

Auto-Walking Tour of Osage Hills State Park's Historic Structures

**A guide to some of Osage Hills State Park's
distinctive and important historic structures.**



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. Osage Hills State Park has the distinction of being one of those parks that was 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 and the Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees, and U.S. Army camp supervisors, new parks were built throughout America.

Nearly all of the land for Osage Hills State Park was purchased through donations that were made by the citizens of nearby Bartlesville and Pawhuska. Following land acquisition, park



construction began in 1936. CCC Company 895, Camp # SP-24-0, was one of 35 CCC camps in Oklahoma. The camp operated under the supervision of the United States Army. At any one time, about 200 young men lived in the CCC camp. At this CCC camp, the enrollees were unmarried men, between the ages of 18 and 25. Most enrollees received a monthly wage of \$30, of which \$25 was sent home to help their family.



Osage Hills State Park, as well as other park facilities of this region, were designed by Herbert Maier and his team



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

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.

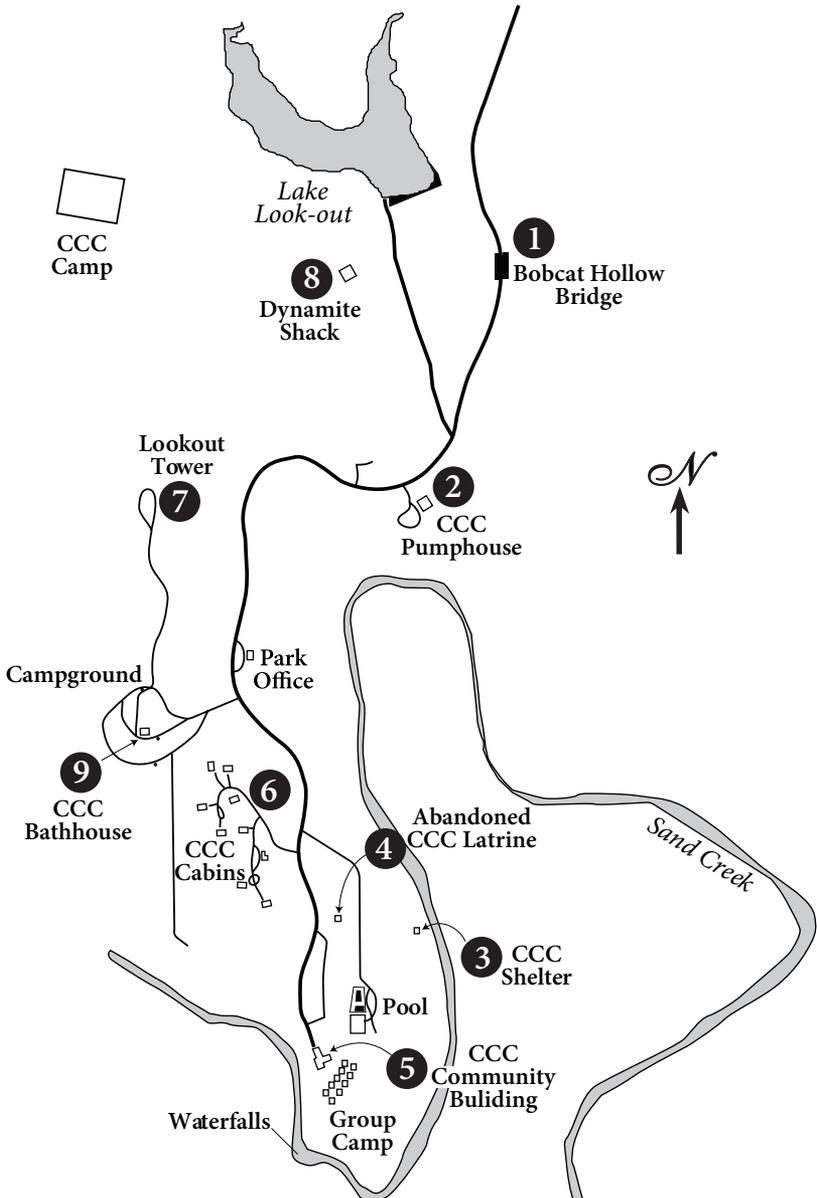
Description of the Auto and Walking Tour

This tour highlights some of Osage Hills State Park's historic CCC structures. Those facilities that can be easily seen from a car or that have a hard-surface walkway are listed in this pamphlet as "Easy View".

Before walking up to the cabins or group camp, 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.

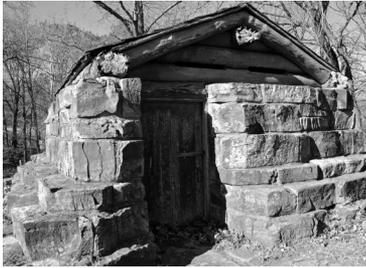
For Your Safety

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



**Station No. 1 Bobcat
Hollow Bridge**

This beautiful bridge is one of the finest examples of keystone construction in the state. Do not park on the shoulder of the main park road. Parking is available at Station No. 2 nearby.



Station No. 2 CCC Pumphouse

Abandoned long ago, this CCC constructed pumphouse is still a gem. The access road is 500 feet past the road to Lookout Lake. A small dam in the creek behind this pumphouse retained water for the CCC camp up on the hill.

Station No. 3 Picnic Pavilion

Located on the bank of Sand Creek, this pavilion reflects the National Park Service rustic design. The historic buildings of this park not only show the outstanding design talents of Herbert Maier and his team of architects, they also demonstrate the quality craftsmanship of the CCC workers. (Easy View)



Station No. 4 Abandoned Latrine

On the ridge immediately above the picnic pavilion is an abandoned latrine building. The stone walls of this rustic restroom building blend into the hillside. The National Park Service architects wanted their buildings to appear as if they had sprouted from the ground.



Station No. 5 Community Building

This large community building has served youth groups and family reunions since the 1930's. Built of rough-hewn timber and native stone, the community building exemplifies the naturalistic architecture of this CCC-built park. (Easy View)



Station No. 6
Park Cabins

All but one of the park's cabins were built by the CCC. Cabin #4 was constructed in a nearby location after an original cabin was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The interiors of all of these cabins have been renovated, but retain the character of the CCC structures.
(Easy View)



Station No. 7
Lookout Tower

This popular stone overlook / tower on Tent Hill was built by the CCC. (Easy View)

Station No. 8 Dynamite Shack

This building was used to store dynamite (unfortunately, in 2010, the roof caved in). A blasting cap storage area is still located a safe distance away. (Access to These Structures Requires Walking on a Hiking Trail)

Station No. 9 RV Campground

This campground features a CCC-built bathroom (still in use) and three stone culverts. Many campsites still have CCC features, such as spigots coming out of above-ground rocks.





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

**Contact the Oklahoma State Parks Foundation,
<https://www.ospfoundation.org/membership-donate>**

**Specify the intent of your donation
on the page: Make an Impact**