

MONTSERRAT RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AREA
(Knob Noster State Park)
Route 132 South of McPherson Street
Knob Noster Vicinity
Johnson County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1926

HABS
MO-1926

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTIONS OF ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MONTSERRAT RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AREA
(KNOB NOSTER STATE PARK)

For specific information about the entrance structures, see:

HABS No. MO-1926-A	Entrance Portal
HABS No. MO-1926-B	Retaining Walls

Location: Route 132 south of McPherson Street, Knob Noster vicinity, Johnson County, Missouri.

Significance: The Montserrat Recreational Demonstration Area served as a model land reclamation project. It was designed and built by participants in the Work Projects Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

Description: The Montserrat Recreational Demonstration Area, now known as Knob Noster State Park, encompasses approximately 3,500 acres of reclaimed lands which were marred by overgrazing, poor farming practices, erosion, and coal mining. A development project made improvements to the entrance road (Route 132) and the immediate surroundings (See HABS Nos. MO-1926-A and MO-1926-B).

History: The Montserrat Recreational Demonstration Area was developed between 1935 and 1941 under the auspices of the National Park Service in cooperation with the Missouri State Park Board. Using labor provided through the work-relief programs of the Work Projects Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the demonstration project reversed the land degradation by establishing woodlands to control erosion and protect the Clear Fork Creek watershed. Between 1938 and 1941, the WPA and CCC built the Shawnee and Bobwhite youth camps, used by various organizations for education and recreation. A public day-use campground and picnic area, several small lakes, bridges, hiking and equestrian trails, and service buildings also were constructed. The park became Knob Noster State Park in 1946 with its transfer from the National Park Service to the State of Missouri.

Sources: "Entrance Development, Job No. 95(705), Montserrat Recreational Demonstration Area, Johnson County, Missouri." Blueprints. March 1939. Jefferson City: Division of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Flader, Susan, editor. Exploring Missouri's Legacy: State Parks and Historic Sites. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1992.

Work Projects Administration (WPA). The WPA Guide to 1930s Missouri. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1986.

Historian: David C. Austin, Cultural Resources Section, Design Division, Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Jefferson City, June 1994.

Montserrat Recreation Demonstration Area Entrance Portal and Stone Retaining Wall Complex

Historic American Buildings Survey
No. MO-1926

Adapted from the General Highway Map
Johnson County, Missouri

Prepared by the
Missouri Highway and Transportation Department

