,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 11 July 1954; “New Campground in North Carolina,” *Fort Lauderdale News*, 1 August 1954.

²⁰ “Master Plan,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 28 March 1955.

²¹ National Park Service. *Mission 66 Prospectus, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Foothills Parkway*, 29.

²² 1957_Deep Creek Campground As-built Map GRSM_133_60404; Superintendent’s Monthly Report, 9 August 1957, GRSM Archive.

everywhere and now and then you'll see a trout fisherman loading along. It's a cool, relaxing place, and that's what the people are doing. . . . relaxing."²³

Expansion (1959-1968)

Through Mission 66 funding, the park was able to make substantial improvements to the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area between 1959 and 1964. In January 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower asked Congress for \$2,958,000 for improvements to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, representing a \$1,669,600 increase over the previous year. Included in the budget were funds for three comfort stations, shelter, water and sewage system, minor roads and parking spurs, and related camping and picnicking facilities at Deep Creek Campground.²⁴ In October 1959, the North Carolina Park, Parkway and Forest Development Commission urged congress to appropriate additional funds in its 1961 budget for Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The commission specifically requested funds for two personnel buildings at the Deep Creek Campground.²⁵

Plans for the new expansion, developed in 1959 and approved by Director Conrad Wirth in February 1960, illustrated existing conditions and the planned development. Differing from the original 1954 drawings, the plans indicated that the initial picnic and campground area would become only a picnic area with the new campground on the opposite side of Deep Creek.²⁶ The new campground had two one-way loops – one for trailers and one for tent camping. The trailer camping area featured mini loops so that trailers did not have to backup when they left. The new tent campground area included three comfort stations. Adjacent to the creek was a walk-in camping area with three large parking lots and two additional comfort stations. Immediately south of the campground were two new employee residences (Building 437/63491 and 519/63521) and one multiple dwelling/seasonal quarters (Building 375, no longer extant). All the comfort stations and residences were built from standardized plans. A new bridge over Deep Creek (Deep Creek Campground Entrance Bridge) connected the new campground to the existing picnic area.²⁷

The 1960 Master Plan for the park also described Deep Creek in its chapter on visitor use:

Heading on Mt. Mingus, Deep Creek is representative of the park's larger mountain streams in size and beauty. The park visitor approaches this sector of the park over the Deep Creek Thomas Ridge Road, which ties directly into the park's trans-mountain southbound road, a spur road leading to the park from US-19 out of Bryson City, North Carolina. Just inside the park boundary is a 106-site campground and a 51-site picnic area designed to serve the needs of park visitors who want to camp. A campfire circle and shelter permit the visitor to join others in evening interpretive programs. Visitors using this section of the park often stop for several days and enjoy hiking the back-country trails, just relaxing, or fishing in the mountain streams. Many utilize the self-guiding nature trail and from it gain a fuller understanding of the park and a deeper appreciation of its resources.²⁸

²³ "Deep Creek Campgrounds Popular Tourist Mecca," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 10 August 1958.

²⁴ "More Funds Sought for Smoky Park," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 26 October 1959.

²⁵ "More Funds Sought for Smoky Park," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 26 October 1959.

²⁶ "Deep Creek Development Plan," (1959), Drawing No. 133_3211C, ETIC.

²⁷ "Deep Creek Development Plan," (1959), Drawing No. 133_3211C, ETIC.

²⁸ National Park Service, *Master Plan for the Preservation and Use of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Volume I. Master Plan Narrative, Chapter 2, Visitor Use Brief* (National Park Service, 1960), 19.

In January 1961, the park reported that a new section had been added to the Deep Creek Campground, which included around 50 sites. The new section of the campground was scheduled to open in the summer of 1961.²⁹ Construction on additional improvements to the Deep Creek Campground occurred between the spring of 1962 and early 1964. Projects included construction on one new comfort station, two employee residences, and the two-unit multiple dwelling; building the campground roads and parking spurs; the enlargement of the sewage disposal system; extension of the water and sewer line; grading, seeding, and planting; and the installation of tables, benches, fireplaces, and garbage cans.³⁰ Once again, the comfort stations and residences followed typical Mission 66 standardized plans for these building types. Between April and September 1962, the park completed improvements to the amphitheater area located adjacent to the existing picnic pavilion/comfort station. The work included the construction of amphitheater seating with a capacity of 300, a new projection booth, a screen, a rostrum, and a campfire circle.³¹ When completed, the Deep Creek Campground offered 128 campsites, including the walk-in camping area located on the west side of the campground along the eastern edge of Deep Creek. On the opposite side of Deep Creek were 42 picnic sites.³²

With the help of the Oconaluftee Civilian Conservation Center, the park constructed a bypass road around the west side of the Deep Creek picnic area in 1968. The bypass prevented congestion in the campground and picnic area as it allowed motorists to drive around instead of through the picnic area. The road “for the first time since the establishment of the Park [enabled] motorists to enjoy the beauties of the stream and countryside from the campground to the ‘turnaround,’ a round trip distance of approximately five miles.” The bypass also allowed convenient access for those visitors wanting to fish or enjoy the back country. The improvements included a new horse trail adjacent to the bypass road.³³

Changes, Modifications, Additions to the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area

Several modifications and improvements have been made to the Deep Creek Campgrounds since its Mission 66 development. In 1975, the NPS constructed a new entrance kiosk for the campground. The National Park Service began a \$1.6 million renovation of the Deep Creek Campground in 1997. The three-year project included road and parking lot improvement, the replacement of the Deep Creek Campground Entrance Bridge, the replacement of the superstructure and rehabilitation of the abutments of the Toms Branch Bridge, and the repaving of the picnic area. Additionally, the project included the renovation of the campground’s five comfort stations, the construction of two changing rooms for those tubing on Deep Creek (located adjacent to Comfort Station/Building 462/63527 and since demolished), and the rehabilitation of the campsites, picnic tables, and grills.³⁴ In 2009-2010, the

²⁹ “Visitors to Smoky Park Set Attendance Record,” *Knoxville Journal*, 4 January 1961.

³⁰ Superintendent’s Monthly Report, 14 May 1962; Superintendent’s Monthly Report, 13 February 1963; Superintendent’s Monthly Report, 13 June 1963; Superintendent’s Monthly Report, 12 July 1963, Superintendent’s Monthly Report, 13 February 1964 GRSM Archives.

³¹ “Deep Creek Campground, Construct Campfire Circle at Campground, Completion Report,” (1962), Report No. 133_D537, ETC.

³² “Deep Creek Developed Plan,” (1964), Drawing No. 133_3211D, ETIC.

³³ “Many New, Improved Facilities Can Be Enjoyed in Smoky Park This Year,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 30 June 1968.

³⁴ “Improvement Helping Recreation,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 23 February 1997; “Smokies Officials Making Progress at Deep Creek,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 31 March 1998.

NPS demolished the original 1954 comfort station in the Deep Creek Picnic Area (Building 462/63527) and replaced the building with a new comfort station to meet accessibility requirements that also houses changing rooms.³⁵ The amphitheater seating and campfire circle adjacent to the picnic area shelter/comfort station as well as the multi-dwelling/seasonal dwelling (Building 375) formerly located near the current entrance kiosk, were demolished at unknown dates.

³⁵ "Smokies: Contracts to be Awarded in Fall," *Ashville Citizens-Times*, 20 July 2009; Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., *Historic Resource Study, Great Smoky Mountains National Park* (National Park Service 2016), 178-179.

4. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Registration Requirements

The following registration requirements from the Multiple Property Submissions (MPS) *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources* and *Historic Resources in Great Smoky Mountains National Park* provide the framework to assess the campground's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places associated with its development during the Mission 66 period.³⁶

Mission 66 Public Use Districts, Campgrounds, and Day-Use Areas

According to the MPS *Mission 66 Era Resources*, "a Mission 66 campground or public use district may be established to include a range of Mission 66 facilities in a limited area of a park. The public use district would be smaller than a park-wide district but should encompass a major developed area with a range of representative facilities that embody the goals of the Mission 66 program." Additionally, a "Mission 66 public use district may feature contributing resources such as lodges, camp stores and other concessioner services, campgrounds, ranger stations, comfort stations and shower buildings, roads and trails, and miscellaneous structures, including amphitheatres and attendant audio-visual equipment structures."

Guidelines for Determination of National Register Eligibility for Mission 66 Public Use Historic Districts

To be considered eligible for listing in the National Register, a Mission 66 public use historic district should fall within the period of significance from 1945-1972 and possess the following characteristics:

- Mission 66 campground and public use districts contain a range of contributing buildings, structures, and cultural landscape features that encompass the goals of the construction program.
- Importance to the overall history of camping in a park and demonstrates integrated campground and day-use area planning including the entrance road and its signage, the camp tender's station if one exists, the looped road system, and the individual parking details at each site, such as a pull-in or a mini-loop layout.
- The campground or day-use area reflects the new concepts of providing more privacy for the users and contributes to the integrity of the development through its landscape features and constructed components.

³⁶ Ethan Carr, et al, *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources, National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Park Service, 2015), 79-83; Olausen et al, *Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, 137-139.

- Trail access, if it exists, leads to one or more comfort stations, an amphitheater for evening programs, and for hiking to nearby scenic areas. This characteristic represents the part of the site planning for campgrounds and day-use areas that indicates a relationship to other park facilities.
- Furnishings at an individual campsite or day-use site may be important, though it is most likely that the furnishings have been updated to provide metal-framed picnic tables and new grills.

Campgrounds and Picnic Areas, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Guidelines for Determination of National Register Eligibility for Campgrounds and Picnic Areas

According to the MPS *Historic Resources in Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, campgrounds and picnic areas “associated with the Mission 66 development period (1945-1972) may possess significance under Criterion A as examples of the evolution of national park planning and development that occurred at the NPS attempted to revive national park infrastructure and improve visitor services and recreational opportunities.”

The MPS states under Registration Requirements:

To qualify under Criterion A, Campgrounds and Picnic Areas should retain most, if not all, aspects of integrity (particularly location, design, feeling, and association) and clearly convey their historic functions and associations. . . If constructed during the Mission 66 era, the resource must represent a substantial completed development project included in the park's 1956 prospectus for Mission 66 (or subsequent planning documents prepared during the Mission 66 period) that addressed the Mission 66 program goals such as improved visitor facilities or park infrastructure. It should feature one-way loop roads with longer parking spurs, less dense camp or picnic site arrangements, and concrete or split stone comfort stations.

According to the MPS for Historic Resources in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, campgrounds and picnic areas that are significant under Criterion C embody “the distinctive mid-twentieth-century design principles and construction techniques (Park Service Modern) practiced by NPS architects, landscape architects, planners, and historians during the Mission 66 era.”

The MPS states under Registration Requirements:

To qualify under Criterion C, resources within this property type should retain sufficient integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to express their design significance. The resource must adhere to the prevalent NPS design philosophy. . . [from] the 1945 to 1972 period (emphasizing low-pitched gable roofs and readily available materials such as steel, plywood, fiberglass, and concrete). Particular consideration should be given to the character-defining elements of spatial organization, circulation, and vegetation. . . Buildings and structures should remain on their original sites and largely unaltered. Replacement picnic tables or other fixtures would not likely disqualify Campgrounds and Picnic Areas from eligibility. Substantially altered or more recently constructed buildings or structures would not contribute to a Campground or Picnic Area site or

district but would also not necessarily disqualify it from eligibility, provided they do not detract from the overall integrity of the site or district.”³⁷

Evaluation of the Deep Creek Campground

Summary

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C and meets the requirements for eligibility as detailed in the NPS *Mission 66 Era Resources Multiple Property Documentation Form* and the *Historic Resources in Great Smoky Mountains National Park Multiple Property Documentation Form*.³⁸ The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is locally significant under Criterion A (events) in the area of planning and community development (park planning) for its association with the changing visions for national park planning and development during the Mission 66 era (1945-1972). Deep Creek is one of six new public use areas built in Great Smoky Mountains National Park during Mission 66 to provide modern accommodations for the increased numbers of automobile tourists visiting the park post World War II. The campground/picnic area is eligible under Criterion C at the local level of significance for its representation of Mission 66-era design and development at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area exemplifies Mission 66 campground and picnic area design principles with its one-way loop roads, campsite privacy, and modern standardized-plan comfort stations.

The campground/picnic area retains integrity to the historic period. The recommended period of significance of the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is 1953 to 1968, its original period of development during the pre-Mission 66 (1945-1955) and Mission 66 (1956-1966) eras. This falls within the period of significance (1945-1972) stipulated by the NPS Mission 66 Era Resources MPD.

National Register Criteria Evaluation

Criterion A

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is significant under Criterion A for its association with the changing visions for national park planning and development during the Mission 66 era (1945-1972), particularly for campgrounds and day use areas. The campground/picnic area represents a substantial completed public use area development included in Great Smoky Mountains National Park’s 1956 prospectus for Mission 66 and was intended to provide sufficient government-managed accommodations for the increased numbers of automobile tourists visiting the park. Illustrating the key tenets of Mission 66 campgrounds, it features one-way loop roads with longer parking spurs to accommodate larger vehicles, less dense camp, and picnic site arrangements, with modern facilities including comfort stations. The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance under Criterion A (see integrity below).

³⁷ Olausen et al, *Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, 137-139.

³⁸ Carr et al, *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources*, 79-80; Olausen et al, *Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, 137-139.

Criterion B

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is not significant under National Register Criteria B. It is not associated with a significant person, architect, landscape architect, or engineer's productive life, primary residence, or place of work.

Criterion C

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is significant under Criterion C in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture as a characteristic example of Mission 66 public use area design that adheres to the modern design philosophy prevalent during the Mission 66 period (1945 to 1972). The campground features one-way loop roads, larger parking spurs to accommodate recreational vehicles, campsites arranged on alternating sides of the road, improved water and electrical lines, and standardized comfort stations. As a group, the five comfort stations built as part of the expansion of the campground in the 1960s feature low-pitched gable roofs and readily available materials such as concrete masonry units (CMU) laid in a distinctive geometric pattern that illustrate the Park Service Modern style of Mission 66. The picnic shelter, built during the early Mission 66 era, uses natural stone to harmonize with its surroundings, yet has modern features such as battered stone piers, a wide stone chimney, and overhanging eaves that exemplify the Park Service Modern style. The overall design and layout of the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area represents Mission 66 goals of managing growth and modernist design principles.³⁹ While some modifications have been made to the campground/picnic area since its construction, including the demolition and rebuilding of Comfort Station No. 462, and the removal of the amphitheater seating and fire circle adjacent to the Picnic Pavilion, the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance under Criterion C (see integrity below).

Criterion D

The Mission 66 MPS did not establish any historic contexts for Mission 66 resources under Criterion D. The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area was not assessed as part of this Determination of Eligibility for any additional historic contexts under Criterion D. Archeological surveys may be required for future projects within the campground involving ground disturbing activities and assessed for any historic or prehistoric context.

Integrity Evaluation

The Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area conveys its significance as a Mission 66 campground development. The property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The campground, day use area, and administrative area, all remain in the locations planned, designed, and implemented as part of the Mission 66 program.

The property continues to provide access to Deep Creek, hiking trails, and the forest environment, as originally intended. The arrangement of roads, parking, campsites, comfort stations, shelter, picnic areas, and support facilities all clearly reflect the design developed by NPS landscape architects as part of the Mission 66 program. All Mission 66-developed buildings retain most of their original materials and workmanship. The two that have been replaced, the comfort station at the picnic area and the registration building at the entrance to the campground, are compatible in scale, placement, and style

³⁹ Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., *Historic Resource Study, Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, 175.

with the overall character of the landscape. Although the campground entrance bridge has been replaced, its approach, alignment, and connection to the West Deep Creek Road and the picnic area remain intact. Essential character defining features are intact, especially relationships between the developed areas and Deep Creek and the surrounding forest, the road system, comfort stations, and Mission 66 Type 1 and Type 2 campsites. Despite extremely heavy use and resulting thinning of vegetation and compaction of ground surfaces, most portions of the campground continue to provide visitors with the opportunity to “camp near unspoiled forests, sparkling streams, and turbulent waterfalls,” as desired by the Mission 66 goals for the park.

Comparable Example

According to the 2016 Historic Resource Study for Great Smoky Mountain National Park, only two campgrounds in the park are located in North Carolina: Deep Creek and Smokemont. The Smokemont Campground is an example of a CCC-built campground in the park that was modified during the Mission 66 era (see Figures 39-40 below). According to the 2016 Historic Resource Study:

Smokemont Campground (Swain County, NC) along the Bradley Fork of the Oconaluftee River adjacent to Newfound Gap Road conveys its significance as an initial component of park development that incorporates Mission 66 additions. The original portion of the campground (the portion east of the Bradley Fork) exemplifies 1930s NPS campground design, while the layout of the portion on the west side of the Bradley Fork reflects Mission 66 design principles. The original circulation system and placement of individual campsites in the 1930s area are intact except a minor 1950s road reconfiguration in a small portion of Section A encompassing seven campsites. The three CCC-constructed comfort stations are on their original sites and have been minimally altered. Plantings in the campsite appear consistent with a 1934 planting plan (Drawing NP-GRSM 1014B). Nine original drinking fountains of rustic stone masonry remain. Mission 66 additions to the 1930s area consist of a wood-frame ranger station/camptender residence at the entrance and two rustic stone-clad comfort stations in Section D. These resources employed standard Mission 66 building designs and have seen relatively few alterations. They do not detract from the overall integrity of the earlier campground design, which remains strongly conveyed. A combined camp store/shelter added in Section D in 1958 (similar to the extant building at Cades Cove Campground) has since been removed. The expansion of the campground under Mission 66 across Bradley Fork occurred in an area designated for expansion in the 1930s master plans. The 43 campsites for recreational vehicles in this section are arranged in a characteristic Mission 66 fashion on alternating sides of a one-way loop road around a central comfort station. The camptender residence (a.k.a., Oconaluftee Ranger Station) at the campground entrance and the covered shelter and other standing structures at the outdoor amphitheater adjacent to the campground entrance also exhibit standard Mission 66 design principles. The substantially altered 1975 kiosk at the campground entrance should be considered a non-contributing resource within the Smokemont Campground historic district because it was built after the period of significance for Mission 66 development at Great Smoky Mountains NP and does not reflect Mission 66 plans or designs. The original design intent for the Smokemont campground is strongly conveyed.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Olausen et al, *Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, 178.

Recommended Period of Significance

The recommended period of significance of the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area is 1952 to 1968, with its primary period of development during the pre-Mission 66 (1945-1955) and Mission 66 (1956-1966) eras. This falls within the period of significance (1945-1972) stipulated by the *Mission 66 Era Resources* MPS and the *Historic Resources in Great Smoky Mountains National Park* MPS.

Geographical Site Data

Acreage of Property: 48

Boundary Recommendation and Justification

The recommended boundary of the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area includes the day use area, campground, and administrative area developed as part of the Mission 66 program between 1953 to 1968. Also included is the section of Deep Creek adjacent to the developed areas.

The day use area is included because Deep Creek was planned as a combined picnic/campground public use area. The initial planning and some development occurred during the pre-Mission 66 era. The development was expanded with Mission 66 funding. The Mission 66 development purposefully shifted camping from the west side of the creek to the east side and organized the area to provide separate access for picnicking and trail use for non-overnight visitors. This alleviated through-traffic from the campground and facilitated discrete management of the campground fee area versus the non-fee day use area.

The campground and administrative areas on the east side of Deep Creek were all designed as one development. The entire complex was laid out on a framework of road alignments designed to capitalize on the native topography and vegetation to screen undesirable views and enhance desired views. It includes the two residences (Building 519 and Building 316) as these two buildings were constructed as part of the campground to house employees that supported the operation/interpretation of the campground/picnic area.

Hiking and bridle trails that are accessed from the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area are not included within the boundary as they extend in linear corridors for long distances. Tom Branch Road is excluded because it was not developed as part of the Mission 66 complex.

Beginning at the south side of the property, where West Deep Creek Road intersects the bridge to the Deep Creek Campground Entrance Road, and extending to the west, the boundary parallels the road at the horse trailer parking lot and continues north toward the picnic shelter. The boundary includes the open area on the west and north sides of the picnic shelter then curves to the east and continues parallel to West Deep Creek Road and the trail parking lot. The boundary contains the trail head and Toms Branch Bridge crossing Deep Creek and runs parallel to Tom Branch Road on its west side (the road is excluded from the boundary). Continuing south, the boundary extends along the western edge of campsites 79 through 54, then continues west including the residences, maintenance area, and unpaved maintenance access road. The boundary then continues parallel to Deep Creek Campground Entrance Road and the Deep Creek Campground Entrance Bridge.

Resource Inventory

SHPO ID#	FMSS ASSET #	RESOURCE NAME	CONSTRUCTION DATE	RESOURCE TYPE (Building, Structure, Site, Object)	STATUS (Not Eligible, Contributing, Noncontributing)
SW0220	63525	Comfort Station 430	1960	Building	Contributing
SW0220	63526	Comfort Station 431	1960	Building	Contributing
SW0220	63528	Comfort Station 552	1961	Building	Contributing
SW0220	63527	Comfort Station 462	2010	Building	Noncontributing
SW0220	63529	Comfort Station 558	1962	Building	Contributing
SW0220	63530	Comfort Station 559	1962	Building	Contributing
SW0220	63524	Picnic Pavilion 349	1956	Building	Contributing
SW0220	63522	Campground Kiosk 648	1975	Building	Noncontributing
SW0220	63491	Ranger and Maintenance Office 437	1961	Building	Contributing
SW0220	63521	Seasonal Quarters 519	1961	Building	Contributing
SW0220	63523	Maintenance Storage Building 316	1990	Building	Noncontributing
SW0220		Maintenance Trail Building	ca. 1990	Building	Noncontributing
SW0220	62008	Toms Branch Bridge	1952	Structure	Contributing
SW0220	62003	Deep Creek Campground Entrance Bridge	1999	Structure	Noncontributing
SW0220		Stone Retaining Wall	Unknown	Structure	Undetermined
SW0220		Deep Creek Campground/ Picnic Area Landscape	1953-1968	Site	Contributing
Campground Landscape Character-Defining Features					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Features and Topography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Campground layout in relation to Deep Creek ○ Use of steep slopes for privacy between campsites ○ Graded roads in response to topography 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visitor Services ○ Recreation ○ Administration ○ Utility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Organization and Circulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organization around road system ○ Loop Type layout at Picnic Area ○ Section Type layout at Campground
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cluster Arrangement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Type 1 and 2 campsites ○ Four campsite typologies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mature forest canopy ○ Native understory vegetation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views and Vistas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Views to Deep Creek from walk-in/group campsites ○ Views of surrounding hillsides and vegetation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Scale Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stone drinking fountains ○ Edge rocks ○ Message boards ○ Comfort station fences ○ Site markers ○ Split-log bridge

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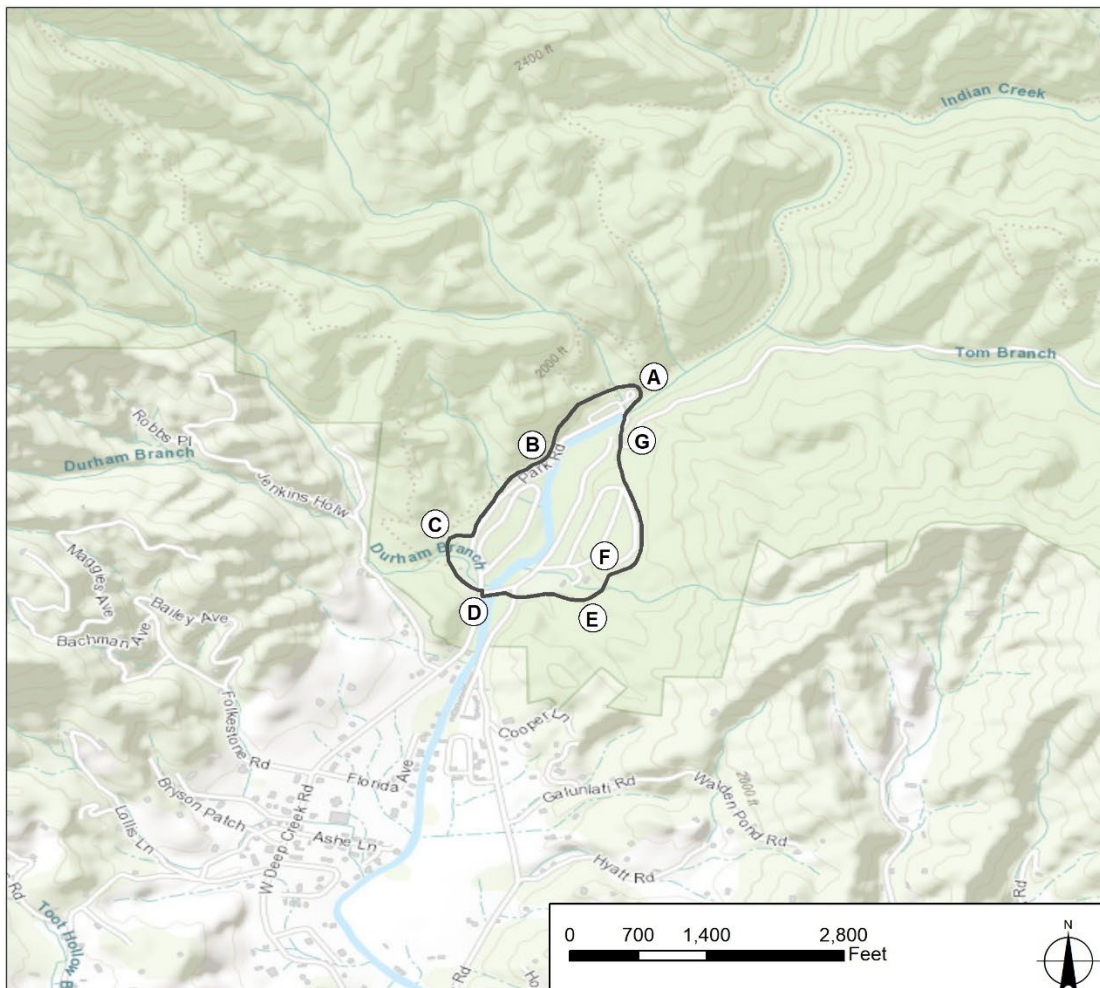
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Legend









	Site Boundary		18N -266288m E 3956811m N
	18N -266108m E 3957454m N		18N -266227m E 3956883m N
	18N -266356m E 3957264m N		18N -266166m E 3957288m N
	18N -266628m E 3957030m N		
	18N -266561m E 3956842m N		

Figure 2: Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area UTM Map.

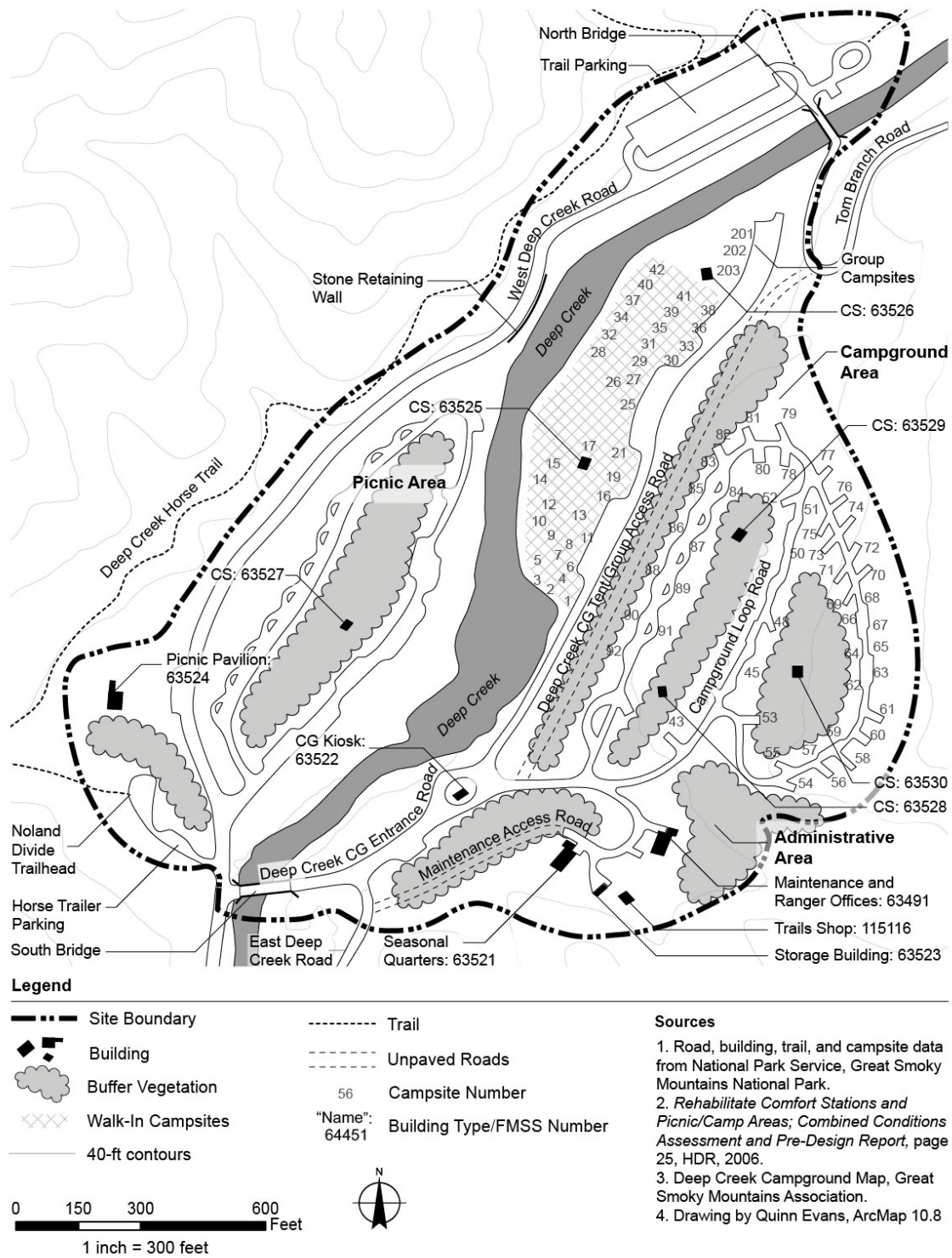


Figure 3: Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area Site Map.



Figure 4: Campsites and picnic areas adjacent to Deep Creek (QE 2020).



Figure 5: Campsite 66 has parallel parking along the road, is depressed several feet, and surrounded by woodland vegetation (QE 2020).



Figure 6: Topography and vegetation create separation and privacy between campsites (QE 2020).



Figure 7: Campsite 72 is elevated about the road and parking with steps providing access to the site (QE 2020).



Figure 8: Walk-in sites are arranged on a grid near Deep Creek, looking west (QE 2020).



Figure 9: Each walk-in site has a fire ring, picnic table, and tent pad (QE 2020).



Figure 10: Primary campground campsite with angled single-spur parking with rocks at edge of paving (QE 2020).



Figure 11: Loop type parking at picnic area, looking south (QE 2020).



Figure 12: Arc type parking at campground (QE 2020).



Figure 13: Graded terraces and vegetation create vertical separation and screening between the comfort station, site 62, and the road and parking (QE 2020).



Figure 14: Stone water fountain and spigot (QE 2020).



Figure 15: Message board at comfort station at walk-in campsites (QE 2020).



Figure 16: Rocks edge the parking lot at the walk-in sites (QE 2020).



Figure 17: Split log bridge (QE 2020).



Figure 18: Comfort Station 430/63525, looking north (QE 2020).



Figure 19: Comfort Station 431/63526, looking north (QE 2020).



Figure 20: Comfort Station 552/63528, looking south (QE 2020).



Figure 21: Comfort Station 558/63529, looking north (QE 2020).



Figure 22: Comfort Station 559/63530, looking southwest (QE 2020).



Figure 23: Comfort Station 462/63527, looking northwest (QE 2020).



Figure 24: Picnic Pavilion 349/63524, looking west (QE 2020).



Figure 25: Campground Kiosk 648/63522, looking northeast (QE 2020).



Figure 26: Ranger and Maintenance Office 437/63491, looking east (QE 2020).



Figure 27: Seasonal Quarters 519/63521, looking west (QE 2020).



Figure 28: Maintenance Storage Building 316/63523, looking south (QE 2020).



Figure 29: Maintenance Trail Building, looking east (QE 2020).



Figure 30: Toms Branch Bridge west abutments, facing northeast (QE 2020).



Figure 31: Toms Branch Bridge facing northeast (QE 2020).



Figure 32: Toms Branch Bridge facing east (QE 2020).



Figure 33: Toms Branch Bridge deck and rail, facing southeast (QE 2020).



Figure 34: Deep Creek Campground Entrance Bridge (QE 2020).



Figure 35: Deep Creek Campground Entrance Bridge (QE 2020).



Figure 36: Deep Creek Campground Entrance Bridge, facing east (QE 2020).



Figure 37: Stone retaining wall at West Deep Creek Road (QE 2020).



Figure 38: Stone retaining wall, fence, sidewalk, and guard posts at West Deep Creek Road, facing west (QE 2020).



Figure 39: Comparable Example, Smokemont Campground, pull-in and campsite (<https://www.flashpackingamerica.com/north-carolina-travel/smokemont-campground-smoky-mountains/>).



Figure 40: Comparable Example, Smokemont Campground, comfort station
[\(https://www.flashpackingamerica.com/north-carolina-travel/smokemont-campground-smoky-mountains/\)](https://www.flashpackingamerica.com/north-carolina-travel/smokemont-campground-smoky-mountains/).

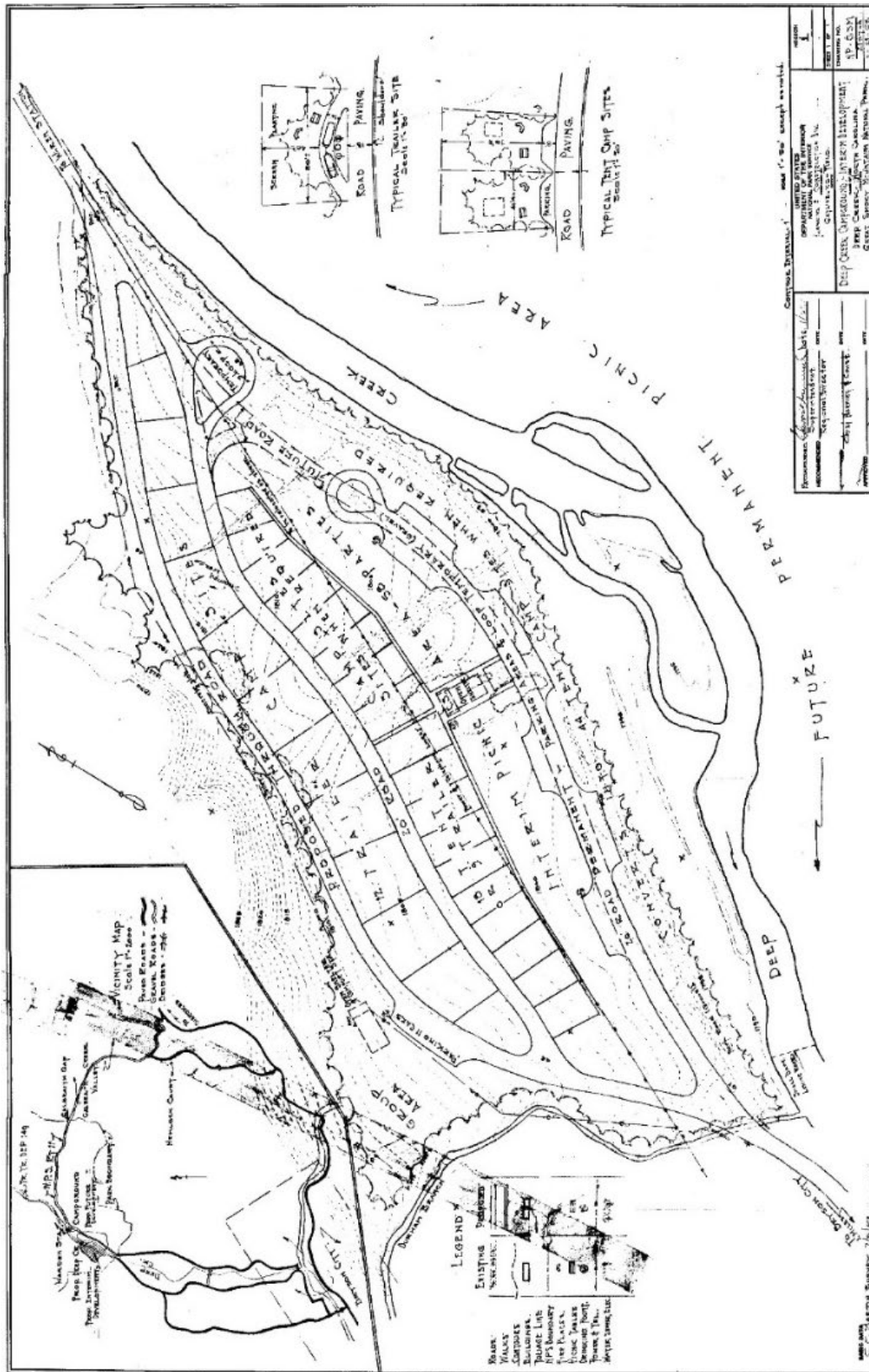


Figure 41: Deep Creek Campground Interim Development, 1953 (NPS, 1953).

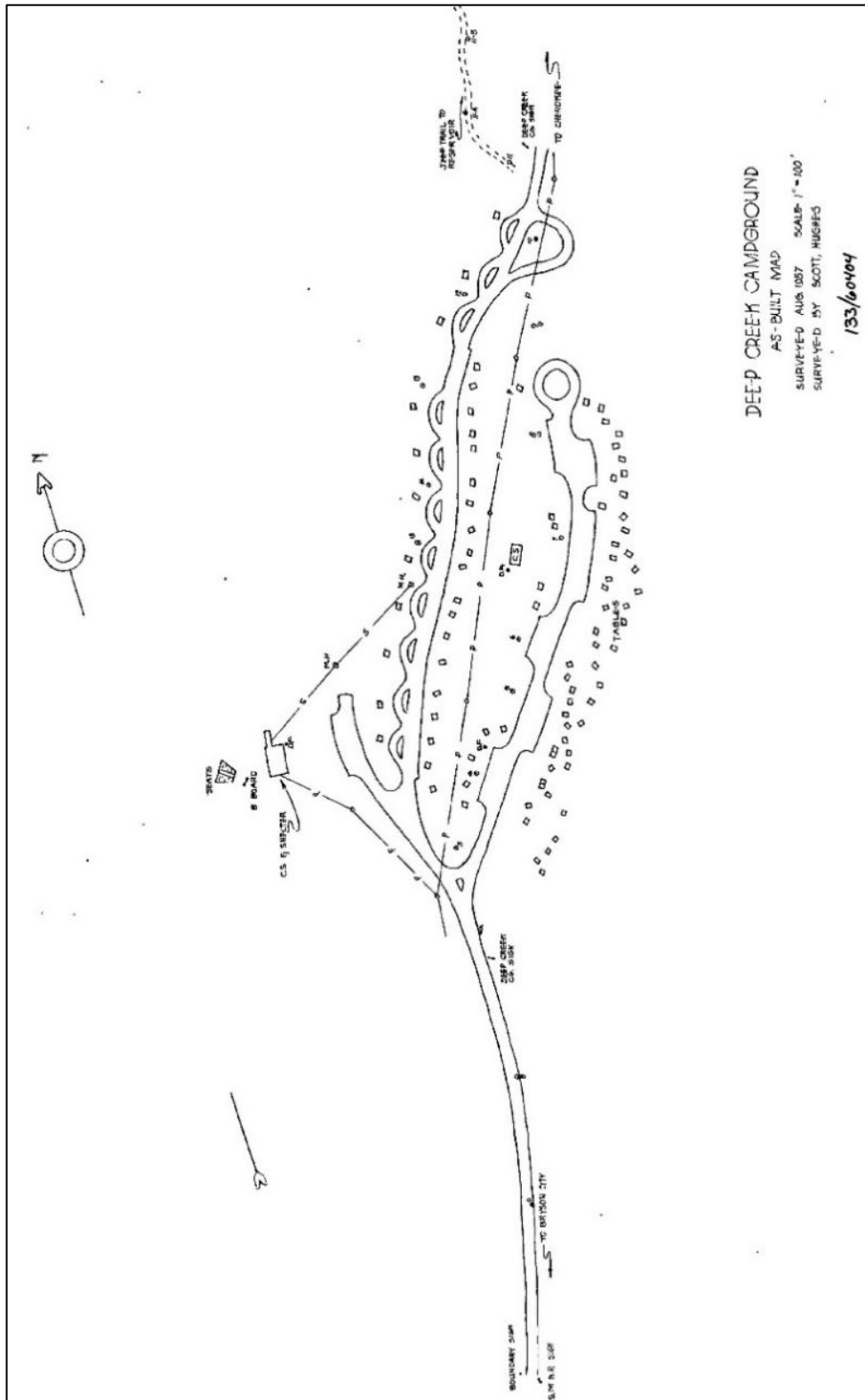


Figure 42: Deep Creek Campground As-Built Map, 1957 (NPS, 1957).

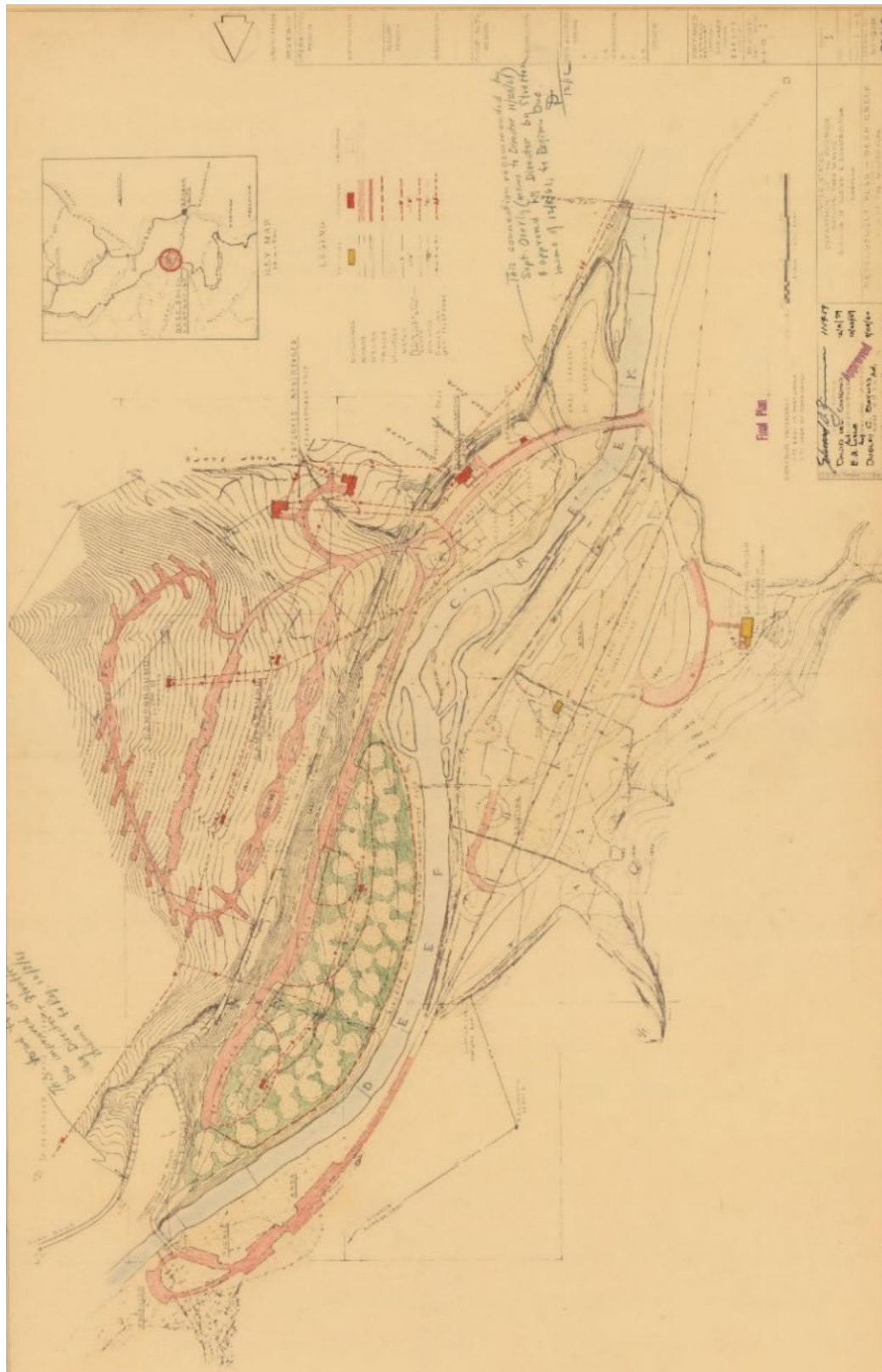


Figure 43: Map showing the expansion of the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area, 1959 (NPS, 1959).



Figure 44: Photograph of the Deep Creek Campground Picnic Pavilion 1954 (Open Parks Network, 1954).



Figure 45: Photograph of the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area picnic tables, 1954 (Open Parks Network, 1954).



Figure 46: Photograph of the campground comfort station, 1960 (Open Parks Network, 1960).



Figure 47: Photograph of the multiple dwelling at the Deep Creek Campground, 1961 (demolished) (Open Parks Network, 1961).



Figure 48: Photograph of the employee residence, 1961 (Open Parks Network, 1961).



Figure 49: Photograph of the amphitheater and projection screen (demolished), ca. 1963. The 1954 Picnic Pavilion is in the background (Open Parks Network, 1954).



Figure 50: Photograph of the mini-loops and pull-offs in the Deep Creek Campground, 1963. Comfort station in the background (Open Parks Network).




Figure 51: Photograph of the campground entrance kiosk (demolished) and signs, 1963 (Open Parks Network, 1963).

[External] Section 110 NHPA Consultation for the Consensus Determination of Eligibility for Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area

Hussey, Robert S <robert_hussey@nps.gov>

Thu 8/5/2021 10:16 PM

To: DCR - Environmental_Review <Environmental.Review@ncdcr.gov>

 1 attachments (376 KB)

GRSM_DOE_NCSHPO_2021_signed.pdf;

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

County: Swain
Lead Agency: National Park Service - Great Smoky Mountains
Review Type: Architectural
USGS Quad: Bryson City Quadrangle

RE: Section 110 NHPA Consultation for the Consensus Determination of Eligibility for Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area

Dear Ms. Bartos:

As part of the National Park Service's (NPS) efforts to fulfill the stewardship responsibilities set forth in Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act ("NHPA," 54 USC § 306101), the National Park Service (NPS) is commencing a nationwide effort to identify historic properties that were built between 1945 and 1972, a period widely known as the Mission 66 period of construction.

We are enclosing relevant documents for your reference. Notably, the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area Consensus Determination of Eligibility was developed in partnership with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) to assist parks in their efforts to improve accessibility and utility of National Register information, facilitate NPS planning efforts, and advance the NPS's stewardship of Mission 66 resources. You can access these documents through the link below.

 [Digital Copy](#)

We request your reply to our determination within 45 days of receiving this letter so that the Park can update our databases and proceed with management activities with the Deep Creek Campground/Picnic Area. If we do not receive a reply from you within that period, we will assume that you concur with our determination. Should you have questions, please contact Dr. R. Scott Hussey, Cultural Resource Manager, at (865) 430-0339 or robert_hussey@nps.gov. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Respectfully,

Scott

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