

CHOPAWAMSIC RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AREA -  
CABIN CAMP 1, HELP'S QUARTERS  
(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 - Goodwill, Building 65)  
Prince William Forest Park  
Prince William Forest Park  
Triangle  
Prince William County  
Virginia

HABS VA-1494-F  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

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

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CHOPAWASMIC RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AREA –  
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(Prince William Forest Park Cabin Camp 1 – Goodwill, Building 65)

HABS No. VA-1494-F

- 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/Camping Facilities
- Significance: The Help's Quarters housed the kitchen employees for Camp 1. It was 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 which repurposed underutilized agricultural land near urban centers into outdoor recreational areas. The five cabin camps at Chopawamsic were intended to serve social service groups in Washington, DC that offered group camping experiences to underprivileged children. Camp 1 was used as Camp Lichtman for many years, hosting groups of African-American boys from the Twelfth Street YMCA in Washington, DC. By the 1960s, Camp 1 was used as co-ed and integrated Camp Goodwill by Family and Child Services of Washington, DC.
- Like the other historic Camp 1 buildings, the Help's Quarters features rustic log and heavy timber construction representative of the National Park Service/Civilian Conservation Corps aesthetic of the 1930s. Characteristic features include waney-edge siding that retains the irregular profile of the log and is applied in vertical and horizontal sections. The porch has log posts and the roof was originally covered with wood shingles. The Help's Quarters sits among the administrative buildings group including the dining hall, infirmary, staff quarters, and others. It is placed in close proximity to the kitchen entrance of the dining hall for the convenience of the workers.
- Historian: Lisa Pfueller Davidson, Ph.D., HABS Staff Historian

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: begun March 1937
2. Architect: National Park Service architects, engineers, and landscape architects
3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: The Camp 1 Help's Quarters has been owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service since its construction in 1937. Starting in 1942 during World War II, the Help's Quarters was part of the Area C Communications Branch training facility of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency. It was returned to NPS control and camping use in 1946.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Using Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) funding, the Camp 1 Help's Quarters 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 timber, siding, and gravel. Millwork such as window sashes was purchased.
5. Original plans and construction: Camp 1's Help's Quarters was designed by NPS architects likely following the publication "Typical Layout Studies for Organized Camp."<sup>1</sup> It has a timber frame with wood siding and sits on concrete piers. Characteristic rustic details include the use of log-faced timbers, peeled log posts, and waney-edge siding. Camp 1 structures reflect the recommendations codified in consulting architect Albert Good's 1938 book *Park and Recreation Structures*. The Camp 1 Help's Quarters is similar to the other ones built for Chopawamsic.
6. Alterations and additions: The Help's Quarters originally had a wood shake roof, but it was replaced with mottled grey 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. The OSS winterized the Help's Quarters in 1942-43. Maintenance and some small changes have continued over the years.

### B. Historical Context:

See HABS report HABS No. VA-1494, Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area - Cabin Camp 1 for an overview context and list of additional individual building reports.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 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].

Located approximately thirty-five miles south of Washington, D.C., 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 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.

CCC work took place at Chopawamsic RDA 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. The three camps were established in different areas of the RDA for easy access to adjacent work projects. Camp SP-22-VA was located at the northern edge of the site and primarily responsible for construction of Camp 1.<sup>3</sup> CCC Company No. 1374 arrived in March 1935, and Camp SP-22-VA was officially established May 13, 1935. 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. 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. 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.<sup>4</sup>

At Chopawamsic each camp was planned for approximately 100-150 people and subdivided into smaller cabin units for about thirty campers each. Each camp included a group of buildings shared by all the camping units including the Help's Quarters. Each unit within the camp included camper cabins, leaders' cabins, a unit lodge, and unit washroom/latrine.<sup>5</sup> These deliberately rustic buildings utilized local wood and stone, as well as a set of modern standards for building types and site planning at an organized camp. 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

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<sup>2</sup>*Recreational Demonstration Projects: As Illustrated by Chopawamsic, Virginia.* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, c. 1936), 21.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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, DC), Section E, 13.

<sup>5</sup>*Recreational Demonstration Projects: As Illustrated by Chopawamsic, Virginia,* 3-4.

private camps in the succeeding decades.<sup>6</sup> The decentralized unit plan layout placed in a naturalistic landscape, like Chopawamsic, characterized this new approach.

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*, and a three-volume edition entitled *Park and Recreation Structures* in 1938. 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.<sup>7</sup> The Help's Quarters at Camp 1 and other Chopawamsic buildings are indicative of this approach.

By December 1935, the master plan for the boys' area at Camp 1 was being reviewed and detailed building plans were still being prepared.<sup>8</sup> Construction of Camp 1 buildings began in early 1936 with the camper and leader cabins. A partial set of buildings was available for the Boys' Club of Washington during July and August 1936, including the dining hall, 15 camper cabins, three leader cabins, two unit lodges, three latrines, and the central bath house, in addition to the water and septic system.<sup>9</sup> Tents were used for the help's and staff quarters during this first season. By the end of July the site for the Help's Quarters had been determined and plans prepared.<sup>10</sup> A plan for Help's Quarters in Camps 1 and 2 dated July 23, 1936 is different from the building actually built for Camp 1. Here the structure has a T-shaped plan with a third bedroom and bathroom extending from the south façade (Figure 1). An additional porch is located on the side of the ell. The main section of the building is closer to the existing Help's Quarters. It includes a porch across the front, two bedrooms entered directly from the porch with two closets each, and a heater room serving as a passage to the bath.

In a letter to NPS officials in DC, Associate Architect Aloysius J. Higgins from the Regional Office in Richmond explains why the preliminary design of the Help's Quarters does not "conform to the typical plan recommended in the manual." Apparently Project Manager Hall was responding to a request from the "using agency," in this case Boys' Club camp director Lawrence Ricker. Ricker stated a preference for a three-bedroom help's quarters housing both men and women and including a bathroom. Another factor was the placement of the staff bath house (called the central wash house). The intention was to place this building in a convenient location for use by all structures in the administrative group. However, as Higgins explains:

The central wash house was designed to include sanitary facilities for the help, but this central wash house in its revised location is about 450 feet from the proposed location of the help's quarters, which distance seems excessive for convenience. A separate latrine for their use seems necessary and, since a hot water shower

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> "Project Manager's Report," (16 December 1935), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>9</sup> "Project Manager's Report," (30 June 1936 and 15 July 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>10</sup> "Project Manager's Report," (31 July 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

would be required, it seems best to make the toilet a part of the sleeping cabin, where a chimney is already contemplated.<sup>11</sup>

Responding for the DC office, Conrad Wirth chided the Chopawamsic team for proposing the additional expense of a bathroom in the help's quarters, noting "we are at a loss to understand why this building cannot be located near the central wash house."<sup>12</sup> The Regional Office responded with a more detail explanation that a bath house had not been included in the original plans for the administrative areas of Camps 1 and 2, and by the time it was decided to add one, construction had already begun on two other bath houses for Camp 1. It then became necessary to "consider some other provision for sanitary facilities for staff, help, and visitors" because of the distance between the proposed central bathhouse and quarters.<sup>13</sup> Although not specifically spelled out in the correspondence, it seems that the lower status kitchen workers were expected to use separate bathrooms. Examples of staff bath houses published in *Park and Recreation Structures* often show separate facilities for staff and employees.<sup>14</sup>

At the end of the camping season, 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.<sup>15</sup> Then in November 1936 building construction again took precedence. Construction began on the staff quarters and additional camper cabins were built for each unit.<sup>16</sup> A drawing of the Help's Quarters dated December 2, 1936 shows a smaller two-bedroom plan with a bathroom ell at the rear (Figure 2). A justification for this version of the Help's Quarters submitted by Project Manager Hall in January 1937 again argued for including bathroom facilities:

The layout of the camp calls for a latrine and shower building to be located midway between the Staff Quarters and the Administration Building for use of the staff and public. The site of the Helps' Quarters is approximately 500 feet from this building. Obviously this is too far from toilet facilities to maintain adequate sanitary conditions among the servants who must handle the food of the campers.<sup>17</sup>

Apparently relocating either the staff bath house or Help's Quarters was considered, but deemed impractical. Hall particularly noted the difficulty of attracting "servants" to a rural location

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<sup>11</sup> Letter, A. P. Bursley, Assistant Regional Officer (by A. J. Higgins, Associate Architect), Branch of Planning and State Cooperation, Region One - Richmond to M. C. Huppuch, Branch of Planning and State Cooperation, Washington, DC (1 August 1936), Box 125, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>12</sup> Letter, Conrad Wirth, Assistant Director (by M. C. Huppuch, Deputy Assistant Director), Branch of Planning and State Cooperation, Washington, DC to Regional Officer, Richmond (11 August 1936), Box 125, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>13</sup> Letter, Hebert Evison, Regional Officer (by T. W. Ferguson, Jr., Senior Technician), Richmond to M.C. Huppuch, Deputy Assistant Director, Washington, DC (25 August 1936), Box 125, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>14</sup> Good Volume III, 140-142.

<sup>15</sup> Lawrence R. Murray, "Technical Report - Landscape Activities," (November 1936), Box 2, Entry 78, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>16</sup> "Project Manager's Report," (30 November 1936), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>17</sup> "Project No. 120-I, Camp 1 Help's Quarters," (22 January 1937), File 3454, PRWI Archives.

without convenient toilet facilities. When built, the Help's Quarters used this December plan, but omitted the bathroom. Ultimately the kitchen workers would be expected to use a designated bathroom in the staff bath house. Construction on the Help's Quarters did not begin until March 1937.<sup>18</sup>

The "Overnight and Organized Camp Facilities" section of Good's book includes general discussion of help's quarters, although no Chopawamsic examples were included. In his view, the size of the help's quarters would be determined by the policies and type of service in the dining hall and kitchen, particularly the degree of camper participation (reducing the number of staff) and the employment of local day help who did not stay overnight at the camp.<sup>19</sup> Good also noted:

Employees' living quarters should be apart from those of the campers and staff members, yet should be located convenient to the central washhouse, which incorporated their toilet and bathing facilities, and to the dining lodge, in which their work centers. There is advantage to in locating the building that houses help where it will control the service road to the kitchen wing of the dining lodge, as some supplies may be delivered at hours when none of the kitchen crew is on duty.<sup>20</sup>

The placement of the Camp 1 Help's Quarters along the service road leading to the kitchen reflected Good's advice. In spite of the debate regarding this structure, ultimately its residents would have to walk to the staff bath house.

As built, the Camp 1 Help's Quarters was a "four-cot" building divided into two bedrooms with closets.<sup>21</sup> A similar help's quarters at Swift Creek RDA in Chesterfield, Virginia (now Pocahontas State Park) was published in Good.<sup>22</sup> This structure has two bedrooms with a similar entry from the porch and a center chimney to allow for heating stoves. The Camp 1 Help's Quarters also includes a similar brick chimney. This feature, like the fireplace in the Staff Quarters, was recommended to allow for short term winter use by small camping groups. The final cost of this building was listed as \$188.99; it is likely this low figure reflects the use of materials leftover from other projects.<sup>23</sup>

Serious discussion began to take place regarding making the cabin camps available to African-American campers during the 1937 season. Within the limits of pre-civil rights era segregation, the NPS took care to provide facilities for both whites and blacks.<sup>24</sup> According a

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<sup>18</sup> "Project Manager's Report," (15 March 1937), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II. This report notes: "The Help Quarters have been started and foundations are about ready for placing sills."

<sup>19</sup> Good Volume III, 175.

<sup>20</sup> Good Volume III, 175.

<sup>21</sup> "Record of Organized Camp Capacities," (29 March 1940), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>22</sup> Good Volume III, 192.

<sup>23</sup> Camp 1 Inventory - Staff Quarters, (August 1951), File 2724, PRWI Archives.

<sup>24</sup> 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), 108-110.

recent National Register nomination, Chopawamsic became the first RDA in the country to welcome black campers.<sup>25</sup> 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.

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.<sup>26</sup> Camp 1 was fully completed for the 1938 camping season. Four cabin units were available, each with six four-camper cabins and one two-person leader cabin. Each unit had a finished lodge and washroom/latrine. In addition all of the communal buildings were complete, including the Help's Quarters, administration building, infirmary, dining hall, central washhouse, staff quarters, and main crafts lodge.<sup>27</sup>

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. 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. After months of negotiation, the War Department obtained a retroactive use permit for the entire area on May 16, 1942,, 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.<sup>28</sup> 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 Catoclin RDA in Thurmont, Maryland 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. 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.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Kuhn and Bedell, 75.

<sup>26</sup> Kuhn and Bedell, 112. 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.

<sup>27</sup> "Report of Organized Camp Facilities - Camp 1-B Chopawamsic," (15 March 1938), Box 122, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>28</sup> See File 600 Lands, Buildings, Roads and Trails, 1935-42, Memorandum, (16 June 1942), Box 124, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>29</sup> John Whiteclay Chambers II. *OSS Training in National Parks and Abroad in World War II*, (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2008) 42, 46-47.

The trainees at Area C were military servicemen who also received weapons instruction in preparation for overseas missions.

The Communications Branch began preparing Camps 1 and 4 for expanded training programs during the fall of 1942. NPS Site Manager Ira Lykes reported in early October 1942 that a contract had been let by the Army for winterizing Camps 1 and 4.<sup>30</sup> The winterizing efforts including placing glazed window sash in buildings currently only having screens, installing Celotex-lined tongue and groove wainscoting, heating stoves, and asphalt shingle roofs.<sup>31</sup> Camp 1 served as the administrative and maintenance facilities for Area C, as well as housing the commanding officer and his staff.<sup>32</sup>

As the war drew to a close, the War Department needed to declare the Chopawamsic property surplus in order to transfer it back to the NPS. 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.”<sup>33</sup>

Organized camping resumed in spring 1946 and work began on improving the park road system, and day use areas. Camp Lichtman returned to Camp 1 that year. On August 20, 1948, the park name was changed from Chopawamsic RDA to Prince William Forest Park.<sup>34</sup> In 1950, the recreational camps were in high demand, with Camp 1 still leased to the Twelfth Street YMCA for Camp Lichtman, 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.<sup>35</sup>

An effort 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 Washington Family and Child Services around this time. Photographs of campers in the mid to late 1960s show casually integrated groups of youngsters enjoying camp activities.<sup>36</sup> 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

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<sup>30</sup> 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.

<sup>31</sup> Ira B. Lykes, Manager, "Narrative Report, Month of October, 1942, Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area, National Capital Parks," File 6665, PRWI Archives. 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

<sup>32</sup> Chambers, 166.

<sup>33</sup> "Declaration of Surplus Real Property - Chopawamsic RDA," (23 January 1946), File 6530, PRWI Archives.

<sup>34</sup> Public Law 736, 80th Congress, Chapter 596, 2D Session, (22 June 1948), copy in Box 6, Entry 13, RG 79, NARA II.

<sup>35</sup> "Report of Camp Operations - Prince William Forest Park," (1950), File 6796, PRWI Archives.

<sup>36</sup> 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.

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.<sup>37</sup>

After a 1970s use study, it was decided to rehabilitate the Help's Quarters and many other Camp 1 buildings and replace the camper cabins.<sup>38</sup> The Help's Quarters was renovated c. 1980.<sup>39</sup> Camp 1, along with Camps 2, 3, and 4, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 in recognition of its historic New Deal origins. The Help's Quarters is a contributing structure in the Camp 1 Goodwill Historic District. 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. 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

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Help's Quarters is a rustic one-story wood timber building with a rectangular plan and gable roof.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 29 feet, 9 inches long by 23 feet 4 1/8 inches wide
1. Foundations: The Help's Quarters sits on concrete piers with sheet metal termite shields across the top. The piers are higher at the north, or front elevation.
2. Walls: The walls are covered with horizontal waney-edge wood siding. There are sections of vertical waney-edge siding below the windows. The corner posts are

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<sup>37</sup> Susan Cary Strickland, *Prince William Forest Park: An Administrative History* (Washington, D.C.: History Division, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, January 1986), 88. Silt problems in the nearby lake had made it unsuitable for swimming.

<sup>38</sup> Visitor Use and Facilities Survey Cabin Camps 1-5, Prince William Forest Park," (February 1984), 1, PRWI Archives.

<sup>39</sup> Saylor Moss, "Cultural Landscapes Inventory - Prince William Forest Park, Camp 1," (Cultural Landscapes Program, National Capital Region, National Park Service, 2011), 50. See Drawing No. 860/41021, Building No. 74 Helps' Quarters, (8 November 1979), PRWI Archives.

- quarter peeled logs. Log-faced heavy timbers are visible at the plate and flanking the door and window openings.
3. Structural system, framing: The Help's Quarters has a heavy timber frame and rests on concrete piers. The common rafter roof has two boards extending from the base of each rafter acting as collar beams. There is a vertical board attached to the side of the ridge board and the collar beam boards that does not appear to have a structural purpose.
  4. Porch: The Help's Quarters has an inset porch across the north façade over the doorway. This porch has peeled log posts, railings, and a wood plank floor accessed via four concrete steps on the west end. The ceiling is unfinished. There is a light fixture with an incandescent bulb over the entryway.
  5. Chimneys: The Help's Quarters has an internal red brick chimney extending through the south roof sloop near the ridge. This chimney includes a stovepipe thimbles and cast iron doors facing both rooms. These stove openings are now blocked by wall alterations.
  6. Openings:
    - a. Doorways and doors: The Help's Quarters has a doorway into each bedroom from the sides of an alcove at the center of the porch. These doorways currently have screen doors only, each with a recessed panel in the lower half.
    - b. Windows and shutters: The windows are six over six wood sash with thin, tapered muntins and exterior wood frame screens. Groups of multiple windows share a slightly projecting sill; there is no additional exterior trim or molding.
  7. Roof:
    - a. Shape, covering: The Help's Quarters has a side gable roof covered with brown asphalt composite shingles. The north slope changes pitch just below the ridge. The original sheathing was wood shingles produced on-site.
    - b. Cornice, eaves: The eaves are open with a moderate overhang and exposed rafter ends. There is a fixed wood louver at each gable peak.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans: The Help's Quarters has two rooms accessed via a recessed entranceway at the center of the porch on the north façade. The two rooms are also connected via a small hall space at the rear.
  2. Stairways: None. There is a single step from the porch alcove up to each room.
  3. Flooring: The Help's Quarters has unfinished wood plank floor of varying widths.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The Help's Quarters has vertical tongue and groove paneling on the walls between exposed structural timbers. The ceilings are unfinished with exposed rafters.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The interior doorways are framed by structural posts only and have plain vertical board doors. The closets have similar vertical wood board double doors.
  - a. Windows: The wood sash windows do not have any interior trim or molding. Each has metal pins on the side of the sash for holding the non-counterweighted sash open. There is a small window opening at the small rear hall. This opening is covered by a side-hinged wood shutter and a simple trim with mitred corners.
6. Decorative features and trim: N/A
7. Hardware: The extant doors have pin hinges and metal door pull handles. There are remnants of large iron hinges at both exterior doorways.
8. Mechanical equipment:
  - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The Help's Quarters is naturally ventilated and currently unheated. There is evidence the chimney was used in conjunction with heating stoves.
  - b. Lighting: The Help's Quarters has recent incandescent bulb ceiling fixtures mounted on the bottom of the collar beams and external electrical conduit. The conduit runs to toggle light switches, outlets, and hardwired smoke detectors.
  - c. Plumbing: None.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design: The Help's Quarters is located along the service road to the kitchen ell of the dining hall. It faces away from the road and the rest of the administrative group of buildings.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: A blueprint for the Help's Quarters dated December 2, 1936 is in the PRWI Archives and reflects the as-built structure, with the exception of a small rear bathroom ell. A schematic plan of the Help's Quarters from 1951 (File 2687) and a renovation drawing from 1979 are located in the PRWI Archives.

B. Early Views: An exterior photograph of the Help's Quarters is located in the PRWI Archives (File 2688) as part of a 1951 inventory (Figure 3).

C. Bibliography:

**Manuscript/Photographic Collections:**

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.

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**Publications and Secondary Sources:**

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

#### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation of the Help's Quarters (Building 65) at Cabin Camp 1, 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

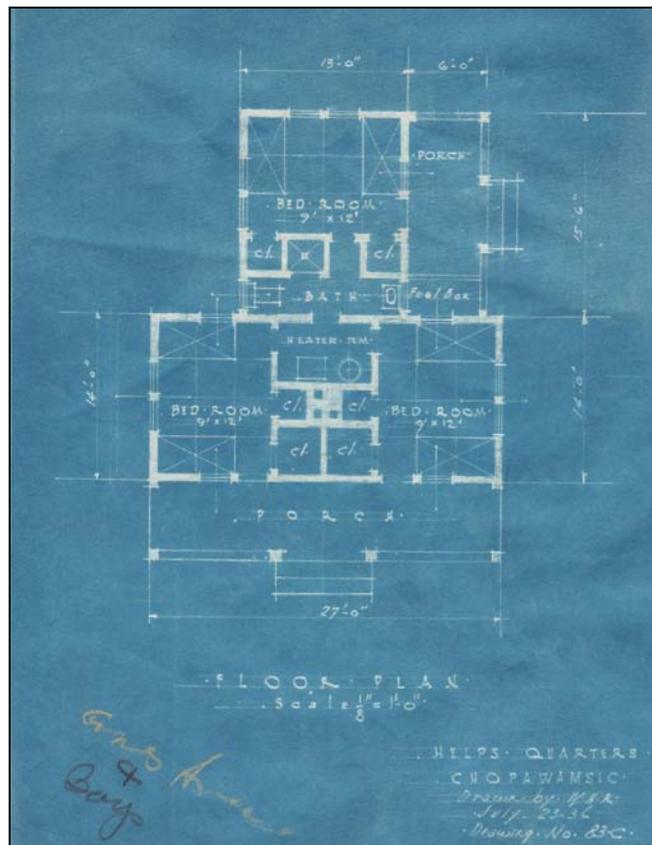


Figure 1: Proposed Help's Quarters, Chopawamsic Girls' and Boys' Areas, 23 July 1936.  
Source: Box 125, Entry 100, RG 79, NARA II.

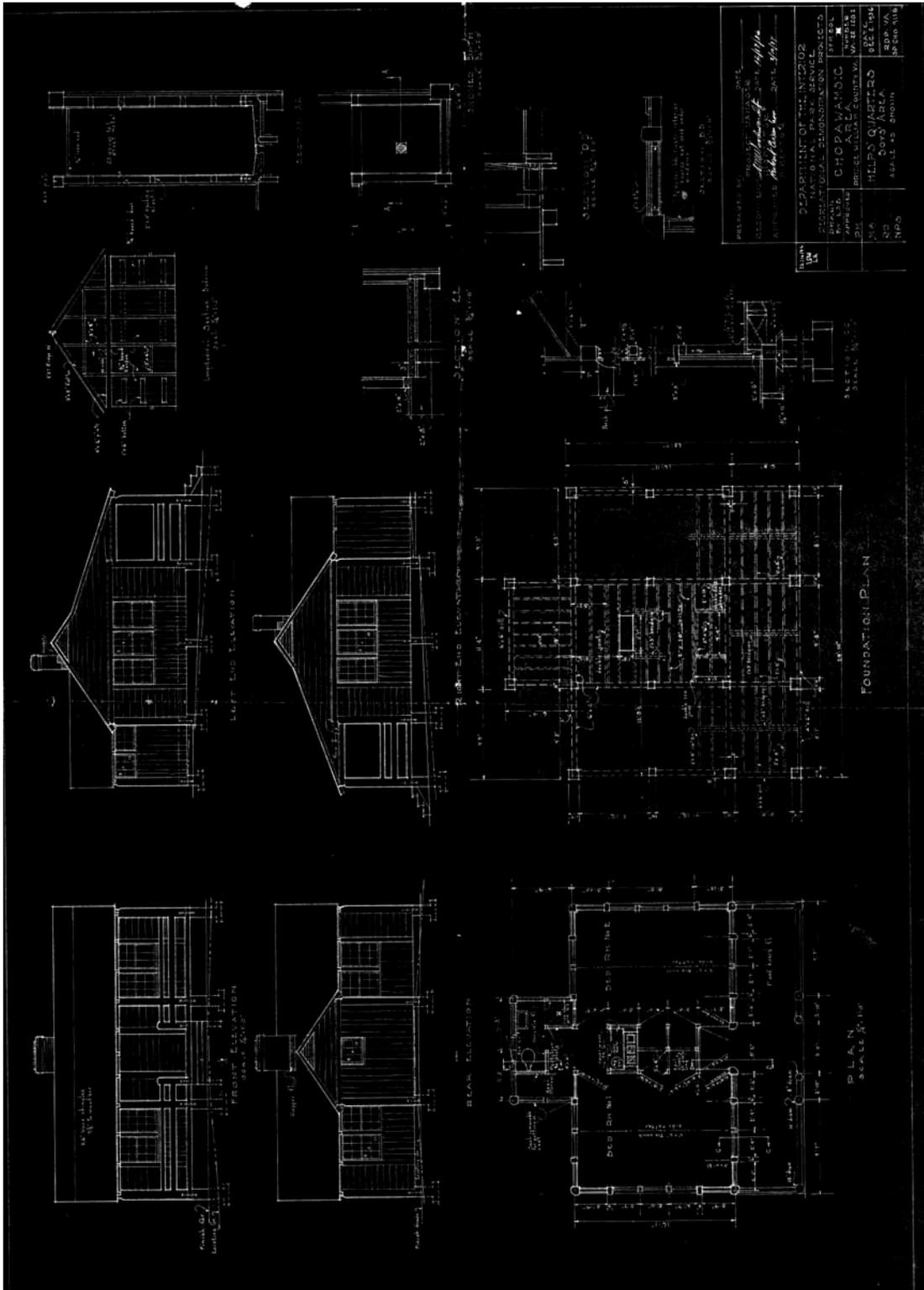


Figure 2: Boys' Area Helps' Quarters, (2 December 1936).  
Note bathroom at rear (never built).  
Source: PRWI Archives.



Figure 3: View of Camp 1 Help's Quarters, 1951.  
Source: File 2688, PRWI Archives.