

Other Important Resources and Values

Catoctin Mountain Park exhibits other resources and values that are not fundamental to park purpose and significance, but are important to consider in park planning and management decisions. These other resources and values are referred to as OIRVs.

Following are the OIRVs for Catoctin Mountain Park:

Natural Sounds / Air Quality / Night Sky

In contrast to the urban environment of the mid-Atlantic population centers, the park offers visitors refuge from city sounds and scenes. Visitors often tell park staff how much they appreciate the tranquil qualities of the forest, the blazing colors of autumn foliage, or the sounds of bird song. Similarly, managing park air quality is important for maintaining its unique views. The low level of development near Catoctin Mountain Park, contributes to the dark night skies and views of the stars not available in the urban areas.

Campgrounds and Picnic Areas

Camping and picnic facilities are an important part of the park's heritage and continue to support the casual recreation needs of visitors. Campgrounds offer designated sites and picnic areas provide an important amenity for day users, especially the large number of visitors who come to the area to see the fall foliage displays.

Trail System

The park contains 25 miles of developed trails and proposed links to nearby regional and national trails such as the Appalachian Trail. The trail system provides scenic viewpoints, including Thurmont Vista and Chimney Rock, and features multiple universally accessible trails and 6 miles of trails for horseback riding.

Water Quantity and Quality

Associated with the park's stream and associated riparian habitats, Catoctin's water quantity and quality are important resources, which supports abundant angling opportunities and the overall health of the multiple watersheds.

Naval Support Facility – Thurmont (The Presidential Retreat)

The park serves as a setting for the Presidential Retreat, which lies within park boundaries but is not open to the public. Several historic events have occurred at the Presidential Retreat, including planning the Normandy invasion; the Eisenhower-Khrushchev summits; discussions of the Bay of Pigs and the Vietnam War; the Camp David Accords with Menachem Begin of Israel and Anwar Sadat of Egypt; and many other meetings with foreign dignitaries and U.S. political leaders, such as the Group of Eight (G8) summit.

Other Historic Structures

The park identifies four historic structures other than the historic cabin camps. Three historic structures (a blacksmith shop, camp office, and an oil building) are located at Round Meadow, and were built in 1935 by the Works Progress Administration for Catoctin RDA and later modified by the Civilian Conservation Corps after 1939. The fourth historic structure is the Ike Smith Pumphouse, a 1939 log structure built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The list of classified structures will expand to include additional historic structures identified in the pending national register nomination update.

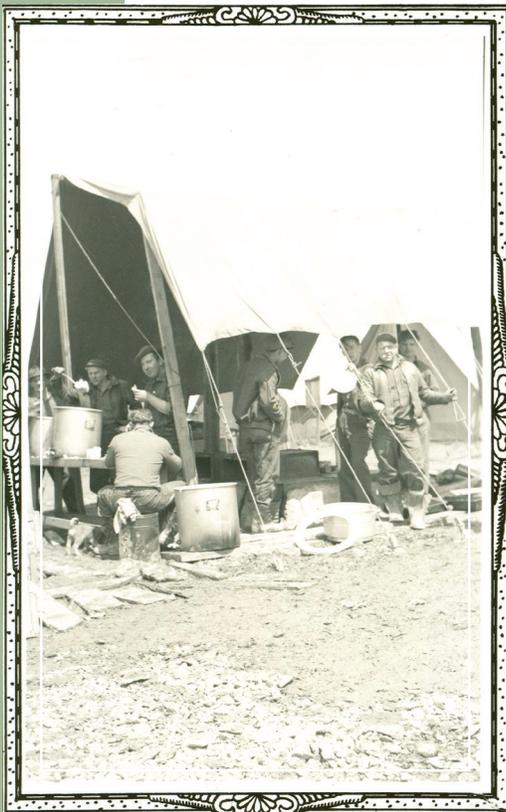
Archeology

Archeological resources documented at Catoctin Mountain Park include 131 known prehistoric and historic archeological sites, including 6 archeological sites determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Prehistoric sites include short-term campsites along stream terraces, special-use sites such as rock shelters and small artifact scatters. The abundance of metarhyolite, a type of stone that was used for making arrowheads and spear points, was a primary resource harvested by ancient peoples who lived near Catoctin Mountain. Historical archeological resources include sites associated with farmsteads established by European settlers in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Industrial-

related archeological sites associated with the Catoctin Mountain history of logging and the Catoctin Iron Furnace include numerous collier huts, which were temporary tipi-like dwellings used by colliers who burned the mountain's timber into charcoal to fuel the Iron Furnace. Archeological survey has identified 50 collier hut sites and associated charcoal hearths at the park. Other archeological sites are associated with late-19th and early 20th century tourism on Catoctin Mountain and the federal activities during the park's RDA era and its use by President Roosevelt and the Office of Strategic Services during World War II.

Museum Collection

The park's museum collection contains artifacts, objects, specimens, documents, photographs, maps, plans, and manuscripts representing the archeology, history, archives, and natural resources of the park. Numerous artifact assemblages collected from archeological surveys are maintained in the collection. The collection also includes taped oral history interview audio recordings. A small portion of the collection is exhibited in the park visitor center, while the majority of the collection is housed at the Museum and Archeological Regional Storage in Landover, Maryland.



Civilian Conservation Corps camp. NPS photo