

CHOPAWAMSIC RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AREA -
CABIN CAMP 1

(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 - Goodwill)

Prince William Forest Park

Prince William Forest Park

Triangle

Prince William County

Virginia

HABS VA-1494

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CHOPAWASMIC RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AREA – CABIN CAMP 1 (Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill)

HABS No. VA-1494

- Location:** Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, Prince William County, Virginia
- Present Owner:** National Park Service, US Department of the Interior
- Present Occupant:** National Park Service, US Department of the Interior
- Present Use:** Recreational/Group Cabin Camping Facilities
- Significance:** The group cabin camping facilities at Cabin Camp 1 were built by the National Park Service with Civilian Conservation Corps labor as part of the development of Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA) in 1935-38. The RDA program was a New Deal initiative of the National Park Service which repurposed underutilized agricultural land near urban centers into outdoor recreational areas. Chopawamsic RDA turned 11,000 acres of small farms and an abandoned pyrite mine along Quantico Creek in Prince William County and Stafford County, Virginia into a model recreation area with five cabin camps. The camps at Chopawamsic were intended to serve social service groups in Washington, DC that offered group camping experiences to underprivileged children.
- Camp 1 features rustic log and heavy timber buildings representative of the National Park Service/Civilian Conservation Corps aesthetic of the 1930s. The buildings share a characteristic waney-edge siding that retains the irregular profile of the log, and is applied in vertical and horizontal sections. Log posts and log faced heavy timbers also add to the rustic appearance of the Chopawamsic structures. Camp 1, like the other four Chopawamsic camps, includes a cluster of administration buildings -- dining hall, infirmary, staff quarters, administration building, craft lodge, central washhouse, and helps' quarters -- and multiple cabin units. Each cabin unit had a cluster of camper cabins, leader cabins, a latrine, and a unit lodge. The four cabin units at Camp 1 have replacement cabins, but retain their original site plan and unit lodge buildings.
- Camp 1 is also noteworthy in that it was one of two Chopawamsic camps (with nearby Camp 4) designated for African-American

campers at an early date. Camp 1 was used as Camp Lichtman for many years, hosting groups of African-American boys from the Twelfth Street YMCA in Washington, DC. This use resulted in a codification of local segregation practices with separate entrances for the black camps on the north side of the site and white camps on the south. However, Camp 1 provided new camping facilities laid out according to the latest ideas in recreational planning at a time when few options were available to African-American groups. By the 1960s, Camp 1 was used as co-ed and integrated Camp Goodwill by Family and Child Services of Washington, DC.

Historian: Lisa Pfueller Davidson, Ph.D., HABS Staff Historian

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: March 1935-1938
2. Architect: National Park Service architects, engineers, and landscape architects
3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: Camp 1 has been owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service since its creation in 1935 and used almost continually for group camping. Starting in 1942 during World War II, the property was used as a training facility by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency. Designated part of Area C, Camp 1 was used for Communications Branch training. It was returned to NPS control and camping use in 1946. In 1948 the park was renamed Prince William Forest Park.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Using Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) funding, Camp 1 was built by CCC enrollees living on site at Camp SP-22-VA and by Local Experienced Men (LEMs) hired with WPA relief funds to provide skilled labor. Much of the construction material was acquired and processed on site, including the stone, timber, and gravel. Millwork such as window sashes and doors were purchased.¹
5. Original plans and construction: Camp 1's buildings were designed by NPS architects following the publication "Typical Layout Studies for Organized Camp."² Each structure has a timber frame with wood siding and sits on a

¹ It seems that many of the administration area buildings were built with window sashes, while the camper cabins originally had screens which were converted to window sash by the OSS.

² The regional office was sending copies of this publication to the project office in November 1935. See correspondence in Folder 600-01 Land Use Study, Master Plan, 1935-40, Box 124, Entry 100 Recreational

concrete slab or piers. Characteristic rustic details include the use of log-faced timbers, peeled log posts, and waney edge siding that retains the irregular profile of the original log. The plans for the Camp 1 structures reflect the recommendations codified in consulting architect Albert Good's book *Park and Recreation Structures*. The buildings at this camp share many similarities with the other four Chopawamsic camps, but are not completely standardized. They are also similar to the contemporary structures built at Swift Creek RDA in Chesterfield, Virginia (now Pocahontas State Park).

6. Alterations and additions: The Cabin 1 buildings originally had wood shake roofs, but these were replaced with asphalt shingles in 1942 and updated with similar materials over the decades. The light creosote stain finish on the exteriors has been replaced by a darker brown stain over the years. Limited weatherproofing was added to various buildings over the years, starting with the OSS winterizing efforts in 1942-43, and there were a few minor additions of service buildings. The largest overall change to Camp 1 was replacement of the original camper cabins in 1983-1985. The current cabins are larger, but sit close to the original cabin footprints.

B. Historical Context:

Located approximately thirty-five miles south of Washington, D.C., Cabin Camp 1 (or Camp Goodwill) at Prince William Forest Park was one of five cabin camps constructed by the National Park Service at this site during the 1930s. The area was originally known as the Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA) and viewed as a model project for bringing the character-building benefits of group camping to underprivileged urban children. The site consisted originally of roughly 11,000 acres of Piedmont forest along the watershed of Quantico Creek, which when the RDA was established included an abandoned pyrite mine and submarginal farmland. Chopawamsic was the fourth largest RDA in the country and one of six located in the Commonwealth of Virginia.³ The Chopawamsic RDA is an excellent example of the overlap between various New Deal initiatives and national and state park development in this period, combining funding and labor from the Civilian Conservation Corps, Works Progress Administration, and Federal Emergency Relief Agency to promote the expansion of the National Park Service. It is also indicative of New Deal-era approaches to organized camping that favored a naturalistic setting and social outreach.

The New Deal emergency work relief programs such as the Public Works Administration (PWA), Works Progress Administration (WPA), and Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) provided a large infusion of personnel and funds to

Demonstration Area Program Files, 1934-47 (formerly Entry 47), RG 79 Records of the National Park Service, National Archives and Records Administration II, College Park, MD [hereafter Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II].

³*Recreational Demonstration Projects: As Illustrated by Chopawamsic, Virginia*. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, c. 1936), 21.

accomplish long-term development projects contemplated for many National Parks. Between 1933 and 1940 the NPS received approximately \$218 million for emergency conservation projects, almost double its regular appropriations of \$132 million during the same period.⁴ A key aspect of the NPS New Deal-funded expansion was the Emergency Conservation Work Act passed by Congress on March 31, 1933.⁵ This legislation established the Civilian Conservation Corps which gave unemployed young men jobs, housing, food, and vocational training. CCC camps were administered by the Army but the work projects coordinated by the host agency - often the National Park Service or the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service or Soil Conservation Service.

As early as 1933, three-quarters the new CCC camps were in state and national park areas. Even though the entire NPS had only twenty-two parks and forty monuments at this time, sixty-five camps had been established in the national parks and monuments.⁶ The National Capital Parks had twelve CCC camps, including those at the Chopawamsic and Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Areas. CCC work took place at Chopawamsic from May 13, 1935 to April 25, 1942. At the height of construction three CCC companies were located in Chopawamsic at camps designated SP-22-VA, SP-25-VA, and SP-26-VA. Camp SP-22-VA was located at the northern edge of the site and primarily responsible for construction of Camp 1.⁷

The Recreational Demonstration Area program combined several goals of the New Deal and the National Park Service by reclaiming barren farmland near metropolitan areas to create organized camps and recreation areas for city-dwellers. As the program was drawing to a close in 1941, the National Park Service explained its mission in a booklet entitled *An Invitation to New Play Areas*:

Like all public parks, recreational demonstration areas are for the use of the general public. They are available to individuals and families desiring to spend a day in the open for picnicking, fishing, boating, hiking, etc., and to responsible groups who wish to camp overnight or for a week-end as well as to agencies conducting seasonal camping programs. ... The areas which lie closest to the large industrial cities are best known for their organized camping facilities which are used by hundreds of camping organizations. These camps were planned primarily to meet the needs of

⁴ Harlan D. Unrau and G. Frank Williss, *Expansion of the National Park Service in the 1930s: An Administrative History*. (Denver, CO: Denver Service Center, September 1983), Chapter 3, Introduction, 1.

⁵ Patti Kuhn and John Bedell, "Prince William Forest Park Historic District," Prince William County, Virginia. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2011. (U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, DC), 98.

⁶ Isabelle F. Story, *The National Parks and Emergency Conservation*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1933), on-line version accessed at http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/ecw.

⁷ See Lisa Pfueller Davidson and James A. Jacobs, "Civilian Conservation Corps Activities in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service," HABS No. DC-858. Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2004.

social and welfare and other non-profit agencies unable to finance the purchase of land and construction of their own facilities.⁸

The RDA approach embodied contemporary ideals regarding land use and comprehensive recreational planning. The program originated in January 1934 when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt organized a Land Planning Committee to coordinate his administration's programs for land use. NPS Deputy Assistant Director Conrad Wirth was appointed to be the DOI representative. Wirth had a background in landscape architecture and planning, and was already leading the NPS land planning efforts, both with national and state parks.⁹ Later that year the Land Program of the Federal Emergency Relief Agency (FERA) received a \$25 million appropriation for the purchase of sub-marginal agricultural land. The existing relief programs such as the ECW or WPA did not have funds for land acquisition, so this appropriation provided the essential starting point for creation of new park lands.¹⁰ Wirth helped develop the NPS proposal to use this money to turn land close to population centers into recreational areas. The Recreational Demonstration Area program was approved, allowing the NPS to supervise conversion of former agricultural land into park and recreation areas.

The RDA program encompassed four main types of projects - expansions to national parks or to state parks, waysides (picnic areas along highways), and new recreation areas. Of the 46 RDA projects planned by 1937, 31 were new recreation areas such as Chopawamsic.¹¹ The intention was that all of the RDAs be turned over to state or municipal agencies after their completion.¹² The two RDAs intended to serve Washington, DC -- Chopawamsic, and Catoctin, Maryland (now Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park) -- remained part of the National Capital Parks, an unusual exception. In 1939 NPS Director Arno Cammerer enthusiastically promoted the program's accomplishments:

Today the majority of these areas represent a most effective demonstration in better land use. They have had considerable effect upon local economy. ... they have made possible outdoor recreational opportunities to hundreds of thousands of people who would not have had such experiences had it not been for these areas and facilities.¹³

By June 1939, nearly 375,000 acres had been acquired by NPS for the RDA program, providing sixty organized camps and numerous picnic facilities.

⁸ *An Invitation to New Play Areas*, (Washington, DC: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, c. 1941), 1, RG 4 - Civilian Conservation Corps, National Park Service Library, Harpers Ferry.

⁹ Kuhn and Bedell, 99.

¹⁰ In 1935, the land acquisition function of the FERA Land Program was transferred to the Resettlement Administration of the Department of Agriculture. Executive Order 7496 on November 14, 1936 transferred the entire program to the National Park Service.

¹¹ Kuhn and Bedell, 100.

¹² Sellars, 135. See also Unrau and Williss, Chapter 4, Section I. Recreation Demonstration Areas.

¹³ Quoted in Unrau and Williss, Chapter 4, Section I. Recreational Demonstration Areas, 6.

Establishment of Chopawamsic RDA

Representatives from Wirth's Land Program Division began looking at property around Joplin, Virginia in the summer of 1934. Federal officials were collecting information such as maps, aerial surveys, and land records. Land in the area met the RDA criteria of being low cost, depleted farmland with natural features such as creeks and forests offering potential for a good recreational area when improved.¹⁴ By late October 1934, Conrad Wirth reported that his office had purchase options on 4,700 acres and requested that the regional land policy program conduct a review to confirm that it was submarginal and contact the state relief administration to begin surveying the families and planning for relocation.¹⁵ Their review indicated that a minimum project area of 8,000 acres would impact 50 families. Only fifteen percent of the farmland had been cultivated in the last five years.¹⁶ Assembling the minimum required 8,000 acres proceeded swiftly - in early January 1935, Project Manager Charles H. Gerner reported to Wirth that 7,520 acres had been optioned in 87 generally contiguous tracts. He praised the two "clear-water streams" running through the property - Quantico and Chopawamsic Creeks - and the fine second-growth forest of numerous tree species, laurel, ferns, and moss.¹⁷

Gerner issued a preliminary report on the potential RDA later that month which thoroughly examined the existing conditions and recreation potential of the site. The Chopawamsic area was described as an "illustration in high degree of rural economic exhaustion," but of potentially "high public value" for recreational use due to its rugged, scenic, and healthful qualities.¹⁸ The report encompassed the local geography, flora and fauna, and history, including an incorrect translation of "Chopawamsic" as meaning "at a small isolate lodge." In describing the poor living conditions of the families in the proposed areas, Gerner emphasized a hardscrabble existence with worn-out land, aging buildings, farm stock, and equipment, and irregular outside employment. The accompanying photographs show a variety of vernacular houses, outbuildings, mills, fields, the abandoned pyrite mine, and the scenic topography along the creeks (Figures 1 and 2). He went on to describe the relief and relocation services which would be offered to the forty poorest families (including white and black landowners). This landscape would be transformed by the proposed development of five cabin camps, erosion control, and roads. Gerner's report included copies of endorsements from various officials and leaders such as the Virginia Agriculture and Home Extension Service, the Stafford Circuit Court, the Manassas Kiwanis, and the Prince William County Board of

¹⁴ Kuhn and Bedell, 102.

¹⁵ Letter, Conrad Wirth to Carl C. Taylor, Regional Director, Land Policy Section, (26 October 1934), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

¹⁶ Letter, P. De Gelleke to Taylor, (2 Nov 1934), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II. For detailed context on the local community before establishment of the RDA see Arvilla Payne-Jackson and Sue Ann Taylor, *Prince William Forest Park: The African American Experience*. Washington, DC: National Capital Area, National Park Service, June 2000.

¹⁷ Memorandum, Gerner to Wirth, (9 January 1935), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

¹⁸ Charles H. Gerner, "Chopawamsic RDA Preliminary Report," (28 January 1935), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

Supervisors. Support letters from potential camping organizations were also attached, such as the Manassas Girl Scouts, Washington Council of Social Agencies, and Volunteers of America.¹⁹

On January 29, 1935, Wirth forwarded Gerner's report and other documentation to John S. Landsill, Director of the FERA Land Program and requested formal approval of the Chopawamsic project.²⁰ Landsill authorized the NPS to begin exercising the land purchase options on February 19, 1935. While the land was indeed unsuitable for commercial farming, many residents were reluctant to leave property that had been in their families for generations. The subsistence lifestyle of the local residents was grounded in community systems of barter and not as grim as the view from Washington seemed. A few property owners refused to sell and then unsuccessfully resisted condemnation proceedings. However land acquisition proceeded fairly quickly. Eventually forty of the poorest families were relocated from their land within the RDA site while approximately 150 local households were impacted by the government program. Many purchased new land just outside the boundaries of the RDA.²¹

The press release announcing approval of the project emphasized the recreational plans for the site, noting "it is hoped that the area will be of particular value to the various social organizations in the District of Columbia whose facilities for enabling underprivileged children and their families are extremely limited."²² There was considerable interest in creating a RDA close to Washington, DC due to the fact that local charitable groups, such as the Twelfth Street YMCA, Salvation Army, and Boys' Club of Washington, were already eagerly seeking adequate group camping facilities. The old facilities in Rock Creek Park were becoming increasingly unsuitable due to heavy day use. National Capital Parks Superintendent Marshall Finnan had begun making the case to NPS Director Arno Cammerer in early October 1934 that Chopawamsic RDA should be an extension of the federal parks in Washington, DC. The National Capital Parks was providing facilities for charity recreation at Rock Creek Park, Fort Foote on the Maryland shore of the Potomac River, and Clover Park. Finnan deemed these facilities to be too small, with inadequate water supply, sanitation, and buildings.²³ On February 2, 1935, once the project was officially proposed, Director Cammerer affirmed Finnan's repeated requests:

As you point out, the National Capital Parks are in urgent need of an area qualifying for recreational use of private charity, semi-public, and other

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Letter, Conrad Wirth to John S. Landsill, (29 January 1935), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

²¹ Susan Cary Strickland, *Prince William Forest Park: An Administrative History*. (Washington, D.C.: History Division, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, January 1986), 13-14. The land that became Camp 1 was owned by Henry Cole during the mid-nineteenth century. Cole had the most extensive property of any African American in Prince William County. See Saylor Moss, "Camp 1 Prince William Forest Park," (National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2011), 24.

²² "Chopawamsic Recreational Area," c. February 1935, Box 125, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

²³ Letter, C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent National Capital Parks to NPS Director [Arno Cammerer], (2 October 1934), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

organizations serving the large population, particularly the low income group, in and around Washington, D.C.. You suggest that maintenance of submarginal lands in the vicinity of Quantico, Virginia, proposed for purchase by the United States under the land program, be assumed by the National Capital Parks, if purchased. The value of these lands to the low income groups of Greater Washington is immeasurable.²⁴

Concern with giving poor children access to nature and wholesome camping activities was paired with the belief that doing so encouraged them to become good citizens.

Planning was already underway so when the land acquisition approvals came, officials could move quickly. A project report dated March 7, 1935 illustrates the various duties and personnel involved. While Charles Gerner was still officially project manager, assistant project manager William Hall was taking over the on-site operation and would gradually transition into the primary project manager. A group of six men worked on land issues - checking deeds, securing options, and doing appraisals. A state relief agent was surveying the families and looking for resettlement farmland. Visiting NPS professionals chose locations for three CCC camps, identified gravel pits for road material, and prepared for extensive surveying. In addition, a Mr. Welch in DC had completed a preliminary sketch lay-out for Camp 1.

Construction started with Camp 1-B(oys) (later known as Camp Goodwill) near the northeast corner of the site and Camp 2-G(irls) (later known as Camp Mawavi) near the southwest edge in spring 1935. Camp 1 was primarily built by the enrollees housed at CCC Camp SP-22-VA. CCC Company No. 1374 arrived in March 1935, and Camp SP-22-VA was officially established May 13, 1935. This camp was located adjacent to the sites of Cabin Camps 1 and 4 and remained active until April 24, 1939 when the site was converted into a ball field for Camp 1. WPA funds also were used to hire skilled workmen to supplement the labor force. Local men eligible for work relief were registered for employment at the RDA. By March 20, 1935 a group of twenty-five men was employed in the Camp 1 area working with CCC-provided tools and supervision.²⁵ A detail from the Battery Cove CCC Camp (Alexandria, VA) was working on the access roads for Camp SP-22-VA.²⁶ The CCC enrollees simultaneously worked on constructing roads and trails, and on site preparation for the group cabin camps such as grading, clearing brush, and improving drainage.²⁷

²⁴Letter, Arno B. Cammerer to C. Marshall Finnan, (2 February 1935), Box 2, Entry 101 - Records Concerning Recreational Demonstration Projects, 1934-42, RG 79, NARA II.

²⁵ Project Managers Report, (20 March 1925), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

²⁶ Project Managers Report, (25 March 1925), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II. Wirth wrote a memo on April 4, 1935 stipulating administrative control from his Land Program office via Project Manager William Hall. Work details from CCC Camp SP-21 at Battery Cove continued to work on the site. See Box 5, Entry 87, RG 79, NARA II.

²⁷ Sara Amy Leach. "Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Architecture at Prince William Forest Park, Multiple Property Documentation" Prince William County, Virginia. (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1988. U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.), Section E, 13.

At this stage, Wirth wrote a widely distributed memo laying out the procedures for managing the Chopawamsic project. He stipulated that planning work would be handled through his Land Program office, with the Branch of Plans and Designs welcome to advise as needed. He received some complaints from Charles Peterson with the Branch of Plans and Designs, but ultimately argued vigorously for the importance of Chopawamsic RDA as a model Land Program project and extension of the National Capital Parks.²⁸ Efforts were also underway to recruit additional architects, engineers, and landscape architects to work on the project, with the bulk of the manual labor to be done by the CCC enrollees.²⁹ It seems as though on-site design staff did much of the work, with approvals, input, and assistance from both the Land Program Office in Washington and the Regional Office in Richmond.

Ultimately three CCC companies worked simultaneously at Chopawamsic from late summer 1935 until approximately mid-1938, the period of heaviest construction in the RDA. The three camps, with approximately 100 to 120 enrollees per camp, were established in different areas of the RDA for easy access to adjacent work projects. As was typical for the CCC, the first order of business for the enrollees was building their own camp while living in canvas tents. Construction of temporary wood structures for Camp SP-22-VA was complete on July 15, 1935. The barracks and other CCC buildings were arranged around a central parade ground, with the service buildings (garages, etc.) to the south. Each CCC camp included the standard complement of buildings including four barracks, a recreation hall, a mess hall/kitchen, officer's quarters, administration building, foremen quarters, garages, and an oil house.³⁰

Like other CCC camps, the Chopawamsic enrollees were assigned to work projects approved every six months and often worked in conjunction with each other and WPA-hired laborers. Narrative reports for CCC Camp SP-22-VA describe an early focus on grading, access roads, and site preparation for Camp 1. Camp SP-22-VA also started construction in May 1935 on a main administration building for the RDA, designed to "house technical staff, administration, procurement office, and provide for an engineers' work room."³¹ Technical personnel included acting project manager William Hall, landscape architect Richard Hyatt, and engineer foreman Charles C. Lowe. Lowe was overseeing a large team of engineers and assistants working on a detailed topographic survey. It is also interesting to note that land acquisition was ongoing, but meeting resistance from property owners with smaller lots, many of whom were African American. S. S. Teel was the rehabilitation representative trying to find new homes for

²⁸ Memorandum, Conrad Wirth, (4 April 1935), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II. See correspondence between Peterson, Wirth, and Director Demaray, (April 1935) Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

²⁹ Letter, William Hall, Assistant Project Manager to M. C. Huppuch, Director of Recreation Demonstration Projects, (1 April 1935), Box 125, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

³⁰ Davidson and Jacobs, 51-55.

³¹ "Narrative Report Chopawamsic Recreational Area, Camp SP-22," (1935), Box 137, Entry 95, RG 79, NARA.

some families no longer interested in farming.³²

Work continued through the summer of 1935 on constructing access roads, bridges, trails, the project administration building and tool house, and fire hazard reduction such as removing dead trees and undergrowth. By August the sawmill was being used to prepare timber for cabin construction (Figure 3). Materials production of timber and stone continued into the fall, while building plans were simultaneously being prepared. Moving ahead without complete architectural plans was questioned later by NPS officials, but the priority was putting large numbers of men to work immediately. Make-work duties included salvaging usable building materials from the pyrite mine area and making tools and equipment from scrap metal in an on-site blacksmith shop.³³ Also, National Capital Parks surveyed potential camping sponsor agencies in DC to determine their facilities needs.³⁴

By December 1935, the master plan for the boys' area at Camp 1 was being reviewed and detailed building plans were still being prepared. Camp 2 was at a similar stage of preparation while plans were just being started for Camp 3-F(amily).³⁵ On-site project architects included assistant architect Carl W. Zimmerman working on planning studies, with Bernard J. Liff as his draftsman. Numerous NPS architects, landscape architects, and draftsman were at work on the site, particularly between 1935 and 1938, and it is not known who is responsible for specific buildings and features. In January 1936 Conrad Wirth was taking steps to have legislation passed officially making Chopawamsic RDA part of National Capital Parks.³⁶ At this time, Wirth also approved a revised layout for Camp 1, noting that his office preferred four-camper cabins and hoped for more separation between units when construction began. He also noted that "the remainder of the buildings seem to conform with those recommended by the Manual and typical plans sent out from this office."³⁷

While the CCC camp buildings were decidedly utilitarian, the recreational cabin camp buildings constructed at Chopawamsic were constructed and sited in a deliberately naturalistic manner intended to enhance the experience of the landscape. Like at Catoctin, Shenandoah, Great Smokies, and other parks developed during the 1930s, National Park Service designers and site managers were developing a rustic aesthetic for recreational structures. These buildings utilized local wood and stone, as well as a set of modern standards for building types and site planning at an organized camp. At Chopawamsic each camp was planned for approximately 125 people and subdivided into smaller cabin units for about thirty campers each. Each camp included a group of

³² "Project Manager's Report," (17 May 1935), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

³³ W. R. Hall, "Justification of Conditions Contingent to Approval of Developmental Plan by the Administrator, Chopawamsic LD-VA-6, (12 June 1936), Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

³⁴ "Project Manager's Reports," (June-October 1935), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

³⁵ "Project Manager's Report," (16 December 1935), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

³⁶ Memorandum, Conrad Wirth to Mr. Mosey, (6 January 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

³⁷ Letter, Conrad Wirth to Third Regional Officer, (6 January 1936), Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II. Wirth requested special plans from the Regional Office for contemplated museum/work shop and administration/recreation combination structures, but these buildings were never added to Camp 1.

buildings shared by all the camping units - a central kitchen/dining hall building, administration building, infirmary, arts and crafts lodge, staff quarters, central washroom/latrine, and water and septic facilities. Each unit within the camp included camper cabins, leaders' cabins, a unit lodge, and unit latrine.³⁸ In her history of summer camps, architectural historian Abigail Van Slyck discusses how the new standards developed by the NPS during the 1930s replaced the regimented military model of earlier camps and transformed private camps in the succeeding decades.³⁹ The unit plan layout placed in a naturalistic landscape, like Chopawamsic, characterized this new approach.

Construction of Camp 1 buildings began in early 1936 with the camper and leader cabins. At the end of March, two units had cabins in various stages of completion and unit lodges under construction (Figure 4). Another unit had cabin foundations underway and at the fourth foundation excavations had just begun.⁴⁰ In April the water tower was constructed and was underway on the dining hall (Figure 5).⁴¹ The A Unit cabins just needed minor details such as shutters, railings, and lockers, while the Unit A lodge and latrine were just at the foundation/early framing stages. B Unit had cabins needing similar detail work, but had been "creosoted a light color which is very pleasing."⁴² This unit lodge had framing and siding 75 percent complete and stone work for the chimney and outside kitchen 25 percent complete. C Unit still just had cabin foundations. By the end of April the dining hall was 90 percent framed, with siding and masonry work 20-25 percent complete. In less than five months the SP-22-VA enrollees had completed a major portion two cabin units for Camp 1, including seventeen cabins, two latrines, two unit lodges, as well as the dining hall/kitchen, and a water tower.

By July 1936, plans for all of the Camp 1 buildings were complete except for the Staff and Help's Quarters. Enough construction was complete to make Camp 1 available to the Boys' Club of Washington during July and August. The available buildings were 15 camper cabins, three leader cabins, two unit lodges, three latrines, the dining hall, and central bath house, in addition to the water and septic system. The infirmary was nearly ready for use, with some detail work to be left for later. Tents were set up to house the camp help and relieve crowding in the cabins. A playfield was established near the camp and a temporary dam created a swimming hole in the creek. Foundation work also continued on the Unit D cabins. The water system was in place, but the septic system was still being finished up in mid-July. In spite of all this, it was reported that "the campers and leader personnel are very much pleased with their quarters and other camp facilities in operation at this time."⁴³

In mid-August, the Boys' Club received use of the new cabins in Unit D, but the unit lodge and latrine were still under construction. Many of the buildings still had

³⁸ *Recreational Demonstration Projects: As Illustrated by Chopawamsic, Virginia*, 3-4.

³⁹ Abigail A. Van Slyck, *A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth, 1890-1960*, (Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 2006), 19-31.

⁴⁰ "Project Manager's Report," (31 March 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁴¹ "Project Manager's Report," (15 April 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁴² "Project Manager's Report," (30 April 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁴³ "Project Manager's Report," (30 June 1936 and 15 July 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

temporary tar paper roofs and the wood shakes were being installed. According to a *Washington Star* article, local men hired with WPA funds (LEMs) were making the wood roof shakes using traditional hand splitting techniques.⁴⁴ The 1936 promotional film "The Human Crop" includes a brief scene showing a man hand-producing the wood shingles. In addition, sites were selected for the staff and helps' quarters.⁴⁵ At the end of August, the project manager report provided this summary of Camp 1 conditions:

Enrollees of Camp SP-22 are finishing up all buildings throughout this camp. This work consists of applying shingles, creosoting, construction of porches, installation of water and sewer services, drinking fountains, and general clean up which was required after the Boys' Club Camp disbanded for the season on August 31. The buildings and grounds were left in fairly good condition.⁴⁶

The CCC work switched briefly to tasks like tree planting and preparing gravel. One goal was to plant small trees and shrubs around the camp during the optimal fall planting season. The construction work had caused a bareness that NPS landscape architects sought to remedy.⁴⁷ Then in November 1936 building construction again took precedence. Additional camper cabins were built for each unit, and the staff quarters was under construction.⁴⁸

Organized Camp Design and Use - Chopawamsic as a Model

The rustic aesthetic associated with National Park Service buildings during this period was being developed and codified by NPS architects and others around the country. Consulting architect Albert H. Good prepared a small volume in 1935 entitled *Park Structures and Facilities*, in order to provide models for the rapidly expanding numbers of NPS architects and landscape architects involved with ECW-funded projects. It is likely that this is the "manual" referred to in Wirth's January 1936 correspondence regarding the designs for Chopawamsic. In 1938 Good produced a three-volume edition entitled *Park and Recreation Structures*. He emphasized a definition of successful rustic architecture as "achieving sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past" by using native materials, having a proper scale, and avoiding severe straight lines.⁴⁹ In order to achieve this sympathy, new buildings were to be subordinate to their environment and executed in earth tone materials such as peeled logs with the knots and texture preserved.

⁴⁴ Thomas R. Henry, "Lore of Early Competitor of New York Revived by Dumfries Resettlement Project Near Capital," *Washington Star*, 15 March 1935, clipping in Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁴⁵ "Project Manager's Report," (15 August 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁴⁶ "Project Manager's Report," (31 August 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁴⁷ Lawrence R. Murray, "Technical Report - Landscape Activities," (November 1936), Box 2, Entry 78, RG 79, NARA II.

⁴⁸ "Project Manager's Report," (30 November 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁴⁹ Albert H. Good, *Park and Recreation Structures* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1938, reprint Boulder, CO: Graybooks, 1990), Volume I, 4, 6-7.

The "Overnight and Organized Camp Facilities" section of Good's book includes a number of examples from Chopawamsic, including an administration building, a unit lodge, a dining hall, a four-camper cabin, a larger camper cabin, a staff cabin, and an infirmary. All of these structures featured wood shake shingle roofs and waney-edged exterior siding. The administration building was described as adequate for the typical organized camp with approximately 100 campers and having "a combination of waney-edged siding cut in between clustered vertical boards at the corners of the building [which] is typical of the Chopawamsic Area and gives its buildings a certain individuality."⁵⁰ Applied both horizontally and vertically, the siding boards retained the irregular profile of the original log and gave a rustic variety to otherwise simple structures. Good includes an explanation of the growth in organized camping as a way for educational and character-influencing organizations to bring the benefits outdoor recreation to various groups. In contrast to individual overnight camping facilities, group organized camps like those at Chopawamsic required a wider assortment of communal buildings.

While providing an opportunity for nature-based recreation, the cabin camps were also carefully planned to meet modern sanitation standards. Most of the Chopawamsic buildings stood on concrete piers to allow proper air circulation. Care was taken to provide a standard amount of sleeping space for each camper and avoid overcrowding. Latrine facilities were carefully planned for healthful conditions and provided with a septic system. The seemingly casual layout of the administrative cluster and cabin units also reflected the latest thinking regarding organized camp planning. Good particularly notes the shift away from regimented camps with barrack-style housing to informal units of smaller cabins.⁵¹ Like Camp 1, the seemingly random arrangement of structures was actually carefully planned to avoid formality and take advantage of natural topography. This layout was based on the general acceptance of around 100 as the optimal camp size, with unit groups of 16-32 campers. The unit camp was seen as fostering individualism while the larger centralized camps were falling out of favor due to their institutionalized nature.⁵² Instead of being viewed as providing needed discipline, now the older military camp model was seen as too rigid. This shift was related to new approaches to child development and education focusing on teaching wholesome and appropriate leisure, characterized by Van Slyck as a reaction to a perceived "crisis of recreation."⁵³

Because Chopawamsic RDA was seen by Wirth and others as a model project, it was featured in a promotional booklet and film about the RDA program in 1936. The illustrated booklet, *Recreational Demonstration Projects, As Illustrated by Chopawamsic, Virginia*, described the cooperation between the NPS, CCC, and Resettlement Administration as a "part of a recreational awakening." The goal of the RDA program was frankly described as putting this land to its highest social use. The text goes on to emphasize the dual benefit of giving city-dwellers "a share of the good

⁵⁰ Good, Volume III, 126-27.

⁵¹ Good, Volume III, 4.

⁵² Good, Volume III, 109-110.

⁵³ Van Slyck, 81.

earth and the health and happiness that goes with it" and giving stranded, poverty-stricken farmers "a new chance."⁵⁴ A good portion of this publication goes on to explain how Chopawamsic RDA fulfilled the social and economic goals of the RDA program. It describes the topography, history, and living conditions in the area, as well as the goals of the new cabin camp facilities:

Washington, the nation's capital, though one of the loveliest cities in the world because of its tree-arborescent streets and unusual park area, despite its variety and quantity of outdoor recreational facilities, has never had an adequate place where the lower-income families might go to rest and play, particularly in the summertime.⁵⁵

Only Camps 1, 2, and 3 are mentioned here, given the early date. These facilities would accommodate boys, girls, and family groups. The author of the booklet took care to highlight additional benefits to the surrounding community such as employment on the construction crews, and use of planned wayside picnic areas.

The promotional film "The Human Crop," produced by the ECW Division of Motion Pictures, highlights the same themes in an even more blunt way.⁵⁶ In this case the "human crop" was the "sturdy citizens of a thoughtful republic." The RDA program would restore city children's "heritage of happiness and health" through outdoor recreation. The "highest social use" is again emphasized by stark pictures of depleted farmland contrasted with the new cabin camps and happy children. "The Human Crop" was filmed at Chopawamsic during the summer of 1936. The first campers were using Camps 1 and 2 while the CCC work was still ongoing, providing an interesting overlap between the development and use phases of this RDA project. The film makes a point to utilize the visual symbolism of this convergence, showing the young campers arriving at Chopawamsic while CCC enrollees and local WPA men look on benevolently. The film also provides interesting scenes of the construction taking place at Chopawamsic during 1936. The on-site gravel plant, sawmill and blacksmith shop are shown in operation. Also LEMs are shown hand making wood roof shingles. Again the idea that development of RDAs provides jobs as well as a recreational benefit is emphasized. In addition to showing the CCC enrollees at work and the first campers at play, the film offers glimpses of camper cabins, a dining hall (probably Camp 2), and a unit lodge.

Project Leader Hall also echoed the dual benefit of the camps to the young campers and the older CCC boys:

The principal benefit of course will come from the operation of the recreational camps. Each year these will provide a pleasant and profitable experience to many a city child who otherwise would not have an opportunity to go camping, and to learn the nature lore, handicrafts, and

⁵⁴ *Recreational Demonstration Projects As Illustrated by Chopawamsic, Virginia*, 2, 6.

⁵⁵ *Recreational Demonstration Projects As Illustrated by Chopawamsic, Virginia*, 6-7.

⁵⁶ Accessed at www.youtube.com.

practices of good citizenship which are taught in the camps. The social benefits to the CCC boys, as well as the young organized campers and their parents, cannot be measured in terms of dollars and cents but will tend to broaden their outlook and improve their standard of living and conception of good citizenship.⁵⁷

Work continued during the winter of 1936-37 adding buildings to Camp 1 and continuing to improve the grounds. A concrete dam was also being built to create a proper swimming area. In December 1936, the main craft lodge and staff quarters were under construction, as well as a garage, storage building, and additional camper cabins.⁵⁸ By the end of February, plans were being prepared for the staff bath house, an "H" dock and beach improvement, and a walk-in two compartment ice box for the dining hall.⁵⁹ The site plan for Camp 1 was being finalized in this period as well, with one dated November 23, 1936 and another from June 22, 1937, with minor changes.⁶⁰

The work by the CCC camps at Chopawamsic also provides a good illustration of the variety of vocational training that could be provided as part of CCC projects.⁶¹ Hall remarked that the work programs “embrac[ed] several of the principal working trades, such as carpentry, automobile equipment maintenance and repair, concrete construction and finishing, handling of reinforcing steel, installation of plumbing, stone and brick masonry, saw mill operation and the production of lumber and shingles, stone quarry and crusher operation for the production of stone products, surveying and mapping, road and trail building, etc.”⁶² He proudly noted that many of the boys had secured good jobs upon leaving the CCC. Each camp did selective cutting for fire hazard reduction and vista enhancement in a certain area and then alternated use of the sawmill to prepare their allotment of timber.⁶³ The public benefits gained from the work of the CCC camps also was noted, including fire fighting, fire hazard reduction (clearing brush, etc.), maintenance of public roads, and clearing timber and brush for a 500-acre rifle range at the adjacent Quantico Marine Base.⁶⁴

⁵⁷W. R. Hall, “Accomplishments of CCC Camp SP-25,” typescript, (9 April 1938), File 6665, Prince William Forest Park Archives [hereafter PRWI Archives].

⁵⁸ “Project Manager's Report,” (15 December 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁵⁹ “Project Manager's Report,” (28 February 1937), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁶⁰ “Chopawamsic RDA, Boy's Area Plot Plan,” (23 November 1936); “Chopawamsic Area, Layout Plan 1B,” (22 June 1937), PRWI Archives.

⁶¹ The variety of projects done by the Chopawamsic enrollees also is reflected by a series of project training manuals published by the NPS for the CCC during this period. Topics included Concrete Construction, Carpentry, Elementary Masonry and Bricklaying, Construction of Trails, Signs and Markers, and Plane Surveying. Many of these publications are available in Record Group 4 - Civilian Conservation Corps, National Park Service History Collection, Anthony Hall Library and Archives, Harpers Ferry, WV. See also James W. Hart, *Practical Construction Methods for the CCC Enrollee*, (Ithaca, NY: The Cayuga Press, 1936).

⁶²W. R. Hall, “Accomplishments of CCC Camp SP-25,” typescript, (9 April 1938), File 6665, PRWI Archives.

⁶³“Narrative Report of Progress VA. SP-26,” (October-November 1935), Box 137, Entry 41, RG 79, NARA.

⁶⁴W. R. Hall, “Accomplishments of CCC Camp SP-25,” typescript, (9 April 1938), File 6665, PRWI Archives.

Historic photographs in the National Archives and in the Prince William Park files show the CCC enrollees engaged in many of these construction tasks. One image shows an enrollee working on a timber in front of a partially constructed camper cabin (Figure 6). The finishing touches are being put on structural lumber produced from on-site materials with the CCC sawmill; flooring and interior woodwork were purchased.⁶⁵ A light brown stained finish was given to the wood siding by coating it with creosote, which also acted as a preservative. Another photograph shows a team of enrollees working on a cabin (Figure 7). Many of the unit lodges and dining halls feature handsome stone fireplaces, although Chopawamsic had predominantly wood construction. The most extensive use of stone was at the Camp 1 Main Arts and Crafts Lodge, which had a modest stone ell in addition to a massive fireplace.

Segregation at Chopawamsic and the Early Use of Camp 1

The limited use of the Camps 1 and 2 during the summer of 1936 involved white boys and girls from the Washington Boys Club and the Jewish Community Center. Starting with the 1937 season, serious discussion began to take place regarding making the cabin camps available to African-American campers. This issue had been raised as early as 1935, when Project Manager Charles Gerner told Mrs. F. M. Collins of the *Afro-American* newspaper that if provided, white and "colored" areas in Chopawamsic would be "distinct and separate."⁶⁶ NPS officials were aware of the particular need for camp facilities for DC groups serving black children, since many sites were not available to them. In addition, a larger conversation was taking place about facilities for African-Americans throughout the RDA program.⁶⁷ In April 1937, Wirth issued a Memorandum of Understanding stipulating that the north area of Chopawamsic, including Camp 1, would be "treated as an entirely separate area and used only by Negroes."⁶⁸ He urged that plans move forward to provide a black "Mother and Tots" camp in the north section (Camp 4) and a white boys' camp (Camp 5) in the south section. Although discomfoting to some of the NPS officials in DC, segregation was ultimately accepted as a condition of providing cabin camps for both white and black groups.

Within the limits of pre-civil rights era segregation, the NPS took care to provide facilities for both whites and blacks.⁶⁹ According a recent National Register nomination, Chopawamsic became the first RDA in the country to welcome black campers.⁷⁰ The

⁶⁵ "Bi-monthly Narrative Report, Sixth Period, Chopawamsic State Park, S.P.-22," (11 February 1936), Box 137, Entry 95, RG 79, NARA. For example, see the materials list for Project 120 - Camp 1 Administration Buildings which is divided by "locally produced" and "materials for purchase" (File 3456, PRWI Archives).

⁶⁶ Typescript - notes on a phone conversation, (30 March 1935) Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁶⁷ Kuhn and Bedell, 110.

⁶⁸ Conrad Wirth, "Memorandum of Understanding," (15 April 1937), Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁶⁹ Kuhn and Bedell, 108-110.

⁷⁰ Kuhn and Bedell, 75.

introduction of black groups to Chopawamsic was done quietly, with Conrad Wirth cautioning:

It is not deemed necessary that any publicity be given to the fact that consideration will be given to application for the use of a Negro camp until such time as a permit is actually granted to a specific agency. As you know, our policy is not to construct camps for any particular organization but to provide sufficient facilities to meet community needs, those facilities to include provision for both white and colored wherever such arrangement is satisfactory to the maintaining agency.⁷¹

Wirth maintained a quiet determination to make Chopawamsic available to any worthy Washington, DC group while carefully managing local racial politics. During the 1937 season, Camp 1 was used by the Family Service Association of Washington, DC as a co-ed "Camp Pleasant" for black campers. Camp Pleasant had been operated for underprivileged children at sites within Washington, DC for thirty-four years. The opportunity to move the camp to Chopawamsic was hailed by the leadership as "the beginning of a new camping era for the Family Services Association."⁷² The program was revamped into a more ambitious, nature-based character building exercise where "the natural setting of the new camps was ideally suited to a program in which living close to nature could be used as a springboard to giving the child a satisfying experience." Leaders were happy that rather than making the children conform to a limited number of activities, the new camp allowed greater freedom to pursue interests and explore nature.

While there seems to have been general agreement about making sure a portion of the new RDA cabin camps were available to groups serving African Americans, NPS officials in DC and the Richmond regional office debated about the proper way to treat the two sections in the Chopawamsic master plan. In a narrative addendum to the 1938 master plan, Project Manager Hall described segregation of the RDA:

The middle section was found to be favored with several excellent camp sites, with possibilities for dams and swimming ponds, play fields, and rugged foot trails. The north section was situated so that similar advantages might be developed and set aside for use by organizations for colored people, without fear of interference with white groups which would occupy the middle section. Thus it may be seen that the Chopawamsic Area was wisely chosen to serve the purposes of wild life encouragement, stream conservation and development, and provision for group camping and recreation by both white and colored welfare organizations.⁷³

⁷¹ Letter, Conrad Wirth to Herbert Evison, (20 April 1937), Box 126, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁷² Memorandum from Family Services Association regarding 1937 and 1938, [n.d.], Box 126, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁷³ W. R. Hall, "Report to Accompany Original Submission of the Master Plan for the Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area," typescript (1 January 1938), File 6553, PRWI Archives.

A few months later the proposed master plan was returned with instructions from the regional office in Richmond to provide more information regarding separate and controlled entrances to the white and black portions of the RDA and plans for more extensive facilities. An internal road system was recommended, although only restricted maintenance roads would link white and black areas. Plans for adding day use areas were also presented in terms of providing segregated facilities.⁷⁴ The debate regarding various entrance road locations and proper circulation layout for segregated zones continued through 1939. While many of these features were built later or remained unbuilt, the original segregated zones of Chopawamsic are still apparent in the existing circulation system with Camps 1 and 4 accessed from a north entrance and Camps 2, 3, and 5 accessed from a more prominent south entrance.⁷⁵

As master plan and segregation issues were being argued, Camp 1 was fully completed for the 1938 camping season. Four cabin units were available, each with 6 four-camper cabins and 1 two-person leader cabin. Each unit had a finished lodge and washroom/latrine. In addition all of the communal buildings were complete, including the dining hall/kitchen, infirmary, central washhouse, administration building, staff quarters, help's quarters, and main craft lodge.⁷⁶ Starting on June 27, 1938, Camp 1 became home to Camp Lichtman, a program of the Twelfth Street YMCA in Washington, DC. The Twelfth Street YMCA (now Anthony Bowen YMCA) was the oldest black Y in the country, having been chartered in 1853 and operating from its 12th Street, NW building since 1912. The camp program for 8 to 17 year-old African-American boys was sponsored by white Jewish theater owner Abe Lichtman. Lichtman's employees and customers were predominantly African-American and he became a staunch advocate of economic racial equality. He sponsored several African-American sports teams and established Camp Lichtman at George Washington National Forest in 1932.⁷⁷

A brochure for Camp Lichtman's inaugural season at Chopawamsic asked "Have

⁷⁴ While the DC office repeatedly raised objections to the awkwardness and confusion created by separate entrances and day use areas, the regional office insisted that the NPS needed to "be realistic in our approach to recreation planning in southern states." See R. C. Robinson, Regional Recreation Planner, Technical Review, (10 January 1939), and other related correspondence in Box 126, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II. A January 7, 1939 map showing the segregated use areas is reproduced in Strickland, Appendix 3.

⁷⁵ Letter, Herbert Evison, Associate Regional Director, to S.M. Woodward, Inspector, (14 March 1938), File 3656, PRWI Archives. The regional office response listed a number of problems with the master plan as submitted, particularly a lack of comprehensive vision for the site, stating that "locations for group camps already built, or under construction, have been selected entirely on the merits of the individual sites alone and not because of any correlated planning or relation to the parks possible ultimate development as a whole." For further discussion of the segregation policy see Strickland, "Chapter Three - The Effects of Segregation on Park Management," 39-50. For more information regarding plans for expanding the recreational facilities at Chopawamsic, see Ira B. Lykes, "Report and Recommendation on the Operating Policy of the Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area," (1 November 1940), File 6612, Prince William Forest Park.

⁷⁶ "Report of Organized Camp Facilities - Camp 1-B Chopawamsic," (15 March 1938), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁷⁷ Kuhn and Bedell, 112.

You Heard About the New Y Camp?" The text went on to promote the new facilities at Chopawamsic:

Camp Lichtman...now occupies one of the model camps constructed by the U.S. Government in the Chopawamsic Recreational Area near Dumfries, Virginia. It will serve as a demonstration project for the entire country. . . . A spacious dining hall, central kitchen, infirmary, administration, staff headquarters and other service buildings are available. . . . To offer boys an ideal place for the summer vacation - a vacation where ideals are high and the spirit is friendly, where the best of food and outdoor recreation can be obtained - is the real purpose of CAMP LICHTMAN.⁷⁸

The brochure included photographs of a unit lodge, a camper cabin, and the main craft lodge (Figure 8). During the summer of 1938, Camp Lichtman had approximately 96 campers for each two week session (Figure 9). The camp employed 14 staff members and 6 help (as the kitchen and custodial staff were known), under the leadership of director Lee W. Johnson. The boys participated in activities such as swimming, hiking, nature walks, crafts, photography, outdoor cooking, storytelling, singing, and "Indian skits". The 1939 Camp Lichtman brochure again touted the model facilities at Chopawamsic, and also the particular circumstances of the camp's target audience. In a "Dear Parent" letter, the camp chairman addressed the dangers of an unsupervised summer in the city, as well as the "scarcity of camping facilities for Negro boys."⁷⁹ The idea of this type of facility being scarce was again indicated by the 1940 brochure noting that "Camp Lichtman is available to boys from Baltimore, Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Richmond, Petersburg, Newport News, Norfolk, and all other communities where there are parents who desire to given their boys the advantages of summer camping."⁸⁰ The campers averaged 10 years of age and paid \$7 per week for a full program of activities, room, and board. Camp staff noted in 1940 that "an attempt is being made this year to develop the unit idea still further. There is a better understanding of its possibilities."⁸¹ Campers came together mainly in the dining hall and the playfield.

When the majority of the RDAs developed by the National Park Service reverted back to their respective states starting in 1939, Chopawamsic was transferred to the National Capital Parks as originally planned. Legislation giving the National Capital Parks formal jurisdiction over Chopawamsic was recommended by the Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys in July 1939.⁸² The legislation was approved on August 13, 1940.⁸³ It is likely that part of the motivation to retain federal control of this RDA was

⁷⁸ Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁷⁹ Camp Lichtman brochure (1939), Box 123, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁸⁰ Camp Lichtman brochure (1940), Box 123, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁸¹ "Camp Appraisal Report - Chopawamsic RDA Camp No. 1," (5 July 1940), Box 123, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁸² 76th Congress, 1st Session, Senate Report No. 849, "Chopawamsic Recreation Demonstration Project," (18 July 1939), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁸³ S. 2493, 76th Congress, 3d Session, Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II. See also "14,000 Acre Park

ensuring that black groups from Washington could continue using the facilities.⁸⁴ Acting National Capital Parks Superintendent F. F. Gillen wrote a memo in December 1940 requesting transfer of original general planning, landscape and architecture drawings from the Richmond regional office. He goes on request a comprehensive file of reproductions for specific building drawings, with the originals to remain in Richmond, because "it is our understanding that many of the buildings in the Chopowamsic [sic] area were constructed from typical plans for RDP projects."⁸⁵ Interestingly Gillen also requests copies for typical details for "Westmoreland State Park, the Swift Creek RDP area and other similar areas under the regional office supervision."

Chopawamsic During World War II

Civilian Conservation Corps work at Chopawamsic was winding down by the end of the 1930s. Camp SP-22-VA was disbanded on April 24, 1939 and its site converted into a ball field for Camp 1. All five recreational camps were nearly complete by 1940. The remaining plans for additional recreation buildings and nature lodges at each camp were shelved due to dwindling ECW funds. In April 1940 the CCC Camp SP-VA-22 dining hall was redesignated as a recreation hall for Camp 1. The much-discussed day use areas also remained undeveloped due to lack of funding and staff.⁸⁶ Priorities shifted to finishing the infirmary and main craft lodge for Camp 5 and Camp 3's swimming area.⁸⁷ In 1941, the remaining CCC enrollees at Camp NP-16 (formerly Camp SP-26-VA) built a park manager's residence, a modest Cape Cod structure similar to contemporary suburban architecture, and its two-car garage. The approach of World War II and the gradual shift of the CCC towards defense-related projects signaled the end of CCC recreational projects at Chopawamsic. During 1941 Camp NP-16 was converted into a defense camp designated NP (D)-12 and finally disbanded on April 25, 1942.

The desire of the War Department to utilize various National Park Service sites around Washington, DC in this period put the NPS in a difficult position between wanting to help the war effort and their responsibility to protect park land and make it publically available. As early as November 1940, NPS Director Newton Drury and his staff developed criteria for evaluating use requests from defense agencies and their potential impact on the parks. Their main concern was avoiding unnecessary use and irreparable damage.⁸⁸ However the mounting wartime pressure made resisting defense requests increasingly difficult. During the winter of 1941-42, Chopawamsic RDA was used by the War Department under limited use permits, including frequent training maneuvers by Marines from Quantico in the undeveloped southernmost portion of the

Approved by House," 6 August 1940, *Washington Post*, clipping in Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁸⁴ Kuhn and Bedell, 114

⁸⁵ Memorandum, F. F. Gillen to Region I Director, (21 December 1940), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁸⁶ "Recreational Demonstration Areas - Chopawamsic, Facilities Available as of July 1, 1940," Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁸⁷ Memorandum, W. R. Hall - Chopawamsic Project Manager, (4 January 1940), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁸⁸ Chambers, 99.

property. However NPS officials still hoped that the organized camps would be available for the summer of 1942.⁸⁹

According to historian John Whiteclay Chambers II in his study of OSS training during World War II, negotiations between Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes over use of Chopawamsic began in March 1942. Stimson urgently requested unlimited, immediate use for a secret program. Ickes tried to demur, offering a short-term permit and assistance finding another site, and a year-to-year lease if that was not feasible. He stated the vital importance of the organized camping program to low income groups. Stimson persisted, and made plans to move personnel into Chopawamsic and the Catoctin RDA in Thurmont, Maryland on April 1, 1942. Ickes was forced to yield, but did insist that any changes to the parks required NPS approval and the local managers would remain on site to offer "all possible assistance to the Army, and also... aid in protection of the areas from fire and abuse."⁹⁰ Then on May 16, 1942, the War Department obtained a retroactive use permit for the entire area, including the former CCC camps and the recreational camps. The camping permits to various groups were canceled and other arrangements had to be made. Camp Lichtman was moved to Blue Knob RDA in central Pennsylvania for the duration of the war.⁹¹ The War Department moved to acquire any remaining private land within the Chopawamsic RDA and planned to transfer it to the NPS when the war ended.

When the War Department personnel moved in, Chopawamsic went from being a public park to a heavily guarded and controlled military outpost. Chopawamsic and Catoctin were to be training areas for a new top secret program - the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Considered a precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency and Special Forces, many aspects of the OSS's wartime activities remained shrouded in secrecy until recent years. The OSS was created by a military order from FDR on June 13, 1942 to conduct unconventional war against the Axis powers including spies, guerilla leaders, clandestine radio operators, and saboteurs. The agency was spearheaded by William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan, a war hero and New York lawyer who served as FDR's special envoy to Great Britain during the summer of 1940. An ardent interventionist, Donovan gathered information on British efforts to develop methods of unconventional warfare such as espionage, sabotage, and propaganda to counteract German success in these areas. On his return to the United States, Donovan publically urged that a strategic intelligence agency be created to develop and coordinate these capabilities for the U. S. armed forces. He was given the position of Director of the Office of the Coordinator of Information by Executive Order in July 1941, a prelude to the creation of the OSS the next year. Chambers called this step, which broadly authorized Donovan to engage in both propaganda and intelligence gathering, "an unprecedented action in American history - an attempt to establish an effective unified organization that would handle

⁸⁹ See correspondence in File 901 Privileges and Permits, 1935-47, Box 126, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

⁹⁰ Quoted in John Whiteclay Chambers II, *OSS Training in National Parks and Abroad in World War II* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2008), 101. See also pgs. 100-105.

⁹¹ See File 600 Lands, Buildings, Roads and Trails, 1935-42, Memorandum, (16 June 1942), Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

research, intelligence, propaganda, subversion, and commando and guerilla operations in modern war."⁹²

It was during this interim between the COI and official creation of the OSS that the Chopawamsic and Catoctin RDAs were identified as training locations for the influx of new personnel. To staff his new agency, Donovan sought out creative thinkers and risk takers, valuing innovation and results over military experience or bureaucratic procedure. The OSS needed a program to quickly train a large number of new recruits. Major M. Preston Goodfellow, an Army reservist and Brooklyn newspaperman, became the liaison between the CIO and Army intelligence agencies. He established and led the OSS Special Operations Branch and the first American-based training program for OSS agents.⁹³ Lieut. Colonel Garland Williams was another Army reservist and career law enforcement officer who joined the OSS in January 1942 to help Goodfellow develop a training program.⁹⁴

The two park sites were divided into three training areas. Area A was the southwestern 5,000 acres of Chopawamsic, including Camps 2, 3, and 5 and the former CCC camp NP-12 (D). It was used by the Special Operations Branch for paramilitary training in espionage, sabotage, and unarmed hand to hand combat. Area B was located at Catoctin RDA and also trained Special Operations agents. The Special Operations agents were generally military officers (unlike the predominantly civilian Special Intelligence Branch) who specialized in guerilla warfare and sabotage. Communications Branch training took place at Area C, 4,000 acres in the northeastern section of Chopawamsic including Camps 1 and 4. At Area C the Communications Branch trained enlisted men to serve as radio operators for Special Operations teams, teaching International Morse Code, direction finding, codes and ciphers, radio techniques and repairs.⁹⁵ Men and women both worked as Communications Branch staff to operate the OSS coded communications system, but the trainees at Area C were military servicemen who also received weapons instruction in preparation for overseas missions. Approximately 1,500 Communications Branch trainees rotated through three-month sessions at Area C between 1942 and 1945.

The OSS adapted the existing recreational and CCC camp structures at Chopawamsic, and added some buildings. Communications training began at Area C in mid-April 1942 under the aegis of the Special Operations Branch, but in September a separate Communications Branch was fully established and formally in charge of communications training. Special Operations also used Area C occasionally as a holding area or to train foreign nationals.⁹⁶ In July 1942, NPS site manager Ira Lykes reported that considerable work was underway preparing the area for Army training, but the exact nature of the activities could not be disclosed. He also mentioned that barriers were

⁹² Chambers, 22. See the rest of Chapter 1 for background on Donovan and the creation of the OSS.

⁹³ Chambers, 28-29.

⁹⁴ Chambers, 49-50.

⁹⁵ Chambers, 42, 46-47.

⁹⁶ Chambers, 56.

being erected across all roads and plans were being formulated to winterize camp buildings.⁹⁷ The Communications Branch began preparing Camps 1 and 4 for expanded training programs during the fall of 1942. Ira Lykes reported in early October 1942 that a contract had been let by the Army for winterizing Camps 1 and 4.⁹⁸ The winterizing efforts including placing glazed window sash in buildings currently only having screens, installing Celotex-lined tongue and groove wainscoting, heating stoves, and "mottled grey" asphalt shingle roofs.⁹⁹ Lykes reported in November that winterizing of Camp 4 was complete while Camp 1 was 70 percent done and electrical lines were being run throughout the camps.¹⁰⁰

Major Albert H. Jenkins, a reserve Marine officer and small arms and mapping instructor, was Commanding Officer of Area C from December 1942 until February 1945. He helped quickly bring Area C into full operation by setting up areas for physical training, an obstacle course, and pistol, rifle, and hand grenade ranges. Area C had a motor pool, improved kitchen fixtures in the two dining halls, and arrangements to obtain food supplies from Quantico.¹⁰¹ Camp 1 served as the administrative and maintenance facilities for Area C, as well as housing for the Major Jenkins and his staff of officers and enlisted men. The OSS built several temporary buildings at Camp 1 including two eight by eight foot guard houses, a 30 by 30 foot transmitter building (CCC portable type), a 30 by 40 foot motor repair shop, a 25-man 15 by 24 foot latrine, and a 16 by 16 foot plywood storage building.¹⁰² All of these structures except the latrine were clustered across the road at the site of CCC Camp SP-22 (Figure 10). An additional radio transmitter with a long antenna and generator was installed in one of the Unit D buildings. Camp 4 served as the Communications School, with classrooms and housing for trainees in existing buildings, as well as some new additions and a tent camp. One of the few permanent OSS buildings in the park is the still-extant theater/recreation hall built at Camp 4 in 1943 at a cost of \$24,000. The men trained here were often civilians recently drafted into the armed forces and culled from the radio, radar, and electronics schools of the Army, Army Air Force, and Navy. Many of these men had experience as amateur short wave radio enthusiasts, a fairly exotic hobby in the early decades of radio that attracted those interested in science and technology.¹⁰³

⁹⁷ Ira B. Lykes, Manager, "Narrative Report, Month of July 1942, Chopawamsic RDA, National Capital Parks", PRWI Archives.

⁹⁸ Ira B. Lykes, Manager, "Narrative Report, Month of September 1942, Chopawamsic RDA, National Capital Parks", Box 125, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II. Lykes also was pleased with the forest fighting equipment the Army was able to provide and their efforts to acquire remaining private tracts.

⁹⁹ Ira B. Lykes, Manager, "Narrative Report, Month of October, 1942, Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area, National Capital Parks," File 6665, Prince William Forest Park. A permit was issued in June 1943 allowing the Marines to use 4,862 acres of parkland south of Joplin Road for six months past the duration of the war. See Chambers, 178

¹⁰⁰ See also Kuhn and Bedell, 119.

¹⁰¹ Chambers, 166.

¹⁰² Command Installation Report - Chopawamsic Training Center, (7 December 1945), Box 6, Entry 13, NARA II.

¹⁰³ Chambers, 169-171, 240.

As the war drew to a close, steps were taken to remove OSS changes that would negatively impact recreation and prepare for the resumption of camping. Formal training was discontinued at Area C by October 1, 1945. The remaining staff was ordered to prepare to close the camps.¹⁰⁴ Lykes and other NPS officials tried to have Chopawamsic returned to the NPS and organized camping as quickly as possible. Lykes stated the desire to let the interested camping organizations know as quickly as possible whether the Chopawamsic camps would be available for the 1946 season.¹⁰⁵ The National Park Service had done its best to maintain the Chopawamsic camping groups at alternate locations during the war. For instance, NPS Director Drury wrote a memorandum to Secretary Ickes in April 1943 requesting that Camp Lichtman be allowed to lease the Blue Knob RDA for half the normal fee in order to offset their increased transportation costs. Drury urged the Secretary to grant this request, "having in mind the great need of Negro youth in Washington for the kind of recreational experience provided by the camps."¹⁰⁶

The War Department needed to declare the property surplus in order to transfer it back to the NPS. This process was initiated on November 1, 1945, but first a Corps of Engineers detachment from Fort Belvoir was called in to help clear any ordnance out of the former training areas.¹⁰⁷ Local man John T. Gum had been working as a CCC and NPS liaison at Chopawamsic and supervised much of the early conversion work for the OSS. He was subsequently recruited into the OSS as an Army Technical Sergeant and became the go-to person for maintenance and building repairs at Areas A and C. Gum was on hand to assist with the removal of OSS facilities.¹⁰⁸ All of the firing ranges, booby-trapped houses, and hand-grenade ranges at Chopawamsic were systematically searched and dismantled, removing and destroying all unexploded rounds.¹⁰⁹ The temporary buildings built by the War Department were removed and sold for salvage where possible. These efforts were complete by January 1946 and it was agreed that the property would be transferred back to the Department of the Interior "without further restoration, provided that the additional buildings which have been erected, and the alterations and improvements which have been made, are permitted to remain."¹¹⁰

Organized camping was resumed that spring and work began on improving the park road system, and a day use area near Camp 3. Lykes was able to obtain \$35,000 from the NPS for construction materials. The work was done by a detail of combat engineers from the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Belvoir starting in September

¹⁰⁴ Chambers, 509.

¹⁰⁵ Letter, Ira B. Lykes to Captain Lawson B. Knott, Jr., Real Estate Division, Office of the Division Engineer, U. S. Army, (21 December 1945), Box 6, Entry 13, RG 79, NARA II.

¹⁰⁶ Memorandum, Drury to Ickes, (12 April 1943), Box 126, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

¹⁰⁷ Chambers, 510.

¹⁰⁸ Chambers, 142.

¹⁰⁹ Memorandum, Lieutenant Charles E. Spear to Commanding Officer, 9800th TSU-CE Bomb and Shell Disposal Team, (13 January 1943), Box 6, Entry 13, RG 79, NARA II.

¹¹⁰ "Declaration of Surplus Real Property - Chopawamsic RDA," (23 January 1946), File 6530, Prince William Forest Park.

1946.¹¹¹ These predominantly African-American troops assisted with park road and bridge construction from 1946-50 as part of their training. Other changes were underway as well. Lykes had begun advocating for a name change as soon as the war ended, arguing that RDA should be dropped in favor of park and Chopawamsic replaced by something less cumbersome.¹¹² On August 20, 1948, the park name was changed from Chopawamsic RDA to Prince William Forest Park. The same legislation provided for transfer of some land to Quantico in exchange for receiving other land from Army surplus proceedings.¹¹³ Other upgrades include construction of a park entrance in 1950 from Route 1 (this entrance was replaced in 1960 after construction of I-95), and the first day use area, Pine Grove Picnic Area, in 1951. Previous discussions of separate white and black entrances and day use areas were now irrelevant since all NPS areas were to be fully integrated.

The NPS had mandated desegregation of all National Parks on December 8, 1945, but practical change came more slowly. Many social groups using the park were still all black or all white. In 1950, the recreational camps were in high demand, with Camp 1 leased to the Twelfth Street YMCA, Camp 2 to the Camp Fire Girls, Camps 3 and 4 to the Washington Family Service Association for low income white and black groups, respectively, and Camp 5 to the Salvation Army.¹¹⁴ Camp Lichtman continued to develop its camping program for African-American boys at Chopawamsic, instituting a quantified award program in 1949 to replace a more subjective "model camper" award. Repeat campers could advance from honor camper to master camper to leader over the years by perfecting their skills in areas such as firebuilding, first aid, swimming, nature study, and arts and crafts. The YMCA camp leadership sought to provide objective goals and train the next generation of leaders.¹¹⁵

A report on the 1953 season at Camp Lichtman provides additional insights into the use of Camp 1 during this period. The camp was open from June 27th until August 22nd, with the season divided into two week sessions. Campers mainly came from Washington, DC, with a few from Baltimore and Charleston, SC. Anna Prendergast was in charge of the dining hall and Darline White in charge of the infirmary. Wilbur McArtis from Shaw Junior High School was the arts and crafts instructor and a unit leader. Under his direction the campers did projects in wood, plaster, metal, leather, and plastic. Nathaniel Geary was the nature director, overseeing an expanded program including slide shows. Another unit leader, Alton Fleming, became an unofficial camp photographer and taught on-site lessons in photography and developing. The campers also participated in day and overnight hikes, athletics, swimming, and boating, although

¹¹¹ Chambers, 513.

¹¹² Kuhn and Bedell, 120.

¹¹³ Public Law 736, 80th Congress, Chapter 596, 2D Session, (22 June 1948), copy in Box 6, Entry 13, RG 79, NARA II.

¹¹⁴ "Report of Camp Operations - Prince William Forest Park," (1950), File 6796, PRWI Archives.

¹¹⁵ Typescript, "Camp Lichtman Awards Program," (1949), File 6615, PRWI Archives. Photographs of Camp Lichtman in this period are located in the Scurlock Photographic Studios records, Archives Center, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, DC.

on-going problems with the swimming area during dry spells hampered the waterfront activities.¹¹⁶

Camp Director Thomas Sanders did note some problems with staff having visitors for extended periods, and competition for campers from the surrounding Prince William camps. Camp Lichtman charged a fee while the other camps were free to underprivileged children. Sanders seemed to feel that fluid eligibility rules and unstable employment for many parents hurt their early season enrollment. He did praise the work of the new NPS manager Theodore Smith in preparing the camp, including staining the buildings, installing screens and shutters, and painting the inside of the infirmary and kitchen. Benefactor Abe Lichtman visited the camp in early August and was able to see a fully-enrolled session and a variety of activities.

A shift towards desegregated camp use at Prince William began around 1956 when the camps began to be used interchangeably rather than strictly designated by race. Camp 1 began to be known as Camp Goodwill of the Family and Child Services of Washington, DC around this time. Photographs of campers in the mid to late 1960s show how far things had come by then, with casually integrated groups of youngsters.¹¹⁷ (Figure 11) The Twelfth Street YMCA continued to operate Camp Lichtman at Chopawamsic until 1964 when it was discontinued in favor of integrating YMCA Camp Letts in Edgewater, Maryland. Physically Camp 1 had been changed very little in these years, except for the addition of a concrete in-ground swimming pool in 1956 and upgraded bathroom and kitchen fixtures. The pool was built by Family and Child Services with a donation and continued to be used into the 1980s.¹¹⁸

During the 1960s, the Mission 66 program funded many improvements to Prince William Forest Park's infrastructure. Mission 66 was a capital improvement initiative intended to expand park facilities between 1956 and 1966, the fiftieth anniversary of the NPS. The current Scenic Drive and Travel Trailer Village were Mission 66 projects expanding accommodations for automobile day visitation.¹¹⁹ Most of the projects in this period, also including Telegraph Road Picnic Area and Turkey Run Campground, were intended to expand day use and encourage visitation beyond camping groups.

After a 1970s use study, it was decided to rehabilitate all of the Camp 1 buildings except for the camper cabins.¹²⁰ The cost for this project was to be \$223,135.50. In 1983-85 the camper cabins were replaced with slightly larger ones placed in roughly the same locations.¹²¹ In spite of this change, Camp 1, along with Camps 2, 3, and 4, was

¹¹⁶ Typescript, "Report on Camp Lichtman - 1953 Season," File 15161, PRWI Archives.

¹¹⁷ Photographs in PRWI files, Boxes 24-A and 24-B, National Capital Region Museum Resource Center (MRCE), Landover, MD. Many southern RDAs which had reverted to state control remained segregated until passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

¹¹⁸ Strickland, 88. Silt problems in the nearby lake had made it unsuitable for swimming.

¹¹⁹ Kuhn and Bedell, 121.

¹²⁰ "Visitor Use and Facilities Survey Cabin Camps 1-5, Prince William Forest Park," (February 1984), 1, PRWI Archives.

¹²¹ Drawing 860_41,029, sheet 5 of 7 (February 1983), PRWI Archives.

listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 in recognition of its historic New Deal origins. An expanded National Register nomination added more contributing structures to the Camp 1 district in April 2012. Season-long group camping continued through the 1980s, but now most rentals are for short term groups. Currently the non-profit group Nature Bridge is planning to expand its educational programs to the East Coast at Prince William Forest Park. Plans are being developed to use Camp 1 for year round environmental and science education programs, a change that will necessitate some new winterizing and upgrading of the historic facility. Following the resolution in 2003 of the decades long lease controversy between PRWI and Quantico regarding use of 4,862 acres south of the cabin camp area, the park includes approximately 13,000 acres of land. Today Prince William Forest Park is the largest Piedmont forest in the National Park system and the largest green space in the Washington, DC metropolitan region, continuing a legacy of accessible nature recreation begun in the 1930s.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

See individual HABS reports on Camp 1 buildings for detailed architectural information:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HABS No. VA-1494-A | CHOPAWAMSMIC RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, DINING HALL
(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building 60) |
| HABS No. VA-1494-B | CHOPAWAMSMIC RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, ADMINISTRATION
(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building 50) |
| HABS No. VA-1494-C | CHOPAWAMSMIC RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, INFIRMARY
(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building 70) |
| HABS No. VA-1494-D | CHOPAWAMSMIC RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, MAIN ARTS AND CRAFTS LODGE
(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building 55) |
| HABS No. VA-1494-E | CHOPAWAMSMIC RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, STAFF QUARTERS
(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building 85) |
| HABS No. VA-1494-F | CHOPAWAMSMIC RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, HELP'S QUARTERS
(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building 65) |

HABS No. VA-1494-G	CHOPAWAMSI RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, STAFF BATH HOUSE (Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building 95)
HABS No. VA-1494-H	CHOPAWAMSI RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, CENTRAL BATH HOUSE (Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building 75)
HABS No. VA-1494-I	CHOPAWAMSI RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, BATH HOUSE A (Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building A10)
HABS No. VA-1494-J	CHOPAWAMSI RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, UNIT LODGE A (Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building A12)
HABS No. VA-1494-K	CHOPAWAMSI RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, UNIT LODGE B (Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building B12)
HABS No. VA-1494-L	CHOPAWAMSI RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, UNIT LODGE C (Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building C12)
HABS No. VA-1494-M	CHOPAWAMSI RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, UNIT LODGE D (Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building D12)
HABS No. VA-1494-N	CHOPAWAMSI RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, WATER TOWER (Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Water Tower)
HABS No. VA-1494-O	CHOPAWAMSI RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, PUMP HOUSE (Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Pump House)

- HABS No. VA-1494-P CHOPAWAMSIK RDA – CABIN CAMP 1, LAKE 1 DAM
(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Lake 1 Dam)
- HABS No. VA-1494-Q CHOPAWAMSIK RDA –CABIN CAMP 1, BALL FIELD
(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Ball Field)

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: Incomplete sets of original blueprints survive in the PRWI Archives for some buildings, as well as a few early site plans. The Chopawamsic plans published in Good's *Park and Recreation Structures* (1938) are similar types or possibly some Camp 1 buildings (such as the Administration Building). Schematic plans from the 1950s are located in the PRWI Archives.
- B. Early Views: In addition to the photographs accompanying the plans in *Park and Recreation Structures*, key early views of Chopawamsic RDA are located in the collections of the National Archives in College Park. Record Group 79 - Records of the National Park Service, contain construction photographs of CCC enrollees working on Camp 1 and other cabin camps. The Scurlock Photographic Studio records located at the Archives Center, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, DC have c. 1950 images of Camp Lichtman activities and buildings with staff and campers. See footnotes for specific citations.

C. Likely Sources Not Investigated:

Clippings vertical files, Washingtoniana Room, Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library, Washington, DC.

D. Bibliography:

Manuscript/Photographic Collections:

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RG 79, Records of the National Park Service, National Archives and Records Administration II, College Park, MD.

Prince William Forest Park (PRWI) Archives, Turkey Run Education Center (TREC), Prince William Forest Park.

Prince William Forest Park (PRWI) Files, National Capital Region Museum Resource Center (MRCE), Landover, MD.

Scurlock Photographic Studio Records, Archives Center, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, DC.

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation of Cabin Camp 1 at Prince William Forest Park (PRWI) was undertaken in 2011-2012 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Heritage Documentation Programs division of the National Park Service (Richard O'Connor, Chief). The project was sponsored by the NPS National Capital Region (NCR), Perry Wheelock, Chief, Cultural Resources. Project planning was coordinated by Catherine Lavoie, Chief, HABS; Robert Arzola, HABS Architect; and by Paul Petersen, Chief of Resource Management, PRWI. The field work was undertaken and the measured drawings were produced by HABS Architects Paul Davidson, Daniel De Sousa, and Jason W. McNatt. The historical reports were written by HABS Historian Lisa P. Davidson. The large-format photography was done by HABS Photographer James W. Rosenthal. Crucial assistance was provided by Superintendent Vidal Martinez, Cultural Resource Specialist Colette Carmouche, and by other PRWI staff.

PART V. ILLUSTRATIONS



Figure 1: Abandoned Pyrite Mine in the Proposed Chopawamsic RDA, 1934.
Source: Record Group 79, National Archives & Records Administration II.



Figure 2: Farm in the Proposed Chopawamsic RDA, 1934.
Source: Record Group 79, National Archives & Records Administration II.



Figure 3: CCC Sawmill at Chopawamsic RDA, 1935.
Source: Record Group 79, National Archives & Records Administration II.



Figure 4: Camp 1 Cabin Under Construction, 30 March 1936.
Source: Record Group 79, National Archives & Records Administration II.



Figure 5: Camp 1 Dining Hall Under Construction, 30 March 1936.
Source: Record Group 79, National Archives & Records Administration II.



Figure 6: CCC Enrollee At Work on Log-Faced Timber, 30 March 1936.
Source: Record Group 79, National Archives & Records Administration II.



Figure 7: CCC Enrollees At Work on Cabin, 30 March 1936.
Source: Record Group 79, National Archives & Records Administration II.

A DAY IN CAMP

Morning	Evening
6:30—Reveille	12:00—Free Period
6:40—Exercise	12:30—Dinner
6:50—Wash	1:15—Rest Period
7:05—Chapel	2:30—Free Period
7:20—Flag Raising	3:30—Swimming
7:30—Breakfast	4:30—Game Period
8:00—Camp House Keeping	7:00—Retreat
9:00—Inspection	7:30—Supper
9:30—Ground Improvement	8:00—Camp Fire
9:50—Classes	9:00—Taps
11:00—Swimming	9:15—Quiet

WHAT THE CAMP OFFERS

Nature Study	Hiking
Wood Work	Swimming
Handicraft	Life Saving
Photography	Fencing
Soap Carving	Archery
Linoleum Block Printing	Athletics

Safety in all Activities
Scientifically supervised menus
Perfect sanitation in camp
Competent medical supervision

A TYPICAL HUT
(Courtesy National Park Service, Interior Department)

THE CRAFT BUILDING

WHAT TO CARRY

Two suits of play clothes, 2 shirts, 3 suits of underwear, bathing suit, 1 pair keds, 1 pair leather shoes, 3 pairs of socks, pajamas, sweater, any instrument (musical) camper might own, 2 heavy blankets, 2 single sheets, wash cloths, tooth brush, 2 towels, tooth paste, soap, comb and brush.

THE RATES ARE NOMINAL

Camp Lichtman is not run for profit, but to give the boys of Washington and vicinity the benefit of camping at the lowest possible rates. Any boy between 7 and 18, years of age and of good character, may attend.
The rates are \$14.00 per period of two weeks. A charge of \$2.50 is made for transportation to and from camp. All fees must be paid in advance.

Figure 8: Camp Lichtman Brochure, 1938.
Source: Record Group 79, National Archives & Records Administration II.



Figure 9: Camp Lichtman Campers, 12 July 1938.
Source: Record Group 79, National Archives & Records Administration II.

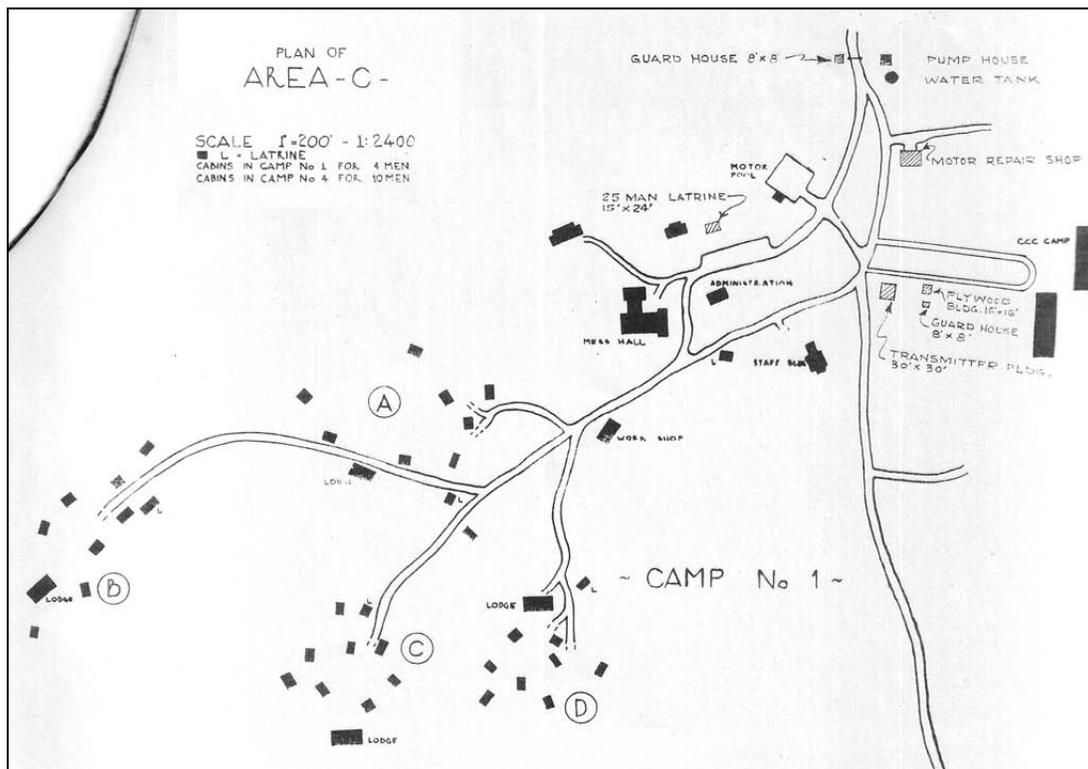


Figure 10: Map of OSS Training Area C, Camp 1, 5 December 1945.
Source: PRWI Archives.



Figure 11: Campers Outside the Camp 1 Dining Hall, 17 July 1966.
Source: National Capital Region Museum Resource Center (MRCE).