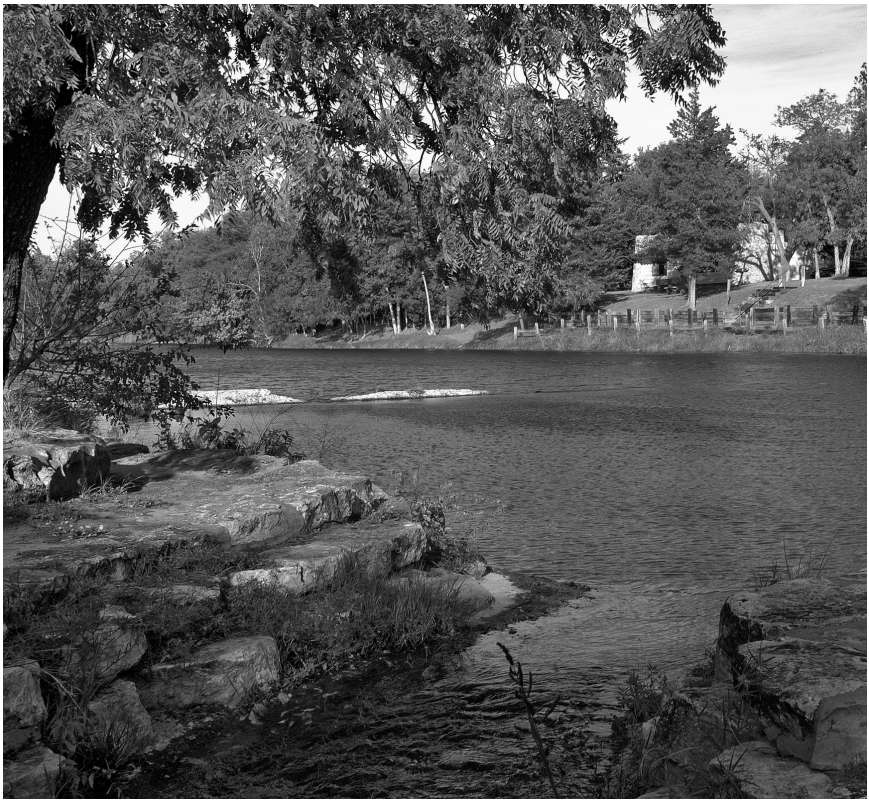
Auto-Walking Tour of Boiling Springs State Park's Historic Structures

A guide to some of Boiling Springs State Park's distinctive and important historic structures.



OKLAHOMA
STATE PARKS

Introduction

President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" program in 1933 gave meaningful work to millions of unemployed Americans. Through the New Deal, roads, bridges and dams were built; forests and shelter-belts were planted; and city, state and national park facilities were constructed. The New Deal provided the impetus for the development of Oklahoma's first state parks. Boiling Springs State Park has the distinction of being one of those parks that were built during the New Deal era of the 1930's.

One of the most important programs within Roosevelt's New Deal was the Civilian Conservation Corps. The chief purposes of the CCC were to conserve the nation's natural resources and to provide jobs and job training for unemployed youth. Through the combined talents and hard work of National Park Service architects, Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees, and U.S. Army camp supervisors, new parks were built throughout America. Each CCC camp consisted of about 200 unmarried men, who were between the ages of 18 and 25. Each enrolled received a monthly wage of $30, of which $25 was sent home to help their family.

Long before western Oklahoma was settled by hardy pioneers, Boiling Springs was well-known by Plains Indians who came here to camp and rest. After the Land Run of 1893 this area was part of a pioneer homestead.

In 1925 William Shaul purchased this farm with the idea of making it a recreation area; by 1930 he built Shaul's Lake.

With the New Deal of 1933, William Shaul and the citizens of Woodward seized on the historic opportunity to turn Shaul's Lake into a state park. In 1935, Woodward approved a bond issue that allowed the community to purchase 520 acres of land and the lake from Mr. Shaul. This, combined with some additional land that was later purchased by the State of Oklahoma, became Boiling Springs State Park.

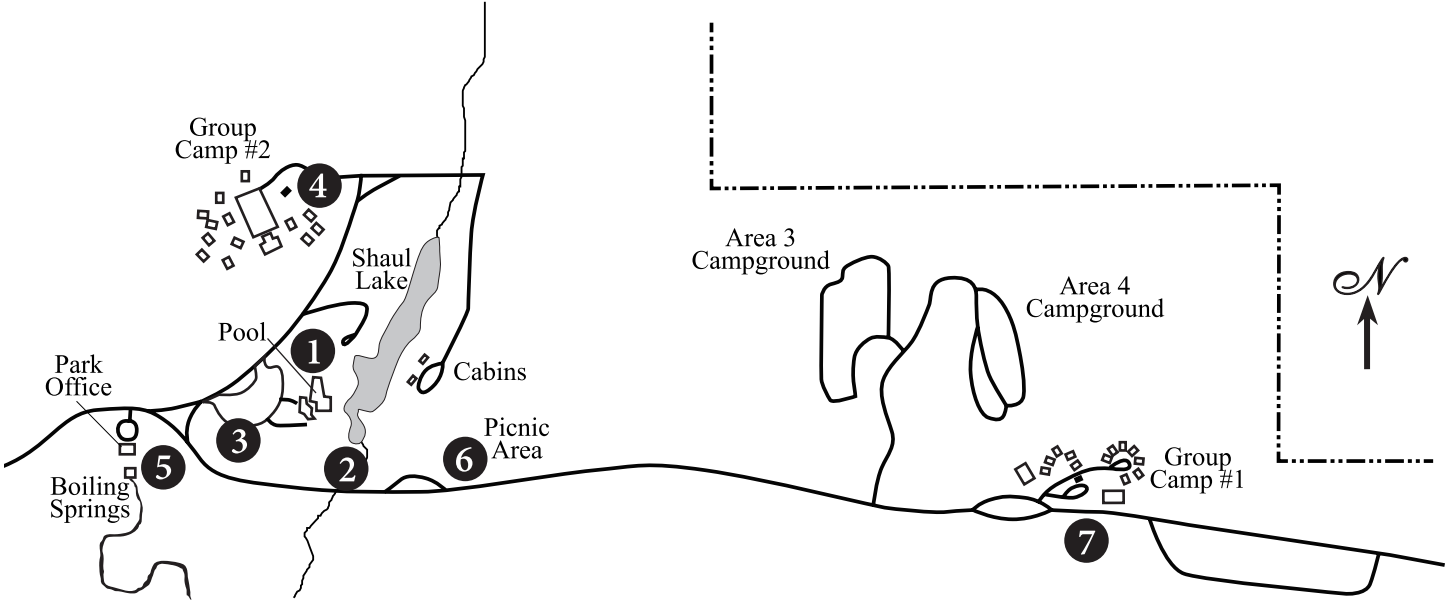
Boiling Springs, as well as other park facilities of this region, were designed by Herbert Maier and his team of architects, engineers and landscape designers. Based on his design work in the 1920's at Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks, Maier was highly acclaimed for his "rustic" park structures. Maier's buildings were made of native stone and large timbers. They were designed so as to blend into the landscape.

L. to R. Dr. Bumpus, Kenneth Charley and Herbert Maier at Norris Museum Construction within Yellowstone National Park, 1929. Courtesy National Parks Service.

Description of the Auto and Walking Tour

This tour highlights some of Boiling Springs' historic CCC structures.

Those facilities that are easily viewed from a car or that have a hard-surfaced walkway are listed in this pamphlet as (Easy View).


Group
Camp #2
4
Shaul
Lake
Pool
1
Park
Office
Cabins
3
Picnic
Area
6
5
2
Boiling
Springs
Area 3
Campground
Area 4
Campground
N
Group
Camp #1
7

Before walking up to cabins, picnic pavilions and group camp facilities, please check with the park office to determine if these facilities are already being used by other park guests. If they are rented, please do not walk near to the buildings.

For Your Safety

Please be careful as you stop your vehicle and walk to each viewing station. Park your vehicle off of the roadway. Always be alert to traffic and never let children walk unattended. Always keep children at your side.

Station No. 1
Pool Bathhouse

The hub of the park on hot summer days, this bathhouse is an excellent example of the National Park Service's "rustic" architecture. Through careful design and the use of native stone and rough-hewn timbers, this building blends into the site. The whitish-gray stone used by the CCC throughout this park is dolomite. This rock was quarried southeast of Woodward.

There wasn't a swimming pool when this bathhouse first opened. The CCC built a large swimming area from a portion of Shaul Lake. (Easy View)

Station No. 2 Children's Wading Pool Area

Below Shaul Lake the CCC's built a stone-lined wading pool for children. Although the rocky stream bank below this wading pool appears to be natural, all of this rock was put in place by the CCC.

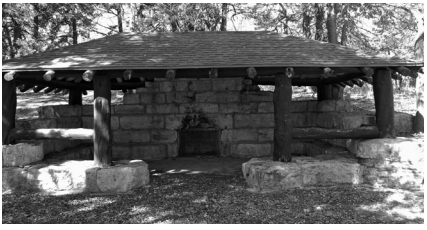
Station No. 3 Walkways and Parking Lot
Notice the stone that lines the bathhouse parking lot. This rockwork, along with stone walkways throughout the park, were all constructed by the CCC. (Easy View)

Station No. 4 Group Camp #2
The cabins of this group camp and the water tower were built by the CCC. The original CCC camp was located in the meadow that is below this group camp. The trees that encircle the group camp were planted by the CCC. (Easy View)

Station No. 5 Park Office-Boiling Springs

The stone-lined parking lot at the park office, the park entrance sign and nearby keystone culvert, and an abandoned pumphouse near the Boiling Springs, are all part of this park's CCC heritage. (Easy View)

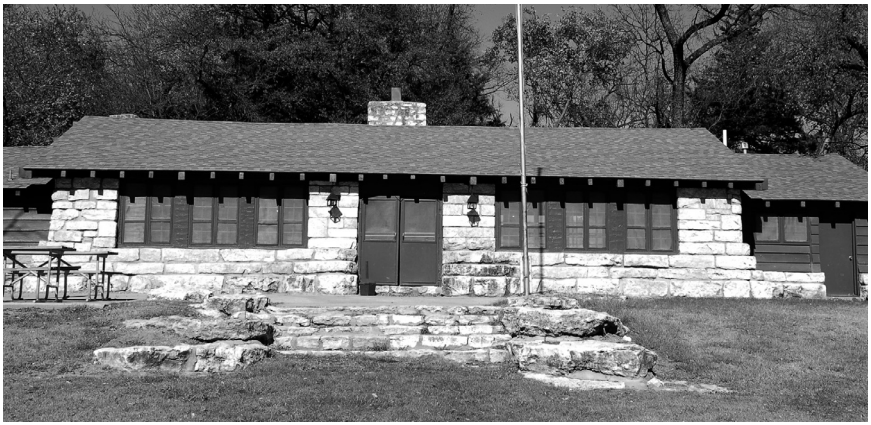
Station No. 6 Picnic Area
Just past the playground area the roadway crosses a shallow drainage. Below the road is a beautiful stone culvert built by the CCC. On the ridge above this picnic area is an old CCC picnic pavilion. A stone walkway leads to this pavilion. Near



the playground is a granite monument that recognizes the many lasting contributions of the men of the CCC.

Station No. 7 Group Camp #1

Unlike many of the CCC structures in eastern Oklahoma that have a woodsy look, the National Park Service architects wanted their park buildings in western Oklahoma to have a Southwestern appearance. This beautiful community building is an excellent example of this design theme. This building's horizontal line and careful use of native stone reflect the style of architectural design called Spanish-Pueblo Revival.



In addition to this community building, the CCC also built several cabins in group camp #1. Stone walkways and road culverts further attest to the skill and craftsmanship of both the National Park Service architects and the CCC construction crews. (Easy View)

Interested in the Restoration and Preservation of this Park's Historic Structures?

Contact Oklahoma State Parks at
(405) 230-8300
to find out ways that you can help to preserve these irreplaceable structures.