

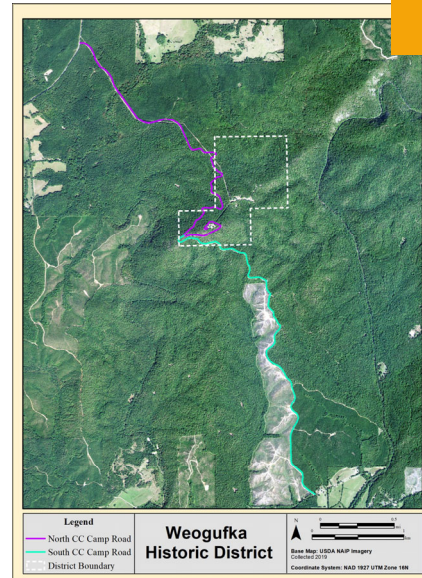


# Weoguka State Park National Register Nomination

BY ROSALIE PEARSON

## Historic District Boundary

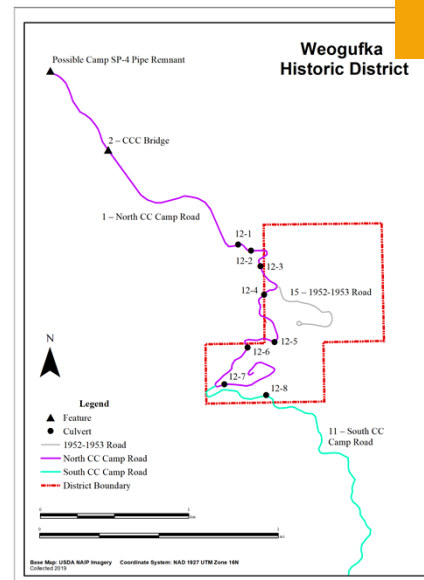
- ▶ The Weogufka State Park Historic District follows the current property boundary of the park.



When we originally documented the park we used the property boundary as the Historic District Boundary.

## CC Camp Roads

- ▶ There are resources along the CC Camp Road to the north and outside the current property boundaries.
- ▶ This includes the CCC Bridge and three stone culverts.
- ▶ It may be possible to include the roads with permission from Coosa County.
- ▶ CCC Camp Site is located on Kaul Lumber Property.

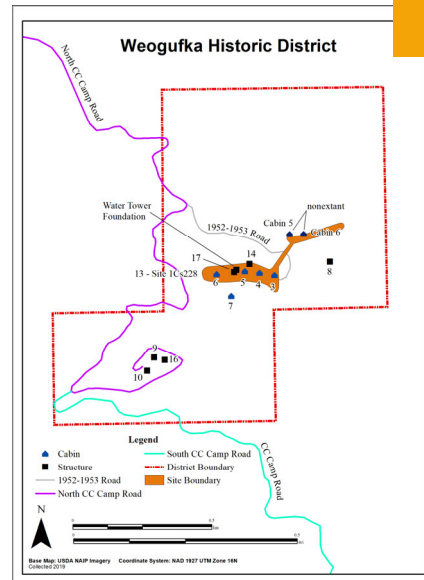


Both the North and South CC Camp Roads were once part of the park. Even though there are no identified resources outside of the property boundary to the south, it may still be beneficial to go ahead and get permission to include this section of road as well...if the county is willing.

The possible location of the CCC Camp Site is discussed in the Narrative of the nomination, however it is located on Hugh Kaul Foundation Property. While some limited walkovers have been done, no substantial surveying has been performed. It is good to mention it in the initial nomination, so that if the land ever comes into park ownership the ground work is laid to potentially have the site added to the NR nomination.

# Within Property Boundary

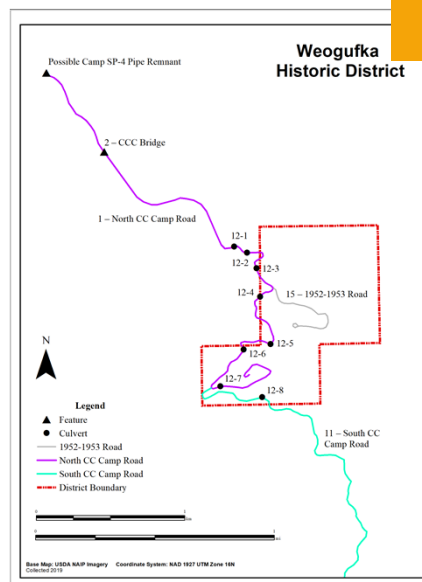
- ▶ The majority of the CCC buildings and structures are contained within the current property boundaries.





# Contributing Resources

- ▶ 1) North CC Camp Road
- ▶ 11) South CC Camp Road



## Contributing Resources

- ▶ 1) North CC Camp Road
- ▶ 1) South CC Camp Road
- ▶ 2) CCC Bridge



# Contributing Resources

- ▶ 1) North CC Camp Road
- ▶ 2) CCC Bridge
- ▶ 11) South CC Camp Road
- ▶ 12-1 thru 12-8) Stone culverts



## Contributing Resources

- ▶ 3) Cabin #1 (Park Cabin No. 4)
- ▶ 4) Cabin #2 (Park Cabin No. 3)
- ▶ 5) Cabin #3 (Park Cabin No. 2)
- ▶ 6) Caretaker's House (Ranger's Cabin)





## Contributing Resources

- ▶ 7) Cabin #4
- ▶ 8) Concrete dam, Reservoir, Pump House



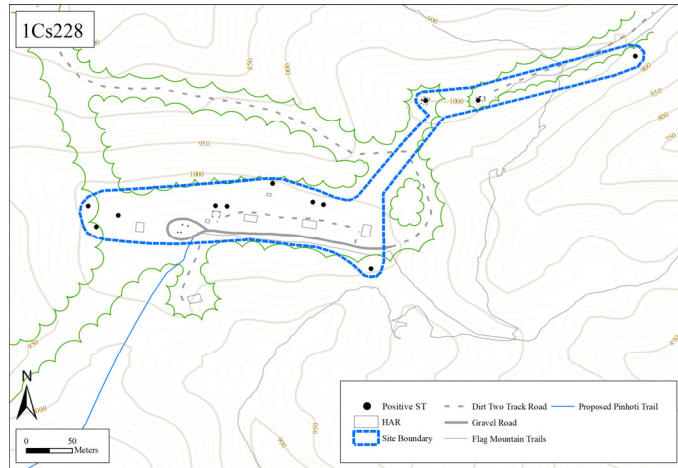
## Contributing Resources

- ▶ 9) Observation Tower, Museum, and Pavilion
- ▶ 10) Outhouse



# Contributing Resources

## ▶ 13) Site 1Cs228






# Site 1Cs228



# Noncontributing Resources



- ▶ 14) Ca. 1940s Outhouse
  - ▶ 15) 1952-1953 Road
  - ▶ 16) Radio Tower and assoc. Bldgs
  - ▶ 17) Pump House, late 1990s
- 

# Weogufka State Park Historic District Significance

- ▶ Criterion A, in the areas of Politics/Government, and Social History.
  - ▶ The park is significant to state history as one of the earliest CCC projects within Alabama and the integral role the CCC played in the continued development and preservation of Alabama state lands. Weogufka State Park is also significant to state history for the opportunities it afforded not only out of state enrollees, but locally employed men (LEM) from the surrounding area and the state of Alabama. In addition to the skills enrollees acquired in constructing the park (surveying, masonry, carpentry, woodwork, etc.), the CCC education program offered a chance to advance their education. It was hoped that these skills and opportunities would serve its enrollees in a post-depression world.
  - ▶ Period of significance spans from October 1933 to May of 1936.

When nominating something to the National Register (whether it is an individual property, a site, a district, an object, etc.) you must provide a statement demonstrating the historic significance of the thing being nominated.

# Alabama State Forests



- ▶ Motivated by citizens of Alabama and the Democratic Committee, State Lawmakers enacted the Forestry Act of 1923.
  - ▶ Established State Commission of Forestry
  - ▶ Beginning of statewide forestry program
  - ▶ By 1930, Alabama had created only one state park
    - ▶ Known as Talladega County State park, consisting of 421 acres along the Coosa River.
  - ▶ Three years later, the number increased to 11.
    - ▶ Talladega County, Cheaha, Geneva, Little River, Bromley, Sumter, St. Stephens, Fort Toulouse, The Lagoons, Weogufka, and Panther Creek.
    - ▶ This period of growth marked and influenced by the effects of the Great Depression, including the creation of the CCC.

# Great Depression and the New Deal

- ▶ What was originally thought to be a normal recession in the summer of 1929 quickly spiraled out of control, leading to the infamous stock market crash of 1929. Often referred to as the "Roaring 20s" or "Boom Times," this decade was followed by a long economic downturn that would come to be known as The Great Depression.
- ▶ President Herbert Hoover was not a proponent of using federal money for relief. Instead he believed the money should come from the state and private sectors.
- ▶ As need grew, Hoover created the Emergency Relief Division of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC).
  - ▶ railroads
  - ▶ Financial institutions
  - ▶ Business corporations



# Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

- ▶ Roosevelt's initial vision for the CCC included sending "500,000 men from cities and towns into the woods to plant trees, reduce fire hazards, clear streams, and check erosion."
- ▶ In March of 1933, Roosevelt signed the Emergency Conservation Work Act (ECW) mandating "the CCC recruit unemployed young men from urban areas to perform conservation work throughout the nation's forest, parks, and fields."
- ▶ An early amendment to the CCC bill stipulated work be carried out on public, as well as private lands.
  - ▶ While the American West held vast national forests, "there were only 6 million acres of national forest east of the Mississippi River," so these additional cooperative projects on private lands were essential. State agencies would provide "resources and equipment for projects on land owned by the state" and assist "with projects on private lands."



# Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

- ▶ The creation and organization of the CCC was a collaboration of various federal and state agencies.
  - ▶ Department of Labor would select men for enrollment.
  - ▶ Department of War would "feed, clothe, house, and condition them, and transport them to the camps."
  - ▶ Department of Agriculture and Interior:
    - ▶ create a work schedule based on a recently completed survey of American forests.
    - ▶ Select work projects
    - ▶ Supervise work
    - ▶ Administer Camps (task eventually handed over to Department of War)

The enormity of the task of building, equipping, staffing, and operating approximately 1,300 camps across the nation began to settle, and Major Stuart realized neither the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior possessed the necessary "men, equipment, or experience to administer the camps." So it was requested that the Army take over the responsibility of building and operating the camps, as well as transporting, feeding, and disciplining the enrollees.

## Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

- ▶ In order to get the program up and running by summer, the existing United States Employment Service was reconstituted, relegating the selection process to local relief agencies “which were already acquainted with the young men qualified by need to be CCC enrollees.” In this manner, a “state director of selection” would coordinate agency activities, and select men “on a state quota basis in proportion to population.”

# Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

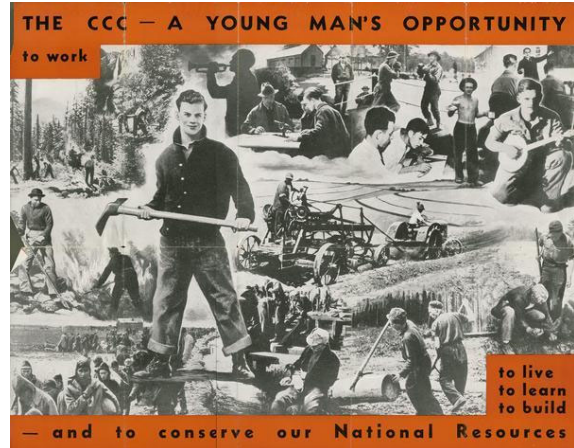
- ▶ Thousands of unemployed men from urban areas enlisted in the CCC
  - ▶ paid "\$30 per month plus food and subsistence"
  - ▶ Attended a 10 day conditioning camp prior to camp assignment
  - ▶ Clothing provided based on location, type of work, and time of year.
  - ▶ CCC camps housed approximately 200 men and consisted of,
    - ▶ Kitchen
    - ▶ Mess hall
    - ▶ Recreation building
    - ▶ School
    - ▶ Infirmary
    - ▶ barracks.



Conservation Corps enrollees

# Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

- ▶ CCC work varied from state to state, and included a variety of projects such as forest and land management, conservation, erosion control, building roads and bridges, and the development of national parks, as well as state parks and recreational areas.
- ▶ The CCC was the first relief program created, the longest running (1933-1942), and the most successful.



# National Park Service (NPS)

- ▶ NPS also played an integral role in the development of state lands.
- ▶ In 1933, thirteen states, including Alabama, had no state park system.
- ▶ NPS was tasked with
  - ▶ Supervising the CCC in these non-Federal park areas
  - ▶ Lending guidance and support in the design and development of state parks and recreational areas.

# National Park Service (NPS)



- ▶ NPS provided specialists to each camp, including:
  - ▶ Landscape architects
  - ▶ Architects
  - ▶ Engineers
- ▶ NPS employed State Park Inspectors to:
  - ▶ Visit each park
  - ▶ Act as a go between NPS and the camps relaying information about designs, techniques, and ways to improve the work.
  - ▶ Supervise the conservation activities.



## CCC in Alabama

- ▶ On December 31, 1932 Governor Benjamin Miller established the Alabama Relief Administration (ARA) to take advantage of ERCA money.
  - ▶ Funding was limited
  - ▶ Many southerners were too proud to apply for the relief offered
- ▶ As state director of relief in Alabama, Thad Holt played an integral role in the selection of CCC enrollees.
  - ▶ From 1933 to 1935, the local offices of the ARA selected approximately 13,326 men between the ages of 18 and 25 to serve in the CCC.
  - ▶ By September of 1933, 18 CCC camps had been established throughout Alabama.

As previously discussed, recruiting of enrollees for the CCC was relegated to local relief agencies.





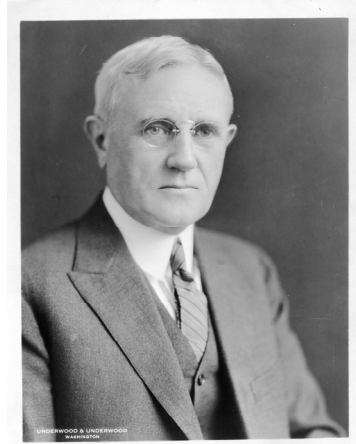
# Kaul Lumber Company

- ▶ As part of Reconstruction, the Southern Homestead Act of 1866 was meant to help relieve the effects of slavery by helping former slaves purchase and own their own land.
- ▶ The act opened 46 million acres of public lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi.
- ▶ African Americans could acquire 80 acres of land for a "small fee."
- ▶ Program had many flaws
  - ▶ Most former slaves couldn't afford the fee
  - ▶ Many Southern whites attempted to block African Americans from receiving information about the act, thereby forcing them into sharecropping or tenant farming.
  - ▶ A lot of the land was forest or swamp, not suitable for agriculture.
  - ▶ Eventually Southern whites were also allowed to claim land.

Over ten years only 3 million acres were granted, mostly to whites.

# Kaul Lumber Company

- ▶ The repeal of the Southern Homestead Act in 1876
  - ▶ Opened vast sections of the Southeast to timber investors
  - ▶ Companies were allowed to “purchase large, continuous blocks of virgin forests which they would access with newly improved railroad infrastructure.”
  - ▶ John Kaul was an early timber investor.



Hollins is located approximately 12 miles northeast of the town of Weogufka.



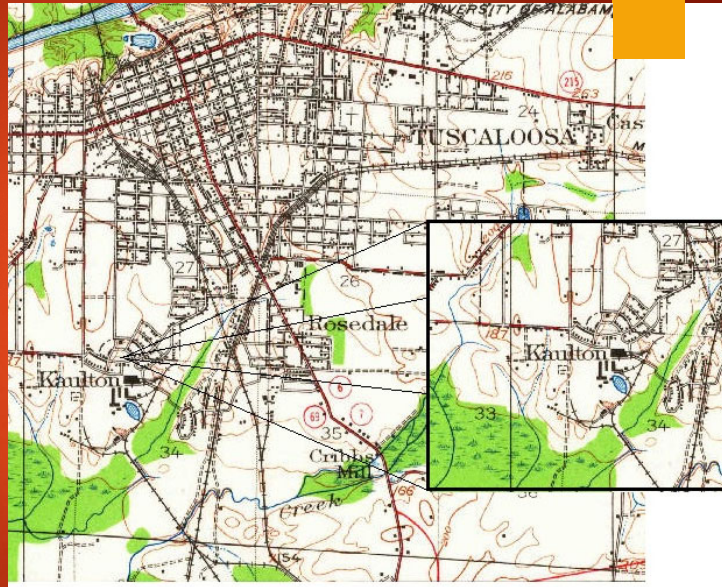
# Kaul Lumber Company



- ▶ Kaul Lumber Company was one of the "earliest 'industrial' forest landowners" in the state of Alabama.
- ▶ Between the late 1800s and early 1900s, Kaul Lumber Company owned "approximately 107,000 acres of forestland in the Central Pine Belt."
- ▶ In 1905, Franklin Reed, a forest assistant with the U.S. Forest Service inventoried approximately 30,000 acres of Kaul forestland in Coosa and Clay Counties, and 70,588 acres in Bibb, Hale, Perry and Tuscaloosa Counties
  - ▶ Over 80 percent was classified as long-leaf pine land.
- ▶ By 1909, the timber industry in the southeast was booming and Kaul was one of the leading forest product companies.

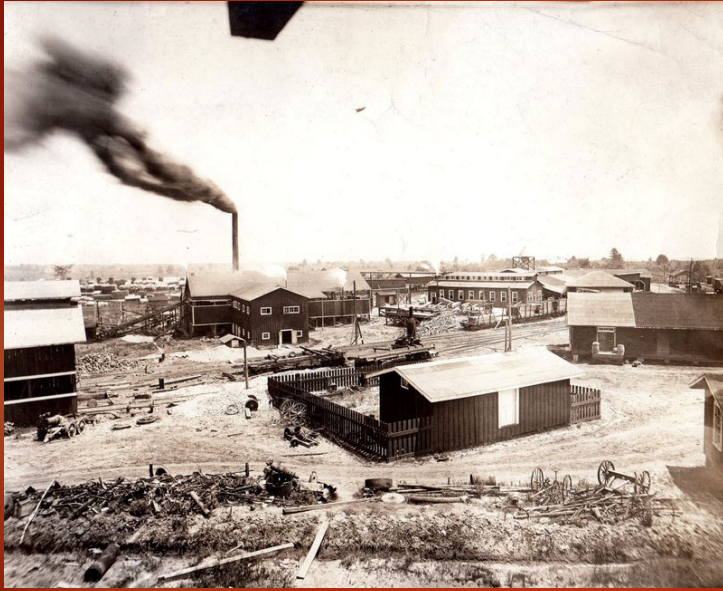
# Kaul Lumber Company

- ▶ Kaul closed the mill in Hollins in 1909.
- ▶ In 1912, built a state of the art mill in what is now southwestern Tuscaloosa.
  - ▶ Establishment of a company mill town, Kaulton.
  - ▶ Aim was to create "conditions promoting healthfulness and contentment, that we might have an efficient working force."



Kaulton included company store and offices, churches schools, clubhouses and parks, housing for its employees, and a "20 room Spanish-style hotel.

Form of welfare capitalism that was popular in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Kaulton  
Lumber  
Mill



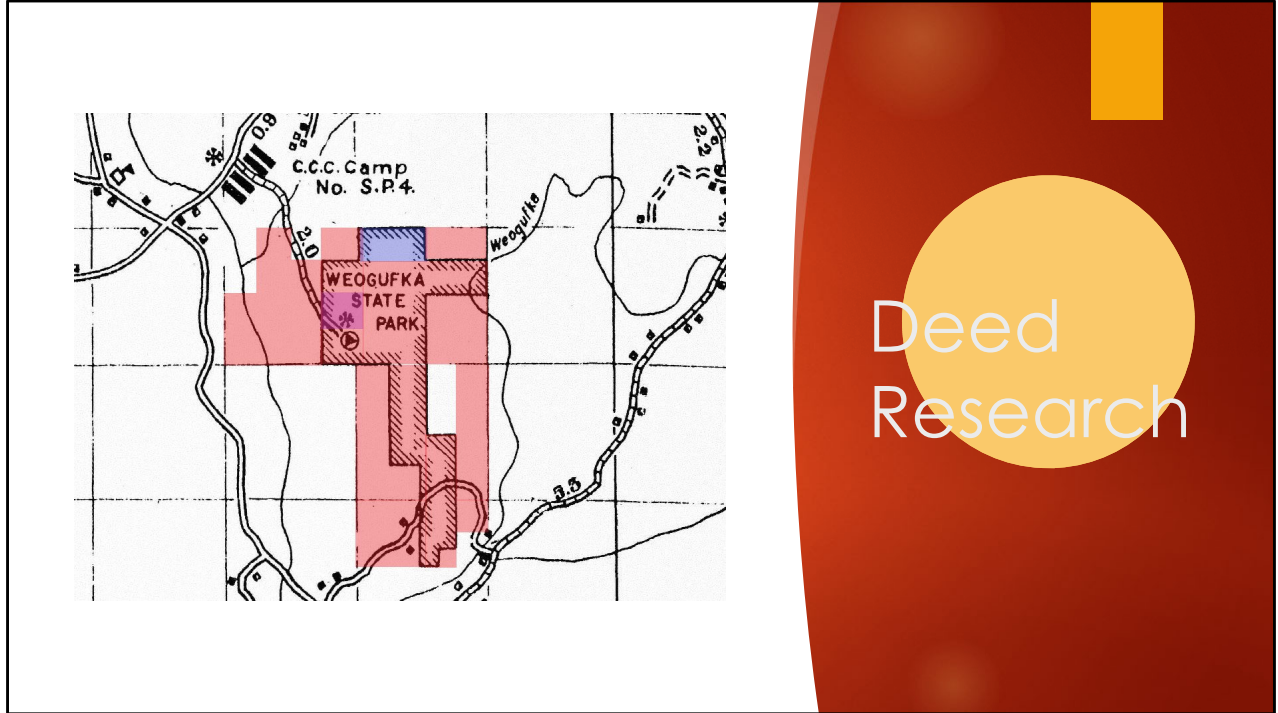
# Kaul Lumber Company



- ▶ “Unfavorable tax legislation, changes in public perception, overharvesting, and the Great Depression caused the Kaul Lumber Company to divest most of its land base” and cease operations at the Kaulton Mill in 1931.
- ▶ John Kaul passed away in September of 1931.
- ▶ Group of trustees headed by his son, Hugh Kaul, dissolve Kaul Land and Lumber Company a month later.
- ▶ Deed records from Coosa County Courthouse in Rockford list massive landholdings by Kaul Lumber Company at the end of 1932.
  - ▶ In Bibb, Clay, Coosa, Jefferson, Shelby, and Tuscaloosa counties.

# Kaul Lumber Company

- ▶ Franklin Reed's 1905 survey listed the block of Coosa County in which Weogufka State Park is located as "the least valuable block in the Coosa County tract because of its steep, rocky hills and ridges."
- ▶ A recent study indicates Kaul Lumber Company likely "intensively harvested the majority of the forest on Flagg Mountain prior to federal acquisition and CCC occupation."
  - ▶ Oldest Long-leaf trees in the stand date to 1750s.
  - ▶ Likely left untouched by Kaul due to poor form or inaccessibility.
  - ▶ Leaving these older long-leaf untouched aided in new growth and allowed Long-leaf to remain dominant.
- ▶ Deed records from Coosa County Courthouse in Rockford list massive landholdings by Kaul Lumber Company at the end of 1932.
  - ▶ In Bibb, Clay, Coosa, Jefferson, Shelby, and Tuscaloosa counties.

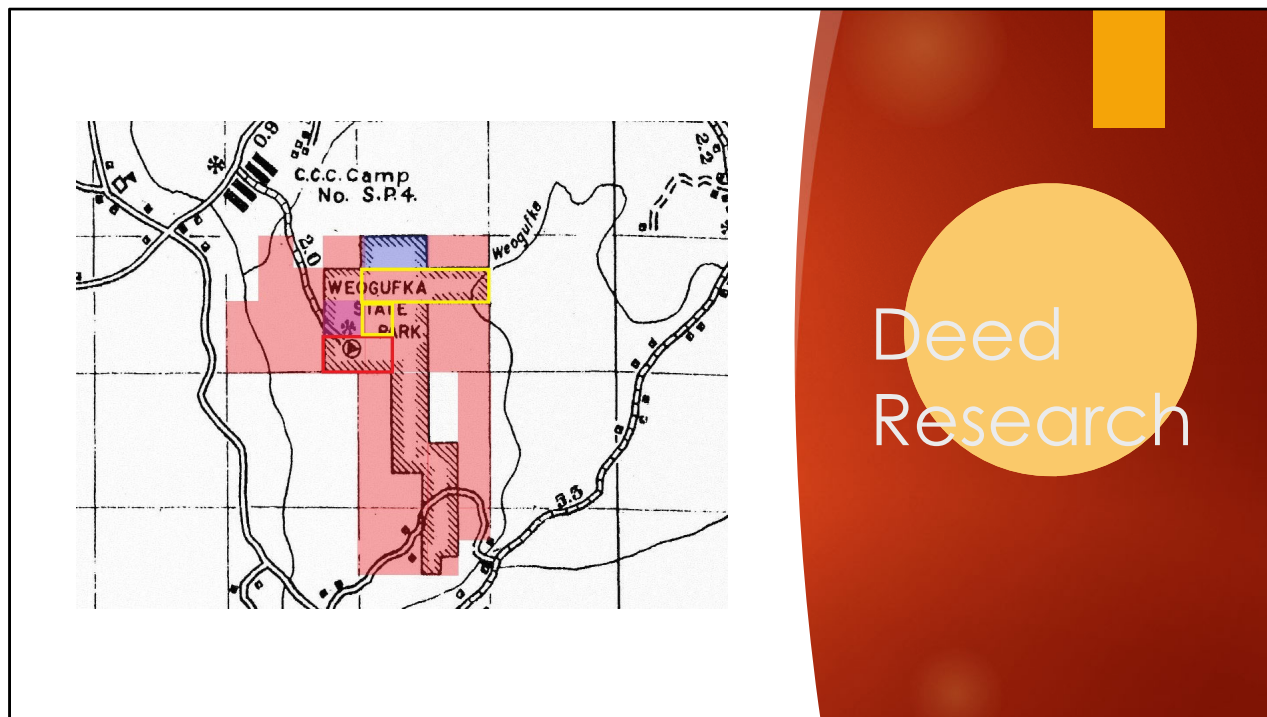


Red indicates property owned by Kaul Lumber Company in 1932 in Sections 14, 15, 23, and 26.

Kaul likely owned more land surrounding this, but we only documented the property in these sections.

Property in Purple, J.P. Atkinson was the original patent holder of this property.

Property in Blue, Hilliard E. Sanford was the original patent holder of this property. At some point, J.P. Atkinson becomes the owner.

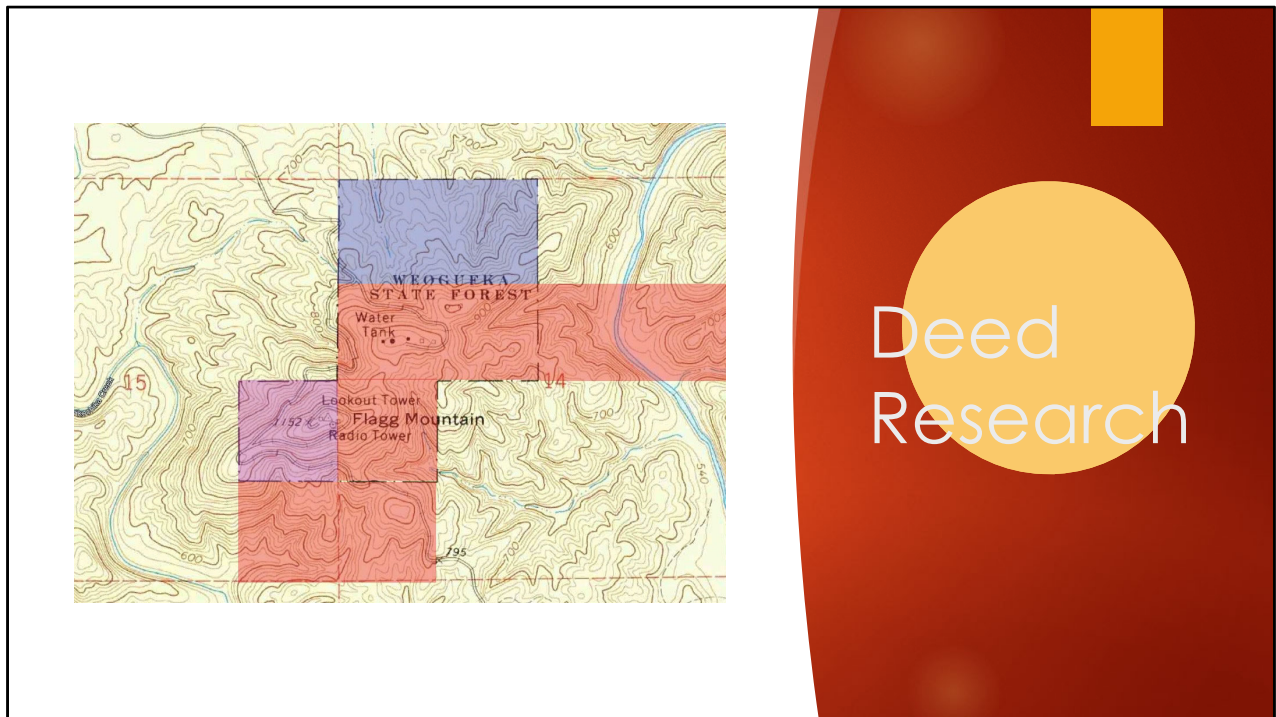


On March 29, 1933 – Kaul Lumber Company (signed by Hugh Kaul) sells SW ¼ of SW ¼ of S14, and SE ¼ of SE ¼ of S15 to Alabama State Commission of Forestry for \$80.  
 November 2, 1933 – Kaul Lumber Company (signed by Hugh Kaul) sells S ½ of N ½, and NW ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 14 to Alabama State Commission of Forestry for \$200. Retains oil, gas, mineral rights and rights associated with removing those things to both properties.

October 13, 1933 – J.P. Atkinson and his wife, Annie Lee, sold NE ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 15 (purple) to Alabama State Commission of Forestry for \$400. This included the summit of Flagg Mountain.

March 15, 1934 – J.P. Atkinson and his wife, sold the N ½ of NW ¼ of Section 14 to Alabama State Commission of Forestry for \$80.

This map, created in 1937 makes it look like the summit of flag mountain is located on Kaul Lumber Company Land. However.....



Looking at a more accurate topographic map from 1971, you can see that the summit is located within the property originally owned by J.P. Atkinson and sold directly to the commission. It would also explain why the commission paid \$400 for this one 40 acre section, when it paid substantially less other parcels of greater acreage.

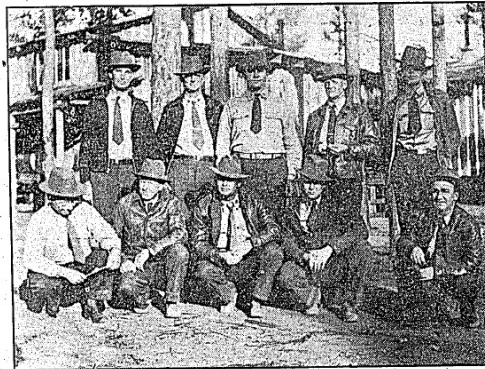
This all seems to have occurred after John Kaul died. Weogufka State Park isn't mentioned as a state park until 1933...again, after John Kaul has already passed.



## Joseph Park Atkinson

- ▶ Resident of Weogufka
- ▶ Listed as a "Forester" on the CCC Company 260 roster in 1934.
- ▶ Appears in a "National Park Service Personnel Weogufka State Park" photo in the December 1935 issue of Flag Mountain News by CCC Company 4498.

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PERSONNEL WEOGUFKA STATE PARK



Top row, reading left to right: G. B. Knight, J. P. Atkinson, R. E. Moore, R. E. Parke, T. M. Reed; lower row: H. C. Smith, F. Berryman, T. C. Radford, K. McElwee, S. W. Jones.

# Weogufka State Park Property

- ▶ Kaul Lumber Company owned the majority of the 800 acres that made up the original park.
  - ▶ We have two deeds showing direct sale of property from Kaul to the State.
- ▶ Joseph Park Atkinson owned 120 acres.
  - ▶ Have the deeds showing the direct sale to the State.
- ▶ Department of Interior video states, "A considerable amount of park land" was given back to the state "through gift or purchase at a nominal sum by large lumber companies," that once operated in the state of Alabama.
- ▶ Safe to say that Kaul did provide the majority of the land, but we don't know if it was sold, donated, or a combination of both.

So how did the state get the property for Weogufka State Park and from who?

Timber companies sometimes donated the lands or sold at nominal sum so that they didn't have to pay the taxes on low value property.



## Construction of Weogufka State Park, 1933-1936

- ▶ Weogufka State Park started out at 400 acres.
  - ▶ By 1936 it had doubled to 800 acres in size.
- ▶ Included 1,152 ft high Flagg Mountain.
- ▶ With the Long-leaf, hardwoods, and expansive views it was thought to be “one of the most scenic places of interest to visit in this section of Alabama.”
- ▶ In October of 1933, Lieutenant Toepfer and 15 men from CCC Company 260 arrived at Weogufka to begin clearing for the camp.
- ▶ Two weeks later, 175 men from Company 260 joined them from Fort Dix, New Jersey.

# Camp SP-4 Narrative Reports



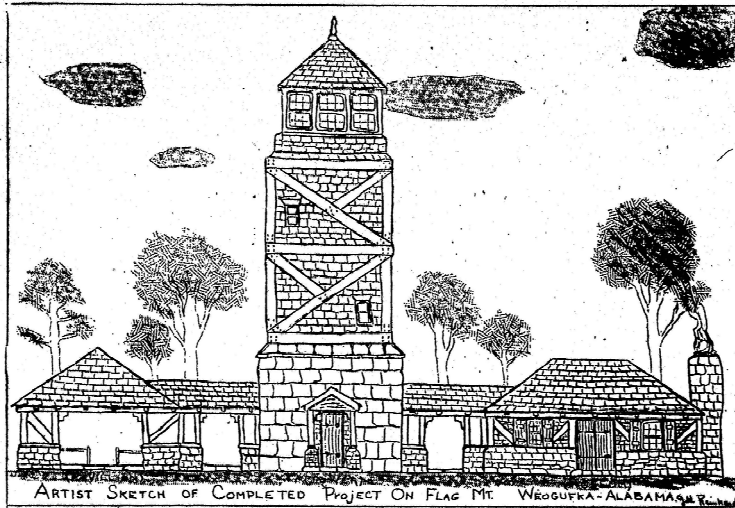
- ▶ November 1934
  - ▶ Work focused on roads and trails
  - ▶ Observation Tower 40 percent complete
- ▶ January 1935
  - ▶ All masonry except fireplace complete on Caretaker's House
  - ▶ Construction begun on Cabin #s 1-3



Caretaker's  
House,  
January  
1935



Finikochika  
Bridge,  
January  
1935



ARTIST SKETCH OF COMPLETED PROJECT ON FLAG MT. WEGUFA-ALABAMA

Artist's Sketch  
of Observation  
Tower,  
February 1935



Observation  
Tower,  
March 1935





Cabin #1,  
March  
1935





Cabin #2,  
March  
1935



Cabin #3,  
March  
1935



Caretaker's  
House,  
March 1935

# Camp SP-4 Narrative Reports



- ▶ May 1935
  - ▶ Due to a discharge of a large number of enrollees, Observation Tower construction suspended until men can be trained in masonry.
  - ▶ Cabin #1 and Caretaker's House almost complete.
  - ▶ Cabin #s 2 and 3 in varying stages of construction.
  - ▶ Construction of a "water hole dam of Cyclopean Concrete."
    - ▶ 35 ft in length
    - ▶ 4 ft average height
    - ▶ Water delivered to a 1,500 gallon storage tank built on a wooden tower on a hill south of the cabins.



Observation  
Tower, May  
1935





Cabin  
#1, May  
1935



Cyclopean  
Dam, 1935



# Camp SP-4 Narrative Reports



- ▶ July 1935
  - ▶ Cabin #4 is under construction.
  - ▶ Materials including sand, stone, and logs have been assembled for the construction of Cabin #s 5 and 6.
  - ▶ Parking area surrounded by a rustic wall of Native stone completed at end of road near tower.
  - ▶ By the end of July CCC Company 260 was transferred to Hawthorne, Nevada.
    - ▶ Replaced by CCC Company 4498, company of unconditioned men primarily from Mississippi.



Cabin  
#4, July  
1935



Materials  
for Cabin  
#s 5 and 6,  
July 1935

Could be associated with the piles of stone recorded as part of 1Cs228.



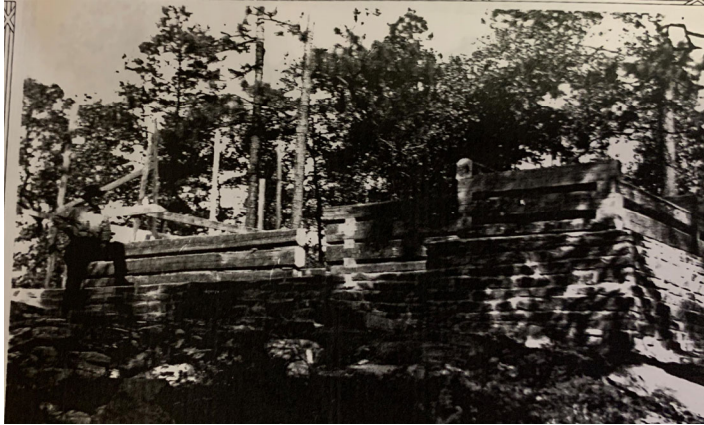
Parking  
Area by  
Tower,  
July 1935

Now gone.

# Camp SP-4 Narrative Reports



- ▶ September 1935
  - ▶ Museum and Pavilion completed.
  - ▶ Finishing touches on Observation Tower.
    - ▶ Coast and Geologic Bench Mark placed in middle of flagstone floor.
    - ▶ First survey marker placed at location in 1889, marked by a "beer bottle, sunk into the soft micaceous shale, which underlies the soil, until its mouth was 2 feet underground."
    - ▶ In 1930, a "standard bronze disc was set in the old drill hole which marked the station."
    - ▶ 1.5 inch hole drilled into the floor of the lookout room on top of the tower that would allow the tower to be used as a triangulation station
  - ▶ Construction on Cabin #4 underway, and Cabin #5 begun.



Cabin #4,  
September  
1935

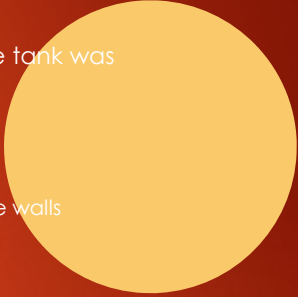




Cabin #5,  
September  
1935

# Camp SP-4 Narrative Reports



- ▶ September 1935
    - ▶ Due to poor water pressure, the 1,500 gallon cypress storage tank was moved to a higher elevation nearer the cabins.
    - ▶ Guardrails being constructed along mountain roads.
    - ▶ Construction begins of South CC Camp Road.
      - ▶ Including stone culverts ranging 18 to 24 inches in size with stone walls averaging 25 ft in length.
- 



Original  
Water  
Tower,  
September  
1935



Original  
Water  
Tower



Guardrails,  
September  
1935





Stone  
Culverts,  
September  
1935



# Camp SP-4 Narrative Reports

- ▶ November 1935
  - ▶ Cabin #s 4, 5, and 6 nearing completion
  - ▶ A total of eight semi-circle stone culverts were constructed along the South CC Camp Road.
  - ▶ Survey made and site located for a proposed bridge to span Weogufka Creek along the southern border of the park.
    - ▶ Don't think this project was ever started.



Cabin #5,  
November  
1935



Cabin #6,  
November  
1935

## Life in CCC Camp SP-4



- ▶ The CCC Camp was located on the eastern side of County Road 55 (Lay Dam Road).
- ▶ Camp included,
  - ▶ Wooden barracks
  - ▶ Mess hall
  - ▶ Officer's quarters
  - ▶ Recreation hall
  - ▶ Amenities continued to be added, such as pool tables in the recreation hall, and the construction of tennis courts.

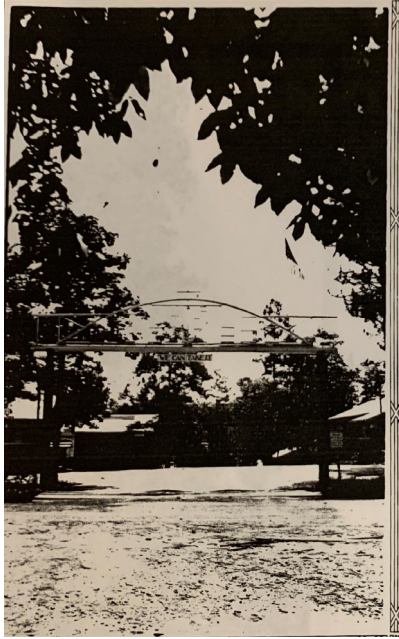


CCC  
Camp SP-  
4, June  
1935

## Life in CCC Camp SP-4

- ▶ A majority of the enrollees of Company 260 hailed from Upper New York, New York City, and New Jersey.
  - ▶ Urban life to this remote forest and agricultural region was somewhat of a shock.
  - ▶ Many men had only grammar school level education, while others were illiterate.
  - ▶ Many were malnourished.
  - ▶ Work was not easy, but many embraced the isolation and hardships.
    - ▶ The Company slogan was "We can take it."





Camp SP-4  
Entrance,  
June 1935

## Life in CCC Camp SP-4



- ▶ The men enjoyed a variety of sports.
  - ▶ Volleyball
  - ▶ Baseball
  - ▶ Horseshoes
  - ▶ Football
  - ▶ Basketball
  - ▶ Bowling (in Sylacauga)
- ▶ One truck load of men allowed to travel to picture shows in Sylacauga every night.
- ▶ Company held dances in recreation hall twice a month, and regularly fraternized with locals.
- ▶ Six men married local girls.

## Life in CCC Camp SP-4

- ▶ Men started their own newspaper, the *Reflector*.
  - ▶ Ran twice a month.
  - ▶ Reported on enrollees, leaders, progress in the park, and upcoming events.
  - ▶ Humorous and satirical columns were also included.



## Life in CCC Camp SP-4



- ▶ Through their labor they learned:
  - ▶ Surveying
  - ▶ Carpentry
  - ▶ Woodworking
  - ▶ Masonry
- ▶ CCC also offered education programs
  - ▶ Auto mechanics, Bookkeeping, Business English, Current Events, Citizenship, Stage and Theatre, General Science, Journalism, Math, Reading and Writing, Photography, etc.
  - ▶ Chance to advance their education.
  - ▶ It was hoped these skills and opportunities would serve its enrollees in a post-depression world.

# Weogufka State Park Historic District Significance

- ▶ Criterion C, in the areas of Architecture.
  - ▶ The park is an excellent example of Rustic Architecture. The structures within the park exemplify the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement on Rustic Architecture, as well as the unique craftsmanship exhibited in the various log cabin construction methods. They also exhibit an attempt to implement regional construction methods and designs, particularly in the embrace of local vernacular architecture in the form of three dogtrot style cabins. These cabins represent the only remaining dogtrot style cabins constructed by the CCC in the State of Alabama.
  - ▶ Period of significance spans from October 1933 to May of 1936.

# Rustic Style Architecture



- ▶ Rooted in the Arts and Crafts movement
  - ▶ In response to the mass-produced, banal decorative arts, and lack of style and craftsmanship brought about by the Industrial Revolution.
  - ▶ Arts and Crafts style has an “emphasis on native materials, skilled workmanship, sensitivity to nature, and indigenous motifs.”
  - ▶ This movement had a setback due to World War I.
    - ▶ This type of craftsmanship too expensive in the post-war world.
  - ▶ The revival of this style, particularly in park architecture credited to members of the University of California alumni, and NPS.

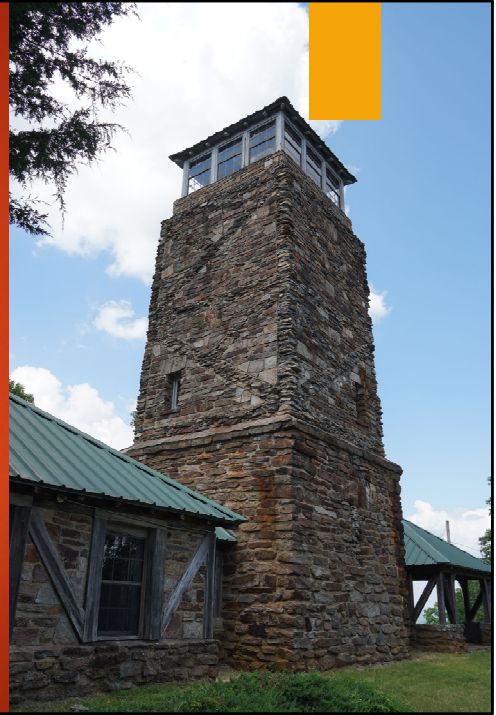


# Rustic Style Architecture

- ▶ Found a revival with the creation of the National Park Service.
  - ▶ In the early 1920s, the Landscape Engineering Department turned out the first examples of "NPS-rustic" which sought to not only "harmonize visually," but also "harmonize in a cultural sense."
    - ▶ Attempts were made to implement construction methods that mimicked regional construction methods. "Perhaps for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature."
  - ▶ Setback when private funding disappeared following the Stock Market Crash of 1929.
  - ▶ Inauguration of President Roosevelt in 1933, and the subsequent creation of the CCC a month later, that new life was breathed into future architecture within NPS.

## Rustic Style Architecture

- ▶ All of the buildings and structures constructed by the CCC in Weogufka State Park followed the Rustic Architecture style. Rustic Architecture seeks to harmonize with its environment by combining "native wood and stone with convincingly native styles to create visually appealing structures that seemed to fit naturally within the majestic landscapes."



# Dogtrot

- ▶ Weogufka State Park is also significant based on the presence of three CCC constructed dogtrot style cabins.
- ▶ Dogtrot style house is comprised of two log cabin pens, separated by an open passageway, and contained under a continuous roof.
- ▶ As air passed through the open-passage doors opening onto the breezeway, as well as open windows in the pens, helped to cool the structures in the hot summer months.



# Dogtrot

- ▶ Architectural historian Robert Gamble describes the dogtrot style house as “the dwelling of the common man in antebellum Alabama.”
- ▶ A study of folk houses in Alabama indicated the “greatest density of the dogtrot type was found in the Piedmont, where in one eastern section, it accounted for about one-third of all houses.”
  - ▶ The patterns of distribution throughout Alabama “reflect the use of the dogtrot type which has been the traditional house of yeoman farmers in Alabama.”
  - ▶ Rustic Architecture also seeks to incorporate styles and designs common to the surrounding region.
    - ▶ LEMs would have aided in the process of designing cabins or structures with their intimate knowledge of the region.
    - ▶ It is no wonder, based on its location in the western section of the Piedmont, that NPS and the CCC chose to construct three dogtrot style cabins at Weogufka State Park.

# Dogtrot

- ▶ Weogufka State Park has the only three surviving dogtrot style cabins constructed by the CCC in Alabama.
- ▶ Little River dogtrot destroyed in 2019.
- ▶ Scoutshire Woods (Cedar Creek Regional Park) has a dogtrot-esque building.



Beyond the Piedmont, Gamble suggests that the dogtrot remained a prevalent dwelling “in some isolated hill districts of northern Alabama, and in the coastal pinelands...as late as World War I” (Gamble 1990:24). This could account for the presence of dogtrot style cabins in Little River State Park, located in Escambia County, as well as the dogtrot-esque cabin in Scoutshire Woods near Citronelle, Alabama.



# Alabama State and Regional Parks

- ▶ Mound State Monument Park
  - ▶ Archaeological park
  - ▶ Erosion control
  - ▶ Archaeological excavation
  - ▶ Different style architecture
    - ▶ Museum only Concrete building constructed by the CCC in Alabama.
- ▶ Gulf Shores State Park
  - ▶ Beach and water recreation spot
  - ▶ Mostly wood structures (stone and gravel hard to come by)
  - ▶ Footbridges, piers, and bathhouses.

In 1939, rather than trying to develop all 14, they chose the five most prominent for further development.

Cheaha, Desoto, and Monte Sano were chosen for their outstanding mountain scenery. Gulf State Park for its location and high attendance. Chewacla to provide balance in park distribution.

Mound State Monument (Moundville Archaeological Park).

Common CCC projects clearing, constructing roads, foot trails, truck trails, fire breaks, running telephone lines, building bridges and culverts, parking areas, etc. were performed in all of the 14 Alabama State Parks. Guardrails common mountain parks. Recreational structures fireplaces, stone grills, picnic shelters, trailside shelters, and pavilions. Some parks included earthen, concrete, or masonry dams which created artificial lakes for the public's enjoyment. A few parks featured swimming pools or golf courses. CCC dwellings and public buildings included overnight cabins, cottages, Caretaker or Custodian Houses, contact stations, bathhouses, dining halls, recreation halls, and combination buildings. Water lines, sewer systems, reservoirs, and water towers were often constructed to provide



water to the dwellings and public structures. Large scale buildings Observation Towers, Hotels, or Lodges. Stonework retaining walls, and entrance portals, was typical. Finally, finishing touches including signage and markers, picnic benches, and cabin furniture were often constructed by the CCC.

Mound and gulf distinctly different.

## Alabama State and Regional Parks

- ▶ Cheaha, Desoto, Monte Sano, Chewacla
  - ▶ Larger acreage
  - ▶ Larger structures
    - ▶ Tower
    - ▶ Lodges
    - ▶ Hotels
  - ▶ Stone and wood construction
  - ▶ Still retain CCC structures
  - ▶ Continued to develop and change through time



Top: Cheaha

Bottom: Monte Sano

# Alabama State and Regional Parks

- ▶ Cedar Creek Regional Park
  - ▶ Mobile County Public School System
  - ▶ Girl Scouts of Alabama since 1945.
  - ▶ Known as Scoutshire Woods.
  - ▶ Masonry along dam
  - ▶ Recreation Hall
  - ▶ Dining Hall
  - ▶ Wood cabins
  - ▶ CCC Camp site



Dining Hall fireplace

Recreation Hall exterior

# Alabama State and Regional Parks

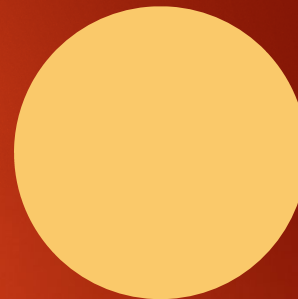
- ▶ Chattahoochie Regional Park (Chattahoochee State Park)
  - ▶ Part of State Lands Program "Education Trust Fund" used for the "support, maintenance and development of public education in Alabama, debt service and capital improvements relating to educational facilities, and other functions related to educating the state's citizens."
  - ▶ Hurricane Michael caused devastating damage, currently closed.



# Alabama State and Regional Parks



- ▶ Valley Creek Regional Park (Paul Grist State Park)
  - ▶ Earthen Dam and spillway
  - ▶ Stone wall in swimming area
  - ▶ One cabin (used for storage)
  - ▶ Stone chimneys and rock foundations.
- ▶ Oak Mountain State Park
  - ▶ Dam and Lake
  - ▶ Staff Houses
  - ▶ Peavine Pavilion



# Alabama State and Regional Parks

- ▶ Chickasaw Regional Park
  - ▶ Pavilion
  - ▶ Caretaker's House and garage
    - ▶ House designed to resemble classical architecture of an old residence in the local area.





# Alabama State and Regional Parks

- ▶ Little River Regional Park (Claude D. Kelly Recreational Area)
  - ▶ Prior to 2019
    - ▶ Office
    - ▶ Cabin (dogtrot)
    - ▶ Pavilion
  - ▶ Straight line winds or a tornado severely damaged the park.
    - ▶ Only pavilion remains



Little River, Panther Creek, and Weogufka Regional Parks were turned over to Commission of Forestry to be operated as State Forests.

# Alabama State and Regional Parks



- ▶ Geneva State Park (Panther Creek Regional Park?)
  - ▶ Original 3,200 acres of property donated to State of Alabama by Jackson Lumber Company.
  - ▶ Today includes 7,200 acres of land.
  - ▶ Has generated millions for the State of Alabama through the sale of harvested timber from the property.
  - ▶ Only remaining CCC structures are a stone chimney from a cabin, and some scattered bricks near another cabin site.

# Alabama State and Regional Parks



- ▶ Weogufka Regional Park (Weogufka State Park)
  - ▶ Has the feel of a smaller regional park, but with Flagg Mountain and the Observation Tower shares similarities to the larger parks like Cheaha.
  - ▶ Like many others, it was not utilized for its original intention.
    - ▶ From 1940s to late 1990s used as a fire lookout.
    - ▶ There have been some updates, but they have been generally small.
  - ▶ Still retains a high percentage of its original CCC structures.
    - ▶ 73 percent
    - ▶ Cabin #s 5 and 6, and original water tower, nonextant.
  - ▶ Good example of Rustic style architecture.
    - ▶ Only known surviving dogtrot style cabins constructed by the CCC in Alabama.

# Historic Integrity



- ▶ Although some minor alterations and changes have been made to Weogufka State Park, the NR Nomination shows that overall the park still retains historic integrity in regards to:
  - ▶ Location
  - ▶ Design
  - ▶ Setting
  - ▶ Materials
  - ▶ Workmanship
  - ▶ Feeling
  - ▶ Association

Questions?

