

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve

other names/site number Illinois State Park No. 34 DuPage

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 3609 Spring Road not for publication

city or town Oak Brook vicinity

state Illinois county DuPage zip code 60523

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ **national** ___ **statewide** ___ **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D**

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Illinois Department of Natural Resources - SHPO
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5		buildings
1		site
11	5	structure
2	1	object
19	6	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE – outdoor recreation
LANDSCAPE – park, forest, natural feature, street
furniture/object

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE – outdoor recreation
LANDSCAPE – park, forest, natural feature, street
furniture/object

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/ Rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: LIMESTONE; CONCRETE
walls: LIMESTONE; HEAVY TIMBER; LOG; WOOD
roof: ASPHALT
other: CONCRETE; LIMESTONE

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

The Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve (Preserve) spans 226 acres, comprising native lowland forest, prairie, wetland, and riparian habitats. The Preserve is located in Oak Brook, Illinois, approximately sixteen miles southwest of downtown Chicago in DuPage County. It is roughly bound by 31st Street (Oak Brook Road) to the north, York Road to the east, and Spring Road to the south and west. The Preserve is bifurcated by Salt Creek, which defines its overall organization, topography, and ecosystems.

The site is named after the former community of Fullersburg, platted by New York-born settler Benjamin Fuller in 1851. However, the community was first known as Brush Hill, best known for a sawmill established in Salt Creek in 1837 by Orente Grant. This mill was destroyed by fire in 1848. Four years later, Frederic Graue and William Asche built a grist mill and sawmill on the site. Known as Graue Mill today, the site is located at the southern end of the Preserve. The origins of the site's establishment as a forest preserve date to 1920, when the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPD) purchased a 65-acre tract north of the mill. During the Great Depression, the FPD had limited funding for improvements to the forest preserve and requested the placement of a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal Program. Between 1933 and 1938, CCC Company V-16 transformed the native landscape into the extant recreational forest preserve.

The Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve Historic District (District) encompasses 176.9 acres of the 226-acre forest preserve, including the Graue Mill site, previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The remaining acreage encompasses additional parcels on the southwest side of Spring Road. The period of significance is from 1933, the construction date of the oldest contributing resource in the district, to 1975, the fifty-year cutoff for the National Register of Historic Places. The District contains one contributing site, five contributing buildings, ten contributing structures, two contributing objects, one contributing parking lot, and one previously listed resource. The contributing resources encompass the built improvements made by the CCC, including various buildings, structures, bridges, trails, islands, and the creation of novel channels in Salt Creek. The contributing resources within the District are designed in the Rustic style, first introduced by the National Park Service (NPS) as the "Rustic Resort" style in 1916. There are five non-contributing structures and one non-contributing object, which were constructed outside of the period of significance.

Narrative Description

The Preserve is located in Oak Brook, Illinois, approximately sixteen miles southwest of downtown Chicago, in DuPage County. The District encompasses 176.9 acres, roughly bound by 31st Street (Oak Brook Road) to the north, York Road to the east, and Spring Road to the south and west. The site and setting of the Preserve are defined by two distinct topographic features: the Valparaiso Glacial Moraine and Salt Creek. The moraine creates an upland terrain with irregular knolls and plains, while the creek creates a topographical depression flanked by lowlands. Salt Creek enters the Preserve from the northwest, moving southward along the uplands in the northwest section. Downstream, the creek meanders east through lowland terrain in the central bulk of the Preserve. In doing so, it creates two large bows (referred to as the western and eastern meanders). At the eastern boundary of the Preserve, the creek heads southeast toward the intersection of York and Spring roads. The shape of the Preserve tapers as it follows the creek downstream.

The upland ecology within the western meander is characterized by a mixed oak woodland with a dense canopy that shelters low brush. At the northern boundary of the Preserve is the Paul Butler Nature Area (or Butler Woods), a Class IV Mesic Woodland. This portion of the Preserve is primarily used for ecological research and the preservation of animal

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habitats. During the 1930s, a large-scale erosion prevention and reforestation project was implemented in this area as part of the CCC campaign.¹ The upland woods are bordered by short bluffs along the creek.

The lowland woods are located within the eastern meander. At the west end is a knoll that gradually slopes eastward to a low, varied wetland landscape with brush, sparse woods, and grass. Topographic features in this area include a small glacial mound and a depression that was a former gravel pit dug by the CCC.² Both features are located near the center of the eastern meander.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

The Preserve retains a significant amount of historic fabric that contributes to the site's historic and cultural significance and architectural legacy during the period of significance (1933-1975). This includes the overall site, a collection of historic structures, and landscaping improvements. Each of these extant resources embodies the principles of the NPS Rustic Resort style (1916-1942), which incorporates natural surroundings into the design of human-built elements. The style aims to meld the built environment into the natural landscape through organic forms, an emphasis on the horizontal, harmonious scale with nature, and the use of raw materials—predominantly timber and locally quarried stone. The contributing resources maintain a high degree of historic integrity through the preservation of materials and workmanship, and the stewardship of the historic setting and location of the built resources. These elements convey the Preserve's significance and association with the work of the CCC, making the district worthy of listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Landscape Architecture

A variety of landscape architecture features were constructed by the CCC in the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve between 1933 and 1938. The construction of each feature followed guidelines set by the United States Department of the Interior through the NPS in CCC training and education materials. Evidence of the CCC's work remains visible in the Preserve today, including alterations to the course of Salt Creek, the construction of islands, and the stone retaining walls that physically define these alterations. A key feature of the landscape is the stonework installed by the CCC between 1933 and 1937 for boundary demarcation, ground stabilization, and water channeling purposes. The most used stone is rough-faced, cut limestone, and crushed gravel. The cut limestone was quarried at another CCC-improved site, Rocky Glen, known as Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve. The gravel was quarried from a gravel pit dug by the CCC near the center of the eastern meander.

A. CCC Alterations to Salt Creek: Photograph Nos. 2, 4, 8, 16, 20, 34

During the development of the Preserve by the CCC in the 1930s, Salt Creek was altered to create recreational landmasses, prevent flooding, make the creek accessible by paddleboat, create a wide ice skating surface in the winter, increase fishing opportunities, and make it swimmable. This included the creation of two novel watercourses in the Salt Creek to form Willow and Sycamore Island. The channel on the far northeast side of Willow Island is extant and reflects the work of the CCC to dredge and perform cut-and-fill operations. Between 2022 and 2024, a campaign to restore the water quality of Salt Creek made the CCC-created channel, located northeast of Willow Island, the primary channel of Salt Creek, while the original channel became a secondary, high-water channel. The CCC-created Sycamore Island channel is extant and wraps around the west end. The restoration of Salt Creek has decreased the flow in this watercourse, making it usable only during high water levels. To prevent shoreline erosion in areas where the creek was widened and along the shores of the novel waterways, the CCC installed tightly fitted, stacked limestone masonry units as retaining walls. The walls are constructed with alternations of large, long slab courses and courses of irregular units placed as needed to create a level surface for the larger courses. In areas where walls have washed out, there is no visible evidence of mortar, indicating that the wall was dry-stacked.

¹ The trees used in the campaign were transplanted from other sections of the preserve.

² The original CCC General Development Plans by G. F. Ingalls (1934) stated that the gravel pit would become a "bowl" or outdoor theater. However, this never came to fruition.

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B. Manmade Islands in the Salt Creek: Photograph Nos. 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 15, 35

Islands within Salt Creek at the Preserve were created by the CCC in the 1930s. These include Willow Island (now known as North Island) and Sycamore Island (now known as South Island).

Willow Island is located north of the Boathouse (Education Center) in the northeast section of the Preserve. The island was created by the CCC by digging a channel to the north and east. The 1933 G. F. Ingalls landscape design programmed the island as a campsite and an open area for games. A 1956 DuPage County map illustrates that the island had a maximum camping occupancy of 1,000. Historically, the campsite was used by Scouts and nature groups. A non-extant kidney-shaped section of the eastern half of Willow Island was excavated by the CCC to create a lily pond. Over time, this feature was likely infilled to prevent flooding of the island. It has since naturally developed into a wetland. The North Island Loop trail follows the perimeter of the island.

Sycamore Island is a natural, unprogrammed space that does not include any built structures. The CCC did construct a bridge connecting the island to the Night Heron Trail; however, the bridge was partially demolished at the time of the survey (2023-2025), making the island inaccessible for documentation. Historically, it served as a campground for 300 people (maximum) and as a fishing spot. Based on the 1933 drawings of the proposed improvements for the Preserve, a pedestrian trail was to be constructed on the island.

C. Circulation

The vehicular circulation and the pedestrian trail system within the Preserve date to the Period of Significance (1933-1975). The trail system within the Preserve consists of two categories of trails. The first is a pre-1930 circulation system of roads, identified as "Existing Roads to be Abandoned" in the 1933 G. F. Ingalls design for the CCC Development of the Preserve. The second type of trail utilized in the 1930s plans is foot and horse (bridle) trails. The only extant vehicular road in the Preserve is the existing roadway which enters the site at the main entrance from Spring Road. The road leads to the only parking lot within the site before returning south to Spring Road. The existing circulation system is a crucial feature of the Preserve's spatial setting and a significant contributing factor to the site.

1. Vehicular Routes: Photograph No. 1

- **Parking Lot Access Road:** At the primary vehicular entrance of the Fullersburg Woods is a curving northeast-southwest route that provides access to the parking lot. At the midpoint of the road, it is divided into two lanes, one for each direction of traffic, with a landscaped median between. As it meets the parking area, the lanes split around a large, rounded landscaped area. The vehicular curbs and median dividers in the Preserve are often made of stacked cut limestone units installed by the CCC. Another type of stone utilized is large stone boulders that are placed as lane dividers in two medians located beyond the entrance gate near the center of the Preserve.
The primary vehicular entrance gateway features historic, cut limestone units installed by the CCC. Two vehicular lanes separated by a median are each flanked by stacked stone piers that support non-historic metal gates. The piers are orthogonal on the lane side and canted on the other.

2. Trail System: Photograph Nos. 3, 9, 24, 26, 33

- **The Night Heron Trail** (2.3 miles) is a gravel loop trail that encircles most of the Preserve following the cut bank of Salt Creek. It crosses two bridges, the Foot and Horse Bridge (Rainbow) at the east end of the Preserve, and the York Road Bridge near Graue Mill. Sites that are accessible from this trail include the Paul Butler Nature Area, the Salt Creek Overlook, the Graue Mill, and the Graue House.
- **The Riverbend Trail** (1.2 miles) is a gravel loop trail that follows the point bar of Salt Creek, meandering through the most central section of the Preserve. Many of the shelters within the Preserve, the Boathouse, and the parking lot are accessible from this trail.

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- **The Monarch Trail** (0.3 miles) and the **Oriole Trail** (0.2 miles) are short, point-to-point gravel or dirt trails that cross from east to west through the central portion of the Preserve within the eastern Salt Creek meander.
- **North Island Loop** (0.3 miles) is a short, loop gravel trail that follows the outer edge of the CCC-created Willow Island (now known as North Island). It is accessed by the North Island Bridge on the south side of the island.
- **Signage** is utilized along trails to educate visitors on the history of the site, its natural features, and wildlife. In 2016, eighteen interpretive signs were installed. Other signs include non-historic wood trail markers.

3. Sidewalks: Photograph No. 39

- **Concrete sidewalks** throughout the site connect pedestrians to the parking area, restrooms, and Boathouse.
- **Pedestrian path dividers** installed by the CCC include large limestone slabs that mark curves in the transition between the pedestrian walkways and the parking lot near the Boathouse.

D. Drainage

Culverts and ditches along the pedestrian trails were installed by the CCC to provide crucial drainage and water management. CCC-era culverts are typically standard arched culverts constructed of limestone units, although some are capped and lined with squared limestone slabs.

Structures, Buildings, and Objects

The buildings in the Preserve adhere to guidelines established by the United States Department of the Interior, as outlined in CCC training and education materials, following the NPS Rustic Resort style (1916-1942) (also known as Rustic). By utilizing raw, natural materials and designing buildings inspired by their natural surroundings, the structures blend seamlessly into the native landscape. Buildings are often low, wide structures with irregular massing that rise from a base of stacked stone and walls composed of rounded, stripped logs and/or stacked stone. Applied ornamentation is not common. Similarly, structures (e.g., shelters) are constructed with a masonry base, typically composed of stone paving and a low, stone wall, with open wall structures. The roofs of shelters and buildings are low and gabled, supported by stripped, rounded logs. Bridges utilize stacked stone to create abutments, which are banked into the landscape. Wood is used in the remaining components of the bridge structure.

Unless otherwise noted, resource names listed before parenthetical titles are gathered from the 1934 blueprint drawing set held at the University of Illinois - Chicago in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County archive. Secondary names, set within parentheses, have been used by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County since the 1970s to account for changes in use and to create a simplified numbering system.

Boathouse (now the Education Center), Map ID #1, 1936, Photograph Nos. 39 to 42

The Boathouse was constructed between 1933 and November 1936 by the CCC. It consists of two stories, an upper level historically used as an open-floor-plan picnic shelter and concessions area, and a lower level with rooms originally divided into paddle boat storage and a "skaters' shelter" (for ice skaters to warm up). Originally, the second floor was open, without windows and doors. The first floor "skaters' shelter" was similarly open, but the storage area (the northern-most room) was enclosed with windows and doors. In the 1970s, the building was converted to a museum on the first floor and concessions stand called "The Landing" on the second floor.

The building is situated on the western bank of Salt Creek, near the center of the Preserve. Following the design philosophies of the Rustic style, the building's form and the site blend to create a cohesive whole inspired by nature. While the Boathouse is prominently situated along Salt Creek, it seamlessly integrates into the natural landscape as it is

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nestled into a hill, thereby diminishing the building's scale and stature. The use of natural, raw materials, including stone and logs, further unifies the building with its surroundings.

The Boathouse is rectilinear in plan and two stories in height. The only deviation from the main floor plan is a two-story cross-gabled projection located at the north end of the east (Salt Creek) elevation. The length of the building runs parallel to Salt Creek on a north-south axis. It is crowned with a low gable roof with wide eave overhangs. The main roofline is accentuated by the aforementioned cross-gable projection, which sits below the peak of the main roof. A similar lower gable roof is located at the center of the west elevation, over the main entrance, further described below.

The base and first floor are clad with rough-faced, cut limestone units, laid in a coursed ashlar pattern. The stone-clad exterior walls are canted. The walls of the upper floor are constructed of stripped logs laid horizontally. The ends of each log are rounded and notched together at the corners of the building. At the face of each gable end, the logs are narrower and oriented vertically.

At the south elevation, a chimney projects from the façade and spans nearly half the width of that elevation. The chimney is canted and clad in limestone to match the main elevations of the building. It extends the full height of the building, from grade to above the ridge of the main gable roof. The firebox is accessed from both the interior and the exterior of the building. On the exterior, the chimney is a notable feature of the Boathouse landing, which is described later in this section.

The main entrance is located on the west elevation. Historically, this entrance was accessed via a short, central landing staircase with two opposing flights. The entrance was altered in the 1970s to remove the stairs and replace them with a ramp that runs perpendicular to the west elevation. At that time, the existing gable roof above the entrance was added. Two additional entrances are located on the first floor of the east (Salt Creek) elevation. Historically, three open passageways were located on the east (Salt Creek) elevation. In the 1970s, the outer two openings were converted to windows, and the central opening was enclosed with double doors. The second door at this elevation is centered at the first floor of the cross-gable projection near the north end of this elevation.

The windows on the first floor of the east elevation also include three original openings: one near the southeast corner and two others flanking the entrance at the north end of the east (Salt Creek) elevation. Small, square windows that are not historic flank the fireplace at the south elevation. At the second floor of the east and west elevations, bands of non-historic aluminum fixed windows were added in the 1970s as part of its conversion to a museum and concessions stand.

Additional alterations to the Boathouse include the removal of a stone staircase at the north elevation and construction of the extant two-story log observation deck. The deck is located at the northeast corner of the building and was constructed in the 1970s. It replaced a CCC-constructed stone staircase and seating area that provided access from the boat landing at the east elevation to the second-floor historic entrance opening at the north. The log deck provides access to this entrance. The roofing material at the time of survey (2023-2025) was asphalt shingle, although historically the CCC installed split wood shingles. Photographs from the 1970s indicate that the roofing material was still wood at that time.

Along the east (Salt Creek) elevation of the Boathouse is a historic boat landing (also called a landing dock on the historic drawings) and access stairs. Both features utilize stonework as a critical design feature. Southeast of the Boathouse, the land rises from the west bank of Salt Creek and is reinforced by a curved, historic stone retaining wall. The wall consists of mortared, cut limestone units capped with thin units of limestone coping. At each end of the retaining wall is a set of stairs that lead to the patio. The stairs closest to the Boathouse have eleven steps and non-historic wood guardrails. The second staircase curves following the shape of the retaining wall. It consists of two flights with a mid-landing. Flanking the stairs is the retaining wall and another short wall that acts as fall protection. The stair treads are clad in limestone pavers laid in a random ashlar pattern with linear, squared stone nosing. At the base of the stairs, a short limestone wall

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extends from the retaining wall to divide the boat landing from a small seating area adjacent to the fireplace on the south elevation of the Boathouse . Today, the boat landing is used as a patio for circulation to and from the Boathouse and an observation area on Salt Creek. The paving of the boat landing is partially historic flagstone paving. Recent renovations to the boat landing have replaced a substantial portion of the historic paving with concrete.

Picnic Shelter and Kitchen (Shelter 7), Map ID #13, 1933, Photograph No. 28

Completed in 1933, the Picnic Shelter and Kitchen was constructed by the CCC and is one of the larger structures in the Preserve. This type of structure is described by Albert Good in the NPS published *Park and Recreation Structures* (1938) as the most generally useful building for recreational purposes in any park. Preserves improved by the CCC usually contain one large picnic shelter situated in a picturesque location near the center of the site, as is the case with Shelter 7 at the Preserve. Picnic Shelters are generally large, roofed structures that contain a fireplace, food staging area, and wood storage. The interior is unobstructed, and seating within the structure is often movable to accommodate multiple arrangements. A water well located a short distance away was a requirement, which aided with cooking processes.

The Picnic Shelter at the Preserve is designed in the Rustic style and exemplifies the high-level construction skills of the veteran enrollees in Company V-1668. The building is expertly designed to blend seamlessly into the landscape while also demonstrating precise attention to detail in the preparation of materials and construction. The base of the shelter is banked into the adjacent hill and surrounded by a dense grove of trees. It is rectangular in plan and one-story in height, which creates an overall low profile for the structure against the native landscape.

The structure is semi-enclosed by a limestone retaining wall at the rear (east) and a low limestone perimeter wall at the northwest and southwest corners, which also serves as seating. The limestone is cut into long, narrow, rough-faced units and laid in neat courses. The perimeter wall is finished with flat, smooth limestone slabs of varying sizes.

Incorporated into the rear wall is a fireplace and its associated chimney. Four square stone pillars support a large pyramidal hip roof with a wide eave overhang. At the northwest and southwest corners, the piers rest on the perimeter wall. The roof structure is exposed from below and contains common, hip, and jack log rafters. Log plates and brackets connect the roof to the stonework below. The roof is sheathed with 6-inch-wide tongue and groove boards and has been clad with non-historic asphalt shingles. Access into the shelter is provided by three openings in the perimeter wall. The structure sits on a non-historic concrete pad. Additionally, within the structure are historic, movable log benches.

Shelter 4, Map ID #10, c. 1936; Photograph No. 18

Located across from the picturesque branch of Salt Creek, near Willow Island, is Shelter 4. The structure is unique in the Preserve for its hexagonal footprint. This type of structure is known as an overlook shelter in the NPS published *Parks and Recreation Structures* (1938). It was built by the CCC of log construction with open walls and a hipped roof. On the trail side is a short stone wall, between three spans, constructed in c. 2022. This wall has replaced a historic, CCC-constructed wall.

Shelter 6 (Well 4), Map ID #11, 1937; and Shelter 2, Map ID #8, c. 1937, Photograph Nos. 21, 22, 23, and 14

These two historic resources are examples of CCC constructed shelters that utilize sawn commercial lumber rather than the more prevalent log construction seen in the Preserve. Both were constructed by the CCC in accordance with NPS guidelines. Original NPS records indicate that the building known today as Shelter 6 (Photograph No. 21) was a shelter over a predominantly non-extant well and hand pump. On the trail side of the shelter is a remnant of the stone well, with small pieces of limestone at grade (Photograph No. 22). Similar in design to Shelter 6 is a former well on Willow Island, Shelter 2 (Photograph Nos. 14 and 23).

Completed c. 1937, the shelters are open, timber frame structures one story in height with rectilinear footprints. The roof type is a pyramidal hip supported by squared rafters. The rafters in turn are supported by squared posts set in

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groups of three at each corner. Lateral rigidity of the posts is provided with braces that are mortised into the upper portion and dovetailed between the outer post and center post near the base of the structure.

Covered Trail Seat (Shelter 3), Map ID #9, c. 1936, Photograph No. 17

Constructed in c. 1936, this shelter is the last remaining CCC constructed "covered trail seat" in the Preserve. Based on historic development plans by G.F. Ingalls, approximately 12 covered trail seats were planned, of which at least 8 have been confirmed as constructed. This structure type was also known as an "Illinois Sheltered Trail Seat." As noted in the *Park and Recreation Structures* (1938) by Albert Good, this design has "knocked about the state and acquired quite a polish...All in all, a fine old Illinois family of long tradition and notable attainment."

The Covered Trail Seat is situated back from the trail, within a clearing in the woods along the Riverbend Trail, just west of the non-historic bridge to Willow Island. It is set on historic flagstone pavers. The structure is a timber frame with an open design, consisting of a gable roof supported by a pair of posts at each gable end. The posts are constructed from logs, while the roof structure is comprised of commercially sawn lumber. Incorporated into the design is a two-sided seat that spans the width of the structure. Each of the two seats consists of a half-log bench and a log backrest. The seats rest on two logs that run perpendicular to the seats, which are attached to the posts at each end.

Shelter 1, Map ID #7, c. 1936, Photograph No. 13

Shelter 1 is an observation shelter situated in a picturesque location at the southeast end of Willow Island. From the shelter, an unobstructed view of Salt Creek is provided on three sides as the waterway encircles Willow Island. The structure is composed of a timber frame and masonry construction, with a long, rectilinear footprint. It features an open design with log columns situated in groups of three at each corner and flanking centered openings at the north and south elevations, described below. These posts support a hip roof with exposed log construction consisting of a ridge, rafters, collar ties, and plates. The bases of the columns are set into low, rough-faced limestone walls. Openings in the wall at the center of each elevation provide access to the interior of the structure. The concrete floor of the structure is clad in historic flagstone pavers.

Limestone Fire Pit, Map ID #23, 1934, Photograph No. 43

This fire pit design was included in the 1934 detail drawings drawn by "Brown" and submitted by Laurence E. Darling of the Office of National Parks. It is a two-foot-tall limestone fire pit constructed of narrow, coursed limestone. The outer edge of the limestone has been hewn to curve to create the fire pit's defining round footprint. The top course of stone is composed of wedge-shaped units that slightly overhang to accentuate the circular form of the fire pit. The interior of the fire pit is lined with cement and originally featured grill grates on the interior. At the base of the wall on one side is an opening that was used to draw air and remove charcoal and ash.

Sycamore Island Bridge Abutments, Map ID #20, c. 1937, Photograph No. 4

The bridge to Sycamore Island was partially demolished at the time of survey (2023-2025), removing the span across the creek and leaving two original limestone abutments and wing walls on each side of the creek. The abutments and wingwalls were constructed by the CCC using cut limestone units of similar heights and various widths. The wingwalls flare out diagonally from the abutments and are capped with sloping, wide, and thin limestone coping units.

Ranger Station Complex, Map ID #3, 4, and 5, 1933, c. 1973, Photograph Nos. 37 and 38.

At the onset of the CCC program at the Preserve, Company V-1668 first constructed their camp barracks. This included the building known as the Ranger Station (Map ID #3) and the adjacent gabled garage. The Ranger Station is a one-story, frame building with an overall rectilinear form and a gable roof. It is constructed on a concrete foundation and clad in vertical wood siding. The primary entrance is located at the far south end of the east elevation. The first floor is raised, and the main entrance is accessed via a set of three non-historic concrete steps or an accessible ramp that runs parallel to the elevation. A gable roof projects over the entrance stair to provide a covered entrance area. A non-historic secondary entrance, accessed via a deck, was added at the center of the north elevation. Flanking the deck area are two

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small additions that project from the north elevation and are covered with shed roofs with wide eave overhangs. A third entrance is located at the west elevation and is similar in design to the main (east) entrance. Pairs of one-over-one double-hung wood windows are sporadically located throughout the exterior.

Located to the northwest of the Ranger Station is a CCC-era one-car frame garage (Map ID #4). It is set on a concrete foundation and clad in vertical wood siding with a side-gable roof. The vehicular entrance is located at the north elevation, while the primary human entrance is located at the eastern end of the south elevation.

A second, one-car garage was constructed immediately west of the CCC-era garage in c. 1973 (Map ID #5). This garage is situated on a concrete foundation and features a hipped roof. It is clad in synthetic siding. The main vehicular entrance is located at the north elevation, while the primary human entrance is located at the south elevation near the southeast corner.

Former Visitor Center ("The Shelter"), Map ID #2, c. 1973/c. 2002, Photo No. 36

The former Visitor Center, known as The Shelter, was constructed during the 1970s re-programming of the main buildings in the Preserve. It is located immediately west of the Boathouse and north of the parking lot. The building added facilities to educate visitors on the site's ecological and archaeological past. It is a one-story, frame building composed of three hexagonal blocks that connect in a staggered line running east-west. Each block has its own hipped roof, with the western block containing five skylights. The building is constructed of logs and clad at the base with cut limestone units. In c. 2002, the building was converted into a restroom and maintenance storage area.

Graue Mill, Map ID #25, 1852, Photo No. 44-45

Located at the historic district's southeast corner is the former Graue Mill. The building was constructed between 1847 and 1852 by Frederic Graue on the south bank of Salt Creek, approximately 66 feet immediately west of present-day York Road. The building is sited amongst mature trees and a rich understory of native flowering shrubs. Paved pedestrian paths provide access to and around the building. The mill is rectangular in plan and three stories in height with a front-facing gable roof. The roofline is accentuated by prominent Greek Revival cornice returns and raking cornice at the north and south elevations. The building rises from a raised foundation of hand-hewn Lemont limestone, which supports the heavy timber, mortised-and-tenoned structure. The exterior elevations are clad in bright reddish-orange brick.

The plan follows a north-south axis with the main entrance centered on the south elevation and the millrace and the restored undershot wheel at the north elevation. The entrance is composed of a pair of vertical plank doors. Flanking the entrance are single windows on each floor. An identical window configuration is located on the north elevation. The east and west elevations are divided into four equal window bays, with a single window located within each bay at each floor. The only exception is that there is no window in the third bay from the north on the first floor of either elevation. All windows are twelve-over-twelve wood double-hung windows. Each fenestration opening features a cut limestone lintel, except at the third floor of the east and west elevations, and at the north façade, which has brick segmental arch headers. Additionally, at the attic level of the north and south elevations, there are a pair of semicircular vents, but the west vent at the north elevation has been enlarged and squared off.

In 1951, the DuPage Graue Mill Association (defunct) restored the mill and converted it into a museum. The building was previously listed on the NRHP in 1975, and in 1981, it was recognized as an Illinois Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

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The following is a summarized inventory for each of the existing contributing and non-contributing resources, including their historic name or use, if known, location, date of construction, primary architectural style, and current photograph, which corresponds to the photograph log of this nomination. A “Resource Key” is located in the “Additional Documentation” section of this nomination.

*Abbreviations Note: ARCH: Architectural; C: Contributing; N/A: Not Applicable; NC: Non-Contributing; NRHP: Previously Listed

ID	HISTORIC NAME/USE	LOCATION	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	ARCH. STYLE	C/NC	PHOTO NO.
1	BOATHOUSE	41.826650° -87.932177°	1936 (CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN 1933-1936); 1970-1973 (CONVERSION TO EDUCATION CENTER)	RUSTIC	C	39, 42
2	RESTROOMS (ORIGINAL VISITOR CENTER)	41.826612° -87.932677°	c. 1973	RUSTIC	C	36
3	RANGER STATION	41.826995° -87.932936°	c. 1933	RUSTIC	C	37
4	GARAGE (GABLE ROOF)	41.827127° -87.933143°	c. 1933	RUSTIC	C	38
5	GARAGE (HIP ROOF)	41.827126° -87.933281°	c. 1973	RUSTIC	C	38
6	WILLOW ISLAND BRIDGE	41.828863° -87.931617°	1972 (Superstructure); It is unknown when the substructure was replaced.	RUSTIC	NC	12
7	SHELTER 1	41.828939° -87.931032°	c. 1936	RUSTIC	C	13
8	SHELTER 2 (WILLOW ISLAND)	41.829707° -87.931761°	c. 1936	RUSTIC	C	14
9	COVERED TRAIL SEAT (SHELTER 3)	41.828666° -87.932384°	c. 1936	RUSTIC	C	17
10	SHELTER 4	41.830208° -87.933034°	c. 1936	RUSTIC	C	18
11	SHELTER 6 / WELL 4	41.828647° -87.934988°	1937	RUSTIC	C	21, 23
12	CREEK BANK REINFORCEMENT	41.829504° -87.935790°	c. 1936	RUSTIC	C	20
13	PICNIC SHELTER AND KITCHEN (SHELTER 7)	41.827214° -87.935255°	c. 1933	RUSTIC	C	28
14	SHELTER 8	41.827062° -87.935535°	2023	RUSTIC	NC	30
15	GRAVEL PIT	41.826894° -87.934717°	c. 1933	N/A	C	27
16	FOOT AND HORSE BRIDGE (RAINBOW)	41.827374° -87.937956°	1937; 2004	RUSTIC	NC	31, 32
17	PARKING LOT	41.825957° -87.932682°	c. 1938	N/A	C	N/A
18	FOOT BRIDGE (FLAT BRIDGE)	41.825505° -87.931542°	2012	RUSTIC	NC	5, 7
19	PICNIC SHELTER AND TABLE	41.825212° -87.934163°	c. 1987-1998	RUSTIC	NC	N/A
20	SYCAMORE ISLAND BRIDGE ABUTMENTS	41.824308° -87.933239°	c. 1937	RUSTIC	C	3, 4
21	STONE WALL AT VEHICULAR ENTRANCE TRAFFIC ISLAND	41.824008° -87.933997°	c. 1936	RUSTIC	C	1
22	PRESERVE ENTRANCE SIGNAGE	41.824005° -87.934275°	c. 1990	RUSTIC	NC	N/A
23	LIMESTONE FIREPLACE	41.824138° -87.931048°	1934	RUSTIC	C	43
24	TRAIL SYSTEM	Various	1933	N/A	C	3, 9, 24, 26, 33
25	GRAUE MILL	41.820594° -87.927501°	1852	Greek Revival	NRHP	44, 45

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STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

The Preserve has been in active use as a recreational site since its inception as a forest preserve in 1933. Over time, changes to the landscape have altered both the natural and human-made features of the area for maintenance and programming purposes, while retaining the overall sense of time and place related to the extant historic built environment constructed by CCC Company V-1668 in the 1930s. The Preserve maintains sufficient integrity in terms of feeling, design, location, setting, materials, and workmanship.

Recent improvements to the Preserve include the restoration of Salt Creek and the subsequent removal of CCC-constructed improvements. Alterations to Salt Creek by the CCC between 1933 and 1938 widened the creek through the site to promote water-based recreation and to prevent flooding. The alterations did not alleviate the issue of flooding completely, and the dredgings completed by the CCC have been variously changed over time (most notably in 1970 and 1990 after significant flooding events). The 2022-2024 Salt Creek restoration included the removal of a CCC-constructed low-head concrete dam near Graue Mill. It was demolished in 2023 because it caused ecological damage to Salt Creek by creating a 16-acre "impoundment" upstream. The impoundment trapped sediment, lowered oxygen levels of the water, and made the creek in Fullersburg inhospitable for fish and invertebrates. In conjunction with the dam removal, in 2025, the Salt Creek fluvial geomorphology was altered to include a variety of riffles, coarse bedding, deeper pools, and a narrower stream (Photograph Nos. 45 and 46). Some historic limestone from the CCC-era dam was reused to line the creek bed and assist with grade control.

Other alterations to the site include the partial demolition of historic bridges due to safety concerns. The most well-known bridge in the district, the Foot and Horse Bridge, was largely demolished in 2004 (Photograph Nos. 31 and 32). The bridge, now known as the Rainbow Bridge, was constructed in 1936. It was designed by NPS architects and supervised by R.B. Wight, NPS Construction Engineer. It was constructed by sixteen skilled CCC enrollees, including: Thomas Cruickshank, James Bell, Pietro Cinquini, Joseph Paul, Paul Malone, Jan Kmiecik, Leonard Johnston, John McLeod, Victor Salmonson, Fred Longheldt, Gussie Nobart, William Maringer, Policarp Urchurk, Frank Nutsford, Louis Polan, and Arthur Callahan. It was an arched, wood and concrete bridge supported by stone and concrete abutments. The bridge span has been replaced in accordance with the original design, but the historic stone abutments are partially visible, obscured by the addition of concrete and stone-veneer-clad upper abutments and wing walls.

Other CCC-built resources that have been lost include latrines, picnic tables, fire pits, and wells. Additionally, only one Covered Trail Seat remains, whereas historically at least eight were constructed. It is unknown what percentage of smaller or minor structures were lost, as no final as-built plans were ever created upon completion of the initial improvements. In terms of landscaping, the FPD has been actively removing invasive plant species from the Preserve to enhance habitat viability. Several of these species were planted by the CCC as part of their reforestation campaigns.

Despite these larger alterations, as well as the minor alterations described for each contributing resource, the Preserve retains a significant amount of historic material and maintains a high degree of integrity through the preservation of individual resources and their materials and character-defining features, which contribute to the significance of the district.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Architecture
- Landscape Architecture
- Engineering
- Entertainment/Recreation
- Conservation
- Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1933-1975

Significant Dates

1933, 1938, 1973

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

George French Ingalls
Chauncey Stevens Hill
CCC Company V-1668

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve Historic District (District) endures as a locally significant conservation and recreational site, as established by the DuPage County Forest Preserve (FPD). It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Politics/Government, Social History, and Entertainment/Recreation as a well-intact example of work undertaken under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Great Depression-era New Deal Program, specifically by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

The District is also eligible under Criterion C for Architecture. The improvement of the site as a forest preserve was designed by architects, landscape architects, engineers, and horticulturalists from the United States Department of the Interior Office of National Parks. The designs adhered to guidelines established by the National Park Service (NPS). The style of the built environment reflects these guidelines, which represent the NPS Rustic style. The designs were constructed by CCC Company V-1668, one of only a few CCC Companies that specifically enlisted war veterans. The site retains significant physical evidence of their craftsmanship, including substantial alterations to Salt Creek, the creation of islands, and reforestation campaigns, as well as the construction of bridges, buildings, structures, and objects largely built by hand with local materials, between 1933 and 1938. Thereafter, the site was opened as a forest preserve and was utilized by residents for camping, fishing, hiking, and wildlife observation.

The period of significance for the District spans from 1933 to 1975, reflecting the establishment date of the CCC camp in Fullersburg, until the 50-year cut-off for the National Register of Historic Places. It continues to operate, as it has historically, with a combination of wilderness areas preserved for ecological purposes and programs designed for educational and recreational purposes. It retains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORY OF THE FULLERSBURG WOODS FOREST PRESERVE AREA AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF YORK TOWNSHIP, BRUSH HILL, AND FULLERSBURG (1800-1880)

Prior to the arrival of European explorers and missionaries, and American settlers, the area that is present-day Fullersburg Wood Forest Preserve is located at the unceded lands of the Council of the Three Fires - the Prairie Band of the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Ottawa - who inhabited these lands for thousands of years as the rich forests, prairies, and rivers provided the hunting and fishing grounds for the First Nations.

Following the end of the Iroquois Wars at the end of the eighteenth century was the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) and ultimately American expansion westward. Illinois achieved statehood in 1818. However, the Potawatomi, which were located north of early American settlements, did not lose significant portions of their land until 1821 as part of the Treaty of St. Louis signed on August 24, 1816. As part of the treaty, a corridor, now known as the Indian Boundary Line, was established to allow access to Lake Michigan for settlement and the construction of the future Illinois & Michigan Canal. The corridor was surveyed by James M Duncan and T.C. Sullivan in 1819. Its southern boundary was defined by a line drawn from a point on the shore of Lake Michigan ten miles south of the Chicago River, to a point on the Kankakee River ten miles north of its mouth. The northern line of the corridor was located 3,000 feet northwest of the Fullersburg Woods. Beginning in the 1820s, the land within the corridor was rapidly settled by American and European immigrant families. In November 1822, the U.S. Surveyor General's Office certified the Federal Township Plat of this portion of DuPage County, known as York Township.³ Through a series of additional treaties over only the next eight years, the

³ William Rector, *T39N_R11E_3PM (1)*, 1822, map, DuPage County, Illinois State Archives.

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Potawatomi lost seventy percent of their land. With the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the stage was set for their complete removal.

However, implementation of the act was delayed while the United States government focused on the Sauk tribe at Rock Island (known as Saukenuk by the Sauk tribe) who denounced the 1804 treaty that stipulated their removal from western Illinois. The events that followed are commonly known as the Black Hawk War of 1832. Roughly 800 Sauks, led by their band leader and warrior, Black Hawk, chose to stay on their native lands and resist the United States' westward expansion, while United States officials were determined to force the Sauk tribe out of Illinois. Under General Edmund P. Gaines, a full assault was launched against Saukenuk on June 26, 1831, only to find that Black Hawk and his followers had abandoned the village and crossed the Mississippi River. In April 1832, Black Hawk leading a faction of Sauks, Meskwakis, and Kickapoos, prepared to re-cross east of the Mississippi River into Illinois, from Iowa which was "Indian Territory." While Black Hawk's exact motives were unknown, the presence of children, women, and elders indicated that they were a peaceful party, only hoping to resettle on their native lands. Convinced that the group was hostile, a frontier militia was organized and opened fire on the group on May 14, 1832. The group responded with a successful attack on the militia at the Battle of Stillman's Run. Black Hawk led his faction to a safe location in southern Wisconsin. Under the command of General Henry Atkinson, the U.S. troops tracked the group to Wisconsin. On July 21, they were defeated by Colonel Henry Dodge's militia at the Battle of Wisconsin Heights. Weakened by starvation and death, survivors retreated toward the Mississippi River.

The Black Hawk War ended in September 1832 following the signing of the Treaty of Chicago. As part of the treaty, five million acres of First Nations homelands were ceded to the United States government and the people removed. The Prairie Potawatomi were removed in 1834, with the Ojibwe and Ottawa of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, to land in present-day Council Bluffs in southwest Iowa, before being relocated to a reservation north of Topeka, Kansas in 1846.

The area surrounding Fullersburg Woods was ideal for settlement due to its proximity to Salt Creek and a primitive road known as the "Road from Chicago to Naperville" (later known as the Southwest Plank Road). These factors, along with the fertile prairie soil of DuPage County, drew settlement. The first recorded white settler of this portion of York Township was Elisha Fish, who arrived in 1834 and settled just west of present-day Fullersburg Woods. Two years later, brothers Orente and Zachariah Grant settled on 160 acres along Salt Creek near the southernmost boundary of York Township in the southeastern quarter of Section 36.⁴ Today, this quarter holds the majority of the southern portion of the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve. By 1837, they had established a sawmill along Salt Creek near the road. Thereafter, the area experienced increased settlement and a community known as "Brush Hill" was established in 1840 south of the York Township boundary, in the northeast corner of Downers Grove Township. This non-extant community was centered around the present-day crossing of York Road and Ogden Avenue. Later, in 1851, the community would be platted and renamed Fullersburg. However, the land known today as the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve would remain north of the township boundary and in unincorporated land until the establishment of Oak Brook in 1958. Even so, the early settlement of the Fullersburg area established the present-day character of the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve. This includes early settlers Friedrich H. D. Graue and Benjamin Fuller.

German-born sawyer Friedrich Graue arrived in Brush Hill in 1842.⁵ He was soon thereafter employed at the Grant sawmill. However, in 1848, the sawmill burned down, and the Grants moved west to California and Oregon. Between 1847 and 1852, Graue and a sawyer named William Asche built a gristmill and a dam near the former mill site along Salt Creek.⁶ The mill ownership passed in full to Graue within three years. He would continue to run the establishment until

⁴ The land patent for the Orente and Zachariah Grant property was recorded by H. M. Garland, U. S. General Land Office Recorder, and signed by President Martin Van Buren on October 1, 1839.

⁵ Friedrich Graue used the English spelling of his name, "Frederick," as well as the less formal "Fred."

⁶ The Historic American Building Survey documentation of the Graue Mill (HABS no. IL-26-6), completed in 1934, records the recollection of Frederick W. Graue, son of pioneer Friedrich Graue. He reports that the mill was constructed between 1847-1852 by a millwright from New York

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1881, at which point he deeded half interest to his son, Frederick W. Graue. The mill brought financial gains to the Graue family, who utilized the funds to purchase land throughout the southeast corner of York Township. In 1874, the Graue family owned the majority of the land now occupied by the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve. Friedrich Graue's descendants continued ownership of the mill until 1921. While the dam at Graue Mill was replaced in 1879 and removed in 1916, the gristmill stands today within the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve.

Also influential to the establishment of the Preserve was New York-born Benjamin Fuller. In 1835, he settled in Section 25 of York Township with his parents and siblings. In circa 1843, he constructed the York Tavern (extant) northwest of the crossing of York Road and Salt Creek near the community of Brush Hill. Also in that decade, he established a large farm and balloon-frame farmhouse in Brush Hill on York Road, just north of Ogden Avenue. The route of Ogden Avenue follows the historic stagecoach route along the "Road from Chicago to Naperville." In 1848, the road was formally established as the Southwest Plank Road. Travelling by wagon, a trip between Brush Hill and Chicago took approximately 10 hours.⁷ Fuller's businesses thrived due to their proximity to the plank road, making him a wealthy and influential man. By 1851, he had become the Postmaster of Brush Hill and led the effort to replat Brush Hill to become the village of Fullersburg. The community was the closest to the present day Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, with the northernmost boundary of the Village located 500 feet south of the southern terminus of Spring Road.

After the successful formation of Fullersburg as a village, Benjamin Fuller led a campaign to establish a railroad through Fullersburg in 1858. However, investigations by the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad concluded that the land was too wet and swampy to support the rail. Instead, in 1862, the company established the line one mile south of Fullersburg, in the community that would become Hinsdale in 1878. The role played by Benjamin Fuller in the establishment of the present-day communities surrounding Fullersburg Woods is incomparable. Today, his legacy is honored with the establishment of his home as a historic site. In 1981, it was purchased by the Forest Preserve District and relocated from its historic location at the intersection of York Road and E. Ogden Avenue (948 York Road) to the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve property, northwest of the intersection of Spring and York Roads.

With the loss of the opportunity to establish a railroad through the Village of Fullersburg, the municipality remained under 50 acres into the twentieth century. In addition, the land north of the York Township boundary, including the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, remained unincorporated. Conversely, the establishment of the railroad through the nearby Village of Hinsdale brought about a population boom in that community. In the early decades of the 1900s, this led to urban sprawl that has characterized the immediate vicinity of the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve in the present day.

CREATION OF THE FULLERSBURG WOODS FOREST PRESERVE (1880-1934)

The twentieth century brought significant change to the landscape of the Fullersburg area. In the 1890s, improvements in the nearby Village of Hinsdale soon established it as a destination for affluent families to construct their primary residences. The surrounding area quickly changed from its status as a sparsely populated farming community to becoming one of the most sought-after suburbs in the Chicagoland area. Outside of Hinsdale, large hobby farms were established by wealthy individuals hoping to escape city life.

During this wave of growth, millionaire Chicagoans Frank Osgood Butler and Fanny Butler relocated to the area. Frank was the president of the J.W. Butler Paper Company, established by his father in 1844. In 1898, he purchased a large tract of land straddling Salt Creek in Section 35 of southeast York Township to establish a farmstead. On the land, he constructed the Oak Brook Farm, including a farmhouse, horse stable, and fields. Over the next three decades, Frank invested much of his income from the paper company into purchasing parcels of land along Salt Creek in York Township. Along with his other purchases was the well-established, successful Natoma Dairy Farm—a "modern" liquid milk

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⁷ Recollection of Frederick W. Graue in *The Chicago Tribune*, March 8, 1931.

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operation that certified milk sanitation. With his growing portfolio of properties, Frank O. Butler hoped to prevent unplanned growth in the area and to eventually subdivide the land into a high-end residential community with numerous amenities. This vision would partially come to pass in 1958, when his son, Paul, platted the Village of Oak Brook. In the present day, the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve is incorporated into that municipality. The efforts of Frank Butler to maintain the Salt Creek area as an undeveloped wood and farmland defined the present-day natural characteristics of the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve.

Between 1920 and 1933, Frank O. Butler eventually sold a number of his properties to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (established in 1915). These properties would comprise the majority of the land encompassed by the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve. The first sale was the property east of Oak Brook Farm, purchased by the FPD in 1920. This land became the fifth forest preserve owned by the county. In 1921, Butler purchased the historic Graue Mill and 96 acres of property from the Graue Family. On October 13, 1933, the *County News Service* announced that three CCC camps would be established in DuPage County.⁸ The announcement included a deal struck between the Forest Preserve District and Frank O. Butler to transfer ownership of the 18 acres of former Graue-owned land and the mill to the FPD, establishing the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve.

By February 1934, the Forest Preserve District had acquired 110 acres of land adjoining Salt Creek around the Fullersburg Woods.⁹ Over time, parcels surrounding the Preserve were purchased. This includes a land donation by Paul Butler, son of Frank, in the 1980s. The land is situated in the western meander of Salt Creek in the Preserve and is known as the Paul Butler Woods. As of 2025, the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve now comprises 226 acres. Of those acres, 175.26 contribute to the boundaries of the Preserve as part of this nomination.

THE HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION OF CAMP FULLERSBURG: COMPANY V-1668 (1933-1941)

On September 10, 1933, the *Chicago Tribune* announced the construction of five caretaker's cottages as part of the improvement of the DuPage County's forest preserves, alongside an introduction to the Fullersburg Woods CCC plan as organized by Robert McKee and envisioned by Chance S. Hill, landscape architect. The original plans included the reconstruction of the dam at Graue Mill (demolished in 1916), the conversion of the mill into a tearoom, and the restoration of the "old lake"—a flooded section of Salt Creek upstream of the dam.

In December 1933, "Camp Fullersburg" was established at Fullersburg Woods and staffed with war veterans in Company V-1668. The company consisted of approximately 100 men who were already considered skilled laborers. In the July 1937 edition of the camp periodical, *Vet Gazette*, it was stated, "Among the Veteran enrollees now employed on this project are to be found experienced carpenters, stone masons, stone cutters, mechanics, steel workers, and good laborers. In the words of one NPS Engineer, 'They have to be good to work on this job.'" The men worked largely without the use of power equipment and tools. The exception to this is the use of vehicles (including small tanks) to move heavy items and uproot trees.

Company V-1668 began its work at the Fullersburg Woods by constructing temporary camp structures and buildings in the lowland woods (northwest of the Boathouse). This included the barracks, tents, supervisor housing, latrines, kitchens, and the mess hall—all of which have been demolished, except for the Ranger Station and its associated detached garage.

Once Camp Fullersburg was established, work began on the Graue Mill. This occurred in 1934 after the building was studied, measured, and drawn for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).¹⁰ The company disassembled non-original frame additions erected on the mill in 1884 by F.W. Graue (son of the founder, Friedrich Graue). Also removed was a steam boiler installed in 1916. The men rebuilt the water wheel, re-excavated the mill raceway, lined it with new

⁸ *County News Service*, "Three Civilian Camps Planned in DuPage." *The Daily Herald*, October 13, 1933.

⁹ "Rebuilding Dam at the Old Fullersburg Mill Site" *The Berwyn News*, February 23, 1934.

¹⁰ Johnck and Reed, "Graue Mill," Historic American Buildings Survey, (HABS IL-26-6).

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limestone, and began construction on a new dam to power the mill. The mill restoration and dam construction were completed by May 1936. As a result, the dam created a lake of approximately two miles in length, 50-200 feet in width, and three to six feet in depth.¹¹

The years 1934-1936 were the busiest for the men of Company V-1668. The May 1936 edition of the *Fullersburg Grit* camp periodical cited that work was underway on the "...rip rapping and sloping off of banks, excavating of lagoons and channels, construction of bridges and shelter houses, seeding and sodding of slopes in addition to transplanting hundreds of trees..." As part of the landscape improvements, the company completed widening the creek, reinforcing the banks with stacked stone, and digging the new channels of Salt Creek to create islands by August 1936. Horticulture projects were nearing completion by January 1937, including the planting of seeds and saplings, and the relocation of trees. Trails and bridle paths were created by clearing brush and laying gravel on the new trails. The gravel was sourced from a pit dug west of the Ranger Station in the lowland woods.¹²

Also in progress during this period were Shelter 7, the Boathouse, and the Foot and Horse Bridge. Each of these built resources exemplifies the craftsmanship of Company V-1668. Evidence of the CCC's use of hand tools, precise mortise and peg fittings, and custom hand-shaped logs and stones are still visible today. Ample photographic documentation of the CCC project at Fullersburg illustrates the methods, tools, and materials used by Company V-1668.

In January 1937, the company employed 161 men.¹³ With the larger building projects completed, the company requested approval of small-scale projects. These included latrines, incinerators, grills, additional trails, trail seats, and shelters. The interior restoration of the mill continued during this period as well, and it eventually opened to the public in 1943 as a museum.

By January 1938, the camp was staffed with 236 CCC enrollees. The significant increase is attributed to the completion of other Illinois CCC veteran company projects, including Camp Hinsdale and Camp Charlston. The men from those camps were transferred to Fullersburg. The majority of Central Illinois' CCC projects had been completed by that time. Other than Fullersburg, the remaining Veteran camps in January 1938 were Camp Swallow Cliff and Camp Oregon.¹⁴

The Fullersburg project was completed in April 1938, and Camp Fullersburg was disbanded. The men from Company V-1668 were transferred to a former CCC camp at McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in Naperville, Illinois.¹⁵ By that point, McDowell Grove had already been improved with a CCC project, but Company V-1668 were moved to the site to complete smaller projects, such as bird houses, a toolroom, and small handicrafts used to teach visitors to the forest preserve.¹⁶ Additionally, the men were enrolled in a number of training programs to teach them either woodworking, handicrafts, tree surgery, reading, writing, or arithmetic. The enrollment in these programs would allow the men to start businesses of their own upon completion.¹⁷

After the disbandment of Camp Fullersburg, the temporary camp buildings were dismantled, and the site was opened to public outdoor recreation. The Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve became a regional destination with an operational dam, a lake for paddling and boating, numerous trails, and campsites. Following the completion of the CCC program at

¹¹ "Fullersburg Dam Now Completed Two Year Project," *The Fullersburg Grit* 1, no. 1 (1936): 1, 3.

¹² The original, 1934 General Development Plans by G. F. Ingalls stated that the gravel pit would become a "bowl" or outdoor theater. However, this never came to fruition.

¹³ "Chicago Men Arrive at Camp," *The Vet Gazette* 1, no. 9 (1937): 1, 4.

¹⁴ "More Veterans to Camp Fullersburg," *The Vet Gazette* 1, no. 19 (1938): 4.

¹⁵ "Co. 1668 Vets Occupy McDowell," *The Vet Gazette* 2, no. 22 (1938): 1.

¹⁶ "Shop Completed at McDowell," *The Vet Gazette* 2, no. 31 (1939): 1.

¹⁷ Local legend supported by the DuPage County Forest Preserve District on the McDowell Grove Forest Preserve website indicates that the CCC men who resided in the forest preserve in the early 1940s were enlisted in a military "radar training" program that eventually became a Top-Secret Office of Strategic Services training program. This office was a predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The topic requires further research in order to be confirmed with archival documentation.

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Fullersburg Woods Preserve, programming continued the mission of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to educate and provide outdoor recreation. This included restoration projects in 1950 and 1980 at the historic Graue Mill. In 1981, the mill was recognized as an Illinois Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

However, in the late 1960s, Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods Preserve was identified as an unsafe location for water recreation, and water sports were prohibited. This led to a large revisioning campaign for the Preserve by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. At that time, the creek was cleared of brush and widened in key areas to allow for better flow. The campaign also included the construction of an educational visitors' center and the conversion of the Boathouse into a museum. These projects were completed in 1973. In 1992, the CCC constructed dam was partially demolished to install a flood release gate. The remainder of the dam was demolished in 2023-2024 as part of an intensive environmental restoration of Salt Creek.

CRITERION A: POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, SOCIAL HISTORY, AND ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

On March 31, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Senate Bill S. 598, an emergency act that created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The legislation was one of the earliest enacted by the President, who had only been inaugurated 27 days prior. President Roosevelt was elected during the height of the Great Depression and promised to bring the country out of this global economic crisis. To support this effort, Roosevelt established a series of government programs, collectively known as The New Deal, to provide relief, recovery, and reform. The individual programs created under the New Deal focused on addressing unemployment, stabilizing the banking system, and providing social security. The CCC was established as part of the larger New Deal program. The joint purpose of the CCC outlined in S. 598 was "— to provide for the restoration of the country's depleted natural resources and the advancement of an orderly program of useful public works." While providing work directly to unemployed citizens, the CCC would also undertake lasting public works and conserve natural resources for the country at large.

The CCC program was initially targeted at unmarried, out-of-school, and unemployed young men between the ages of 17 and 25. However, as the program progressed, other demographics were enlisted, including older men who had served in World War I and the Spanish-American War. By July 1933, the U.S. Department of Labor had recruited roughly 275,000 men for the CCC program, which was administered by the War Department. The enrollees were organized into companies, with enlistment numbers determined by the assignment. The CCC camp, established in Fullersburg Woods, was announced in October 1933. The company chosen to serve at Fullersburg was Company V-1668, one of 28 Illinois CCC camps that enrolled only war veterans (hence the "V" in its title). The declaration that the CCC would begin enlisting older men who had previously served in the armed forces was enacted on May 23, 1933, through a Presidential Executive Order. By August of that year, over 28,000 veterans were enrolled.¹⁸

The change in protocol within the CCC organization addressed problems arising from the Great Depression's impact on a long-debated "bonus payment" for World War I veterans. The "bonus" was a payout entitled to veterans depending on their length and location of service during World War I. The payments were to be dispersed to each veteran on his birthday in 1945. However, each man was entitled by the 1926 World War Adjusted Compensation Act to borrow against his payment before 1945. During the Great Depression, this was an opportunity for veterans facing financial hardship to provide for themselves and their families. Unfortunately, the banks were unable to supply the promised credit. Because of this, numerous large-scale protests took place in Washington, D.C. by advocacy organizations, such as the "Bonus Expeditionary Forces." Large camps of protesting veterans were established across the city, with an

¹⁸ J. J. McEntee, "Final Report of the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps," *Federal Security Agency Reports*, June 30, 1942.

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estimated total of 20,000 to 40,000 participants by the end of summer 1932.¹⁹ Despite their efforts, a series of relief bills introduced in the Senate were defeated.

With tensions running high and veterans struggling to find employment, the CCC was altered to enroll veterans into the relief program. The parameters for enlistment in the veteran companies were as follows: an overall limit of 25,000 enrollees; no age or marital restrictions; that the veterans had been honorably discharged from the armed forces; and that their camps were fully enrolled with veterans. The Veterans Administration established a quota system that set the number of enrollees per state based upon CCC program need.²⁰ Throughout the nine-year duration of the CCC program, the quotas increased to accommodate a growing number of CCC projects across the country. In the nine-year duration of the CCC, over 225,000 veterans were enrolled nationally.

Unlike the average CCC enrollee, the veteran members had the benefit of life experience on their side. The CCC companies with young men were largely training programs that included educational and coursework components. Not only would this training prepare the men to enter the workforce, but it would also prepare them to serve in the armed forces. This was not the case for the veteran companies. While they followed tutorials and style guides set by the NPS, the men were usually assigned to jobs they had already experienced either during the war or in their previous employment. Because of this, the sites improved by the veteran CCC companies reflect a high level of craftsmanship.

Following the organization of individual CCC companies, the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture were charged with selecting sites to be improved by the CCC. Some of the sites would become forest preserves, state parks, and national parks. Other projects were smaller-scale and included maintenance and reforestation campaigns. Once the sites were chosen, the NPS and the USDA Forest Service created designs and plans. After plans were created, CCC companies were assigned to a camp within the project area.

In Illinois, the impact of the CCC is evident in the creation of many extant forest preserves, state parks, county parks, and public works. Not only did the program alter the recreational and natural landscape of the state, but it also provided work to local, Illinois men, thus boosting the economy and providing access to future employment. By August 1933, within four months of the program's commencement, Illinois had 6,600 enrollees in 33 camps. By the end of the program in 1942, an estimated 165,300 Illinois men had been enlisted in the CCC.²¹ The men were required to send 90% or more of their monthly earnings home to their families. Those earnings reached approximately 17 million people and totaled over 36 million dollars in the Illinois economy.²² The state recruited men into camps based upon their residential regions: north, central, and south Illinois. According to the "Directory of All CCC Camps Supervised by the NPS," updated in December of 1941, 61 state parks and 12 county parks in Illinois had hosted a CCC camp. In the central region—which includes Fullersburg Woods—a sampling of additional camps includes York Woods Forest Preserve (DuPage County), McDowell Grove Forest Preserve (DuPage County), the Skokie Lagoons (Cook County), and Starved Rock State Park (LaSalle County).

The program continued until 1942, when funding was liquidated and redirected to support World War II efforts. The NPS estimates that the CCC's total national enrollment over its eight-year duration was 5% of the total male population in the United States.²³ The widespread impact of the Civilian Conservation Corps is relevant at both the national and local levels. The creation of the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve is directly related to the actions of Senate Bill S. 598. It stands today as a tangible local representation of the legislation and its impact on the past and future economy, recreation, and the retained natural landscape. Furthermore, the numerous improvements made to the Fullersburg

¹⁹ Senate Historical Office, "The Senate and the Bonus Expeditionary Force of 1932," *Senate Stories*, November 9, 2023.

²⁰ John A. Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study* (Duke University Press, 1967), 36.

²¹ John C. Paige, *The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933-1942: An Administrative History* (National Park Service, 1985), 187.

²² "Civilian Conservation Corps and Illinois State Parks." *Cultural Resources*, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, accessed July 29, 2025.

²³ Paige, *The Civilian Conservation Corps*, 126.

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Woods Forest Preserve by Company V-1668 also remain as evidence of this distinguished group of men and reflect the efforts of veterans nationwide to advocate for economic relief during the Great Depression. In so doing, the work generated by Company V-1668 not only provided for each man and his family, but it also provided a public good to the locality served both historically and presently by the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve.

ENTERTAINMENT/ RECREATION

The Fullersburg Woods Preserve was the fifth forest preserve in DuPage County and the first site in the county to be improved by the CCC for public recreation. Before Company V-1668 established a camp in Fullersburg Woods in December 1933, the landscape consisted of dense woodlands, a narrow section of Salt Creek, and minimal trails (largely unimproved bridle paths). The CCC project aimed to program the site with picnic areas, campgrounds, play areas, foot trails, wide bridle paths, parking, a boathouse, wells, seating, and shelters. The plans also included landscape alterations, such as the widening of Salt Creek, reforestation campaigns, and the creation of islands for public entertainment and recreation. The alterations to Salt Creek would make the site a destination for boating, fishing, and ice skating. The Graue Mill was restored by the CCC in 1933 to remove non-historic additions and to restore its historic functionality by constructing a dam. In so doing, the site would become an educational space and be treated as a museum. While improving the property, the CCC plans also included conservation measures that designated sections as native wilderness.

The combination of improvements with the retention of ecological habitats created a public space accessible to a wide range of people for various uses. During the economic depression of the 1930s, free leisure and recreational activities were of paramount importance for public morale, health, and welfare. Communities and individuals benefited from access to forest preserves and public parks where they could picnic, exercise, fish, camp, ride horses, and host events at no cost. They also provided needed space for community groups to gather, and even supported education by providing research opportunities in the sciences.

The site remains a popular recreational destination for hiking, fishing, wildlife observation, and snowshoeing. Furthermore, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has expanded its mission to conserve the ecology of Fullersburg Woods, including seed harvesting, the removal of invasive plant species, and the protection of wildlife. In the 1970s, the Preserve expanded its mission by introducing additional educational programming at Fullersburg Woods. This included the addition of educational signage along trails, the construction of a visitors' center, and the reprogramming of the Boathouse to a museum. The educational mission continues at the Preserve today in the form of signage, classes, lectures, and the ongoing operation of the Graue Mill as a historic site and the Boathouse as an educational center and museum.

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING OF THE FULLERSBURG WOODS FOREST PRESERVE

The CCC-improved Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve retains a significant collection of exceptional examples of the Depression-era NPS Rustic Style (1916-1942) that continues to characterize and inspire the design of many of America's State and National Parks. Today, the style is so indicative of these recreational areas that it is colloquially known as "Parkitecture." The style illustrates the hierarchy of experiences desired by visitors to the parks, which focus on the immersion within the nation's diverse natural landscapes. The built environment becomes secondary to the landscape, and NPS rustic-style buildings are designed to blend into nature through the use of irregular massing, asymmetry, natural materials, minimal ornament, and low, horizontal forms. At the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, these elements of the NPS Rustic Style are best exemplified in the built structures to create a coherent and cohesive whole.

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE NPS RUSTIC STYLE AND ITS USE IN CCC IMPROVED SITES (1886-1941)

The creation of an overall “National Park” style began in the early twentieth century. Before this period, beginning in 1886, the National Parks of Yosemite and Yellowstone were improved only with rapidly constructed, temporary, frame, frontier-style buildings. The buildings included cabins, stables, latrines, and mess halls used by the United States Army—stationed in the parks to provide administration and protection. By 1900, the Army replaced these buildings with military complexes organized as forts. These buildings followed Army specifications and design standards. An example of this is Fort Yellowstone (a National Historic Landmark District), which included timber and sandstone masonry buildings that blended the style created by the Army, which emphasized Colonial Revival details, and the Frontier style as seen in the Double Calvary Barracks (1909), stables (1909), and Granary (1891).

A third type of building found in the early period in the National Parks was more prominent, destination-type buildings, such as hotels and lodges. These buildings were designed by railroad companies, who funded their construction near park train stations. In 1903, the Northern Pacific Railroad company worked in conjunction with Yellowstone National Park authorities to fund and design the Old Faithful Inn (a National Historic Landmark). The team hired architect Robert C. Reamer (b. 1873, d. 1938). Reamer’s design philosophy incorporated the romantic and picturesque ideals set forth by writers, architects, and landscape architects in the second half of the nineteenth century: namely, Andrew Jackson Downing, H.H. Richardson, and Frederick Law Olmsted. Reamer blended this philosophy with the study of popular styles such as the Swiss Chalet and the Beaux-Arts. The result was a hotel made by hand with rugged materials and organic motifs that masterfully balanced the style of hearty frontier buildings with the elegance found in various high-style hotels in Europe. Similarly, the 1904 El Tovar Hotel, located at the south rim of the Grand Canyon, is designed with inspiration from Swiss Chalet and Norwegian Villa styles. It was funded by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad company and designed by architect Charles Whittlesley (b. 1867, d. 1941). Both of these buildings are notable for their use of rough-faced local stone at the base, exposed log construction for the walls, and wide roofs pitched to mimic the surrounding topography.

The next stage of park development was led by Stephen Tyng Mather (b. 1867, d. 1930), the Director of the NPS between 1917 and 1929. He held a distinct vision for the future of park design as a cohesive whole that would further promote park development nationally. He led efforts to improve the parks with roads, campgrounds, sewers, services, buildings, sports facilities, and other built features to enhance the comfort and entertainment of visitors. While incorporating amenities into the parks, he prioritized the conservation of natural features. In the 1918 “Report of the Director of the National Park Service,” Mather expounded upon his vision for the parks and thus solidified the goal of the NPS Rustic style.

In the construction of roads, trails, buildings, and other improvements, particular attention must be devoted always to the harmonizing of these improvements with the landscape. This is a most important item in our programs of development and requires the employment of trained engineers who either possess a knowledge of landscape architecture or have a proper appreciation of the aesthetic value of park lands. All improvements will be carried out in accordance with a preconceived plan developed in special reference to the preservation of the landscape, and comprehensive plans for future development of the National Parks on an adequate scale will be prepared as funds are available for this purpose.²⁴

Following this declaration, NPS architects, engineers, and landscape architects established style guidelines as part of the NPS building program. However, it was not until 1922 that these guidelines were fully realized, due to funding diversions to other projects within the parks. The building program was officially blessed by Mather after the construction of a series of ranger stations and museums in Yellowstone designed by landscape architect Daniel R. Hull (b. 1890, d. 1964) and architect Myron Hunt (b. 1868, d. 1952) beginning in 1922. Following the successes in Yellowstone, rapid improvement in the Glacier, Grand Canyon, Sequoia, and Yosemite National Parks reflected the new style guidelines and established the baseline for the NPS Rustic style. An excellent example of the established NPS Rustic style is the

²⁴ National Park Service, “Report of the Director of the National Park Service,” (Government Printing Office, 1918), 274.

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Yosemite Museum, constructed in 1926 by architect Herbert Maier (b. 1893, d. 1969). The two-story building has an overall emphasis on horizontality, characterized by a long gable roof. The verticality of the building is diminished through the use of stone construction on the first floor and timber framing on the second, which visually anchors the structure to its surroundings. Buildings, such as Maier's Yosemite Museum, transitioned the Rustic style from its early stages into the 1930s as it spread across the country in additional National Parks, State Parks, Forest Preserves, and County Parks.

In 1933, Herbert Maier was hired by the NPS to develop the style guidelines for the CCC and to serve as the regional director for state parks that the CCC would develop. In the guidelines, he refers to his style as "freehand architecture," implying that construction workers use hand tools and naturally assemble the various materials. In addition, he believed that harmony with nature was accomplished when the scale of structural elements was in proportion to their surroundings.

The Rustic style and design guidelines were utilized in CCC-improved sites across Illinois. One of the earliest and most well-known examples is Starved Rock State Park in LaSalle County, a National Historic Landmark. The park is best known for its geological formations, such as the eponymous Starved Rock (a tall rocky bluff), waterfalls, and carved sandstone cliffs. This park hosted three junior CCC companies between 1933 and 1941. The CCC built campgrounds, trails, bridges, shelters, benches, and most notably the Lodge (except for the hotel portion). Because of the park's unique landscape, the built resources reflect the landscape through the emphasis on verticality, imposing scale, and use of local materials—logs and stone—which are hand-shaped and unadorned.

At the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, architects and engineers similarly employed these design philosophies and the design guidelines set by the NPS to blend the built environment with the landscape and existing ecology of the forest preserve. To be in proportion with the surrounding environment within the lowlands of Illinois' prairie, the buildings are low and long, allowing the visual lines to flow naturally from the rocky Salt Creek to the backdrop of the dense woods rising from relatively flat land. The showpiece of the forest preserve, the Boathouse, is a grand structure that exemplifies Rustic-style proportions and scale. The building is banked into the shore of Salt Creek where it is widest. This provides a wide view of the building from across the creek, where it is apparent that the building is two stories high, with a timber-clad second story aligned with the woods and a stone-clad first story aligned with the shore of the creek. However, from the forest side of the building, only the second, timber-clad story is visible. From this elevation, the building is shrouded with trees, creating a narrower view. It does not seem to rise higher than the trees, and the perception is that it is in proportion with nature. The building is constructed utilizing local timber and limestone that is scaled in proportion with the lowland landscape. Limestone clads the lower level of the building, creating the appearance that it is rising from the rocky Salt Creek. The units are squared, of short height and long width, which draws the eye across the building. Contrast this with the Yosemite Museum, which is set amongst the soaring stone cliffs of Yosemite. That building is clad at the lower level with massive, round stone boulders that draw the eye upward.

Similarly, the original bridges that crossed the Salt Creek in the Fullersburg Woods utilized low, long, limestone units at the base. The walls of the abutments are canted, creating the appearance that they are part of the shoreline and formed by the creek over time. The canted walls blend the lines from the creek bank smoothly upward and across the bridges. At the top, squared, bent timbers were utilized in the railing. The shape of the railings follows the arch of the bridge as it crosses the creek.

The amount of timber versus stone utilized in the remaining Fullersburg structures is dependent upon the size of the structure. Larger structures, such as the Kitchen and Picnic Shelter, have stone bases with open walls of log construction. Smaller buildings, such as the Covered Trail Seat, are exclusively constructed with timber. This creates harmonious scale and visual presence between the structures and the surrounding landscape. The cohesive use of materials and proportion across the CCC-constructed buildings, structures, and objects within the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve

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indicates the history of the Rustic style as it was developed and used by the National Park Service between 1914 and 1933.

ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, AND DESIGNERS OF THE FULLERSBURG WOODS FOREST PRESERVE

The architectural, engineering, and landscape plans for the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve were created by several professionals, both known and unknown, employed by the NPS. Drawings of the structures and buildings were drafted in accordance with the NPS's style and construction guidelines. The supervision of the project was provided by Superintendent Laurence E. Darling (NPS landscape architect), Theodore F. Hammerschmidt (President of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County), and Robert L. McKee (Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County).

The full breadth of the contributions of landscape architects, engineers, and architects to Fullersburg Woods is not fully known. While historic drawings of the built environment exist, they are often signed with shortened names and initials.²⁵ These include "J.A.T." (engineer of the Foot and Horse Bridge) and "Brown" (trail seat designer). However, other key players are named in drawings, newspaper articles, and other archival documents. These include NPS landscape architect George F. Ingalls and Illinois landscape architect Chance S. Hill.

Waukegan native George French Ingalls (b. 1892, d. 1985) was a NPS landscape architect and traveling inspector for the majority of his career. In 1917, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in France during World War I. It is unknown if he attended university, but in 1922, he spent two years studying abroad in France, England, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, and Germany. By 1930, he had become a traveling inspector for the NPS. Three years later, he became involved with the CCC program as a designer. He designed the first comprehensive development plan for Fullersburg Woods in 1933. The drawings included improvements to Salt Creek, trails, shelter locations, reforestation campaigns, and the creation of the islands. In addition to the Fullersburg Woods Preserve project, he is also noted as the primary designer of the development plans for the Fort Peck Reservoir Recreation Area in Montana (1940).

Chauncey "Chance" Stevens Hill (b. 1890, d. 1973) was a noted Illinois landscape architect who supervised the landscaping of at least two CCC projects in Illinois. He was born in Champaign, Illinois. As a young man, he attended the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he studied landscape architecture. He graduated from the university in 1914 and by 1920, became the head of the Department of Landscape Architecture. In the 1930s, he became involved with several New Deal projects under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the CCC. Along with the Fullersburg Woods Preserve, he also supervised the design of the CCC project at McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in DuPage County, Illinois. His other works include the WPA programs at Studebaker Park and Island Park in Elkhart, Indiana.

CONCLUSION

Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve is locally significant for its association with the complex historical themes of the Great Depression-era New Deal program and the Civilian Conservation Corps in the United States. The history and development of the Preserve, as well as critical events in American history, are depicted through the remarkable and well-preserved built environment of the District. The Preserve also reflects the influential Rustic style movement in architecture, which continues to inspire the built environment of the nation's natural recreation areas. The Preserve continues to serve and provide the community with the exact outdoor recreation, conservation, and educational opportunities it has historically.

²⁵ The extant drawings are held by the University of Illinois, Chicago in the Cook County Forest Preserve Records, Series V holdings. Note that the Fullersburg Woods is located in DuPage County.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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MAPS:

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Foot and Horse Bridge Plan and Elevation (Constructed), November 30, 1936. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. (Forest Preserve District of Cook County Records, [FPDCC.06.04.0000.0066.016], University of Illinois at Chicago Library, Special Collections)

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PHOTOGRAPH ARCHIVES:

- Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Archives
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DRAWINGS:

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PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION:

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“The Old Graue Water-Mill at Fullersburg (near Hinsdale), DuPage County, Illinois,” *Chicago Regional Planning Association* (Chicago: 1939).

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Enrollee Records, Archival Holdings, and Access at the National Archives & Records Administration, St. Louis, Missouri

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- DuPage County Assessor
- DuPage County Recorder of Deeds
- U.S. Census Records
- *The Chicago Tribune*, 1930-1980, available through newspapers.com by Ancestry

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 176.9 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

<u>1</u> <u>Latitude: 41.832462</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.941964</u>	<u>5</u> <u>Latitude: 41.820428</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.927304</u>
<u>2</u> <u>Latitude: 41.827614</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.940979</u>	<u>6</u> <u>Latitude: 41.821228</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.927065</u>
<u>3</u> <u>Latitude: 41.827414</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.938093</u>	<u>7</u> <u>Latitude: 41.826813</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.931238</u>
<u>4</u> <u>Latitude: 41.824378</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.934885</u>	<u>8</u> <u>Latitude: 41.832677</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.932716</u>

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See Figure 1 in the Additional Documentation section of this nomination form.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries selected are based on historical written narratives, site plans, surveys, and aerial photographs that depict the location of Fullersburg Woods Preserve during the Period of Significance. The boundaries encompass all contributing resources that physically represent each Area of Significance.

The boundaries also do not encompass the natural areas located on the south side of Spring Road as there is no contributing, built resources on those parcels.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Erica Ruggiero and London Hainsworth/Architectural Historians date July 31, 2025
organization McGuire Ileski & Associates, Inc. telephone 847.328.5679 ext. 4
street & number 1330 Sherman Avenue email erica@miarchitects.com
city or town Evanston state Illinois zip code 60201

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve
City or Vicinity: Oak Brook
County: DuPage **State:** Illinois
Photographer: Erica Ruggiero
Date Photographed: April 8, 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 46:

View of the primary vehicular entrance to the Fullersburg Woods, looking north.

Photo 2 of 46:

View of Sycamore (South) Island from the southern terminus of the Riverbend Trail, looking east.

Photo 3 of 46:

View of the Riverbend trail and the west side of the partially demolished Sycamore Island Bridge, looking northeast.

Photo 4 of 46:

View of the partially demolished Sycamore Island Bridge and the northwest side of Sycamore Island, looking south.

Photo 5 of 46:

View of Flat Bridge looking north from the west bank of Salt Creek.

Photo 6 of 46:

View of Salt Creek from the west bank near Flat Bridge, looking south.

Photo 7 of 46:

View of Flat Bridge from the Riverbend Trail, looking southeast.

Photo 8 of 46:

View of Salt Creek looking north from the Riverbend Trail near the Flat Bridge.

Photo 9 of 46:

View of the Riverbend trail looking south from the lowland woods.

Photo 10 of 46:

View of the original watercourse of the Salt Creek that skirts the west side of Willow Island, looking west from the Willow Island Bridge.

Photo 11 of 46:

View of Salt Creek looking east from the Willow Island Bridge.

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Photo 12 of 46:

View of the Willow Island Bridge from the southeast bank of Willow Island, looking west.

Photo 13 of 46:

View of Shelter 1 on Willow Island looking southwest from the North Island Loop Trail.

Photo 14 of 46:

View of Shelter 2 on Willow Island looking southwest from a short path off of the northwest quadrant of the North Island Loop Trail.

Photo 15 of 46:

View of Willow Island looking south from the northern extreme of the North Island Loop Trail.

Photo 16 of 46:

View of the Salt Creek looking northwest from the North Island Loop Trail on Willow Island.

Photo 17 of 46:

View of a Sheltered Trail Seat (Shelter 3) looking north from the Riverbend Trail.

Photo 18 of 46:

View of Shelter 4 looking southwest from the Riverbend Trail.

Photo 19 of 46:

View of the Salt Creek and the Salt Creek Overlook from the northern extreme of the Riverbend Trail, looking southwest.

Photo 20 of 46:

View of the CCC stacked limestone along the Salt Creek below the Salt Creek Overlook, looking south from the Riverbend Trail.

Photo 21 of 46:

View of Well 4 (Shelter 6) looking southwest from the Riverbend Trail.

Photo 22 of 46:

Detail of the demolished stone well #4, formerly covered by the structure known as Shelter 6.

Photo 23 of 46:

View of Well 4 (Shelter 6) looking north from the Riverbend Trail.

Photo 24 of 46:

View of Salt Creek looking south on the Riverbend Trail near Well 4 (Shelter 6).

Photo 25 of 46:

View of a glacial mound centered within the eastern meander, looking north.

Photo 26 of 46:

View of the Oriole Trail from the crossing of the west side of the Riverbend trail, looking east.

Photo 27 of 46:

View of the former gravel pit, looking west.

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Photo 28 of 46:

View of Shelter 7 from the Riverbend Trail, looking southwest.

Photo 29 of 46:

View of Salt Creek looking west from the Riverbend Trail near Shelter 7.

Photo 30 of 46:

View of Well 5 (Shelter 8) from the Riverbend Trail, looking east.

Photo 31 of 46:

View of the Foot and Horse Bridge (Rainbow Bridge) looking northwest from the Night Heron Trail.

Photo 32 of 46:

View of the Foot and Horse Bridge (Rainbow Bridge) from the Paul Butler Nature Area, looking southwest from the Night Heron Trail.

Photo 33 of 46:

View of the trail that connects the I-88 Central Bikeway to the Night Heron Trail in the Paul Butler Nature Area, looking north.

Photo 34 of 46:

View of the 2024 installed riffles in the Salt Creek from the northern extreme of the Night Heron Trail, looking southeast.

Photo 35 of 46:

View of Willow Island from the Night Heron Trail in the Paul Butler Nature Area, looking south.

Photo 36 of 46:

View of the former Visitor Center (now Restrooms), looking northwest.

Photo 37 of 46:

View of the Ranger Station, looking southwest.

Photo 38 of 46:

View of two garages, looking southwest. The garage in the foreground was constructed in 1933 by the CCC.

Photo 39 of 46:

View of the Boathouse (Education Center) looking northwest from the path leading to the parking area.

Photo 40 of 46:

View of the Boathouse (Education Center) chimney looking northwest from the southwest patio stairs.

Photo 41 of 46:

View of the Boathouse (Education Center) from across the Salt Creek on the Night Heron Trail, looking northwest.

Photo 42 of 46:

View of the Boathouse (Education Center) from across the Salt Creek on the Night Heron Trail, looking west.

Photo 43 of 46:

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View of the limestone firepit and grill located in the former campground south of the Flat Bridge, looking southwest.

Photo 44 of 46:

View of a former campground looking southeast from the Night Heron Trail.

Photo 45 of 46:

View of Graue Mill and the former location of the CCC constructed Salt Creek dam (replaced in 2024 with riffles), looking south.

Photo 46 of 46:

View of the former location of the CCC constructed Salt Creek dam (replaced in 2024 with riffles), looking southwest from the York Road Bridge.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.



FIGURE 1: GIS MAP OF THE DISTRICT

1	<u>Latitude: 41.832462</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.941964</u>	5	<u>Latitude: 41.820428</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.927304</u>
2	<u>Latitude: 41.827614</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.940979</u>	6	<u>Latitude: 41.821228</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.927065</u>
3	<u>Latitude: 41.827414</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.938093</u>	7	<u>Latitude: 41.826813</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.931238</u>
4	<u>Latitude: 41.824378</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.934885</u>	8	<u>Latitude: 41.832677</u>	<u>Longitude: -87.932716</u>

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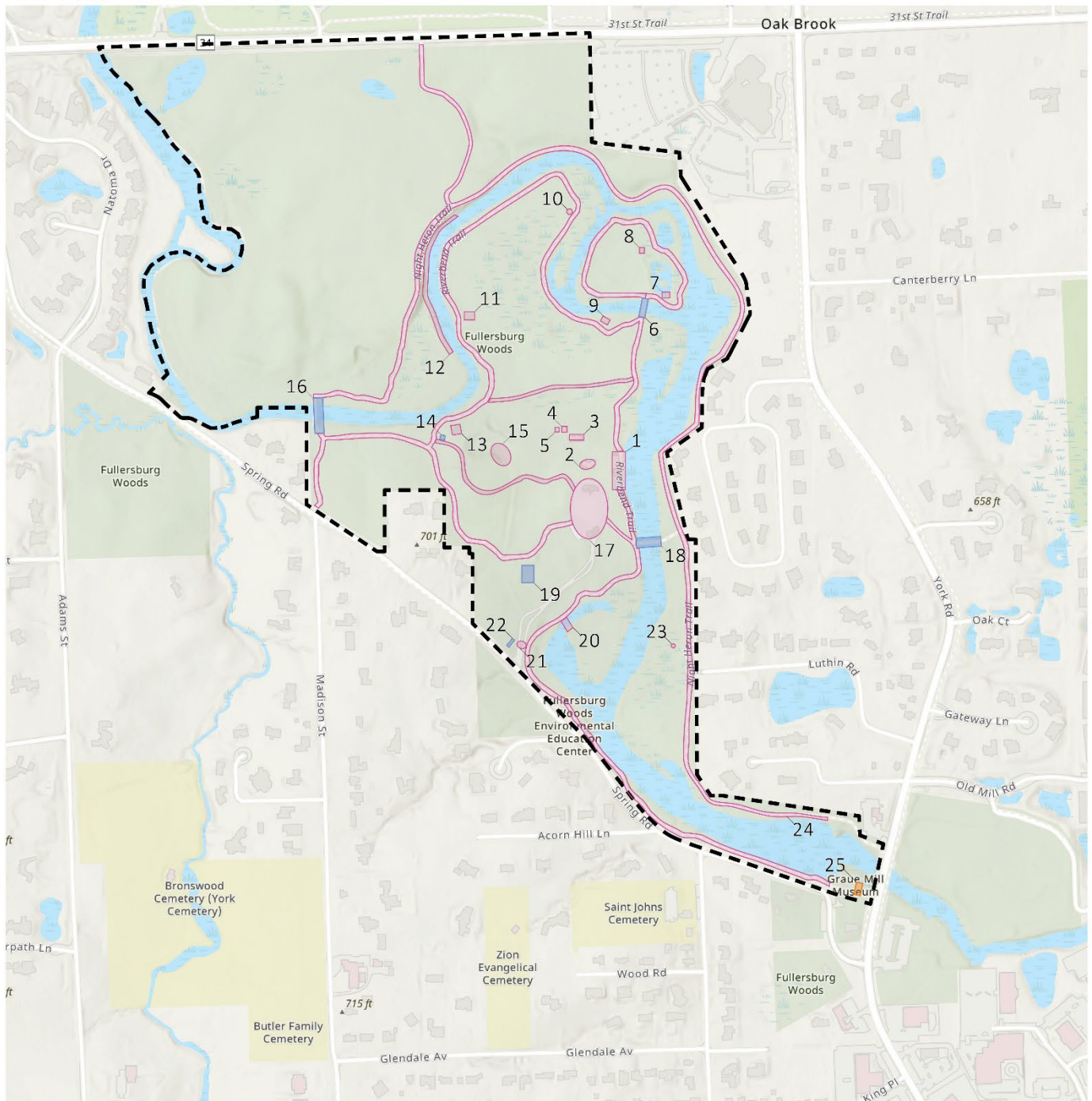
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FULLERSBURG WOODS FOREST PRESERVE

LEGEND

- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- PREVIOUSLY LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FIGURE 2: BUILDING KEY.

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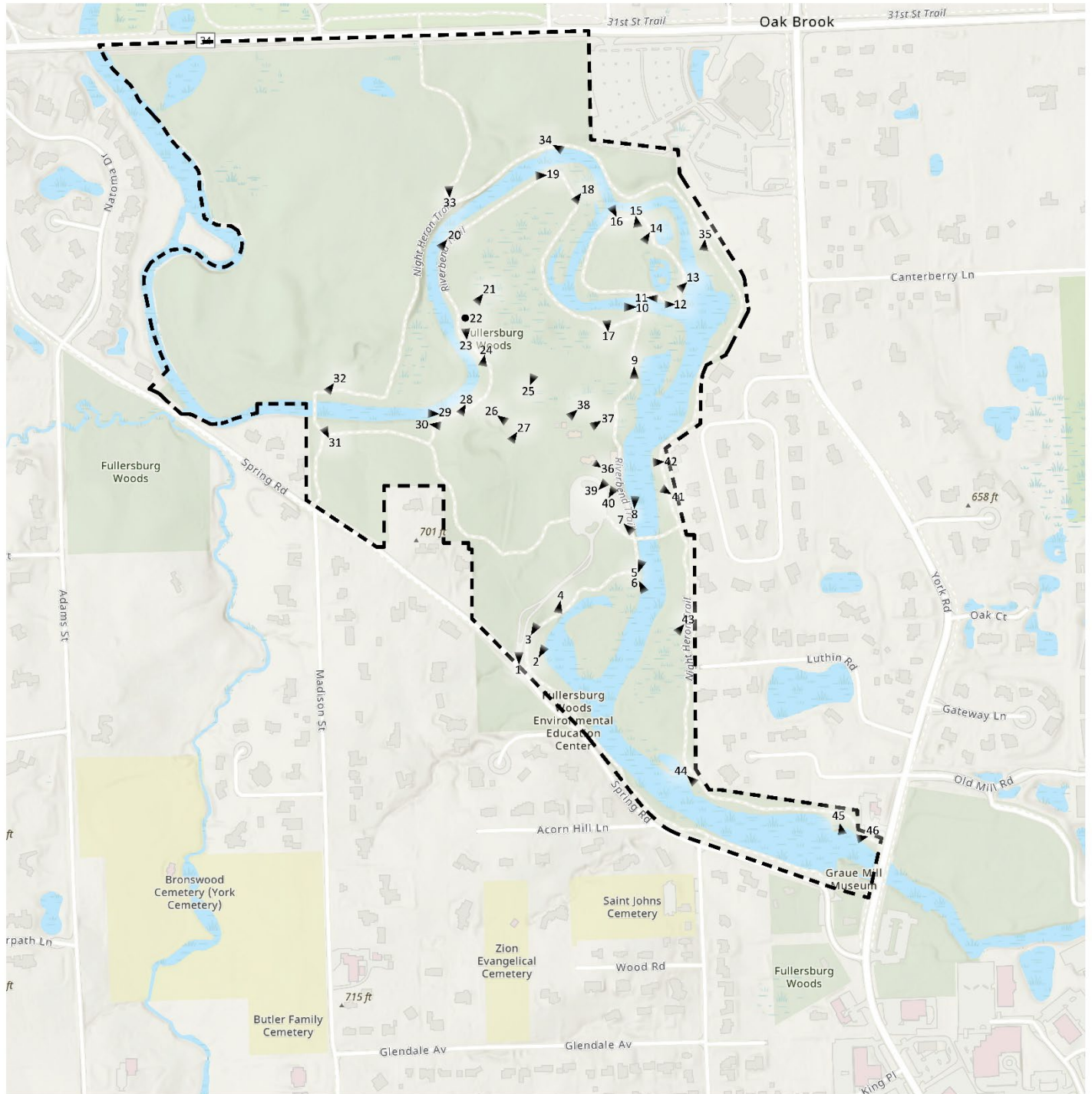


FIGURE 3: PHOTOGRAPH KEY.

*PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS DENOTE THE LOATION OF THE CAMERA.

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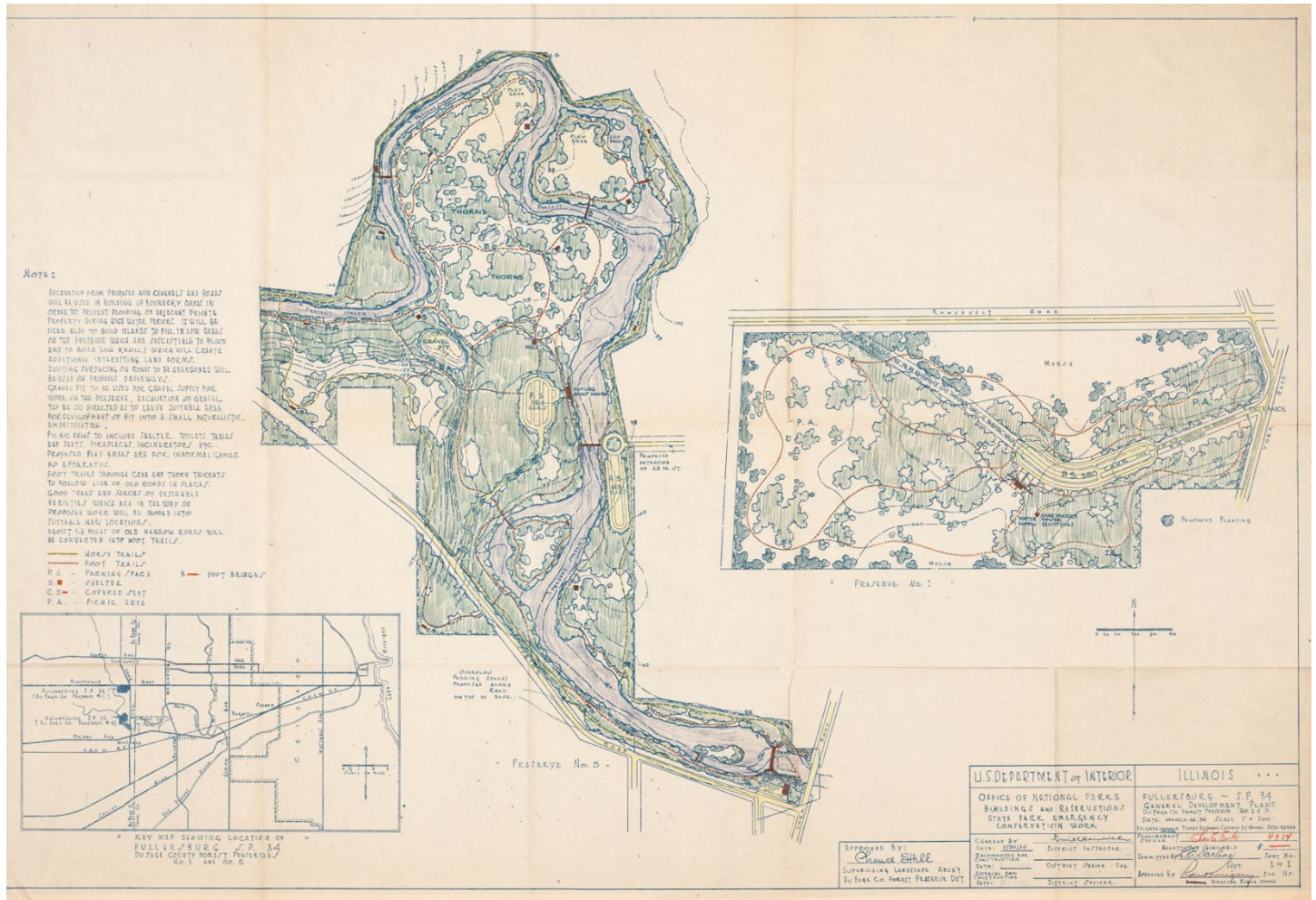


FIGURE 4: GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS DRAWN BY GEORGE F. INGALLS ON MARCH 28, 1934. HELD BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY RECORD ARCHIVE, SERIES V.

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FIGURE 5: EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE BOATHOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN SEPTEMBER 1936, LOOKING WEST. COURTESY OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY.

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FIGURE 6: THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BOATHOUSE ROOF, UNDATED. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY.

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FIGURE 7: EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE BOATHOUSE IN NOVEMBER 1936, LOOKING SOUTHWEST. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY.

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FIGURE 8: EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE COMPLETED BOAT HOUSE IN NOVEMBER 1936, LOOKING NORTHWEST. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY.

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FIGURE 9: EXTERIOR VIEW OF A TYPICAL WELL WITH SHELTER COVER AND WATER PUMP UNDER CONSTRUCTION, NON-EXTANT, IN JANUARY 1937. THE KITCHEN AND PICNIC SHELTER IS IN THE BACKGROUND. COURTESY OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY.

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FIGURE 10: PHOTOGRAPH OF WELL 4 UNDER CONSTRUCTION, UNDATED. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY.

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FIGURE 11: PHOTOGRAPH OF COMPANY V-1668 POURING CONCRETE FOOTINGS FOR THE FOOT AND HORSE BRIDGE, UNDATED. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY.

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FIGURE 12: THE FOOT AND HORSE BRIDGE IN 1937. THE HISTORIC WOOD MEMBERS ARE NON-EXTANT. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY.

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FIGURE 13: PHOTOGRAPH OF HAND GRADING OF SALT CREEK BANK BY THE CCC, UNDATED. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY.

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FIGURES 14 AND 15: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CCC LOADING TREES ONTO A FLOAT PULLED BY A BOAT ACROSS THE SALT CREEK IN MARCH 1937. PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY.