

**FINAL SURVEY REPORT**  
**INTENSIVE-LEVEL SURVEY OF NEW DEAL-ERA STATE PARKS**  
**IN OKLAHOMA**

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## ABSTRACT

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office conducted an architectural/historic resource survey of ten state parks in cooperation with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. All ten parks were developed during the New Deal (1933-1942). The survey was designed to assist the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department in understanding which parks contained historically and architecturally significant resources, identifying resources that were eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and planning for the preservation of significant resources.

Of the ten parks surveyed, Greenleaf State Park, Lake Murray State Park, Osage Hills State Park, and Robbers Cave State Park appear to be eligible in their entirety for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as outstanding examples of park landscapes designed by the national Park Service and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and other New Deal agencies. Lake Murray State Park and Robbers Cave State Park merit consideration as National Historic Landmarks, due to the quality of the park designs, the integrity of the historic landscapes, and the histories of the parks, all of which incorporate significant aspects in addition to their primary association with the CCC. In addition, portions of Beavers Bend State Park, Boiling Springs State Park, Quartz Mountain State Park, and Roman Nose State Park appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register as locally outstanding designed landscapes or as historic districts. Neither Clayton Lake State Park nor Lake Okmulgee State Park appear eligible as designed landscapes or districts. The dam at Lake Okmulgee State Park, however, may be eligible for individual listing.

## INTRODUCTION

In 1993, at the request of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTR), the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) conducted an intensive-level survey of ten state parks that reportedly were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the New Deal of the 1930s and are presently under the jurisdiction of OTR. This project was funded jointly by OTR and the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the Oklahoma SHPO. The purposes of the project were to develop a historic context for the parks, to record minimum-level documentation on the resources in each of the parks, to identify historically and architecturally significant resources in each of the parks, to identify historically and architecturally significant resources worthy of preservation, and to make recommendations regarding the eligibility of the park resources for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as designed landscapes, historic districts, and individual resources. Related long-term purposes included increasing the awareness of the historical significance of the parks within OTR and among the general public, and providing a data base so that advice regarding appropriate rehabilitation measures can be provided by the SHPO upon request of the OTR Division of Planning and Development. Also during the course of the survey, the National Park Service (NPS), Historic Architecture Division, began conducting a theme study of CCC-related parks, including national and state parks. At the request of NPS, we also evaluated the parks for potential eligibility for National Historic Landmark status. The survey was directed by Marsha Weisiger, Architectural Historian, with the assistance of Susan Allen, Preservation Research Assistant. Suzanne Schrems served as Project Historian, and Neysa Clark and Gary Zaepfel served as Field Survey Researchers. Cari Vandiver served as the clerical assistant. Bruce Travis functioned as the OTR liaison for the project, and valuable assistance was provided by Gary Harrington of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries,

which cooperated in making available the original plans for many of the parks. Pat Hernandez and Sharon Burr of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation assisted the project by printing drawings from the aperture cards.

The ten parks included in this study were located throughout the State of Oklahoma (refer to Map 1). They were Beavers Bend State Park, Boiling Springs State Park, Clayton Lake State Park, Greenleaf State Park, Lake Murray State Park, Lake Okmulgee State Park, Osage Hills State Park, Quartz Mountain State Park, Robbers Cave State Park, and Roman Nose State Park. Initially the survey focused exclusively on CCC-related resources, but as field work and historical research revealed that some resources were constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the scope of the study was broadened to encompass park development by the New Deal as a whole. The chronological limits of the New Deal are 1933-1942, but resources constructed prior to 1933 and incorporated into the general landscape design of the parks also contribute to their significance.

The survey was conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Planning, Identification, Evaluation, and Registration and the Oklahoma SHPO's Architectural/Historic Resource Survey: A Field Guide.



## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The state parks survey focused on the following objectives:

1. Through an intensive-level survey, the identification of individual resources, potential districts, and designed landscapes which, on the basis of age, integrity, and association with the New Deal development of the state parks, appeared to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
2. The evaluation of each of the parks for potential National Historic Landmark status, and the transmittal of those recommendations to the National Park Service.
3. The identification and characterization of parks and portions of parks which, on the basis of insufficient age, integrity, or association with the New Deal development of the state parks, appeared to be ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
4. Within each of the parks, the documentation of all major historic and nonhistoric resources, representative small historic features, such as culverts, and representative examples of multiple resource types, such as cabins, both historic and nonhistoric. Documentation included the completion of a Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form and one or two photographs, depending on the size of the resource and whether or not it was a contributing or noncontributing resource.
5. Characterization of the landscape and the general historic feeling of defined "nodes" within each of the parks.

6. The preparation of a historic context for the New Deal park-development program, including an overview of the development of each of the parks.
7. The preparation of survey folders for each park and for each node within each park. The folders for each node contain the survey forms and photographs for each resource within that node. A list of resources within each of the parks, including their location within their respective node and their map location, is provided for each park. Duplicate copies of the survey folders for each park is maintained by OTR and by the SHPO. Field notes, however, are kept only in the SHPO files.
8. The preparation of a photo index to accompany the negatives. The negatives are kept on file at the SHPO.
9. The preparation of this survey report, which includes the historic context.
10. The preparation of aperture cards of the original drawings of park resources. The original drawings have been deposited at the State Archives, Oklahoma Department of Libraries. The aperture cards are on file at OTR, Division of Planning and Development. Selected prints from the aperture cards are on file with the SHPO.
11. The preparation of maps to document the spatial distribution of historic and nonhistoric resources and to assist in decisions regarding the eligibility of designed landscapes and historic districts.

12. The preparation of slides of representative resources at each of the parks and the development of a slide-tape program about the parks, to promote an appreciation of the significance of the parks.

## **AREA SURVEYED**

Ten state parks developed during the New Deal were surveyed. These parks, distributed throughout the State of Oklahoma (refer to Map 1), were as follows:

Beavers Bend State Park

Boiling Springs State Park

Clayton Lake State Park

Greenleaf State Park

Lake Murray State Park

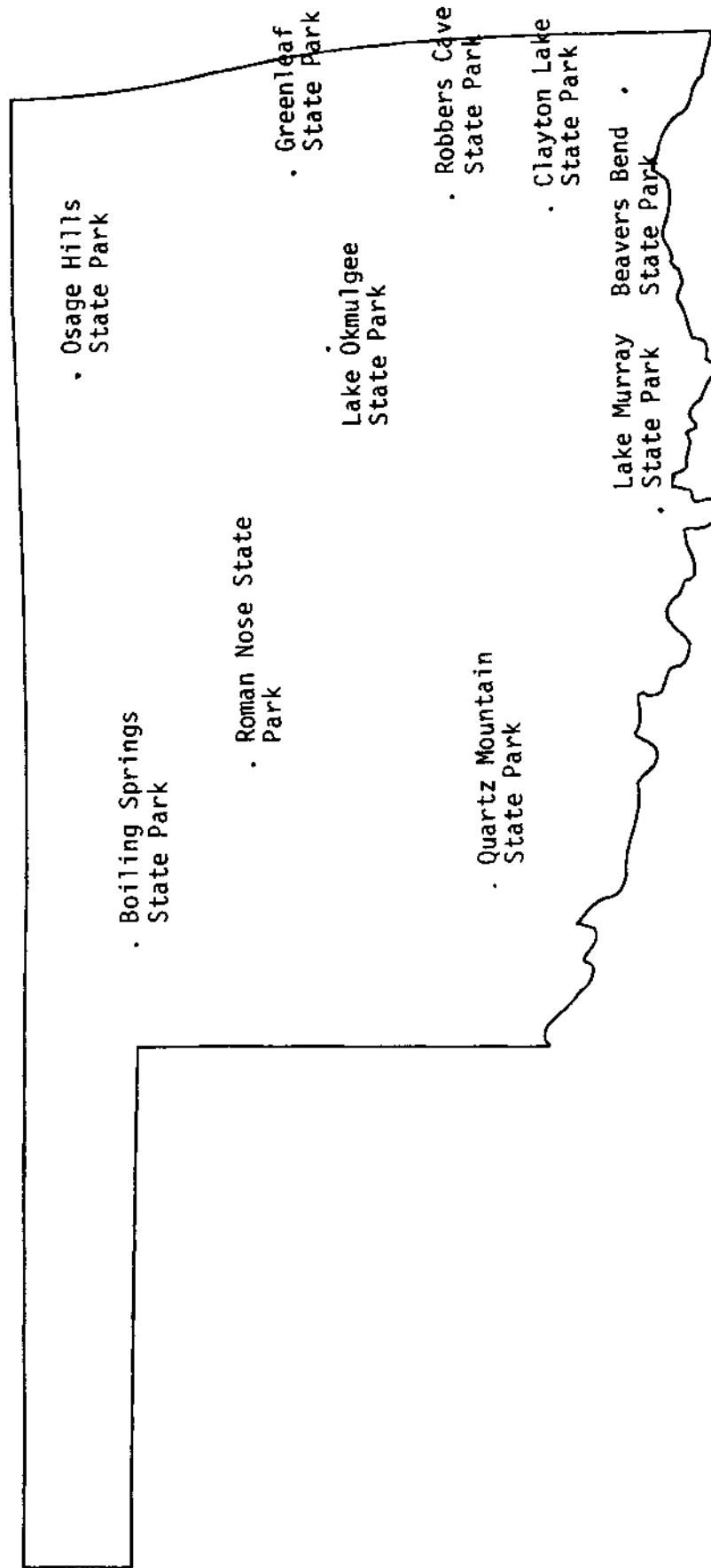
Lake Okmulgee State Park

Osage Hills State Park

Quartz Mountain State Park

Robbers Cave State Park

Roman Nose State Park



## NEW DEAL-ERA STATE PARKS IN OKLAHOMA

## RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The research design followed professional methodological standards for historical research as well as the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Planning, Identification, Evaluation, and Registration and the Oklahoma SHPO's Architectural/Historic Resource Survey: A Field Guide.

The first phase centered on the development of a historic context for the New Deal park-development program by Suzanne H. Schrems, Ph.D. The historic context helped to identify historic resources within the parks, provided information on construction dates and people associated with the design and development of the parks, and facilitated the evaluation of the significance of the resources within the parks. Because the development of the parks was a collaborative effort by a number of federal and state agencies, the research involved contacting a number of state and federal archives. Although a research trip to the National Archives was planned initially, citations from other studies enabled Dr. Schrems to obtain photocopies of the desired materials without traveling to Washington, D. C. Subsequently, we learned of additional materials at the National Archives, which we were not able to obtain through the mail. These materials provide a candid perspective of park development and related political issues, but were beyond the scope of this study. Future research efforts on the state parks should incorporate a trip to the National Archives to obtain these records for the Oklahoma parks. In addition to the National Archives materials, the research included the use of records and publications at the Western History Collections at the University of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Historical Society library, the State Archives at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, and the Oklahoma State University library. Furthermore, The Chronicles of Oklahoma, masters theses (notably one by architectural historian Jim Steely, with the Texas State Historic Preservation Office), and Multiple Property Documents prepared by various SHPOs across the nation on their New Deal parks

provided important information. One important fact discovered in the course of the research was that three of the state parks--at Clayton Lake, Greenleaf, and Lake Okmulgee--were not originally state parks, which adversely affected the availability of research materials.

When the project was initiated, it was understood that OTR possessed the original drawings for the parks, which would greatly facilitate the field work and evaluation of the parks. It was soon discovered that the drawings for most of the parks had been deposited with the State Archives, Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Drawings accessioned into the archives could not be taken into the field, but the State Archives extended its cooperation to the project by allowing the drawings to be temporarily removed and recorded on aperture cards. Full-size prints of selected images were then made with the cooperation of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. Unfortunately, previously-made aperture cards for Lake Murray State Park were nearly illegible, so that only a small number of the Lake Murray prints were useable. Nonetheless, drawings were available for Beavers Bend, Boiling Springs, Lake Murray, Osage Hills, Quartz Mountain, Robbers Cave, and Roman Nose state parks. Drawings were not available for Clayton Lake, Greenleaf, and Lake Okmulgee parks, all of which were not in the state park system at the time of completion. According to the National Park Service, the availability of original drawings of the state parks is quite unusual, and we were extremely fortunate to be able to use them in the survey of Oklahoma's state parks.

Simultaneous with the development of the historic context, field work commenced. Training for the field survey researchers, Neysa Clark, a master's candidate in cultural and historical geography, and Gary Zaepfel, a master's candidate in geography and cartography, was conducted at Roman Nose State Park by Marsha Weisiger and Susan Allen. Training included familiarization with the Historic Preservation Resource Identification forms, photographic requirements, the evaluative issues involved in determining eligibility for the National Register, designed landscape qualities, and the use of the original maps and plans

for the parks.

Once training was completed, the field survey researchers began visiting each of the parks, usually for two-day stays. The field team began at each park by contacting a park ranger, who provided a current map and useful observations on the locations of resources, recent developments within the parks, and the locations of known historic resources that were no longer extant. The team then conducted a windshield survey to get a basic feel for the park and a quick overview of the park's resources. As part of the windshield survey, the team designated various park "nodes" defined by cultural and natural features, including topography. The team then visited each node on foot and documented the resources within each node. All major resources, whether historic or nonhistoric, were documented. For small resources, such as culverts, representative examples were recorded. For repetitive resources, such as cabins, representative resources also were recorded. If the cabins were historic, one example of each design was recorded. If the cabins were nonhistoric, generally only one example of the entire assemblage was recorded, and a "streetscape" photograph was taken. For every recorded resource, a Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form and one or two photographs was taken. At the same time, color slides were taken of representative historic resources. In addition, the field crew completed an evaluation of each "node," which noted landscape features, focal points, and the overall historic "feeling" of the area, and an evaluation of the park as a whole, complete with recommendation regarding National Register eligibility, was made. Throughout the course of the survey, efforts were made to coordinate the findings of the historian with those of the field researchers.

Once field work was completed, photographs were printed and used to make any adjustments to the survey forms. The locations of resources and their contributing or noncontributing status were then recorded onto maps by Gary Zaepfel using GIS. This information was then reviewed by the project director, who verified the contributing and



noncontributing status of each resource, evaluated the eligibility of resources for the National Register, made recommendations for consideration as National Historic Landmarks, and prepared the final report.

## **HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW DEAL-ERA STATE PARKS**

On March 31, 1933, the United States Congress enacted legislation creating the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was one of the first New Deal programs initiated in the first one hundred days of Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration to relieve the economic and human distress caused by the depression of the 1930s. The stated goal of the CCC was to "furnish employment and training for unemployed youth."<sup>1</sup> The large numbers of young men roaming the cities and countryside looking for work concerned the Roosevelt administration. They feared that without jobs and training, a whole generation of young men would be unprepared to assume the financial responsibilities of home and family. Life in CCC camps also would rehabilitate young men who not only were jobless, but suffered from a lack of physical and spiritual nourishment. New Deal planners believed that proper diet, outdoor life, and useful work would help men to regain faith in themselves and their country.<sup>2</sup>

There was a dual purpose to the Civilian Conservation Corps. Roosevelt also envisioned that the CCC would provide the necessary labor for various conservation projects designed to revitalize over-worked agricultural land, reverse soil erosion, and implement reforestation. Roosevelt was particularly enthused about using CCC labor, in conjunction with the National Park Service (NPS), to develop national and state parks that would be accessible to all Americans. The president believed that the park environment would inspire in Americans the pioneer spirit that stressed the qualities of individualism, hard work, and moral character. Working together, the CCC and NPS developed parks and built structures that left a legacy of distinctive architecture, quality craftsmanship, and in each man, a lifeline to a more productive future. This was particularly true in Oklahoma where CCC and NPS men put to use unproductive land where they built dams and lakes, planted trees and shrubs, and quarried stone to establish the state's first park system.

Shortly after taking office in 1933, Roosevelt asked his secretaries of War, Interior, Agriculture, and Labor to coordinate plans for the development of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Administration of the CCC was shared by these four departments and one outside agency, the Veterans Administration. It was the responsibility of the Labor Department to select CCC enrollees from state and local welfare agencies. To be eligible as a junior enrollee, a young man had to be between the ages of 18 and 25, unmarried, and a citizen of the United States. One of the conditions of enrollment was that out of the enrollees' thirty dollar monthly pay, twenty-five dollars would be sent home to assist their dependent families. The Veterans Administration determined the eligibility of applicants for CCC veteran units.<sup>3</sup>

Once the selection of men was made, the Department of War organized, conditioned, transported, and supervised the enrollees from induction to final discharge. This included organization into CCC units, transportation to work place, construction of CCC camps, and supervision in camp when the enrollees were not working on assigned duties. The War Department also was responsible for medical care, discipline, education, and religious ministrations. CCC enrollees worked on projects designed by the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture. Within the Department of Interior, the General Land Office, the Office of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, and the Division of Grazing, were in charge of CCC work. In the Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Biological Survey, the Bureau of Animal Industry, and the Soil Conservation Service also directed CCC projects.<sup>4</sup>

National and state planning was an important prerequisite to the development of many New Deal programs. The federal government established the National Resources Board to carry out national planning. Board chairman, Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes, and fellow members, the secretaries of War, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, and the Administrator of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), helped states to set up similar

planning boards and suggested studies of land use, water resources, transportation, and public works.<sup>5</sup>

In response to federal planning, the Oklahoma legislature created the Oklahoma State Planning Board in 1935. The function of the board was to "adapt an official state plan for the physical development of the state of Oklahoma."<sup>6</sup> State officials believed that Oklahomans suffered in the economic depression because there was no community planning during the era of land runs starting in 1889. There was little room for planning when cities and rural settlements grew up over night. The belief was that land speculators and developers, interested in profit not planning, caused "disconnected streets of varying and inadequate width; misplaced bridges and grade separations; insufficient parks and recreation areas." The board formulated plans to provide for efficient economic development and wise use of the state's natural resources.<sup>7</sup>

An important aspect of national and state planning was to provide recreational opportunities for all Americans. At the national level, few parks provided recreational facilities. The federal government viewed national parks as preserves that removed from public use scenic and natural wonders that were in danger of exploitation by mining and lumbering industries. In 1872, Congress established Yellowstone as the first national park, and designated Yosemite, Sequoia, and General Grant, as national parks in the 1890s. Congress created the National Park Service in 1916 to provide accessibility and more efficient operations in national parks. New Deal funding in the 1930s provided the means with which the NPS could expand the national park system and establish state parks that would benefit all Americans.<sup>8</sup>

To oversee the proper planning of national and state parks during the New Deal, the NPS established the branch of Lands and State Cooperation. Similarly, in 1935 the Oklahoma State legislature appropriated twenty-five thousand dollars to create a State Park Commission. And in 1937, the state appropriated funds for the organization of the

Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board. All planning agencies for the state were incorporated under this board including the State Park Commission, which became the Division of State Parks. This division had the authority to acquire state lands and to work in conjunction with the planning branch of the NPS. Both the state and federal agencies coordinated and planned the work of the CCC in state parks in Oklahoma.<sup>9</sup>

Although CCC labor was available in 1933, Oklahoma planners did not begin park development until 1935. The delay gave Oklahomans the necessary time to investigate and plan for proper land use and human needs. Planners concluded that accessibility to state recreation was important to all people of the state. They believed that most Oklahomans could not afford vacations at popular recreation areas in the Southwest. Only those people who had leisure time and financial resources were able to enjoy vacations at dude ranches in Colorado and New Mexico, or at sunny beaches on the Gulf Coast. Planners believed that all Oklahomans should benefit from the revitalizing aspects of recreational play. This was especially important during the depression when so many people were unemployed. The emphasis was on creating "places where the idle time of Oklahoma citizens can be spent in pursuits which will tend to build up the moral, physical, and mental fiber of the people. One of the strong forces for the maintenance of the virility and stamina of our people lies through use of outdoor recreational areas, resulting in health, and contentment."<sup>10</sup>

Members of the Oklahoma Park Commission enlisted the advice of Herbert Maier, Regional Director of the National Park Service's Southwest Region, concerning federal funding requirements for state park development. Maier told the Commission that Emergency Conservation Work funds and CCC labor were available if the state met the federal government's guidelines. The first requirement was that the state purchase the park land. In economic hard times, with few state funds available, the state asked local citizens near proposed park sites to procure the land for state park development. Communities passed bond measures to raise park funds, or citizens donated money to purchase park land

near their towns. The second requirement was that the Army approve the park site as an appropriate location for a CCC camp.<sup>11</sup>

In April, 1933, two weeks after Congress appropriated funding for the creation of the CCC, the Army transported 25,000 recruits to conditioning camps where they prepared the men for a variety of work projects. By July 1, 1933, Roosevelt planned to have 250,000 men at work on CCC projects throughout the United States.<sup>12</sup> It was the responsibility of each state to carry out enrollment. State, county, and city relief agencies screened applicants to determine eligibility for the CCC program. The federal government set the quota for each state according to the state's population. Relief agencies assigned many Oklahomans to CCC camps in their own state. In 1934, Oklahoma had 5,000 men in 26 camps.<sup>13</sup> CCC officials assigned many of these men to state park sites. At each site there was at least one unit containing approximately 200 men.

In 1935, Oklahoma park officials and NPS planners proposed seven park sites that they calculated would be accessible to 60 per cent of the state's population, and within 75 mile radius of population centers.<sup>14</sup> Each site was in an area of historical or geological significance. In the semi-arid region of western Oklahoma, planners established Boiling Springs, Roman Nose, and Quartz Mountain State Parks; and in the humid wooded areas of Eastern Oklahoma, they established Osage Hills, Robbers Cave, Beavers Bend, and Spavinaw Hills State Parks. (State and New Deal planners withdrew the CCC from Spavinaw Hills State Park around 1938 because of "land acquisition and administrative difficulties.")<sup>15</sup>

Included in the state park system in 1935 was Lake Murray State Park. Unlike the development of other parks in the system, Lake Murray was purchased with state funds. In 1933 the Oklahoma legislature appropriated \$90,000 for the development of a state park in south central Oklahoma adjacent to the city of Ardmore.<sup>16</sup> Members of the Ardmore Chamber of Commerce believed that the site consisted of "worthless land unfit for

agriculture" but that it would be ideal for park development. They envisioned the creation of a wild fowl refuge and public recreation facilities. The Chamber of Commerce believed that this could be accomplished through relief programs that supplied the needed labor.<sup>17</sup> The state purchased 16,500 acres from land owners in the Ardmore area for park development.

Adjacent to Lake Murray the federal government purchased an additional 2,700 acres of submarginal land for the development of a Recreation Demonstration Area (RDA), which was eventually incorporated into the park. RDAs were part of a larger plan established by the Resettlement Administration, and later the National Park Service, to help low-income families in urban and rural areas. The first objective was to resettle destitute farm families from their poor agricultural land to more productive land. The submarginal lands would then be taken out of agricultural production and rehabilitated into forest or developed for recreational use.<sup>18</sup>

The NPS developed RDAs to promote organized recreational programs that would benefit the underprivileged.<sup>19</sup> RDAs included group camps where recreation leaders planned activities deemed important to the overall development of the individual. It was thought that people who participated in organized recreation "have tremendously increased their physical skills, aesthetic perceptions, mental alertness, and cooperative capacities."<sup>20</sup> An important ideal of the program was to acquaint the underprivileged with the uplifting aspects of the woods and the natural environment.<sup>21</sup> The National Park Service and Resettlement Administration designated two RDAs in Oklahoma--the 2,700 acres adjoining Lake Murray, and land set aside in the Cookson Hills in eastern Oklahoma that eventually became Greenleaf State Park.<sup>22</sup>

In 1934, the NPS and the Resettlement Administration unveiled plans for a transient camp at the RDA on Lake Murray. The camp was to include a self-sufficient city containing a hospital, barracks, bathhouses, mess hall and kitchen, dairy house, poultry

house, provision house and office building, a tailor and cobbler shop, and laundry. Also included in the plan was a cabinet and toy shop that would supply small toys and furnishings for all other camps, and for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration's nursery schools.<sup>23</sup>

Lake Murray was the largest park in the state park system. Ultimately, the park comprised 25,000 acres. The federal government established three CCC camps at Lake Murray, two for white and one for black youths. Officials of the camps believed that enrollees would benefit from the diversity in training required to establish the park. Learned skills would enable the men to find employment in many lines of construction work. New skills also would help those who knew only farming as a means of making a living. Enrollees from farms would return to farm life "fitted to apply the training received in the CCC camps to their farm problems and the neighborhood in which they live." In discussing the benefits of CCC training one supervisor observed, "The greatest benefit of CCC camp enrollees is not the relief problem but the training received by the ordinary boy under expert supervision that will be a lasting benefit to him."<sup>24</sup>

The state developed Lake Murray State Park on submarginal land that Ardmore community leaders considered unproductive and of little use. The other six sites in the state park system were developed in areas that local residents considered ideal for park development because of the natural setting. This was particularly true in northwestern Oklahoma where planners and residents established Boiling Springs and Roman Nose State Parks. The sites for these parks were in the vicinity of natural springs, where the continual flow of water nourished treed areas and provided water for lakes and recreation.

Boiling Springs State Park was the product of over twenty years of planning by the people of Woodward, who believed that the trees and springs along the North Canadian River would provide a shelter for park recreation. This area was like an oasis in the otherwise dry high plains region of northwestern Oklahoma. Historically the area was



noted for the Spanish and American explorers who traveled through the region; for Plains Indian tribes, notably the Comanches and Kiowas and later the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, who inhabited the region; for the establishment of Fort Supply to secure permanent peace between Indian and white on the southern plains in the 1870s; for the cattlemen who drove Texas herds north to the railheads in Kansas; and finally, for the settlers who "made the run" when the federal government opened the Cherokee Outlet to non-Indian settlement in 1893.<sup>25</sup>

Settlers who homesteaded in the area near the springs took advantage of the free flow of water to develop farms. Other individuals perceived the lucrative opportunities in promoting the medicinal values of the cold clear spring water. J. R. Conklin established the Woodward T. B. Sanitarium Co. in 1909. The venture only lasted two years. The sanitarium lost patients and revenue when it was apparent that the water did nothing to help those with tuberculosis.<sup>26</sup> In the economic hardships of the 1930s, citizens of Woodward turned again to their water as a means of economic development. A committee of businessmen analyzed the medicinal properties in the community's artesian wells. They compared the test results with that of water from other health resorts in the Southwest. The committee concluded that their water was equal to that of other areas, and therefore, successful health resorts could be developed in Woodward.<sup>27</sup>

In March, 1935, representatives from the NPS and the Oklahoma Park Commission traveled to Woodward to look over the area for a state park. The men picked a site around Shaul's Lake called Boiling Springs. They were impressed with the timber, the free flowing water, and the available room for expansion. The citizens of Woodward immediately saw the financial rewards. The development of a park in their area meant the possibility of tourists, and therefore tourists dollars, which would help boost the area's depressed economy. In order to conform to NPS guidelines for state park development, the City Commission took an option on 520 acres. The citizens of Woodward passed a bond issue for \$16,000 to pay

for the park land.<sup>28</sup> Once the city bought the land, the Army sent a representative to inspect the park for a CCC camp. The Army agreed to establish a camp at the park site if the city of Woodward paid for water, sewage, electric lights, and gas. The people of Woodward looked forward to the establishment of the CCC camp because it meant more business to the city. They calculated that it would take 250,000 feet of lumber to build CCC barracks. The company with the best bid would receive the government's business.<sup>29</sup> Citizens also saw the economic benefits of the extra business created by CCC enrollees. Even though most of the money earned by the enrollees was sent home to their dependent families, businessmen believed that "most of the money will be spent in Woodward."<sup>30</sup> Along with economic benefits, the newspaper noted the importance of work relief to the individual. In discussing the CCC one editor wrote, "It seems to us that the actual work accomplished is of less importance than the building up of the men who do it, getting them in the habit of hard work, enabling them to contribute something however slight, to the support of others, and taking them off the city street into wholesome outdoors."<sup>31</sup>

The Army began construction of the CCC camp at Boiling Springs State Park in June, 1935. They finished the camp in August shortly before the first CCC enrollees arrived. The focus of the work at Boiling Springs, as in other designated state parks, was to prepare the park land and construct roads, dams, bridges, and recreation structures. In order to ensure sufficient training and supervision of park projects, NPS provided in each camp technical and non-technical personnel. At Boiling Springs, technical men included two engineers, one architectural foreman, one senior foreman, and two junior foreman. Non-technical men included architects and landscape foreman. Supervisors assigned men to projects according to their interest. The men were then trained in the necessary skills needed to accomplish the work. Men generally stayed with the project until it was completed.<sup>32</sup>

An important part of the CCC program was to provide education and recreation to enrollees. Each camp had an educational program conducted by a teacher, who offered the

basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic. To encourage reading, camps had a library for which local communities donated most of the books. Camp officers also encouraged men to participate in sports. Many camps organized baseball teams that competed with other camps across the state. Boiling Springs CCC Camp not only had a baseball team, but a swimming team that competed in statewide team meets. Besides competitive team sports, the men at Boiling Springs had facilities for volleyball, tennis, and basketball.<sup>33</sup>

Economic prospects from park development also were important to the people of Watonga, Oklahoma. In July 1935, the citizens of Watonga passed a bond issue to raise money to purchase land seven miles north of town in an area of free flowing spring water. Local residents were anxious to benefit from the federal money appropriated for park development. They saw the immediate advantages of jobs for residents in the construction of CCC barracks, and the long term financial benefits of tourists dollars. In discussing the merits of passing a bond issue for park development, a Watonga newspaper noted that a park was "A place of amusement and recreation for thousands of people annually...it would attract visitors from all over the nation."<sup>34</sup> The bond issue passed, thus establishing Roman Nose State Park.

Like Boiling Springs, Roman Nose State Park was in the semi-arid region of western Oklahoma. The park encompassed a wooded canyon area that divided the North Canadian and Cimarron Rivers. A number of springs in the area helped to form the canyon and provided water for trees and vegetation. The largest spring in the canyon produced 600 gallons of water a minute, which formed a stream that ran the entire length of the park.

Historically, the canyon area was significant for the shelter it provided for buffalo, deer, elk, and antelope. The natural resources also provided a winter home for the Plains Indians. Roman Nose, a Cheyenne Indian leader, established his lodge in the canyon near one of the biggest springs. The federal government established the Cheyenne-Arapahoe Reservation in the area in 1867. In 1890, the government broke-up the reservation and issued to each

Native American an allotment of 160 acres. The government opened the remaining land to settlement in 1892. Roman Nose and members of his family received their acreage in the canyon near Big Spring. In 1935, the city of Watonga bought the canyon and Big Springs area from the Cronkhite family, descendants of Roman Nose.<sup>35</sup>

Plans for the development of Roman Nose State Park included segregated areas where whites and blacks could enjoy recreational activities. Racial segregation in public places in Oklahoma was mandated by law in 1907, a law which remained on the books through the 1930s. Most municipal parks, however, were for white use only. Members of the black community objected to the use of state and federal funds for the creation of parks that were exclusively for white use.<sup>36</sup> The feeling amongst black leaders was that blacks were citizens and tax payers. City and state parks, therefore, belonged to black as well as white citizens.<sup>37</sup> Oklahoma planners took into account the needs of the black community in the development of recreational facilities.

An important aspect of the plan for black recreation was to develop parks in areas of the state with the most black population.<sup>38</sup> The 1930 population census for Oklahoma indicates that the black population was concentrated in the east-central and southeastern parts of the state. Major cities with black population were Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Muskogee. Even though the black population was concentrated in the central and eastern part of Oklahoma, planners only designated areas in Roman Nose and Lake Murray State Parks for black use. These parks were provided to accommodate rural black communities in the vicinity of the parks.<sup>39</sup>

Along with establishing a segregated area for blacks at Roman Nose State Park, planners also include a recreational area for Indians. The park was, after all, named for the Cheyenne Chief Roman Nose, and the park encompassed most of the Chief's camp.

The site selected for Osage Hills State Park in northeastern Oklahoma also was historically significant for Native Americans who inhabited the area. The Osage people lived

in northeastern Oklahoma until the federal government moved them to Kansas in order to make room for the Cherokee Nation in 1835. In 1868, the federal government purchased the western portion of the Cherokees' land to relocate the Osages to a reservation in Indian Territory. In 1870, 1500 Osage occupied the reservation west of the Cherokees. Geologists discovered oil in the northern and western areas of the Osage Reservation in 1904.<sup>40</sup> By 1916, the Osage people, holding tribal mineral rights, realized a per capita income of \$15,000 annually.

The citizens of Bartlesville and Pawhuska donated land centrally located between the two towns for the development of Osage Hills State Park, which lies in the eastern part of the Osage Reservation. The original concept for the park was to develop a summer Boy Scout camp. New Deal funding and CCC labor provided the means for the development of a state park with recreational facilities and camps for Boy Scouts, Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., and Girl Reserves. The park served a population of 383,000 within a 50 mile radius.<sup>41</sup>

The CCC company stationed at Osage Hills in 1935 originated in Oklahoma City. Their first assignment was in Colorado where they engaged in forestry work. They were transferred to Oklahoma City for park work and then to Osage Hills to develop the state park. The men at the park camp were taught skills that they could use in employment after their enlistment in the CCC. Some learned to drive heavy equipment, to work compressors, and to cut stone, while others worked in carpentry and road construction.<sup>42</sup>

Before the establishment of the State Parks Commission in 1935, the Department of Game and Fish maintained game reserves throughout the state. In the forested mountainous regions of eastern Oklahoma, sportsmen fished and hunted at various reserves set aside for that purpose. In 1934, the government established a CCC camp on one of the reserves four miles north of Wilburton. Members of the CCC unit were World War One veterans, most of whom lived in the Wilburton area. Within the game reserve, CCC enrollees built dams and worked on various wildlife projects. The plan was to move the CCC after a year to a

post in Texas. Local citizens argued to keep the CCC camp at the reserve, especially since many of the men at the camp had families in the area. Before the government moved the CCC company, state and national planners proposed the site for Robbers Cave State Park.<sup>43</sup>

The park lies on the western edge of the Ouachita Mountains. During the Civil War, deserters from the Union and Confederate armies lived in the relative seclusion of the area. After the war, Indian Territory maintained its reputation as a haven for unsavory characters who lived in sandstone caves in the cliffs of the Fourche Maline River. Popular media purported that such notorious individuals as the Youngers, Jesse and Frank James, the Doolin gang, the Cherokee Kid, the Daltons, and Henry and Belle Starr used Robbers Cave to avoid being arrested for their questionable activities.<sup>44</sup>

As with Robbers Cave, planners established Beavers Bend State Park on former Choctaw lands in the southeastern corner of Oklahoma. Before the settlement of the Choctaws in Indian Territory, the Caddoan people tried to maintain permanent settlements, but the Osage claimed the region as their hunting grounds and forced the Caddoans south. The area also was inhabited by French fur traders who were first to report the existence of Caddoan settlements.

Planners established Beavers Bend State Park twelve miles north of present-day Broken Bow, Oklahoma. The citizens of Broken Bow, Idabel, and other parts of McCurtain County purchased the park land.<sup>45</sup> The park received its name from the bend in the Mountain Fork River near John Beaver's homestead.

It was important for New Deal planners to foster a good relationship between members of CCC camps and near-by residents. At Beavers Bend, the camp hosted open houses and dinners for different organizations in the community including the Broken Bow and Idabel Lions Clubs and the Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce. The good will between the CCC camp and the community resulted in a cooperative effort in planning the development of the park to meet the needs of the citizens.<sup>46</sup>

In the southwestern part of Oklahoma, where there were few trees and lakes, planners proposed for a state park a site in the rugged granite outcroppings of the dry plains. The site for Quartz Mountain State Park was ideal in that it harbored a lake, constructed in 1927 as a water source for near by Altus, Oklahoma, and it offered hiking opportunities on trails that climbed to 1,950 feet. Quartz Mountain State Park served a population of more than 225,000 people in a 100 mile radius. In 1940, the U.S. Reclamation Service, with WPA labor, began construction of Lugert Dam which enlarged Lake Altus and expanded recreational opportunities.<sup>47</sup>

The good will fostered between local citizens and planners at Beavers Bend was not developed at Quartz Mountain State Park. Residents, curious about park development in their area took the initiative and visited Quartz Mountain to observe CCC operations. The lack of communication between park personnel and the community can be seen in the park superintendent's reports to the NPS. Concerning park visitation the superintendent remarked "These visits are prompted by curiosity to see what a CCC camp is like." What puzzled the superintendent was that visitors cared more about the construction of a road than the park. "Little interest is shown in the general development of the park, more interest being shown in the construction of roads and culverts." The superintendent concluded that "this I believe is due to lack of knowledge of what is being planned and the fact that most people of this community know and appreciate good roads, while they have little opportunity to visit and enjoy parks."<sup>48</sup>

For the most part, residents in nearby towns welcomed park development because of the financial benefits to the community. Oklahomans worked actively with planners to ensure successful park development. People also realized the benefit of the outdoor environment and camp life to the CCC enrollee.

Emphasis on the aesthetic qualities of the natural environment carried over into the designs of NPS buildings in national and state parks. The designs of park buildings were in

keeping with NPS philosophy that structures were an unwelcome intrusion into the natural environment, and therefore, must be as unobtrusive as possible. This was accomplished by using native materials to harmonize the structure with the environment. It was also important that the buildings reflect the cultural tradition of the region. What eventually evolved was an architectural style that Park Service planners reluctantly called "rustic." The unique architectural design of park structures and buildings in Oklahoma, and the nation, stand as monuments marking not only architecture style, but the quality craftsmanship of CCC labor.

Although the NPS adhered to the rustic design in park architecture from the Service's inception in 1916, a precedent was set in national parks prior to that date. In Yellowstone, the Northern Pacific Railroad constructed Ole Faithful Inn in 1903. Even though the building resembled a Swiss Chalet in design, the use of heavy logs and wood shingles reflected the frontier tradition and blended well in the Rocky Mountain environment.<sup>49</sup>

At Grand Canyon National Park in 1905, the Fred Harvey Company and the Santa Fe Railroad built Hopi House across from the El Tovar Hotel. The purpose of Hopi House was to provide a gift shop where Native Americans could sell their wares to tourists. Architects purposely designed the building to reflect the Native American culture of the region. The design of Hopi House resembled the Hopi pueblo at Oraibi, Arizona. The architecture set a precedent for rustic design in Southwestern park structures. Important was the use of native materials and traditional motifs.<sup>50</sup>

After Glacier became a national park in 1911, the Great Northern Pacific Railroad built Glacier Park Hotel, Lake MacDonald Hotel, Many Glaciers Hotel, and nine mountain chalets. Planners located the chalets in the most scenic areas of the park. Architects designed the chalets of stone or log so that the buildings harmonized with the surrounding environment. The rustic architectural design also carried over into the design of interiors. At Glacier Park Hotel architects designed a pit fire place in the center of the lobby floor in



order to create the ambiance of an outdoor campfire. It was the hope of planners and officials of the Great Northern Railroad that the rustic charm of the West would attract eastern tourist. During tourist season at Glacier Park Hotel, a Blackfoot chief from the nearby Blackfoot Reservation entertained hotel guests around the indoor campfire with stories of Indian lore. By designing buildings that would make the West attractive to eastern consumers, architects inadvertently influenced an emerging architectural philosophy that park buildings should reflect regional culture and be constructed out of materials indigenous to the area.<sup>51</sup>

In the 1920s the American Association of Museums (AAM) believed that the increased numbers of people driving through national parks would benefit from roadside museums depicting the history and geology of the region. The AAM, in association with the Laura Spellman Rockefeller Memorial, asked Herbert Maier to design the first national park museum at Yosemite National Park.<sup>52</sup> Maier's designs also helped to set a precedent for national park rustic architecture. Maier studied architecture at the University of California at Berkeley and at Heald's College of Engineering in San Francisco. In the 1920s, he worked part-time as an architect for the University of California at Berkeley, for the American Association of Museums, and for the Smithsonian.<sup>53</sup>

In his plans for museums at Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone, Maier used native materials to make the buildings as non-intrusive as possible. Maier believed that park structures were "necessary evils--even the finest building is some what an intruder."<sup>54</sup> By using indigenous building materials in the right way, Maier sought to design buildings which appeared to be part of a rock outcropping or looked as though it were growing horizontally out of the ground.<sup>55</sup> At Grand Canyon he maintained the Native American influence of the Southwest in his designs. At Yellowstone, he planned four museums that harmonized with the environment of each location. At the Madison Junction location, Maier designed the museum in the style of the popular 1920s bungalow, but enhanced the design with "battered

stone work, clipped gables, and low horizontal emphasis." The building reflected the untamed aspects of the surrounding wilderness by its "scale and roughness."<sup>56</sup>

In 1929 Thomas Vint, director of the NPS Landscape Design Division, and his staff devised a developmental master plan for the national parks. Increased appropriations to the NPS during the 1930s, and CCC labor allowed Vint to advance development in the national parks that incorporated rustic design. Vint worked with Herbert Maier at Yosemite and followed Maier's philosophy that park structures should be as non-intrusive as possible. Many of the structures and recreation facilities built in state and municipal parks incorporated non-intrusive rustic design as indicated in the 1929 master plan for national parks. In 1933, the NPS appointed Herbert Maier as Regional Director of the Southwestern District of the park service with headquarters first at Denver then Oklahoma City. Maier's duties included supervision of state park development. His architectural philosophy influenced the design of state park structures in Oklahoma and the Southwest.<sup>57</sup>

The Branch of Land and State Cooperation had several requirements for state park structures. It was important that buildings be durable, constructed of stone or masonry, and blend in with the landscape. Another essential requirement was that structures have such simplicity that there was little or no maintenance cost. In order to insure that state park planners were of the same mind as NPS planners, officials of the Branch of Land and State Cooperation invited regional directors and state procurement officers, usually state park authorities, to Washington where national planners educated them in the goals of the NPS regarding the development of state parks. NPS officials reasoned with state planners that NPS developmental plans needed to be implemented according to federal guidelines. The implied threat was that if the national plan was not followed then CCC companies would be reassigned to work on other projects.<sup>58</sup>

Park development in Oklahoma followed the NPS plans. Structures at the six state parks established in 1935 and at Lake Murray were non-intrusive and built from native

materials. The structures also reflected the regional culture. NPS architects, working out of the regional office in Oklahoma City, regularly inspected CCC work and the development of NPS plans in Oklahoma parks.

Cecil Doty was one of Maier's regional architects. Doty graduated from Oklahoma A&M College in 1928 with a degree in architecture. He worked for architectural firms in Kansas and Oklahoma and taught at the University of Oklahoma. Maier first hired Doty to help with architectural designs for museums in national parks. In 1937, Maier again hired Doty as regional architect for the NPS in Oklahoma City. Maier's architectural style also influenced Doty's work.<sup>59</sup>

Doty's design philosophy is evident in the architecture of buildings at Boiling Springs State Park in northwestern Oklahoma. His drawings of the bath house and concessions buildings reveal the use of heavy stones and logs. Local architect Harold Hunter constructed a model of Doty's concessions building, which was put on display for public viewing in a downtown store in Woodward. The three-dimensional model clearly showed the influence of the Southwestern NPS architecture. This design was in keeping with others initiated by Doty during this same period. In 1937, he designed the National Park Service's regional office building in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The building was an example of Spanish-Pueblo Revival architecture and followed closely the design principals of the National Park Service as set forth in the NPS publication Park Structures and Facilities.<sup>60</sup>

As at Boiling Spring, the design of buildings at Roman Nose and Quartz Mountain State Parks demonstrated the use of native materials and reflected southwestern culture. Cecil Doty visited Boiling Springs and Roman Nose State Park to inspect park development for the NPS. He most likely visited other Oklahoma parks as well. In fact, sources indicate that in Oklahoma Doty designed structures at Turner Falls, Mohawk Metropolitan, and Lake Okmulgee Park projects.<sup>61</sup>

Lake Murray State Park perhaps best exemplifies the use of native materials to

harmonize the structures with the environment. In the construction of the keeper's lodge, designers used uncut native stone to blend the building with the natural environment. Construction crews used massive oak logs for the rafters and shake shingles for the roof. Picnic shelters and overnight cabins also demonstrate the diligence used to build non-intrusive structures. The stone for the shelter was excavated from the nearby shoreline of the lake. Great care was taken that the size and color of the lake stone matched the stone in the natural rock ledge on which the building was located.<sup>62</sup> Stone used to construct overnight cabins also was taken from the lake shoreline. The men handled each rock carefully so as not to disturb the mosses and the color of the natural surface.<sup>63</sup>

At Osage Hills, Robbers Cave, and Beavers Bend State Parks, buildings reflected the culture and geology of eastern Oklahoma. Instead of the Southwestern pueblo style, buildings in the eastern part of the state reflected the "cabin motif" of early settlers. The abundance of trees and the lack of stone produced structures made primarily of timber. At Robbers Cave, there was enough native stone in the region to continue designs that incorporated both stone and timber to produce an "informal design to fit with surrounding landscape." It should be noted that the rustic design had a primitive quality on the outside but a more modern appearance on the inside. According to one newspaper account regarding a building at Robbers Cave, "The superintendent's residence is one of the most attractive structures...being modern and complete in every detail. Rustic effect on exterior and finished to a queen's taste in the interior."<sup>64</sup>

There was less stone in the region around Beavers Bend State Park in the southeastern corner of the state. The planners made use of what little stone they had for foundation work and used logs for the superstructure. In referring to the architecture of the structures, the park superintendent remarked, "In all of our work we shall endeavor to follow the simple primitive style of architecture which is so characteristic to southern Oklahoma."<sup>65</sup>

It was an impressive undertaking to train CCC enrollees to the necessary skills needed

to build rustic architecture. The National Park Service employed at each camp a technical staff who trained CCC men in particular skills. For example, technicians trained some men as stone cutters while training others to make wood shingles. All aspects of the construction took a particular skill. It was the combined skills of all men that produced the quality craftsmanship that went into building park structures. The contribution of the CCC and the vision of NPS architects produced lasting structures that are today a national treasure. The park superintendent at Lake Murray stated it well in 1937 when he reported that park buildings were "beautiful and outstanding in design and construction. It is a permanent monument to the National Park Service and a credit to the CCC labor."<sup>66</sup>

National Park Service landscape architects and Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees combined efforts to construct most of the buildings and structures in Oklahoma state parks. In some parks, however, Work Progress Administration workers also built park facilities. WPA laborers constructed facilities at Lake Murray and Cookson Hills RDAs, and in recreational areas established in the 1930s that were not included in the Oklahoma state park system.

The federal government established the WPA in 1935 to provide work-relief instead of dole-relief for those who were unemployed during the economic depression of the 1930s. An important objective of the WPA was to provide work-relief that would allow employable workers opportunities closely related to their chosen occupations. In Oklahoma in 1935, there were few skilled workers on the relief rolls who could provide the necessary labor for the numerous construction programs pioneered in the state under the New Deal. One of the first and most difficult projects was the construction of fifty-four armories. The armory project became a training ground for workers who learned skills that later qualified them on other WPA projects as stone masons, brick layers, electricians, plumbers, and carpenters.<sup>67</sup>

Federal, state, county, and school district agencies, sponsored WPA projects in Oklahoma. Federal sponsors included the Indian Department, the Soil Conservation Service,

the Wildlife and Game Refuge, and the Department of Agriculture. Similar agencies at the state level used WPA labor. Most of these projects included the development of submarginal land into game reserves, state forest, and recreational areas. On lands set aside for recreation, WPA labor built dams and prepared lake beds, cleared underbrush, built roads, and constructed recreation facilities. Many of the areas developed by WPA labor eventually became state parks.<sup>68</sup>

WPA officials hired local architects to design buildings in newly developed recreation areas. The architects' designs shared some of the characteristics seen in NPS rustic. For the most part, there was no particular WPA design philosophy. However, there was some distinction between design in federal and non-federal buildings. Non-federal buildings incorporated a "modern" design that was an "evolution from other styles of architecture." Conversely, the design of federal buildings was traditional and reflected regional characteristics. WPA officials in Oklahoma hired local architects whose designs, like NPS design, reflected the traditional style of any particular area of the state.<sup>69</sup>

WPA design of park buildings, however, did not incorporate the NPS design ideal that buildings be unobtrusive in the natural setting. WPA buildings did not look as if they were carved out of the surrounding environment. WPA architects also did not emphasize the use of heavy logs or extended roof overhangs. Rather, there was a simplicity to WPA construction with little ornamentation. Emphasis was on "line, good composition, scale and proportion." Especially important was low-cost construction and lasting durability.<sup>70</sup>

Some state park development in Oklahoma, then, benefited from the labor of both CCC and WPA workers. For example, Lake Okmulgee State Park, established in 1935, has recreational facilities built by CCC and WPA labor. The CCC arrived at Lake Okmulgee in July 1935. Their work concentrated on clearing and replanting 1500 acres of public land around a dam and newly constructed lake that was the water supply for the people of Okmulgee.<sup>71</sup> The CCC park supervisor classified the park as a state and municipal park,

which may account for the joint effort of two New Deal agencies. Plus, unlike other parks in the state system in 1935, Okmulgee Park was developed under the auspices of the City of Okmulgee.<sup>72</sup>

The WPA developed Greenleaf Park in the Cookson hills of eastern Oklahoma from submarginal land, which the Resettlement Administration (RA) bought from economically depressed farmers in 1936. The RA resettled families on more productive land where farmers were allowed to lease with an option to buy. In all, the Resettlement Administration bought 32,000 acres from farmers in the Cookson Hills. Of those acres, 6,000 were developed for recreational purposes, apparently under the direction of the National Park Service.<sup>73</sup>

In Greenleaf Park in 1937, WPA workers completed 24 cabins around the lake and Greenleaf Lodge. WPA labor also crafted camp furniture for the cabins and lodge and constructed the boat house.<sup>74</sup> In 1941, the federal government approved a site for an Army containment, or training camp, in the Cookson Hills, which included part of Greenleaf Park. During World War Two, this land was transferred from the Resettlement Administration to the Department of Defense, and transferred back again after the war. The army facility became known as Camp Gruber. Many of the park buildings were used by the military, including Greenleaf Lodge, which was turned into an officers' club.<sup>75</sup>

One of the numerous projects undertaken by WPA workers was the construction of dams, especially in eastern Oklahoma where productive land was eroded and washed away by flooding. Building dams and creating lakes also was a protective measure to maintain game and fish refuges. There was evidently a concern in the 1930s over the apparent depletion of fish and game stock in the state.<sup>76</sup> In 1934, the Oklahoma State legislature appropriated funds to the Game and Fish Commission for the construction of a dam on the Kiamichi River south of Clayton in Pushmataha county. With WPA labor, the state built the dam, thereby creating Clayton Lake. In 1945, the state replaced the dam and enlarged the

lake. In 1953 the Game and Fish Commission transferred title to the park to the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board. The Board officially made Clayton Lake a State Park in that year.<sup>77</sup>

WPA workers also can be accredited with building recreational facilities and structures at Lake Murray State Park. As mentioned previously, the CCC built most of the infrastructure at Lake Murray, including construction of park buildings. The first construction project at the lake, however, was the construction of Lake Murray dam, which was done with WPA labor. WPA labor was used in the Recreation Demonstration Areas and in constructing Tucker Tower as well. Officially their responsibility was to do "janitor work in cabins, guard duty at gates and ordinary park maintenance." Unofficially, it appears that WPA workers were used for other types of construction. According to one source, "The state administration received public criticism for permitting a weed cutting operation when actually the crews directly under the supervision of the state organization were building a worthwhile structure."<sup>78</sup>

Large scale funding for New Deal programs started to wane by 1941 when Congressional efforts and appropriations went to prepare America for war in Europe and the Pacific. Like the New Deal programs in Oklahoma that lifted the morale of men and the economy of communities, funding for military camps like Camp Gruber and the construction of numerous military bases added to the economic well-being of the state. With diminishing funding for the NPS and the New Deal, CCC camps were discontinued and the work of the enrollees abandoned. In some cases, the abruptness of the CCC withdrawal from park camps left unfinished park construction. When the government withdrew the CCC from Boiling Springs State Park in 1941, the park was only half finished. Citizens of Woodward figured that between the federal government, State Park Commission, and the city of Woodward, \$200,000 to \$300,000 was spent on park construction. The concern was that without this revenue the park would never be finished. Residents also were troubled by the



lack of revenue in their community from federal employees. One of the solutions was to convince the federal government to use the CCC camp and facilities for Army units that they believed would travel from Colorado through northwest Oklahoma to camps in Oklahoma and Texas. According to one resident, "We feel, here in Oklahoma, that we are surely entitled to some small part of the expenditures the government is putting out at this time."<sup>9</sup>

Regardless of unfinished park development, while funding lasted CCC workers, in particular, left Oklahomans with a different landscape than that which existed before the New Deal programs. This New Deal legacy is still enjoyed in the 1990s by thousands of Oklahomans who swim, boat, camp and hike in parks across the state. Also significant was the benefit of the CCC program to the young men who joined the Corps. The spirit of the program and the effect it had on the men is attested to every year when CCC alumni meet for their annual reunions in the very parks they helped build in the 1930s.

## Architects

### National Park Service Southwest Regional Office

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### Boiling Springs State Park

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L.L. Hawkins, Landscape Architect  
Harold Hunter, Architect

### Roman Nose State Park

Harold March, Architect

### Osage Hills State Park

W. Russell Smith, Architect

### Robbers Cave State Park

Robert Stone, Landscape Architect  
Paul Rice, Architect

### Beavers Bend State Park

Carl Alteman, Landscape Architect

### Quartz Mountain State Park

Theo B. Forbes, Architect

### Lake Murray State Park

Robert D. Stone  
Raymond Lovelady  
E.J. Johnson  
Harold Marsh

Ray Carter  
Paul Rice

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## KINDS OF PROPERTIES SOUGHT AND IDENTIFIED

The focus of the survey was to look at each of the parks as a single entity--a designed landscape--and to identify those cultural resources that contributed to the landscape as designed by the National Park Service and constructed by New Deal agencies. At the beginning of the project, we assumed that the parks had been constructed in their entirety by the CCC, but in the course of our investigation we discovered that the WPA also was involved in some of the parks, and these resources were included in the identification efforts. In addition, resources that were already present when the parks were created and those built by other entities but present at the time the parks were completed were also identified. A number of the parks underwent extensive redevelopment during the 1960s, and as a consequence some of the historic fabric and ambiance was destroyed. Thus, in some parks only portions of the designed landscape survive intact. However, this redevelopment tended to be concentrated in one or two areas of a given park and therefore left large segments that retain their historical integrity.

The historic resources identified included a wide variety of property types relating to public use of the parks, the administration of the parks, and the overall landscape design. The most significant property type within the parks is the designed landscape itself. A designed landscape is a landscape that has significance as a design or work of art, was consciously designed and laid out by a landscape architect, architect, master gardener, or horticulturalist according to a design principle, has a historical association with a significant person or trend in landscape architecture, or has a significant relationship to the theory or practice of landscape architecture. A designed landscape is evaluated as a single entity, and all of the interrelated elements that make up the designed landscape, including buildings, structures, objects, sites, landscaping plants, and natural features, are considered not as individual elements but as a unit. Almost all of the parks that were surveyed are significant

designed landscapes. They were designed as rustic parks by landscape architects with the National Park Service and their development became an important aspect of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration's New Deal program to provide work for the unemployed during the Great Depression of the 1930s and at the same time advance a national program of environmental conservation. Each of the designed landscapes is significant at the state or local level of significance. Some of the parks also merit consideration as National Historic Landmarks, as they are outstanding examples of the National Park Service's cooperative effort to help establish parks, conserve natural resources, and create significant designed landscapes and recreational opportunities within reach of the masses of the public. The development of these parks by the New Deal launched the state parks system in Oklahoma. Moreover, these parks helped to establish a rustic landscape theme that was imitated in parks and other tourist facilities throughout the state and thereby helped to create an architectural and landscape style now thought of as quintessentially Oklahoman. Finally, most of the parks stand as significant reminders of the Civilian Conservation Corps program and the New Deal effort to ameliorate the depression and provide training and hope to young men.

Although designed landscapes are evaluated as a unit, property subtypes are present within the parks, and these are discussed briefly below.

### **Tourist-Related Buildings**

Tourist-related buildings such as cabins, bath houses, community buildings, and latrines are extant to one degree or another in each of the eligible parks. A number of designs were used for these facilities, and no two parks are identical. All adhere to a general rustic design philosophy, designated in this survey as "CCC Rustic" but known more generally in the literature as "NPS Rustic." Bath houses tend to be the most elegant and monumental resources within the parks and are typically built of stone. Community

buildings vary as to quality but range from elegant stone buildings to ones of relatively plain wooden construction with stone trim. Surprisingly, a fairly large number of the original tourist cabins survive in the parks, although they have been supplemented by new developments. A variety of cabin designs are found in the parks. Most are constructed of weatherboard, but some stone examples are also extant. Relatively few historic latrines remain. Most are constructed of stone, but weatherboard examples are also present.

### **Picnic Facilities**

A number of picnic shelters and pavilions are present in the parks, but very few picnic tables are extant. The picnic shelters and pavilions are often striking structures, constructed of stone and designed to blend into the surrounding landscape. Only a handful of picnic tables are extant, some of stone, others of concrete. In general, picnic tables have been replaced by modern concrete units.

### **Administrative Buildings**

Administrative facilities such as superintendents' residences, caretakers' cabins, maintenance buildings, and storage buildings are present in some of the parks. Most of the superintendents' residences have survived; these are typically large, well-designed houses with strong horizontal lines and generally are constructed of stone and wood. An unusual caretaker's cabin, designed as a log cabin, is present at Beavers Bend State Park and may be individually eligible for the National Register as an outstanding example of its style. Maintenance and storage buildings are generally very utilitarian in design. Most of the original maintenance and storage buildings have been replaced, however, or are highly altered.

### **Dams**

All of the parks feature lakes, and most of the dams forming the lakes were constructed by the CCC or the WPA. Additionally, check dams help to control the course of rivers and creeks within the parks. These structures were central features of the New Deal's conservation program and are significant both to the history of the parks and the local New Deal program.

### **Bridges and Culverts**

Culverts, vehicular bridges, low-water bridges, and pedestrian bridges within the parks not only provide access and water diversion but also add significantly to the rustic feeling of the designed landscape. All are constructed of stone and designed to blend with the landscape. Of particular note are the many spectacular stone arched bridges. In many cases, the original wooden, rustic rails on the bridges remain intact. The culverts and bridges maintain a high degree of design integrity.

### **Landscape Features**

Landscape features within the parks include entry portals, rip rapping, trails, signs and markers, refuse pits, fire pits and fireplaces, drinking fountains, and parking lots. Although many of these are small features, they add significantly to the overall integrity of materials, workmanship, and feeling of the designed landscapes. Most of these structures and objects are constructed of stone, and considerable thought went into designing these features, even the refuse pits, to carry out the rustic principles of the landscape design. Signs and markers in many of the parks were stamped out of metal, and a surprising number are extant. Wooden signs on rustic stone bases, similar to the designs installed more recently, are also present in some of the parks.

### **Utility Structures**

Power houses, incinerators, pump houses, and water towers were designed in stone to continue the rustic theme of the park. Many remain, albeit abandoned, and they contribute significantly to the general feeling of the designed landscape. Some are spectacular examples of rustic design principles and workmanship, incorporating stone construction, stone buttresses, log trusses, and plank doors.

### **Archeological Sites**

A number of resources, particularly latrines and picnic shelters, lay in ruins. However some of these resources may have archeological potential and therefore are considered to be contributing resources within the parks.

## RESULTS

Of the ten parks surveyed, Greenleaf State Park, Lake Murray State Park, Osage Hills State Park, and Robbers Cave State Park appear to be eligible in their entirety for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as outstanding examples of park landscapes designed by the National Park Service and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and other New Deal agencies. Lake Murray State Park and Robbers Cave State Park also merit consideration as National Historic Landmarks, due to the quality of the park designs, the integrity of the historic landscapes, and the histories of the parks, both of which incorporate significant themes in addition to their primary association with the CCC. The status of National Historic Landmark denotes the highest level of significance within the National Register. In addition, portions of Boiling Springs State Park, Quartz Mountain State Park, and Roman Nose State Park appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register as locally outstanding designed landscapes. A portion of Beavers Bend State Park appears to be eligible for listing as a historic district. Neither Clayton Lake State Park nor Lake Okmulgee State Park appear to be eligible as designed landscapes or districts, due to a lack of historic integrity. Several resources at the parks appear to be eligible individually for listing in the National Register, including the Caretaker's cabin at Beavers Bend State Park, the officer's residence or clinic building associated with the CCC camp at Beavers Bend State Park, Greenleaf Lodge/Camp Gruber Officers' Club at Greenleaf State Park, Altus Dam at Quartz Mountain State Park, the entrance sign at Roman Nose State Park, and the dam at Lake Okmulgee State Park. The Resettlement Administration group camp and the "Negro cabins," both at Lake Murray State Park, appear to be eligible as historic districts, aside from their eligibility as part of the overall designed landscape at the park.



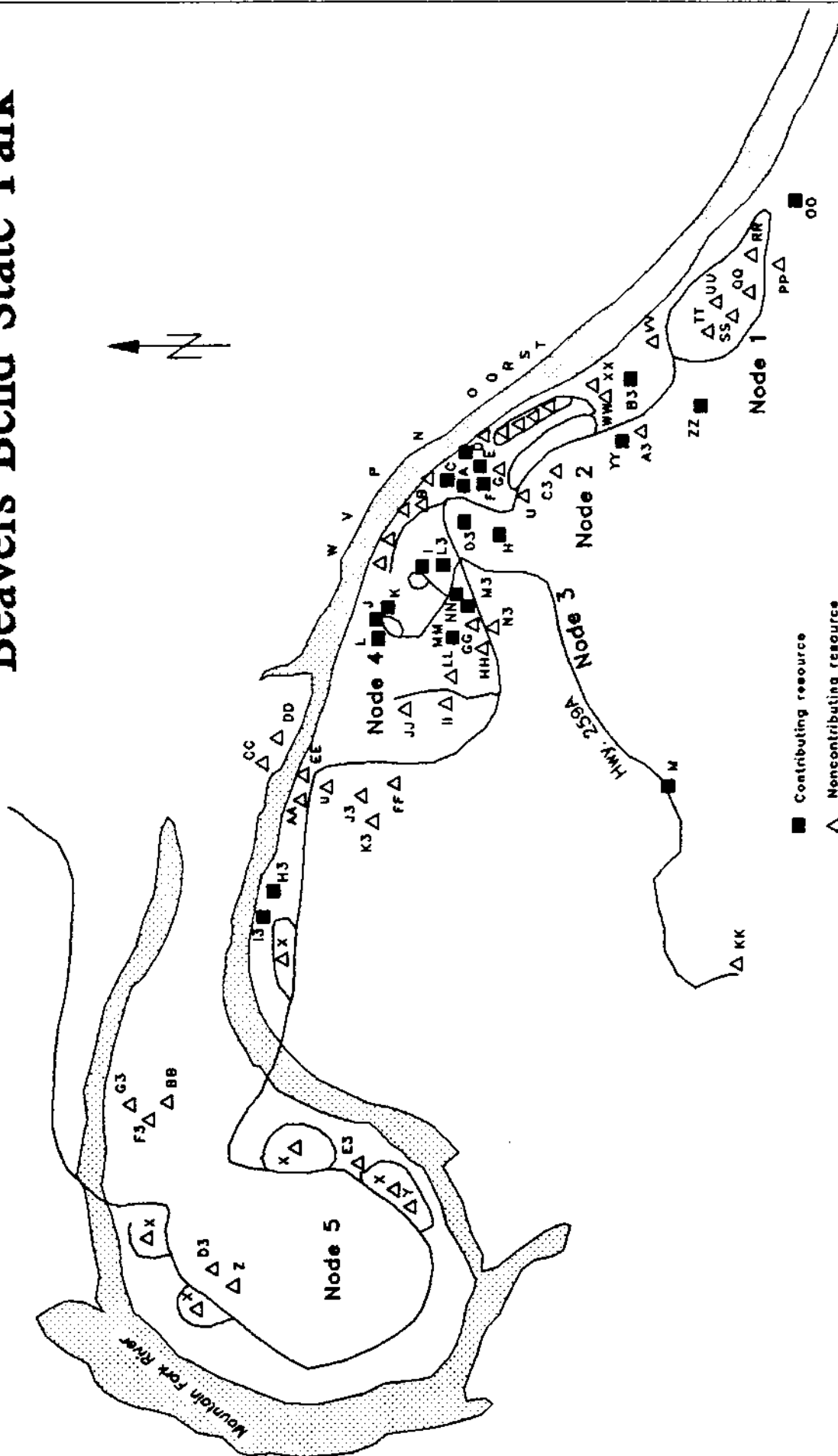
## **BEAVERS BEND STATE PARK**

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

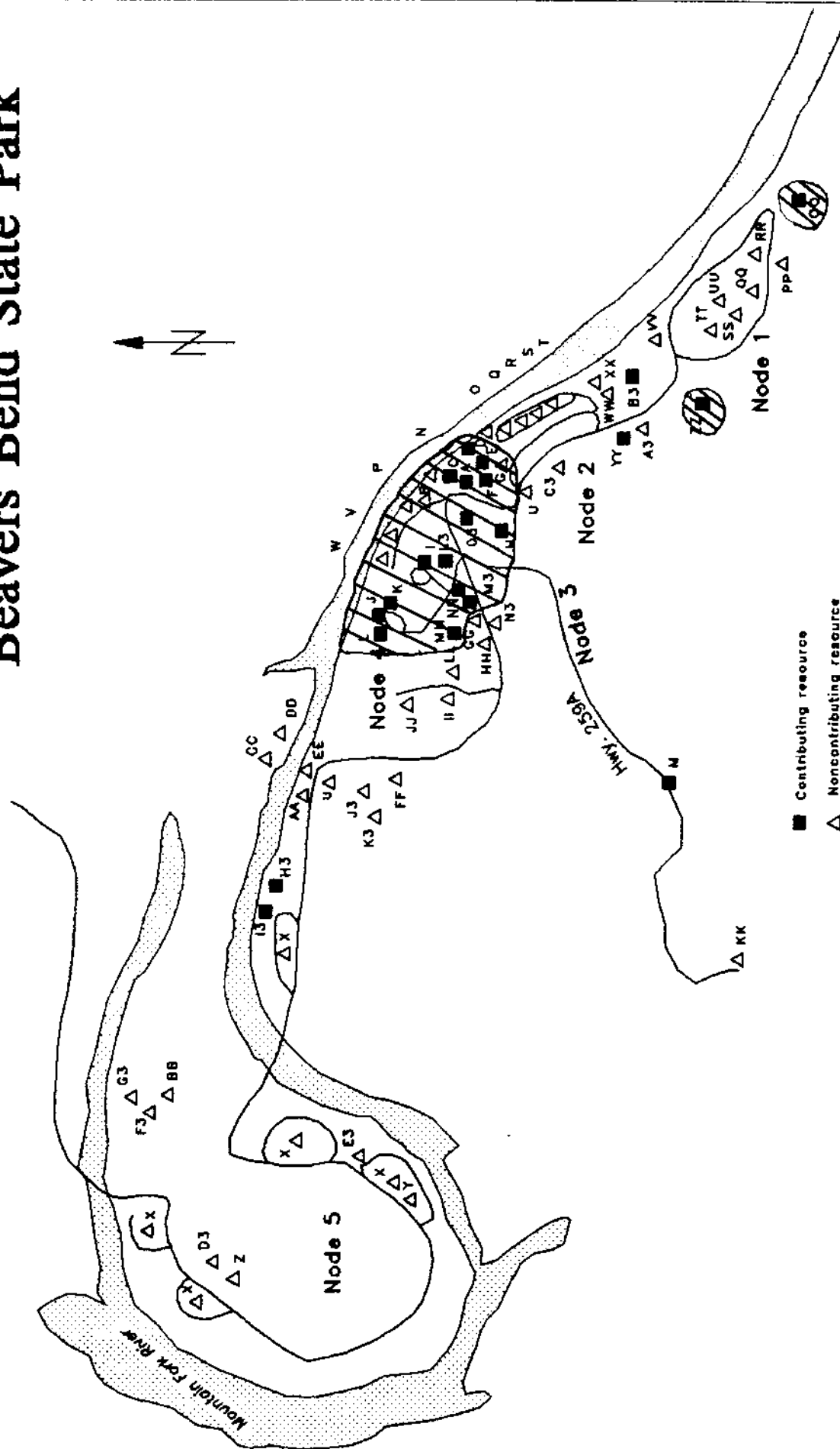
Beavers Bend State Park is nestled in the wooded foothills of the Ouachita Mountains in southeastern Oklahoma. Its beautiful lake, magnificent terrain, rushing streams, lush forest, and recreational opportunities make it one of the most popular state parks in Oklahoma. In addition to its natural beauty, Beavers Bend has a rustic appeal, partly due to the CCC-built cabins and the historic bath house, now the Nature Center. The park is covered with a high canopy of tall yellow pines. Although pine trees are indigenous to the area, many of these pines were planted by the CCC. Red cedar is thought to be a recent invader to the area but the original plans indicate plantings of cedar trees as well.

Relatively few of the historic resources at Beavers Bend have retained their integrity (refer to Map 2). Consequently, the park does not appear to be eligible for the National register as a designed landscape. However, an area encompassing a cluster of cabins and the bath house does appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C as a historic district (refer to Map 3). The district is significant for its association with the CCC construction program, and it contains an outstanding, visually cohesive collection of tourist cabins and other resources associated with the early development of Beavers Bend State Park. In addition, it appears that the Caretaker's Cabin (resource ZZ on Map 3) is individually eligible for listing in the National Register as an outstanding example of log cabin design by the National Park Service at Beavers Bend State Park. Moreover, Cabin 47 (Resource OO on Map 3), thought to be the original officer's residence or the clinic for the CCC camp, where the members of the CCC lived while constructing the park, may be eligible for individual listing in the National Register. All of these resources appear to be eligible at the local level of significance.

# Beavers Bend State Park



# Beavers Bend State Park



### Map 3 Eligible Areas

## ***EVALUATION BY NODE***

### ***Node 1***

Node 1, in the southern part of the park (Map 4), is mainly a camping area with numerous sites designed to accommodate recreational vehicles. The landscape includes numerous stands of blackjack, red post oak, and hickory trees along the hill sides. Many camp sites and RV spaces are available year-round. Most of the camp sites include water and electrical hookups. There are two picnic shelters, a latrine, tennis courts, and a playground area for daytime use, all of which are nonhistoric. Also within this node is Group Camp 1. Relatively little integrity remains in this part of the park. However, it does include the Caretaker's Cabins and an officer's cabin or clinic associated with the CCC camp, both of which appear to be individually eligible for the National Register. This area was the original site for the CCC camp.

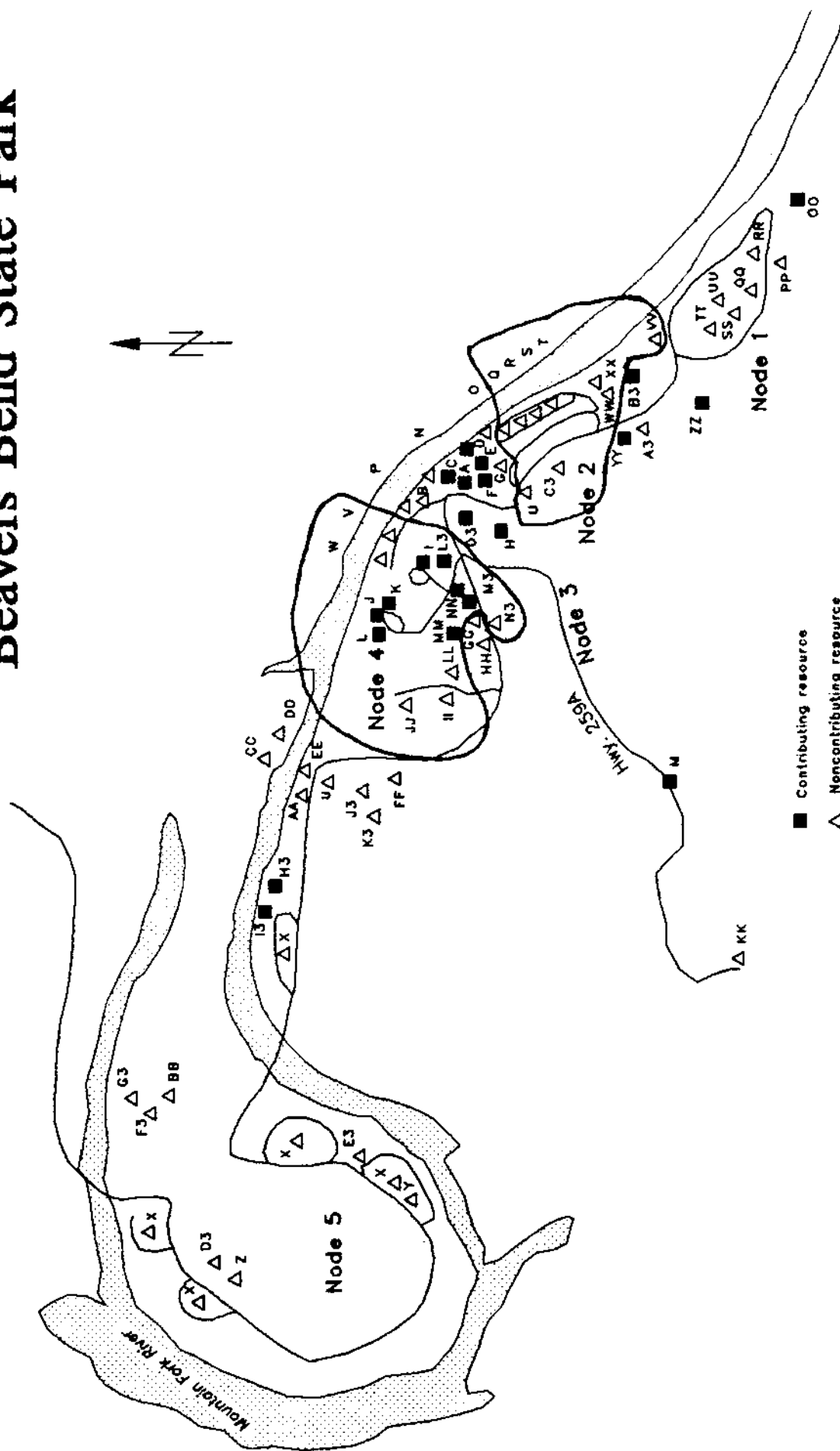
### ***Node 2***

Node 2 is the site of Camping Area B and Cabins 24 through 28. In addition it contains numerous sites designed to accommodate recreational vehicles year-round, and a dump station serves the recreational-vehicle campers. Most of the camp sites include water and electrical hookups. This area also includes a latrine and playground. Across the park road are newer duplex cabins. This area does not contain any historical resources. It has high usage so undergrowth is minimal.

### ***Node 3***

Node 3 is the center of activity of the park and is located at the park entrance. It includes the park restaurant and country store, the historic bath house (now the Nature Center) and amphitheater, the park office, the historic park manager's residence, and the

# Beavers Bend State Park



Forest Heritage Center. There is very little low brush and few smaller trees in this area, except along the hillside, because of high usage by park visitors.

#### **Node 4**

Node 4 houses most of the park's cabins. Along several cul-de-sacs are cabins of various ages and styles. At the center of this area are the original cabins, built by the CCC. These retain a high degree of integrity. Additionally there are eleven new cabins along the riverside. Also located in this node is a central maintenance area and a stone, arched bridge. Much of this node appears to be eligible for the National Register as a historic district. There is a wide variety of trees in this area because it is less developed than other sections of the park. They include sweet gum, sycamore, holly, white oak, post oak, hickory, and maple.

#### **Node 5**

Node 5 is designed primarily for primitive outdoor recreation, except for Area F, which is developed for recreational vehicle camping. Areas D through H have tent camping sites along the bend of the Mountain Fork River. The node includes two bridges built by the CCC. There is also a swimming area with various water activities available. A maintenance area and a house for park personnel are located along the park road. This node has almost no historic resources. Along the bend of the river are sweet gum, black gum, sycamore, holly, white oak, post oak, and cypress.

## **BOILING SPRINGS STATE PARK**

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

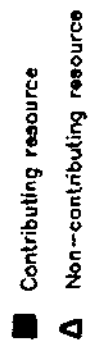
Boiling Springs State Park maintains a high level of historic integrity, since most of the original CCC resources remain intact and in good condition (refer to Map 5). A number of new recreational facilities, such as picnic areas and a pool, have been added, but these do not significantly affect the overall integrity of the park. Most or all of Boiling Springs State Park appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It may be desirable to exclude from the nominated designed landscape a small area at the entrance and an area in the northeast part of the park, as they contain large noncontributing resources (consult Map 6). The park appears to be eligible under Criterion C, as an outstanding example of a landscape designed by the National Park Service and constructed by the CCC. It is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps. The park appears to be eligible at the state level of significance.

The park is landscaped with a variety of tree species planted by the CCC, including hackberry, American elm, honey locust, mulberry, various oaks, willow, red cedar, and redbud. Some of the many shrubs include dogwood, sandhill plum, sumac, elderberry, and skunk brush.

### ***EVALUATION BY NODE***

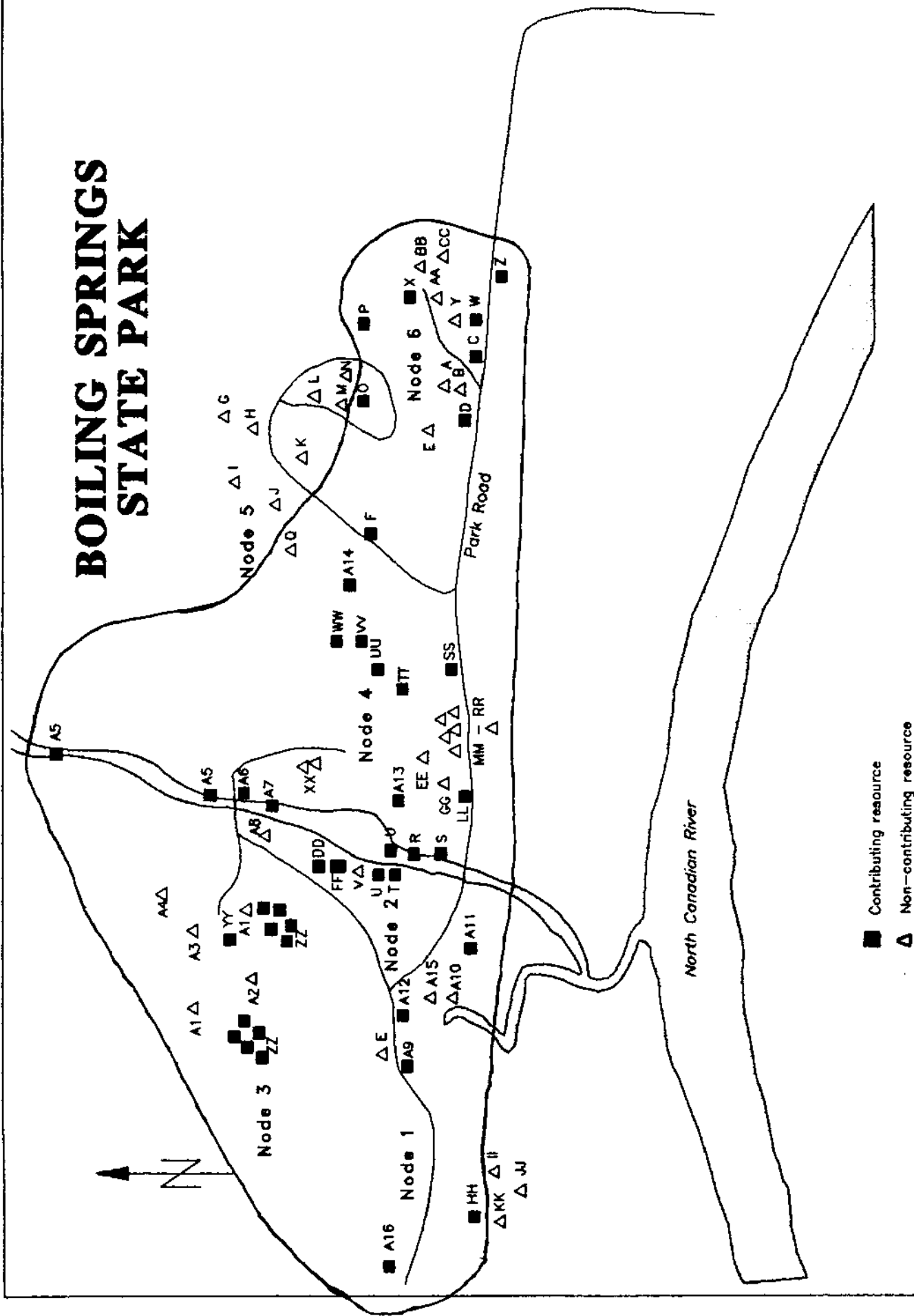
#### **Node 1**

Node 1 (see Map 7) is located at the western entrance of the park and is situated at a lower elevation relative to the rest of the park. Native cottonwoods have intruded in and around the springs area. This node is the focal point of the park and many of the tourist facilities are located here. Node 1 includes the entrance portal, the pump house, the





# BOILING SPRINGS STATE PARK



Map 6 Eligible Areas

maintenance area, a number of culverts, and the superintendent's residence. The pump house and an elaborate culvert are important historic resources in this area. The park headquarters and the Boiling Springs Pavilion, however, are new additions. Moreover, many modifications have been made to the entrance area and around the maintenance area. This area has the least integrity of any area within the park.

### Node 2

The focal point of Node 2 is the pool area and Shaul Lake. South of the lake are numerous picnic sites and a playground. Most of the picnic areas have been planted with grass. There is a large parking lot in front of the pool house. A hiking trail wanders from the north sections of the park through the node along the east side of Shaul Lake. This node encompasses a number of significant historic resources including the bath house, a wading pool, Shaul Lake dam and spillway, a check dam, foot bridges, culverts, parking lot curbs, rock faucets, log faucets, and overnight cabins. Some modifications have been made to the bath house, and modifications have been made to the lake area, including the addition of pool maintenance buildings and conservation projects. The picnic areas also have been updated. Nonetheless, the area maintains a high degree of historic integrity. The landscape around the lake is heavily vegetated with original CCC plantings.

### Node 3

Node 3 functions primarily for group camping and outdoor recreation. Original CCC-built cabins and the original water tower are located here. The field survey indicates the possibility that the original group camp site may have been changed. Nonetheless, this area retains historic integrity. Most of the node is situated in an open clearing, covered with grass, and encircled by trees planted by the CCC.



#### **Node 4**

The main function of Node 4 is outdoor recreation. Many picnic tables and four picnic shelters are available to campers, and there is ample parking for cars and recreational vehicles. The northern park trail, constructed by the CCC, winds its way through the node, along the bluffs. The node has suffered some loss of historical integrity because of the many new picnic and recreational features. An intrusive, white metal handrail has been added to the rock stairway. Moreover, the CCC-built picnic shelter is in disrepair, and the hiking trail is in need of maintenance. Nonetheless, this area contributes to the overall designed landscape. Most of the vegetation in this area occurs on the bluffs north of the picnic areas.

#### **Node 5**

Node 5 is used strictly for outdoor recreation. There are numerous primitive picnic, camping, and recreational vehicle sites. A new music pavilion is used for a summer bluegrass music festival. Most of this node is planted with grass. The node maintains little historic integrity because all of the large resources are nonhistoric. Only a few historic culverts, fire pits, and a water shed remain. With the possible exception of the small features, this area should be considered for exclusion from the nominated resource.

#### **Node 6**

Node 6 is used primarily for group camping and other outdoor activities. The original community building is available for use by groups during the day. A variety of CCC-built cabins are also present. A CCC-built trail begins in this node and extends through to the southern areas of the park. A large, nonhistoric building, called the tabernacle, serves as a meeting hall, and a nonoriginal stairway is also present.

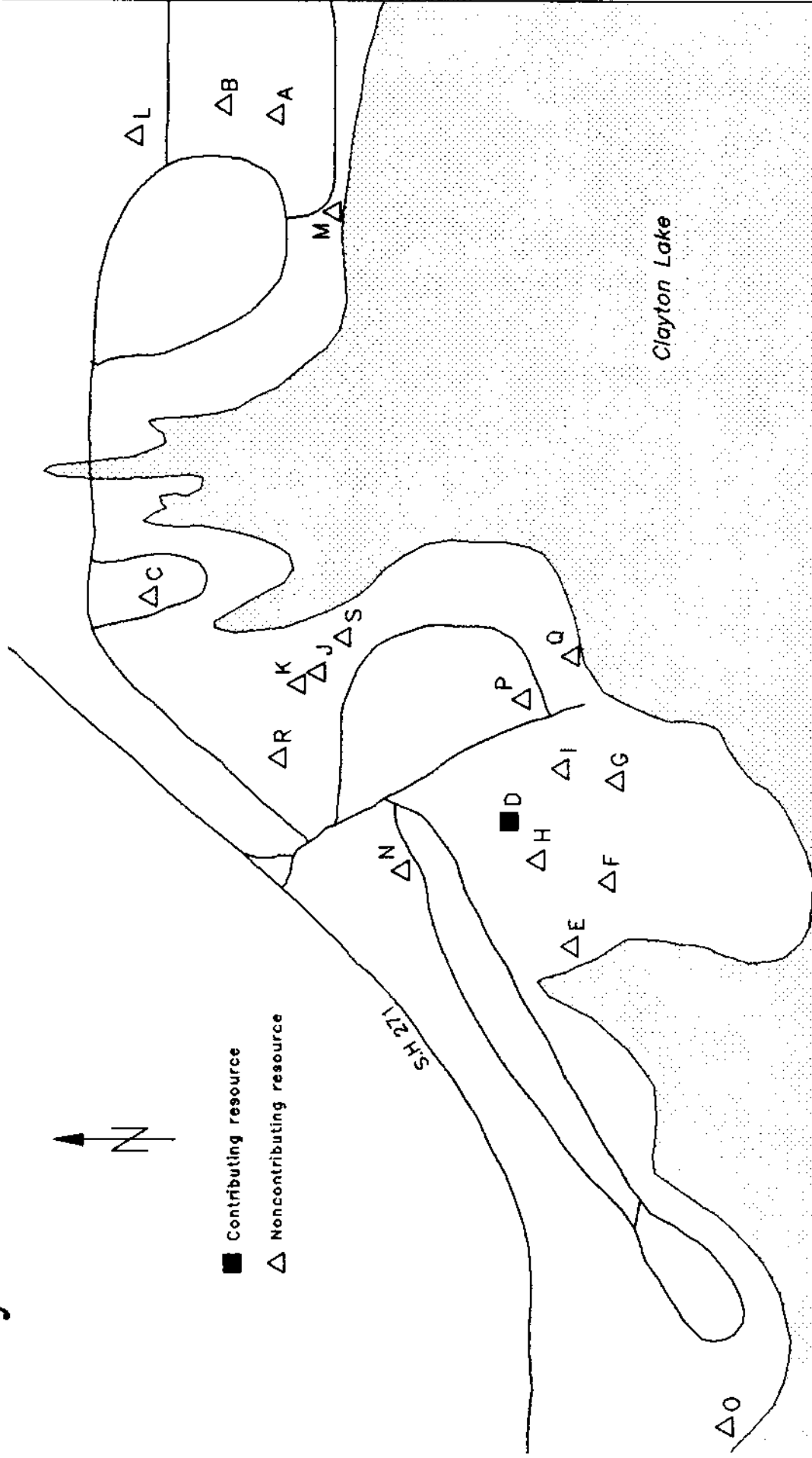
Nonetheless, this node maintains historical integrity. The node is well vegetated with a variety of trees and shrubs planted by the CCC.

## CLAYTON LAKE STATE PARK

### *RECOMMENDATIONS*

Clayton Lake State Park (Map 8) does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The park was not designed by the National Park Service, and only the bath house, which was constructed by the Works Progress Administration, is associated with the New Deal. The bath house, by itself, does not appear to possess sufficient significance to warrant individual listing in the National Register. The original dam constructed by the WPA was replaced in 1945.

# Clayton Lake State Park



## **GREENLEAF STATE PARK**

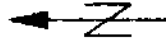
### ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

Greenleaf State Park was constructed by the WPA and the Corps of Engineers on land acquired by the Resettlement Administration, but soon after its construction as a park the land and its buildings became part of Camp Gruber, an army installation that served as an infantry and support group training base until the end of World War II. Across the highway, the army maintained a Prisoner of War camp. At the end of the war, the present Greenleaf State Park was transferred to the Army Corps of Engineers, which licensed it to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. Ownership of the area is complicated, as the magnificent, rustic Greenleaf Lodge (which served the army as an officers' club) is owned by the National Guard, while the dam (constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers) and the WPA-built bath house, cabins, and park manager's residence are owned by the Corps of Engineers and operated by the State of Oklahoma. It appears that Greenleaf State Park, in its entirety, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, for its remarkable collection of rustic buildings (refer to Map 9), at the state level of significance. No other known resource in Oklahoma embodies so well the shift in focus undertaken by Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration from its New Deal program to the mobilization of the military for World War II. Greenleaf Lodge/Camp Gruber Officers' Club also appears to be individually eligible for listing in the Register under Criterion C.

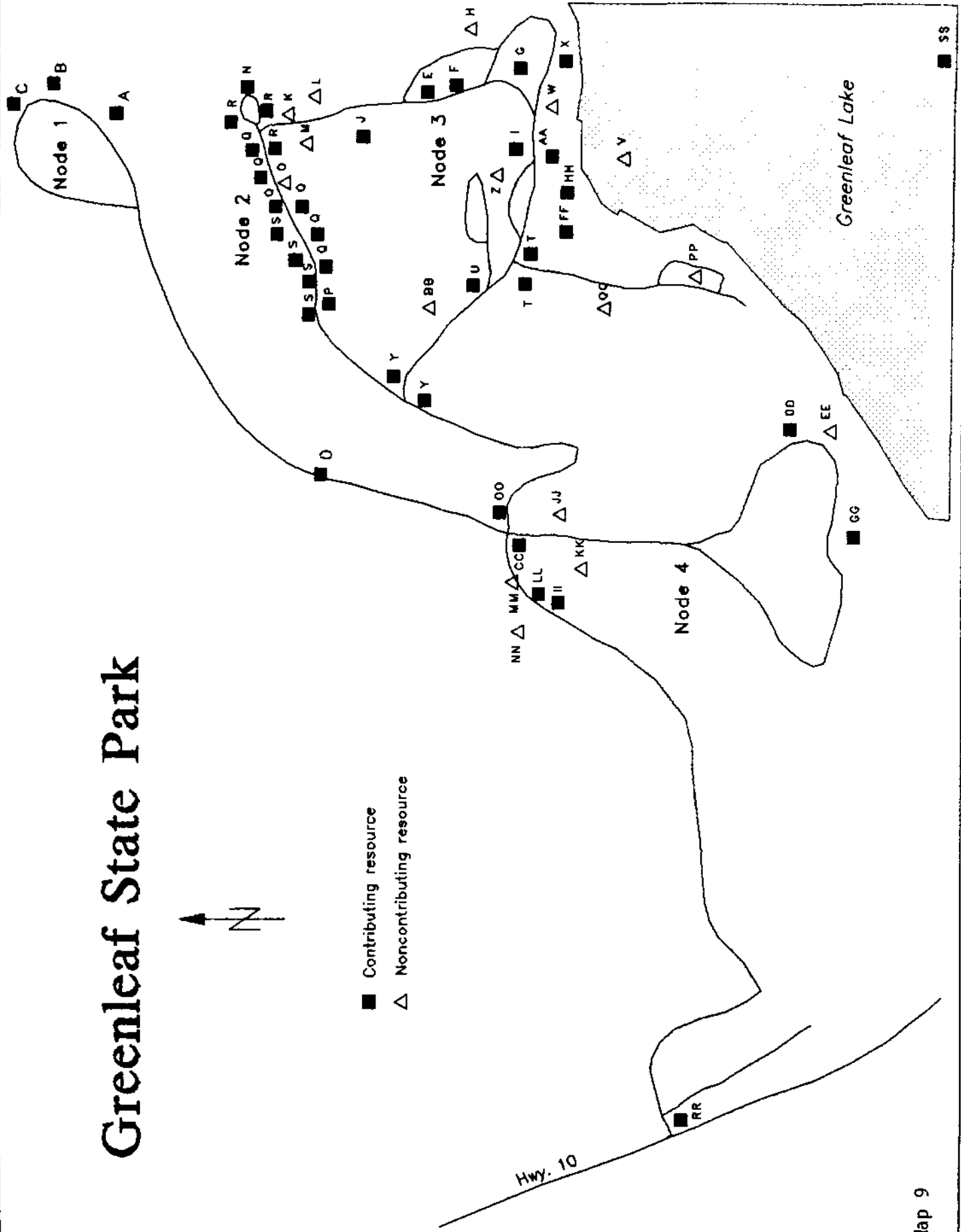
The park is forested with trees planted by the CCC, including hickory, oak, ash, bodack, loblolly pine, dogwood, redbud, maple, and western red cedar.



# Greenleaf State Park



- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource



## ***EVALUATION BY NODE***

### ***Node 1***

Node 1, located in the northern section of the original park, is under the jurisdiction of the National Guard (see Map 10). Several historically significant resources, including the Greenleaf Lodge/Camp Gruber Officers' Club, a magnificent example of rustic architecture, are situated on a bluff overlooking Greenleaf Lake. This node is moderately forested.

### ***Node 2***

All of the overnight cabins are located in Node 2, which is in a densely forested area of the park. The node is situated on a bluff that overlooks the main area of the park. The cabins are spaced along the road. Three styles of cabins are present, with the main differences being the addition of an enclosed porch or the placement of the fireplace. This node has a high degree of integrity.

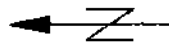
### ***Node 3***

Node 3 encompasses the main recreational areas of the park within an open field environment: the marina, the fishing dock, a hiking trail, and areas for recreation vehicles, picnics, and camping. The historic bath house is an outstanding example of rustic architecture.

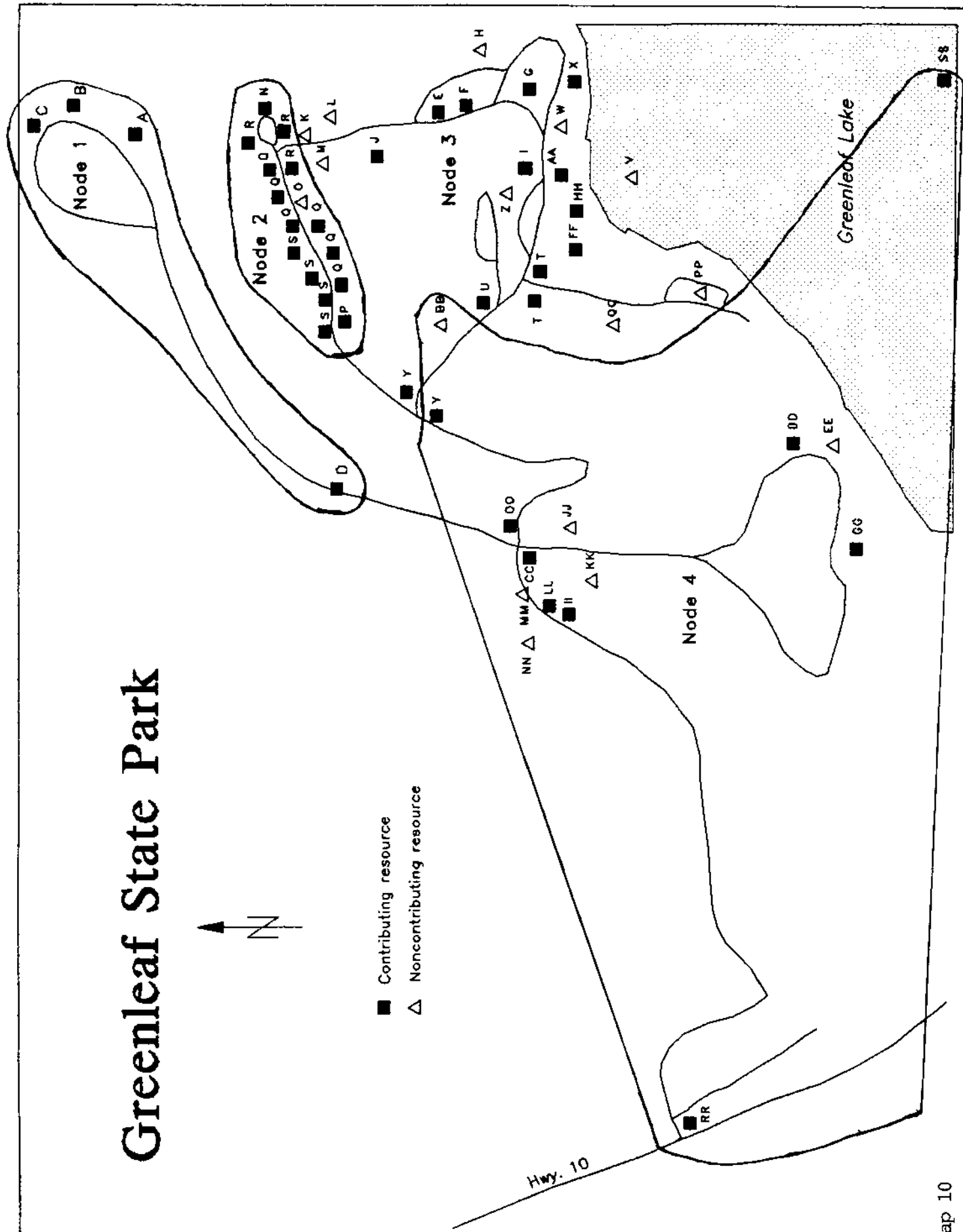
### ***Node 4***

A large recreational vehicle camp is located in this node, situated on a bluff overlooking Greenleaf Lake. Moderately forested, the area provides expansive views of the surrounding countryside. A modern pool is provided for summer recreation. The historic park manager's residence located in this node is a fine example of rustic architecture.

# Greenleaf State Park



- Contributing resource  
△ Noncontributing resource



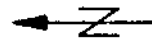
## LAKE MURRAY STATE PARK

### *RECOMMENDATIONS*

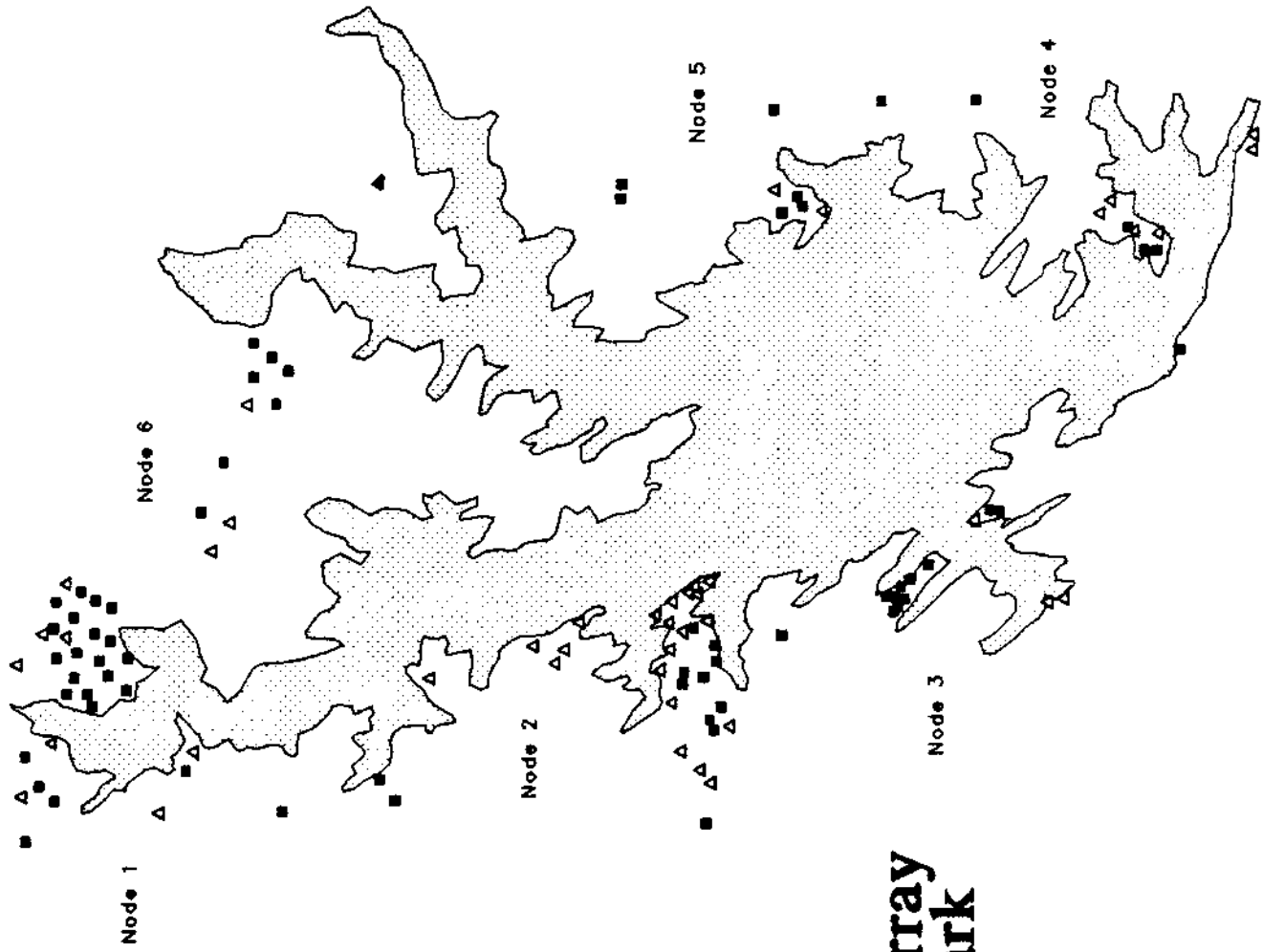
Lake Murray State Park encompasses some of the finest examples of rustic architecture in the state parks and incorporates resources associated with the Resettlement Administration's transient camp program as well as the park building program of the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps (refer to Map 11). The park is an excellent example of a designed landscape that is complemented by the CCC-Rustic style. The group camps, in particular, offer outstanding examples of the style. Moreover, the park contains the only examples of cabins constructed for the use of African-Americans, segregated in the parks by Jim Crow laws, and the differences in construction between these cabins and those constructed for use by Euro-Americans provides insight into the social history of the era. Although a number of intrusions are clustered along the western bank of the lake, the park retains overall historical integrity. It appears to be eligible in its entirety for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as an outstanding landscape designed by the National Park Service and constructed largely by the CCC, and for its outstanding collection of CCC-Rustic architecture. Moreover, it appears to be eligible under Criterion A for its association with New Deal programs, including the CCC, the Resettlement Administration, and the WPA, and for the social and ethnic history reflected in the "Negro cabins." Because of the overall quality of the designed landscape and the social history reflected in the resources associated with the Resettlement Administration and the segregated cabins (both of which appear to be eligible as historic districts, as well), the park merits consideration as a National Historic Landmark.

The areas around the lake are densely forested with plantings established by the CCC, including several varieties of deciduous trees, including hickory, elm, pecan, and cottonwood. However, the scrub-post oak dominates the landscape.

# Lake Murray State Park



- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource



### Node 1

Node 1 includes the historic park office, the park manager's residence, the park maintenance area, and a year-round recreational vehicle area (refer to Maps 12 and 13). The area is densely forested. Red cedar is interspersed among the dominant scrub-post oak, and underbrush includes woody specimens such as dogwood and redbud.

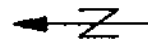
### Node 2

Node 2 is the main activity area within the park and includes the lodge, tourist cabins, stables, water recreational facilities, the golf course, and an air strip (see Maps 12 and 13). Tent camping, recreational vehicle camping, picnic facilities, and boat ramps are also provided. The area has been cleared of underbrush. The CCC camp was located north of the lodge road, but there is very little evidence of the original site. This area contains most of the park's intrusions on the historic landscape, but several important historic resources, as well, are located in this node, including a bridge, the ranger's headquarters, and two significant cabins, one designed of logs.

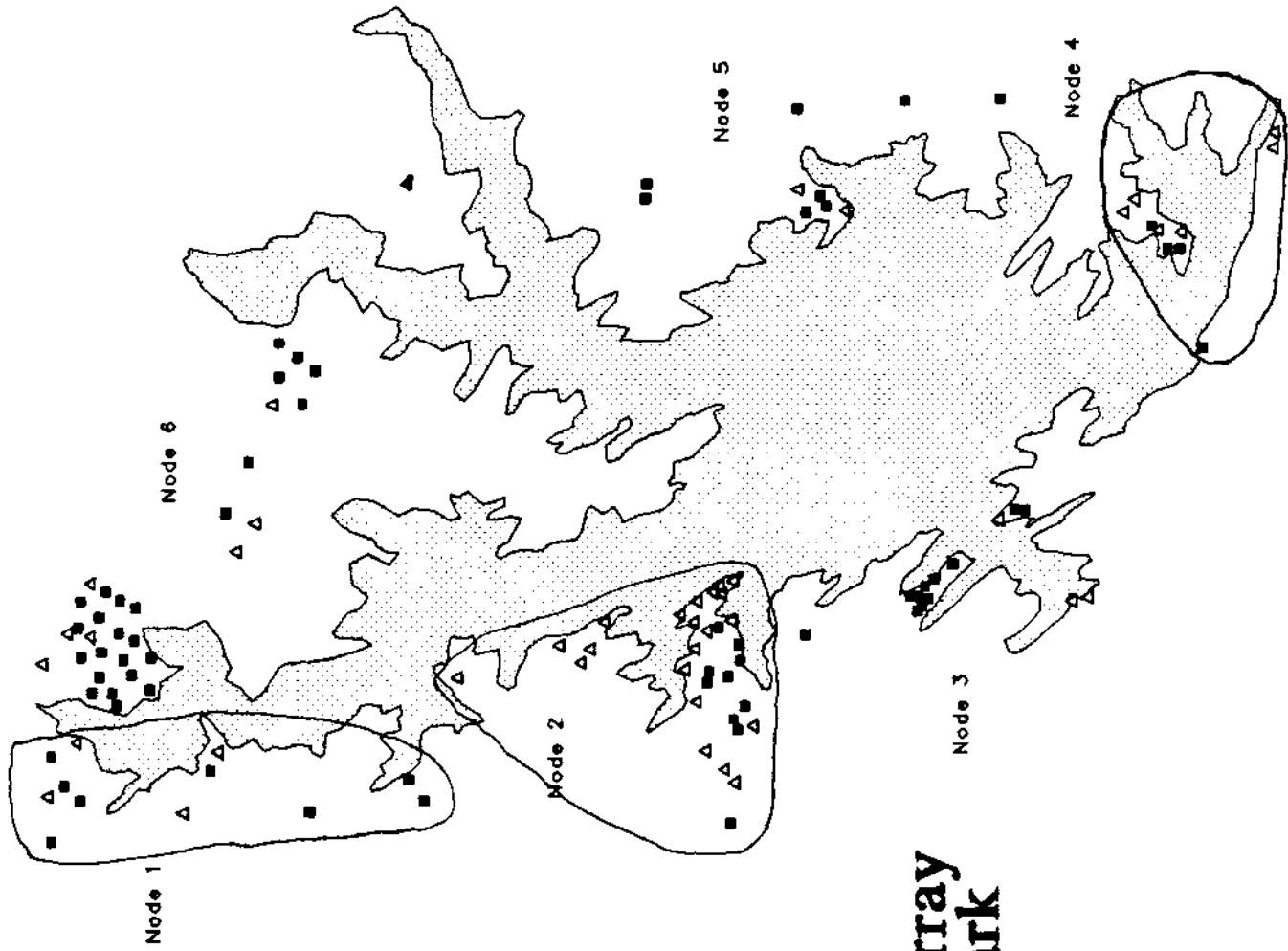
### Node 3

Node 3 has a high degree of historical integrity, despite the presence of several nonhistoric resources including the marina and beach area, and the handicap fishing pier (see Maps 12 and 14). Along the highway a number of grassy meadows add variety to the landscape. A rocky ridge creates a barrier between the lake and the historic Buzzard's Roost area and Tucker Tower. Buzzard's Roost encompasses a number of rustic buildings including a round shelter, tent camping areas, and a recreational vehicle area. Underbrush has been cleared from this area. The WPA-built Tucker's Tower functions as the Nature Center. The historic caretaker's cottage also is in this node.

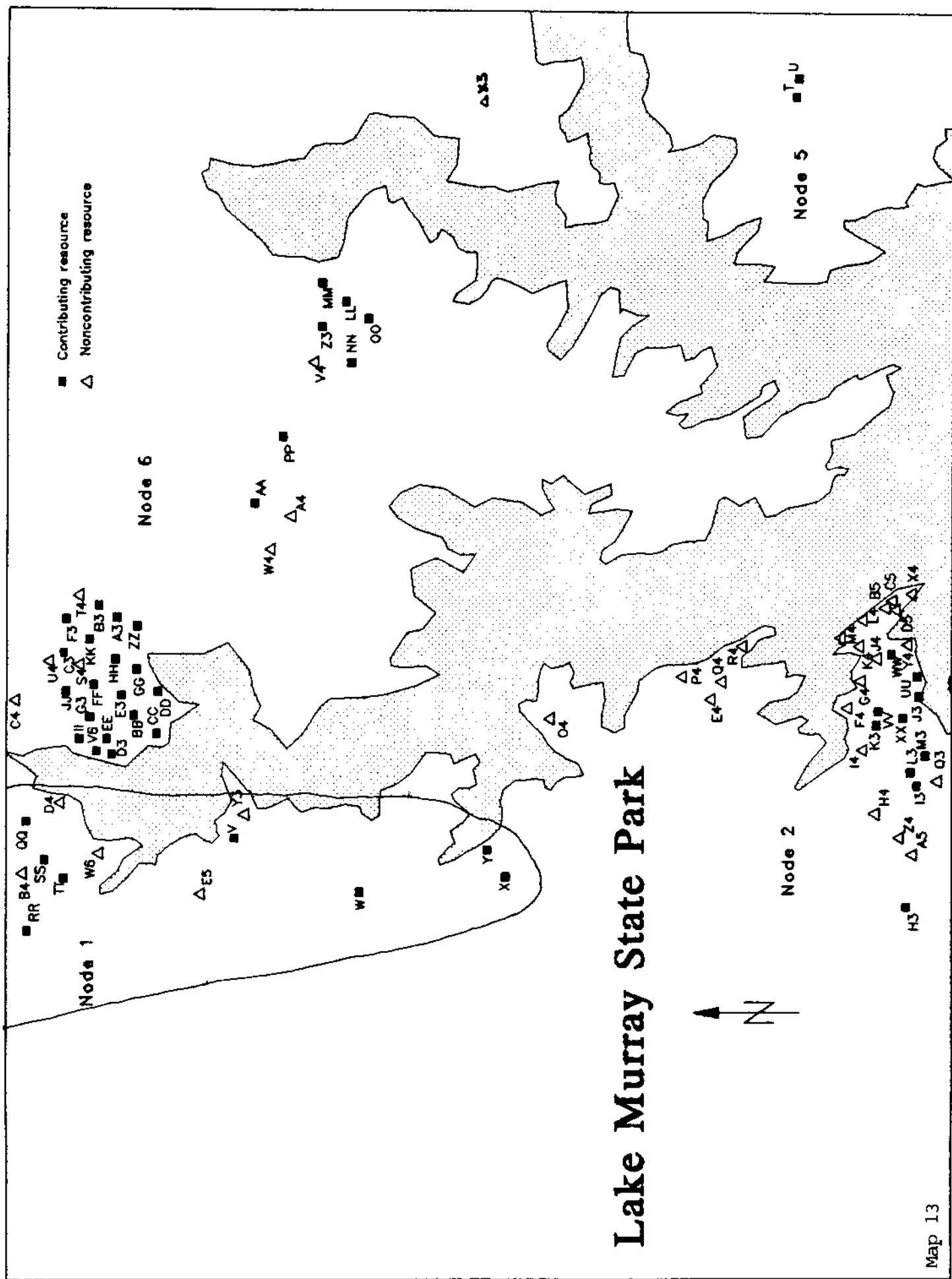
# Lake Murray State Park



- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource

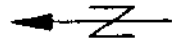


# Lake Murray State Park





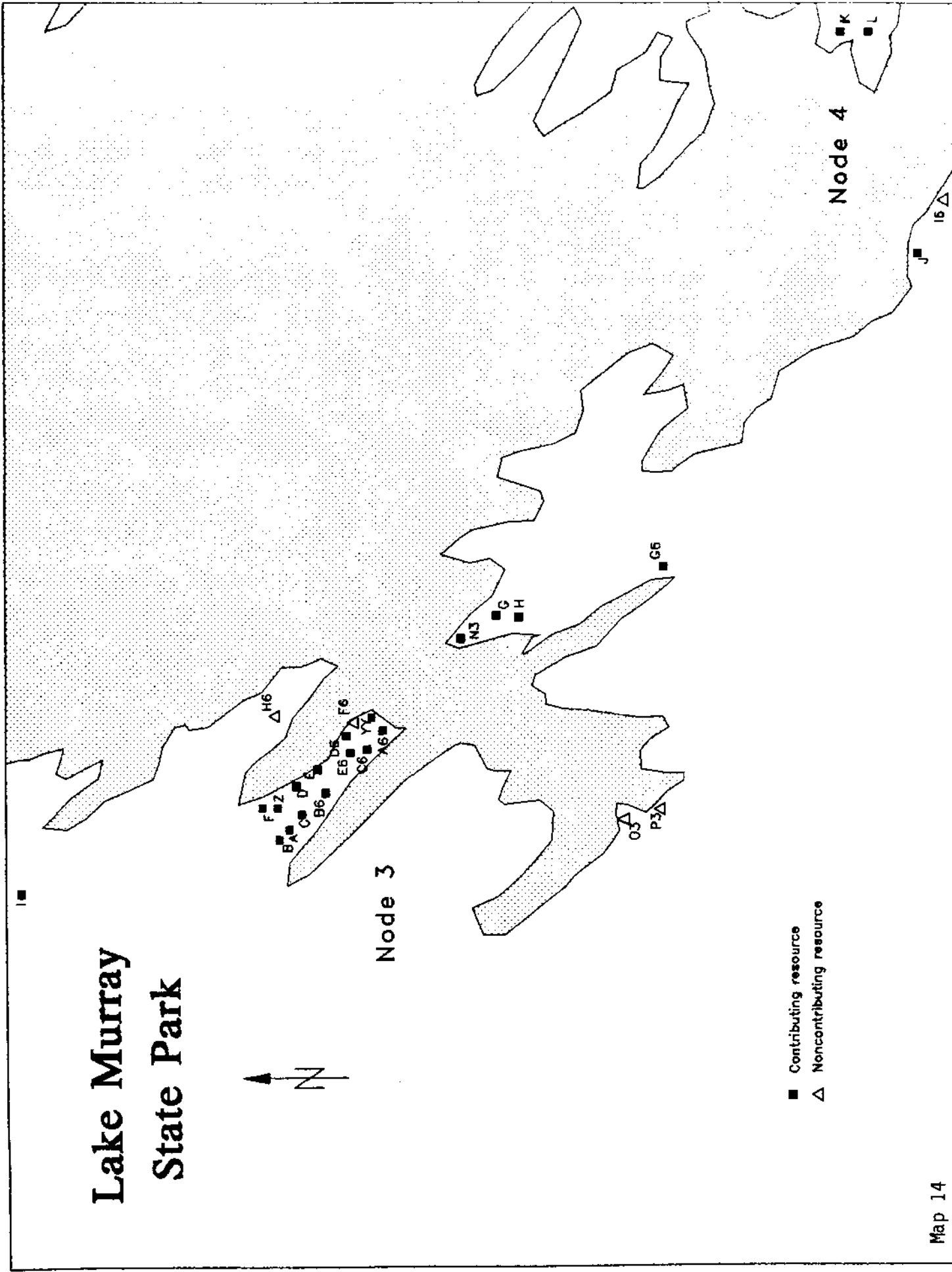
# Lake Murray State Park



Node 3

Node 4

- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource



#### **Node 4**

Node 4, near the dam and spillway, is the least developed area at the park, although cleared of underbrush (see Maps 12, 14, and 15). It includes Group Camp 3, originally cabins for use by African-Americans, which retain a high degree of architectural integrity. Facilities for tent camping, recreational vehicles, and picnics are also in this area. The presence of the "Negro cabins" makes this a highly significant section of the park.

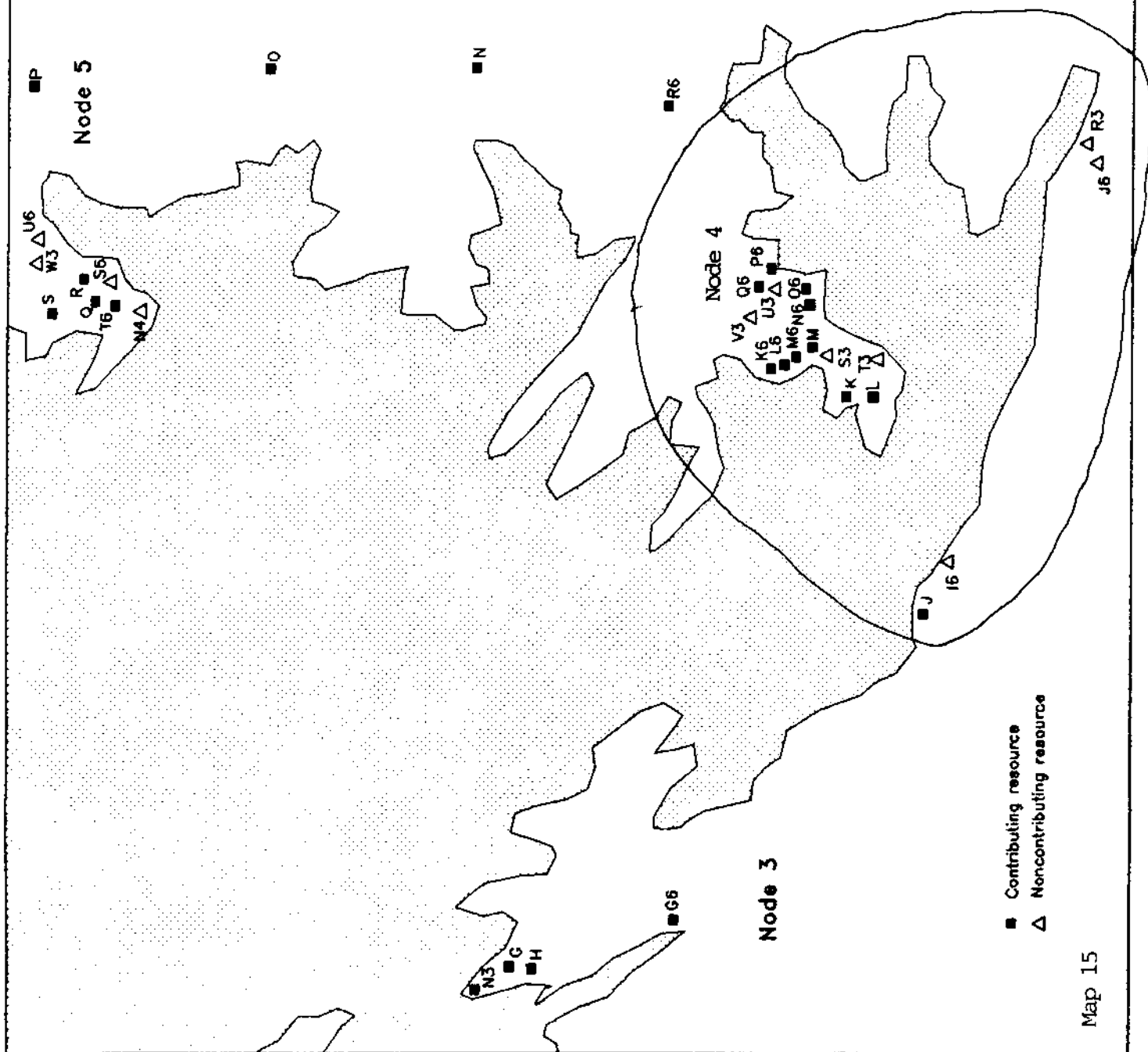
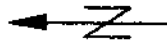
#### **Node 5**

Node 5 includes the historic Rock Tower and facilities for recreational vehicles, camping, and boating (see Maps 12, 15, and 16). An original community building is no longer extant. The vegetation is more open, with a number of grassy meadows. This area retains its historical integrity.

#### **Node 6**

Node 6 includes buildings associated with the transient camp established by the Resettlement Administration, including the infirmary, the mess hall, cabins, and a bunk house. It also includes tourist cabins. The presence of the resources associated with the transient camp makes this node highly significant, and it retains a high degree of historical integrity (refer to Maps 12 and 16).

# Lake Murray State Park



Map 15

**Lake Murray State Park**

■ Contributing resource  
 Δ Noncontributing resource

Node 6: W4Δ, A4, PP■, V4Δ, Z3■, MM■, NN■, LL■, OO■

Node 3: ΔX3

Node 5: T■U

Node 2: L4Δ, B5Δ, C5Δ, D6Δ, X4Δ

Map 16

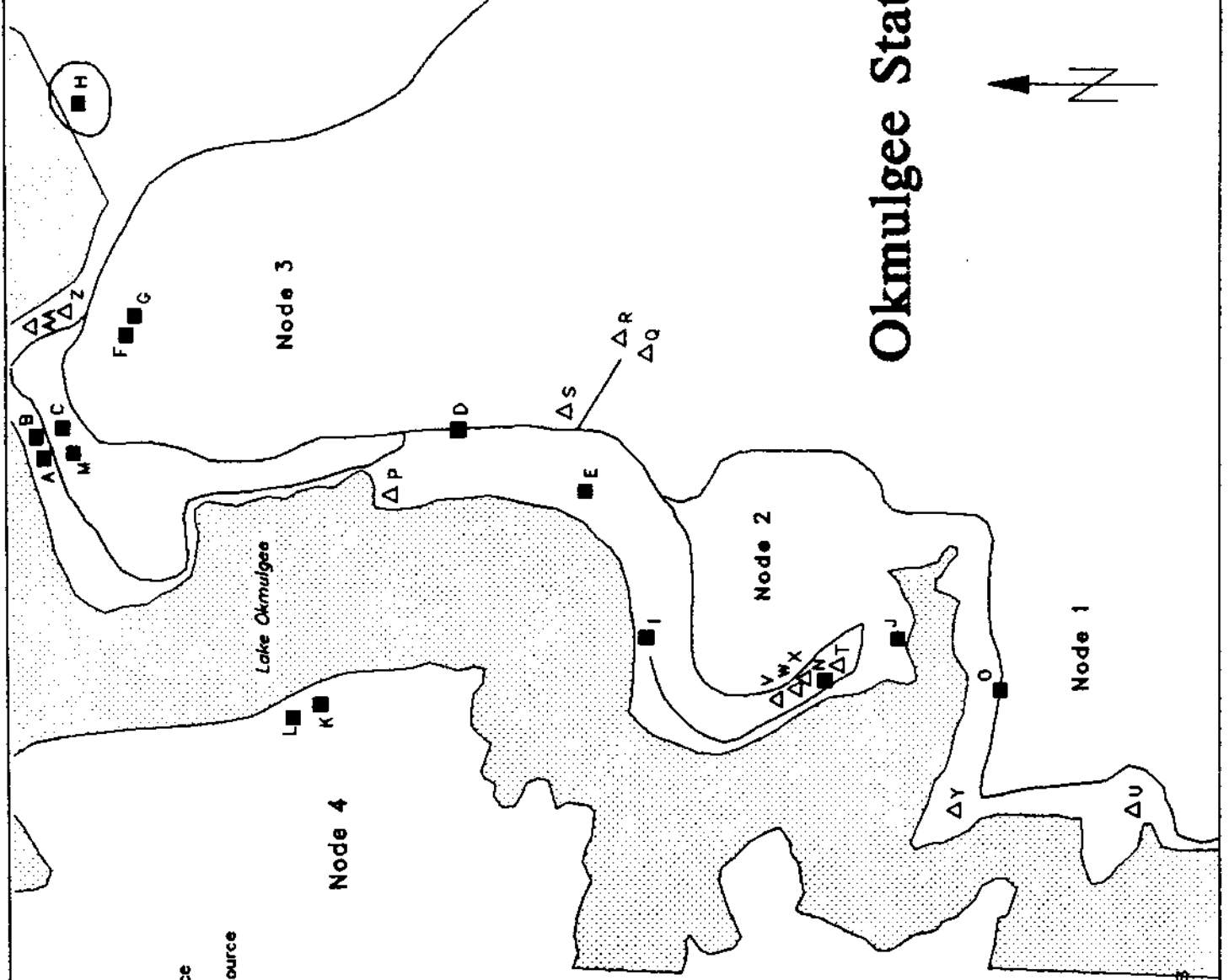
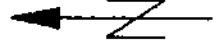
Map 16

## LAKE OKMULGEE STATE PARK

### *RECOMMENDATIONS*

Lake Okmulgee State Park was developed under the auspices of the City of Okmulgee as a state and municipal park (see Maps 17 and 18). Its buildings were constructed by the WPA, while the plantings were established by the CCC. The dam, or spillway, constructed by the WPA, appears to be eligible individually for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, for its association with the WPA program in Okmulgee, and under Criterion C, as a locally outstanding example of masonry dam construction. The dense landscaping includes deciduous tree species such as oak, pecan, and ash, as well as redbud and flowering dogwoods. These may be original CCC plantings. Nonetheless, the park lacks the designed landscape qualities of the other parks. Although a number of small features remain, most of the larger buildings are in ruins. Two of the three remaining picnic shelters, which retain integrity, lie outside the present park boundaries. Despite the presence of historic landscaping materials and the eligible dam, the park does not appear to be eligible for listing as a designed landscape.

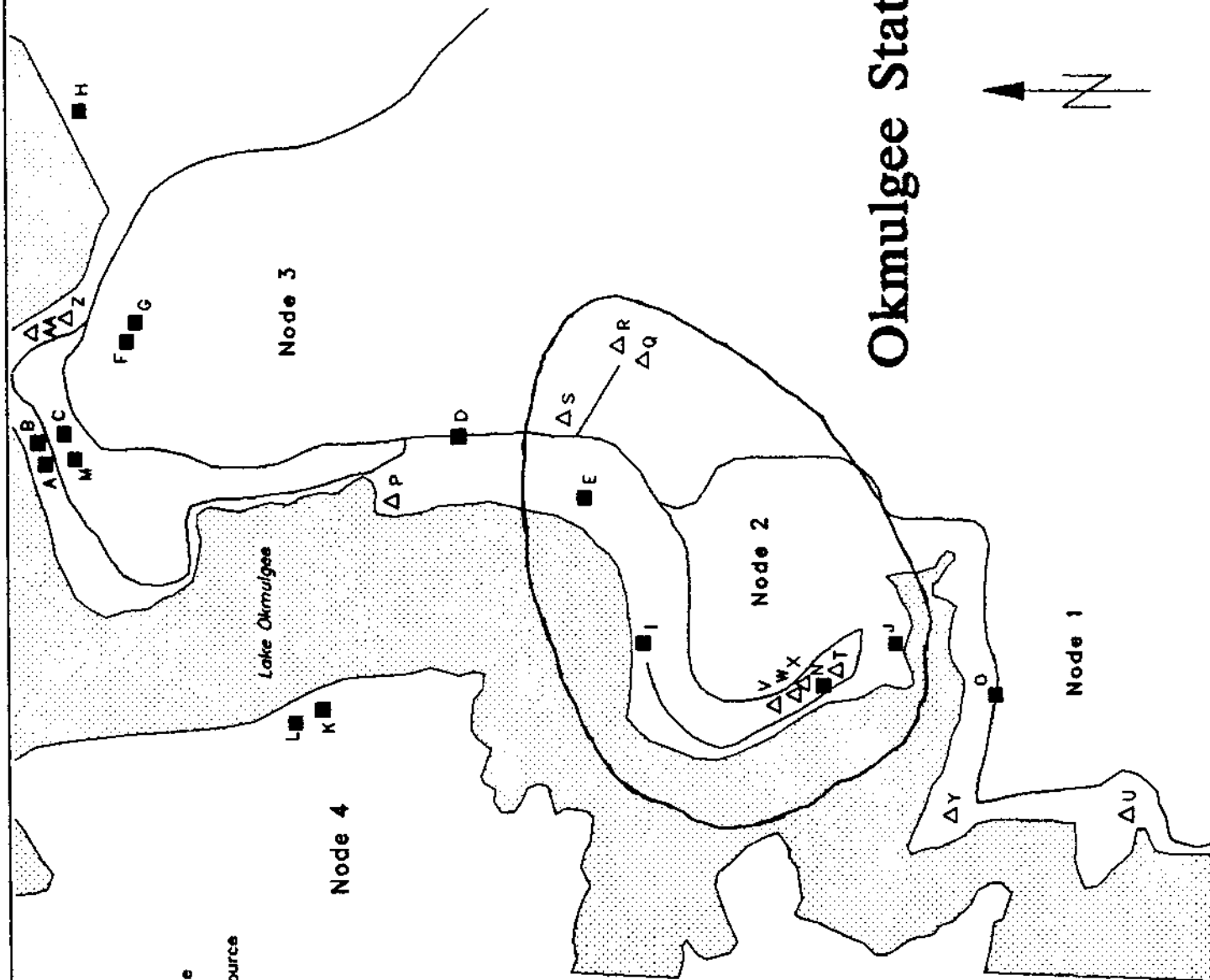
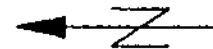
# Okmulgee State Park



- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource

Map 17 Eligible Areas

# Okmulgee State Park



## **OSAGE HILLS STATE PARK**

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

Osage Hills State Park is a significant example of a landscape designed by the National Park Service and built by the CCC. Over time the design has changed very little, and the park retains its rustic feeling (see Map 19). The park in its entirety appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register at the state level of significance under Criteria A and C, as an outstanding example of a designed landscape created during the New Deal.

The landscape, planted in part by the CCC, varies from shrubs and bushes in the low lying areas around the drainage leading to Sand Creek to wooded areas along the creek itself. Trees include red cedar, redbud, American elm, and a wide variety of oak. Numerous deer within the park keep the brush to a minimum.

### ***EVALUATION BY NODE***

#### **Node A**

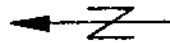
Node A (refer to Map 20) includes massive, rugged portals of layered sandstone, which mark the entrance to Osage Hills State Park off Highway 60. The foci of the node are the numerous road structures, including culverts and a stone arched bridge. This area maintains and promotes the natural setting characteristic of the National Park Service's designed landscape.

#### **Node B**

Node B encompasses the administrative facilities, located on a rocky hillside above the park. Near the park drive are the well-maintained, historic superintendent's residence, maintenance buildings, an incinerator, water storage tanks, and other utility buildings. A

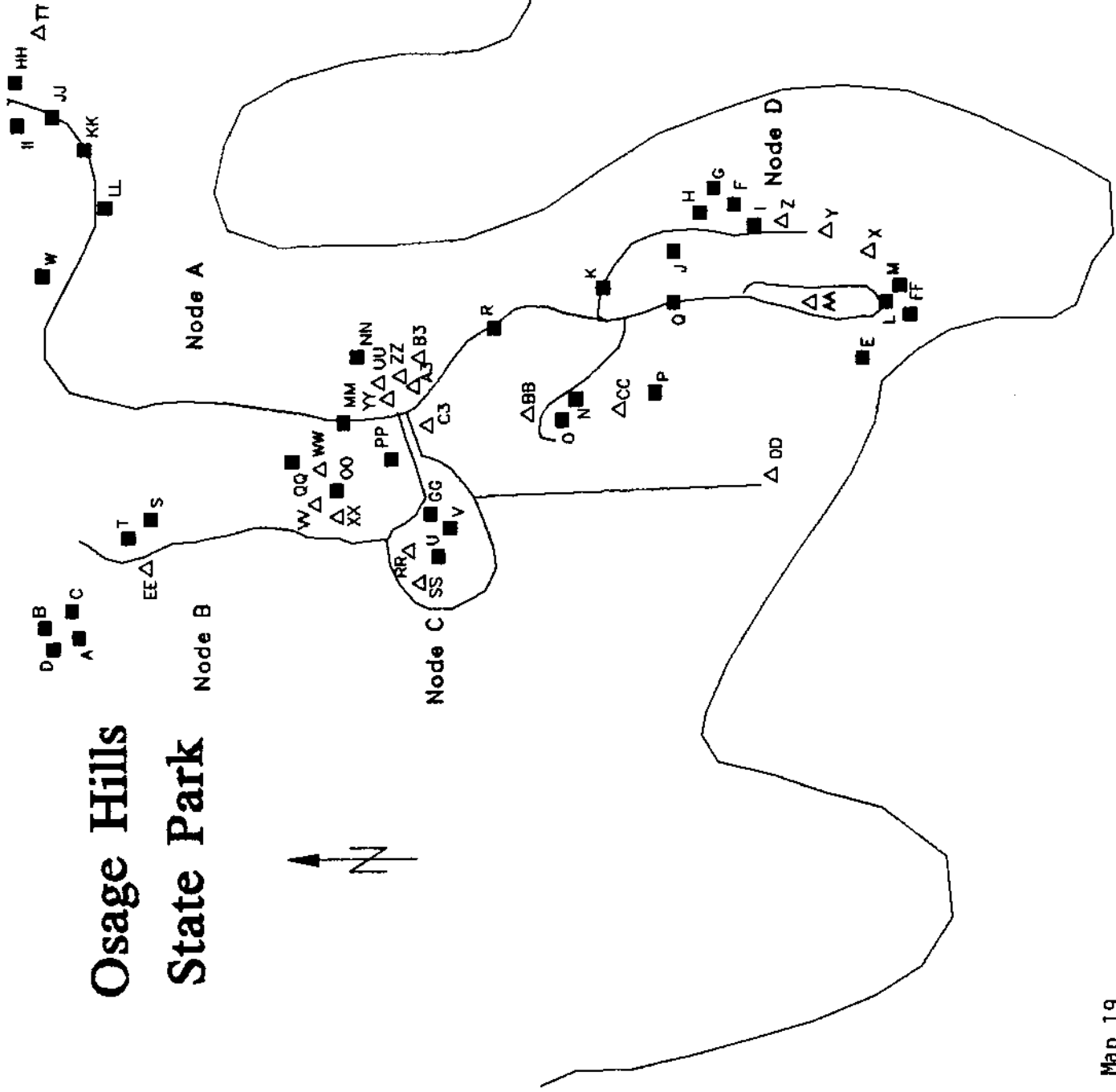


# Osage Hills State Park

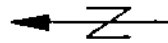


- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource

Sand Creek

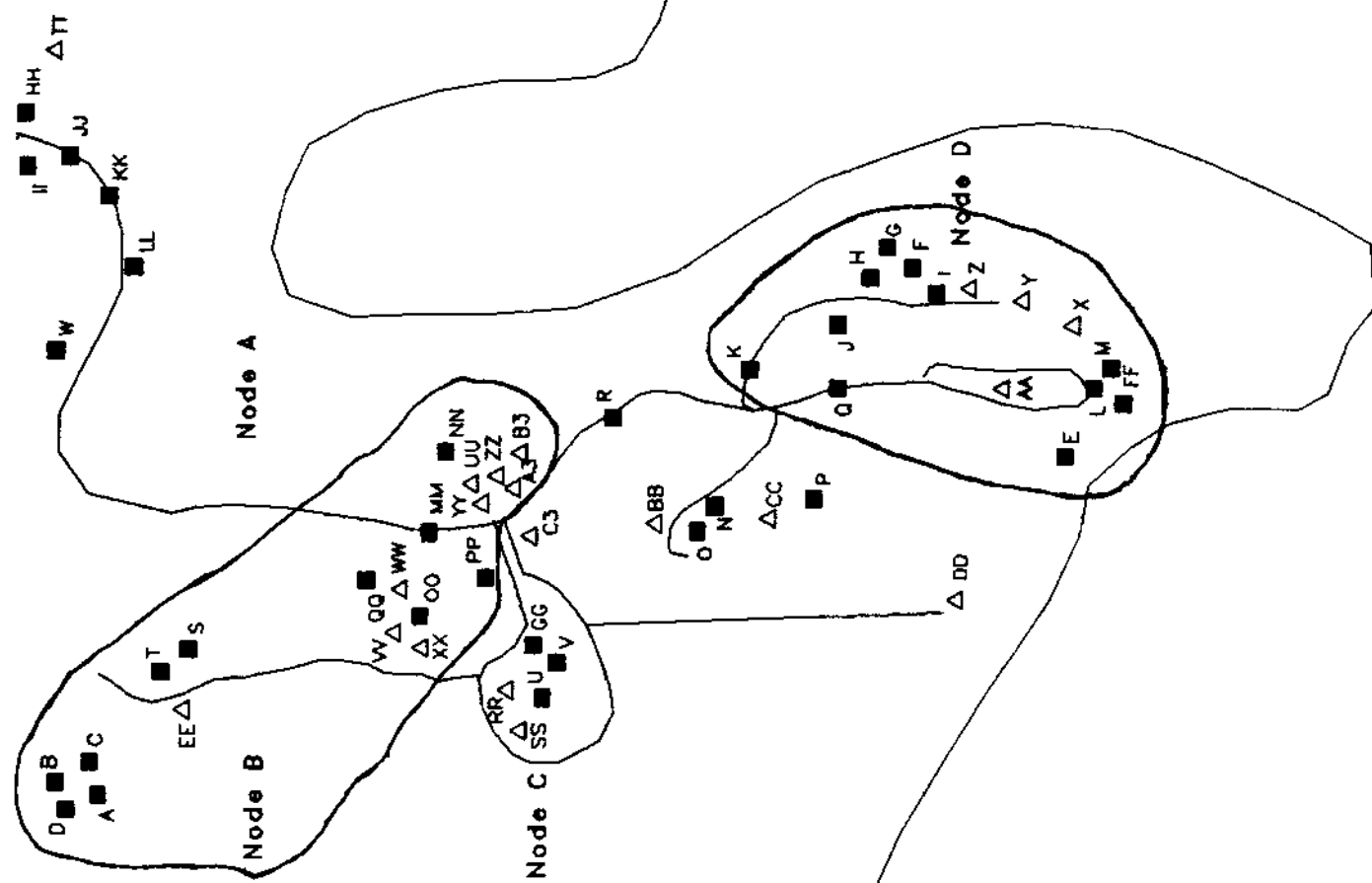


# Osage Hills State Park



- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource

Sand Creek



service road through this area leads to the site of the original CCC camp. Several ruins are present at the CCC campsite, and the water tower is intact. Across the road and near the creek is an old pump house with a log-gable roof, and a new horse corral and barn. South along the drive in a steep draw is a stone, arched culvert. Stands of scrub oak and blackjack are broken by grassy meadows. This node retains a high degree of historical integrity.

### **Node C**

Node C includes CCC-built rustic cabins and a picnic area within an old CCC-built auto camp, where a historic latrine, seven sandstone fireplaces, and numerous rock water hydrants are located. Stones marking the original camp sites are extant. The cabin area is on a wooded hillside, while the adjacent picnic and camping areas are downhill near the stream. West along Sand Creek are numerous trails linking to the trail that encircles the park. North of this area, a foot trail ascends to a rustic, sandstone lookout tower, which provides a panoramic view of the hilly countryside. Intrusions include the ranger's office, new camping facilities, playground equipment, a large picnic shelter, and new cabins. Nonetheless, this area retains its overall design integrity.

### **Node D**

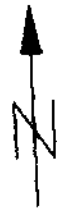
Sand Creek defines the boundaries of this naturally wooded recreational area, which includes a swimming pool, tennis courts, a community building, and rental cabins. Numerous picnic tables along Sand Creek are sheltered by a canopy of trees. A walking trail provides a view of the swift, flowing creek. A massive picnic shelter and a latrine are excellent examples of CCC-Rustic architecture. Many small landscape features are present. Although there are a number of intrusions in the area, the node maintains the spirit of the original design intent.

## QUARTZ MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

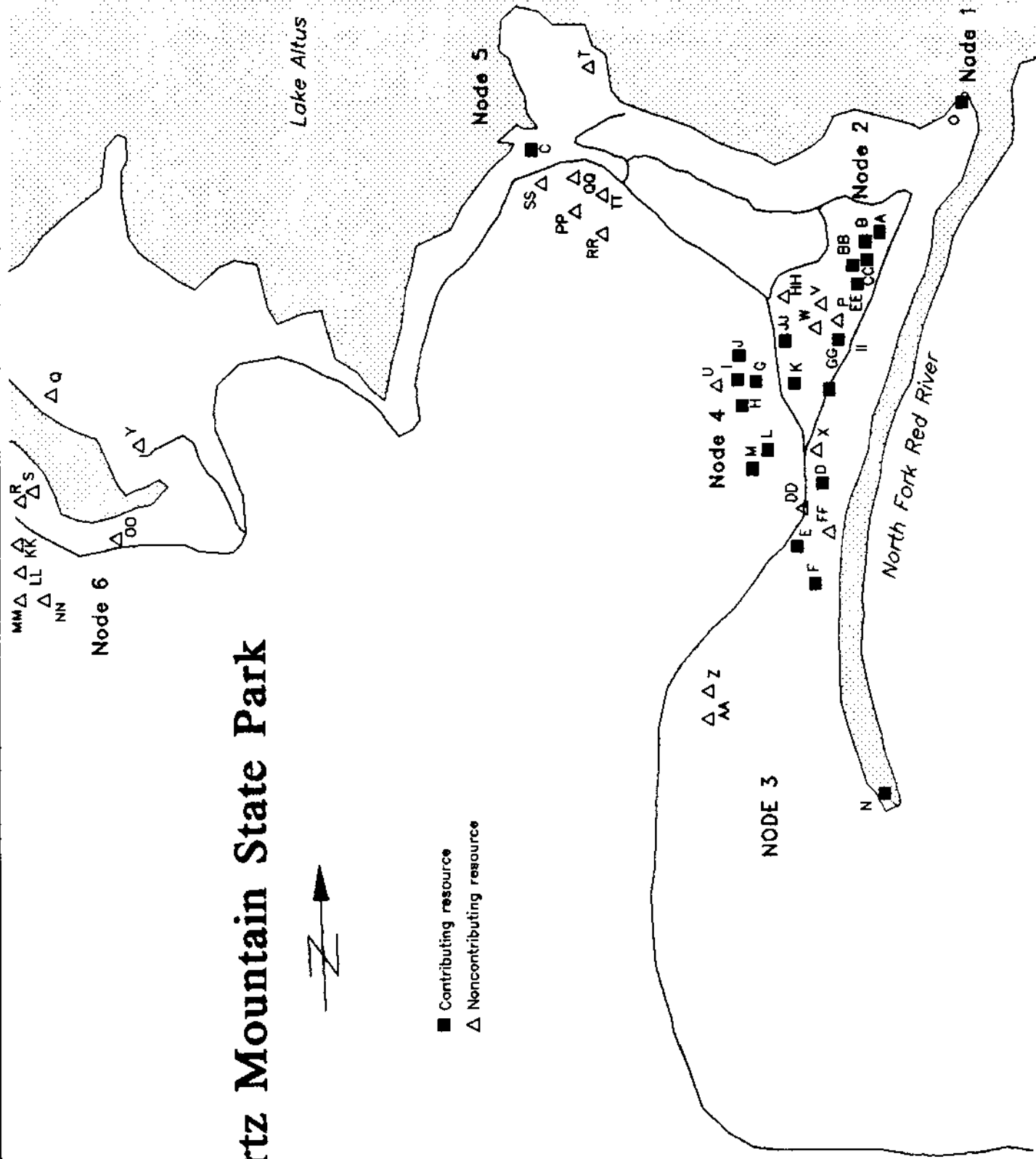
### *RECOMMENDATIONS*

Quartz Mountain State Park contains excellent examples of CCC-built architecture clustered along the north bank of the North Fork of the Red River and the west bank of Lake Altus (refer to Map 21). The landscape incorporates dramatic granite boulders and a moderately dense forest of oak, punctuated by dogwoods and grassy areas. Beginning in 1940, relatively soon after the park was completed, the original 1927 dam creating the reservoir was replaced, in part using WPA labor, to accommodate the W. C. Austin Irrigation Project. When completed in 1948, the dam raised the water level of the lake, and the higher water levels apparently inundated some of the CCC-built resources. In the 1960s, a number of new facilities, including the lodge and modern tourist cabins, once again altered portions of the park. As a consequence, only the southern area of the park appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a designed landscape (consult Map 22). The area encompassing nodes 1 through 4 appears to be eligible for listing at the local level of significance under Criterion A, for its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps, and under Criterion C, as a landscape designed by the National Park Service. Moreover, Lugert Dam is individually eligible at the state level of significance under Criterion A, for its association with the first major irrigation project constructed in Oklahoma, the W. C. Austin Irrigation Project.

# Quartz Mountain State Park



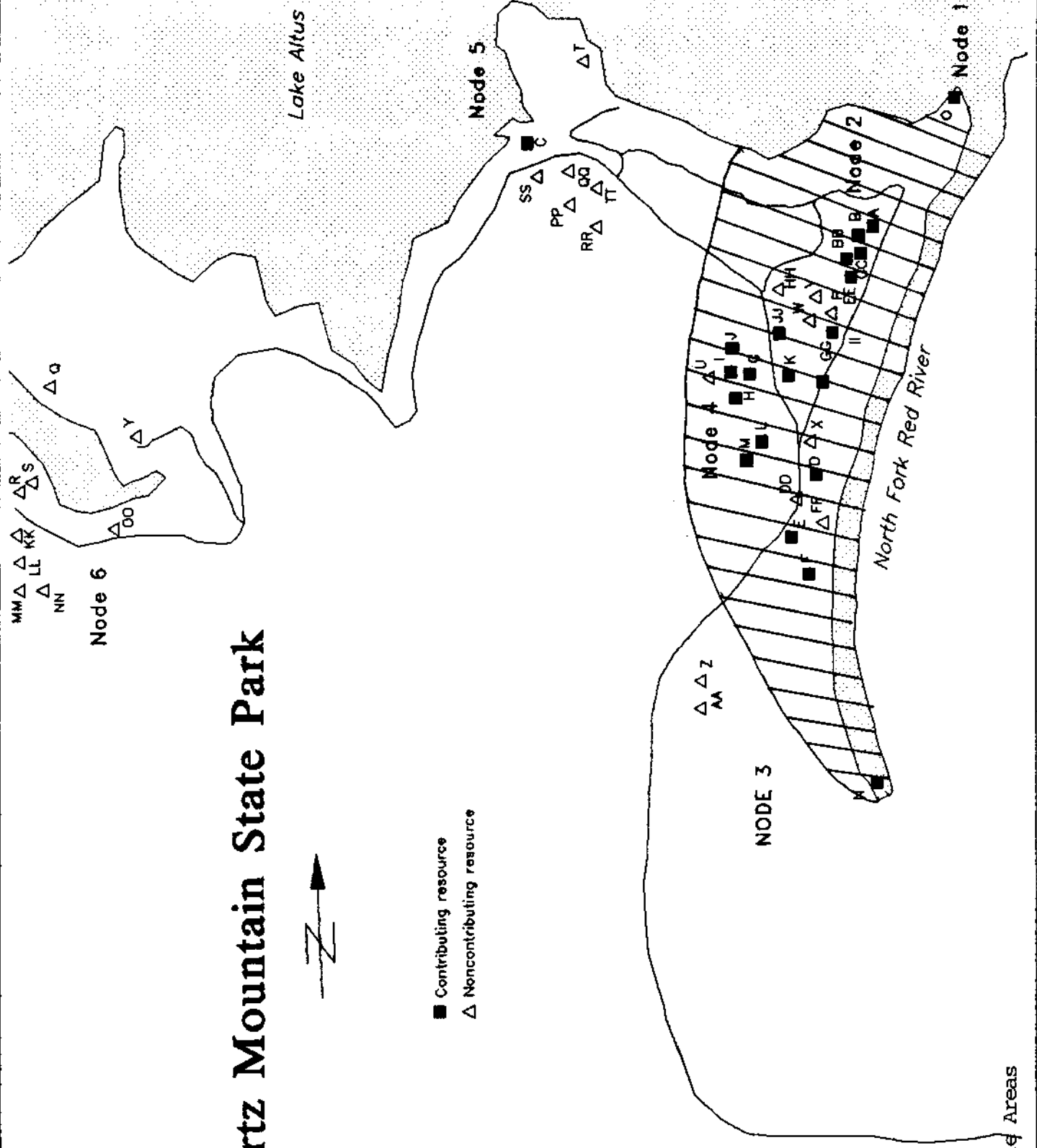
- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource



# Quartz Mountain State Park



- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource



## **ANALYSIS BY NODE**

### **Node 1**

Node 1 is located at the eastern end of the park (see Map 23). It includes the dam constructed 1940-1948, in part with WPA labor. The dam has a concrete core and is faced with stone. Additionally, this node includes two park residences and fishing areas.

### **Node 2**

Node 2 is characterized by hilly topography. Two examples of CCC-built architecture are in the area: a bath house that has been modified into a picnic shelter, and a latrine. A trail leads from the historic bath house/picnic shelter, along the river to the bottom of the dam. The area also includes numerous picnic sites.

### **Node 3**

Node 3 is the park's principal picnic and camping area. Most of the sites are nestled within a moderately dense forest of oak, along the banks of the North Fork of the Red River. Most of the picnic and camping sites include ground-level, stone fire pits or standing, metal fireboxes. A CCC-built latrine is located in this node.

### **Node 4**

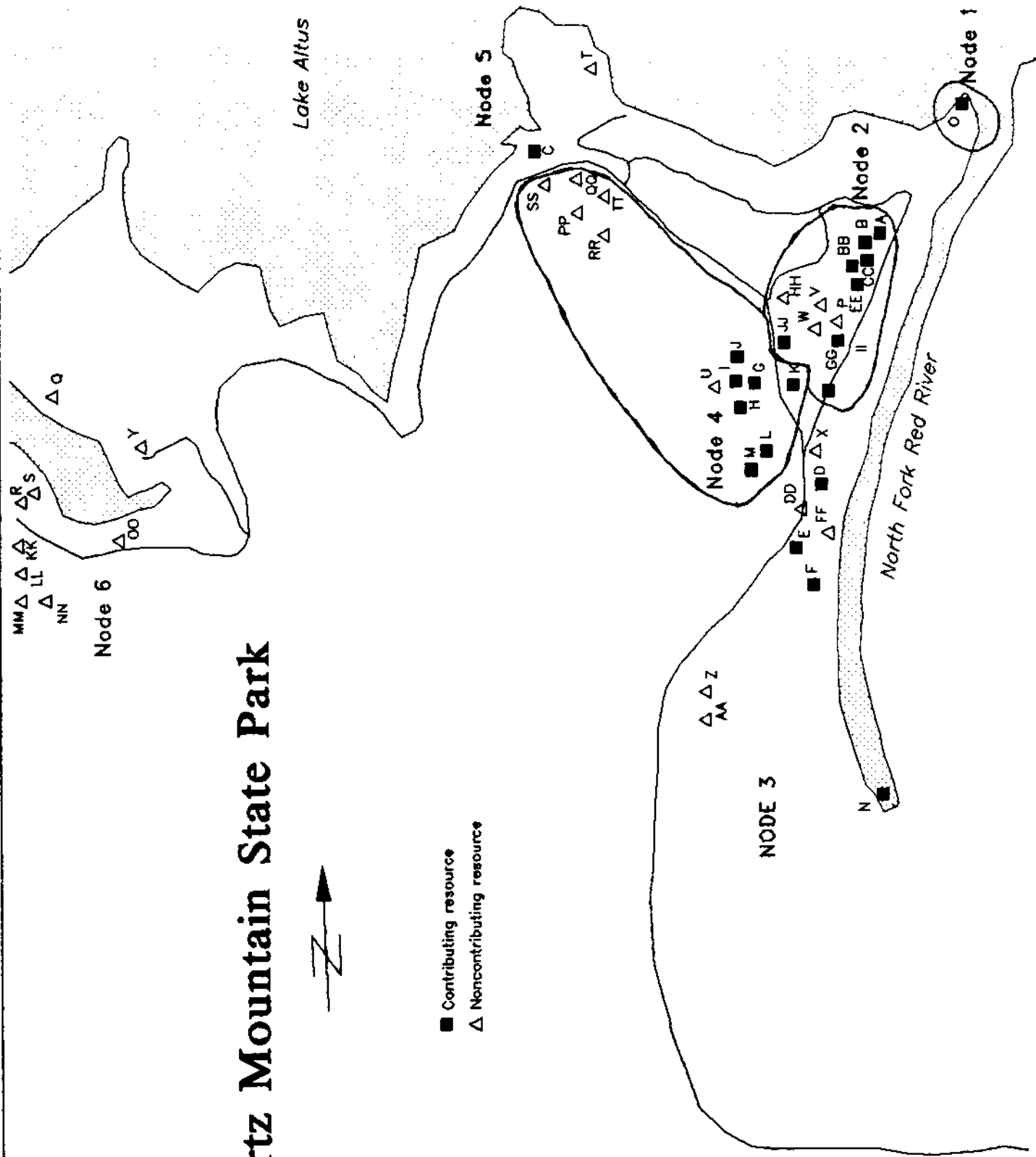
Node 4 includes the community house, an excellent example of CCC-built architecture. Massive granite chimneys and ornate woodworking distinguish this outstanding design. The area also includes a general store, cabin rentals, and picnic sites.

# Quartz Mountain State Park



### ■ Contributing resource

### $\Delta$ Noncontributing resource





### **Node 5**

Node 5 is situated along the shores of Lake Altus, where a high bluff of granite boulders is a prominent landmark. The primary boat-launching ramp is located on the eastern edge of the node. Although the National Park Service's plans suggest that a number of features were built by the CCC in this area, today only the ruins of the pump house and the main boat house remain. This area should be excluded from the boundaries of the area nominated to the National Register.

### **Node 6**

The principal attraction in Node 6 is Quartz Mountain Lodge, situated on the western shore of Lake Altus. A number of non-historic overnight cabins are located across from the lodge. This area of the park was not developed by the CCC and should be excluded from the boundaries of the property nominated to the National Register.

## **ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK**

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

Robbers Cave State Park is located in the forest-covered foothills of the Ouachita Mountains in southeastern Oklahoma, near Wilburton. Among the attractions at this popular park are numerous recreational facilities, including hiking trails, camping sites, water features, and an equestrian campground and trails. The rustic architecture and landscape designed by the National Park Service and built by the CCC contribute greatly to the popularity of the park. Robbers Cave State Park is an outstanding example of a landscape designed by the National Park Service and constructed by the CCC, and it contains excellent examples of CCC-Rustic architecture. Moreover, the park maintains a high degree of historic integrity (refer to Map 24). The park appears to be eligible in its entirety for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, for its association with the New Deal, and under Criterion C, as a designed landscape. Indeed, the quality of the design and its integrity is such that Robbers Cave State Park merits consideration for National Historic Landmark status.

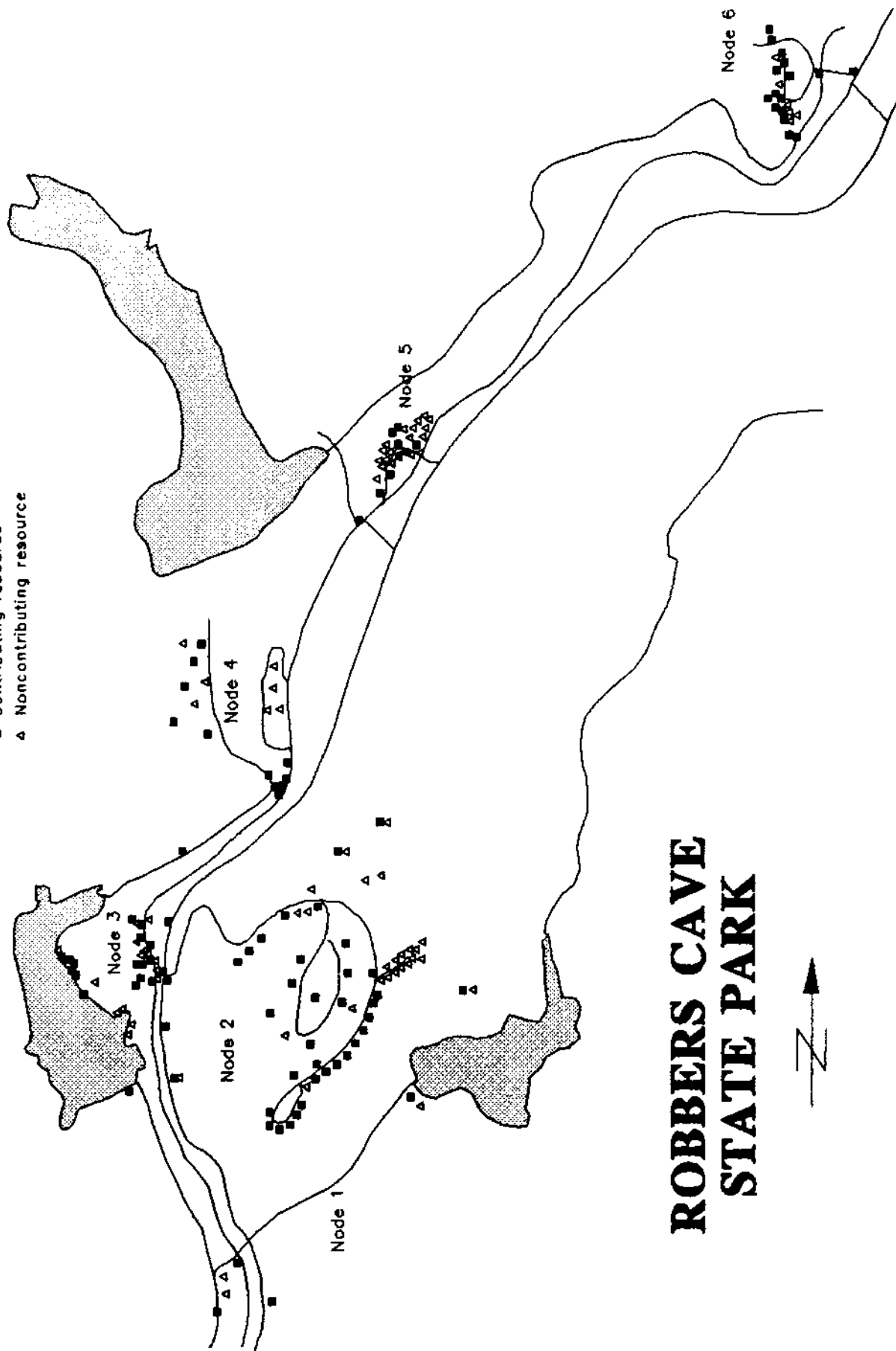
The landscape includes short-leaf pine and smaller trees, including post oak, hickory, and cedar. Dogwood and redbud trees add color to the landscape.

### ***EVALUATION BY NODE***

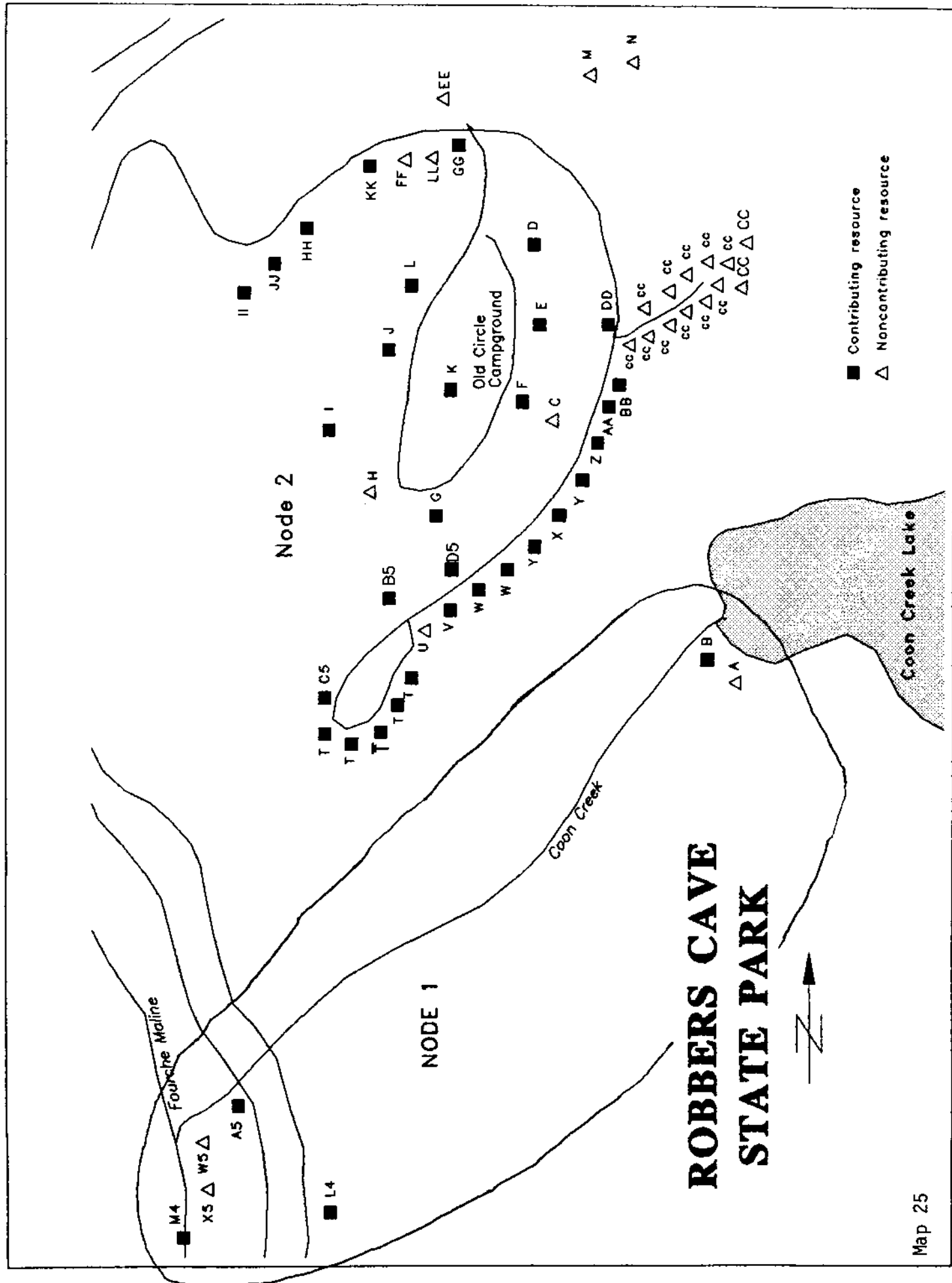
#### **Node 1**

Node 1 is mainly a picnic area, located near the low water dam and spillway on the south end of the park (see Maps 24 and 25). The area is primitive and generally undeveloped, although a latrine and various types of picnic tables and stone fire pits are located here. East of this area is Coon Creek Lake and another low water dam.

- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource



## ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK



### Node 2

Node 2 is located on a bluff above the park, with a panoramic view of the surrounding hills (Maps 24 and 25). This node is the location of numerous original CCC-built tourist cabins and newer cabins. Many landscape features built by the CCC are still in use, including the Circle Campground. Also in this node is a store, a recreational vehicle campground, and the camp manager's residence.

### Node 3

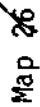
Node 3 is located on the east side of Lake Carlton and is the recreational focus of the park (see Maps 24 and 26). The west side of the lake is densely covered with small trees such as post oak and brush. On the east side are larger trees, including pine, white oak, and cypress. Within the node is the magnificent, historic bath house. Also in the area are a rustic boathouse (altered by the addition of a cafe), a naturalist's shed, a miniature golf course, the swimming pool, an amphitheater, and picnic facilities.

### Node 4

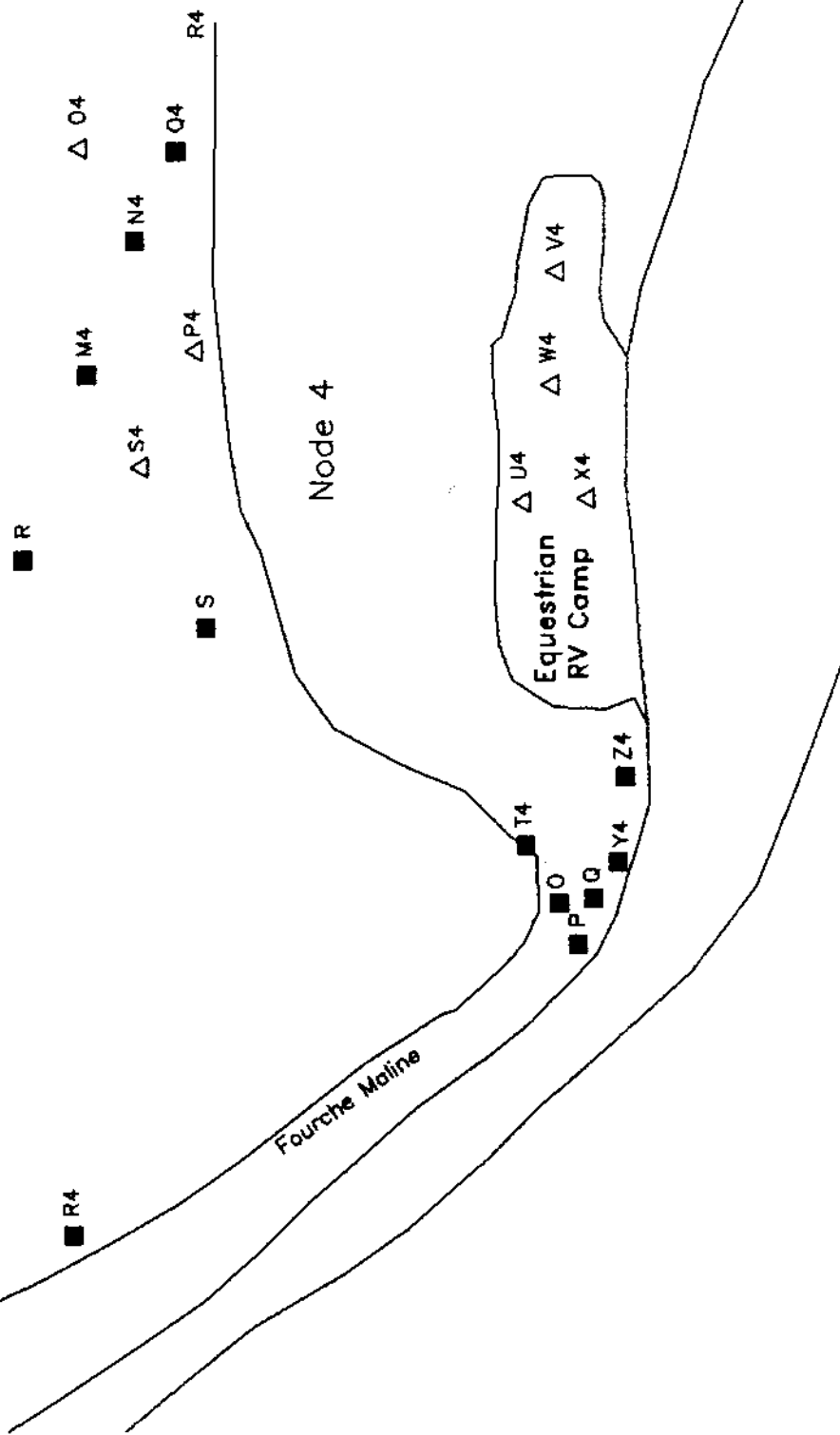
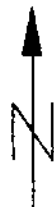
The recreational facilities in Node 4 have been developed along the picturesque Fourche Maline stream below the Wayne Wallace Reservoir (refer to Maps 24 and 27). Nearby is a CCC-built picnic shelter. Also in this node is an elaborate equestrian camp, designed to accommodate recreational vehicles. Across the stream are the park's maintenance facilities.

### Node 5

Node 5 encompasses the site of the camp where the CCC members lived, atop which a group camp has been built (see Maps 24 and 28). A few remnants of the old camp

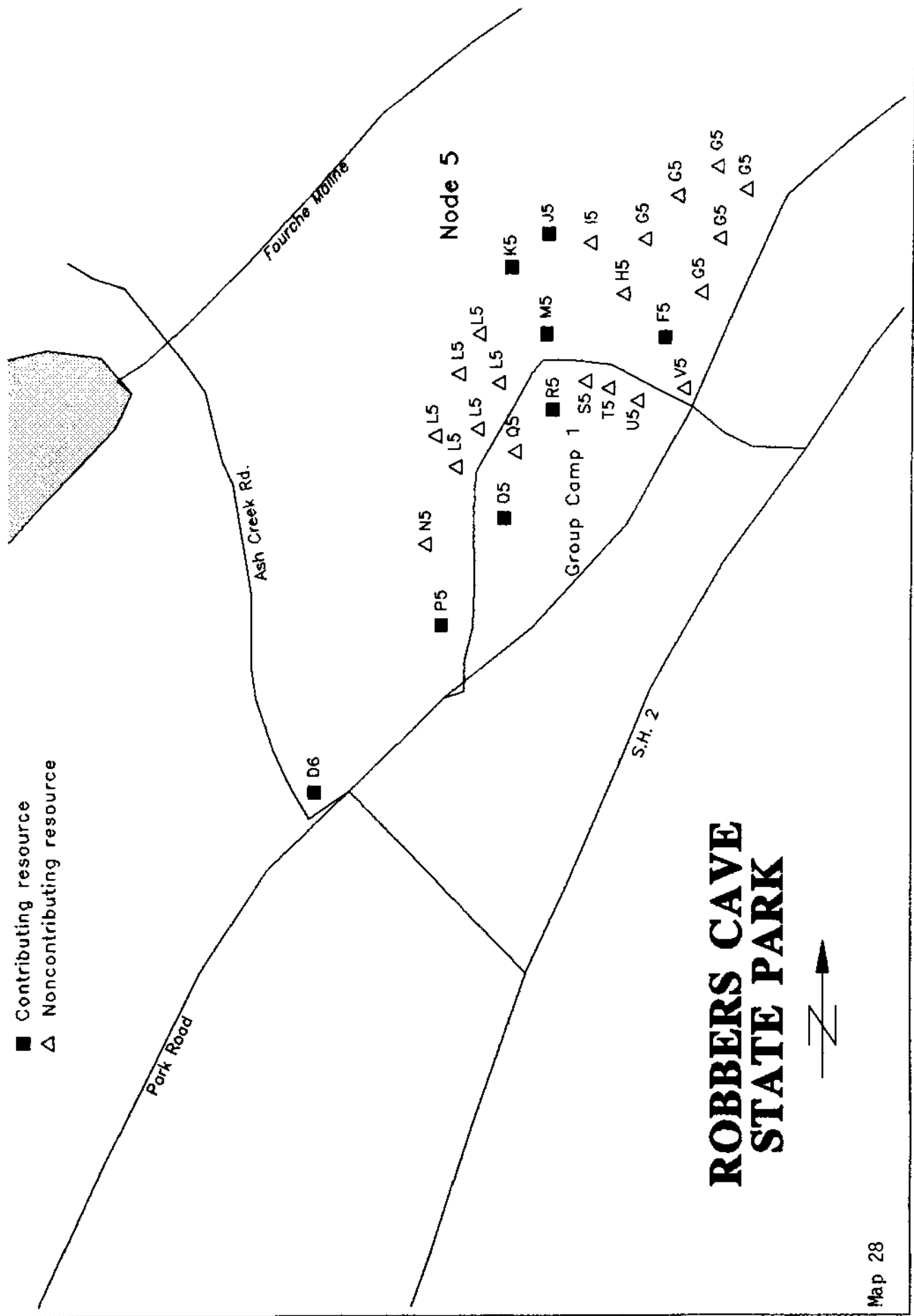


# ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK



- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource

■ Contributing resource  
△ Noncontributing resource





remain, including the meeting shelter, a utility shed, the council ring, and parts of the community building. A number of flagstone walkways associated with the historic CCC camp also remain. The area is shaded by a canopy of pine trees.

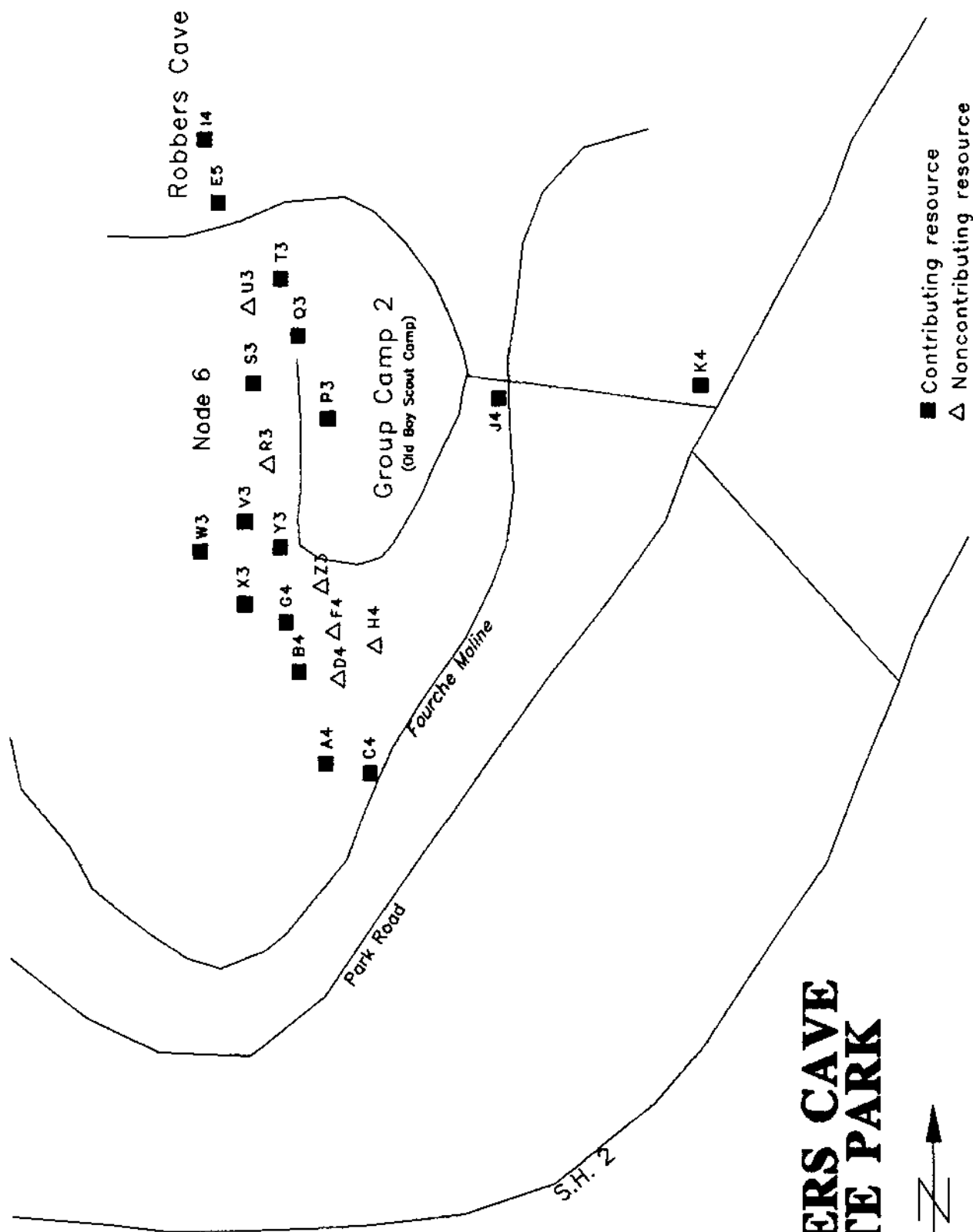
#### **Node 6**

Node 6 is the site of Robbers Cave and a historic Boy Scout camp (consult Maps 24 and 29). A trail built by the CCC leads to the cave. The Boy Scout camp includes numerous rock buildings built with funds from organizations in the area during the 1920s. The camp was then incorporated within the park. The lush landscape includes not only short-leaf pine, post oak, hickory, and cedar, but also maple and sweet gum.

# ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK



Map 29



## ROMAN NOSE STATE PARK

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

Roman Nose State Park retains many of the rustic architectural characteristics associated with the CCC construction project. Although new development in the eastern portions are intrusive, the western portions of the park retain a high degree of integrity (see Map 30). Important resources include the bath house and pool, a picnic shelter, a pavilion, and numerous small features, including refuse pits, metal signs and markers, and fire pits. The original "Negro camping area" is no longer extant, and the original location of the lake has been changed. The western portion of the park appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level of significance under Criteria A and C, as a designed landscape constructed during the New Deal (refer to Map 31). Moreover, the entrance sign appears to be individually eligible for listing at the local level of significance under Criteria A and C, as a work of art designed by the National Park Service and executed by the CCC.

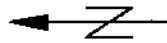
The park's landscape, planted by the CCC, includes red cedar, American elm, and many varieties of oak. The smaller mature trees include chinaberry, redbud, and desert willow.

### ***EVALUATION BY NODE***

#### **Node A**

Node A (Three Springs) is a heavily wooded recreational area situated in a canyon (see Map 32). It includes a magnificent CCC-built bath house and swimming pool, a picnic area, and a playground. The natural foci of the area are the three springs. Picnic tables and CCC-built walking trails are spread throughout the landscape.

# Roman Nose State Park



Big Springs Creek

Park Road

Leite Boulder

Node C

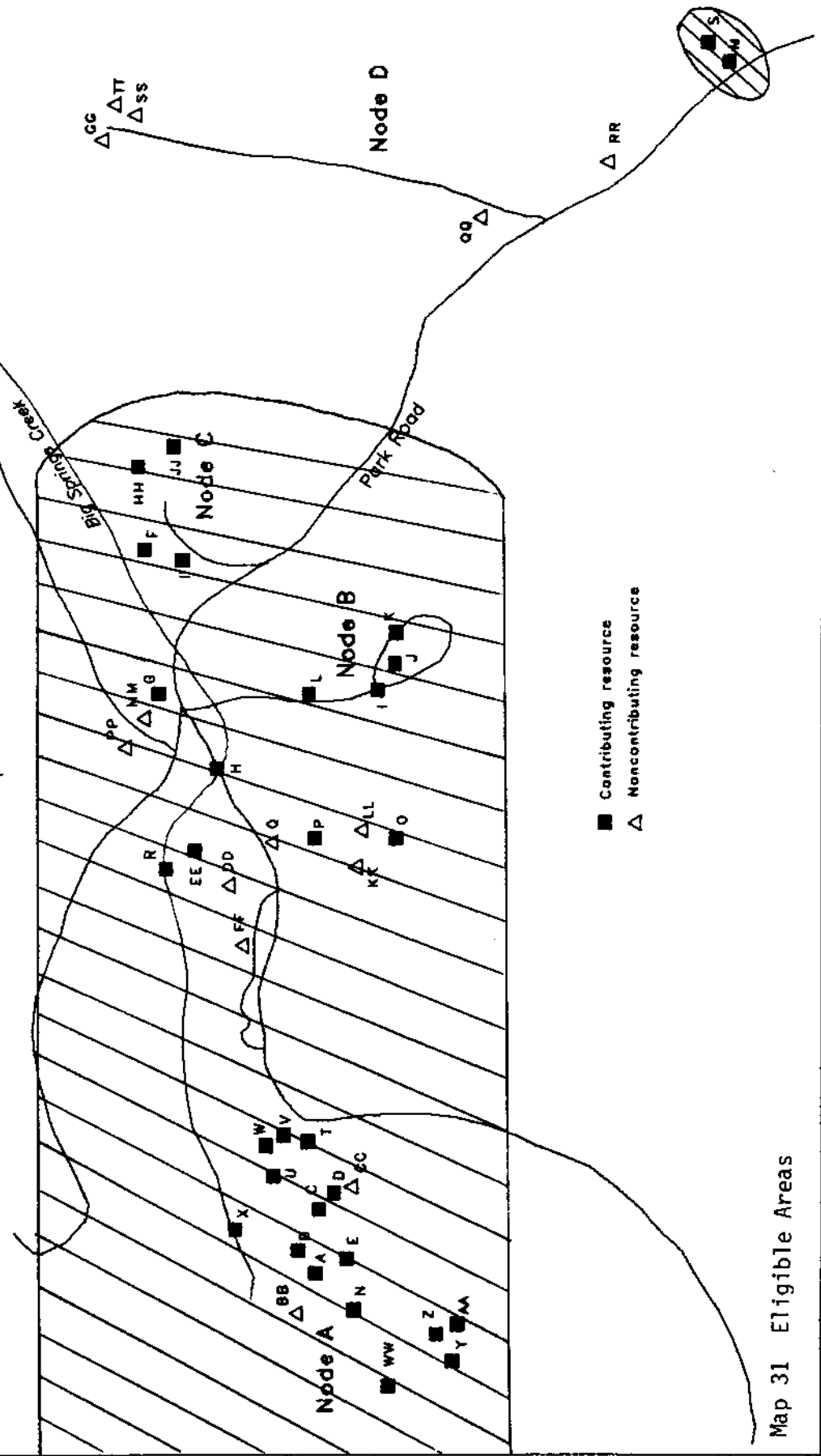
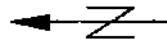
Node B

Node A

Node D

- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource

# Roman Nose State Park



Map 31 Eligible Areas

### **Node B**

Node B is centered in one of the park's many canyons. The area is sparsely vegetated, with most of the vegetation occurring along or near the streams and bluffs. The focus of this node is the large community building, situated on a flat expanse of land approximately 300 feet from the main parkway. Also in this area is the superintendent's residence. Neither possesses the rustic quality generally associated with CCC construction in the state parks, but both are original to the landscape, according to the historic plans. Numerous picnic sites are also located within this node.

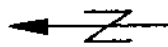
### **Node C**

Node C centers on the picnic pavilion, which is in a state of disrepair. The pavilion is situated on a swampy flood plain located between the bluffs and the stream. The area is home to a variety of wildlife, which makes it attractive for nature watchers. A stairway and a parking lot, both built by the CCC, are also in the area.

### **Node D**

Node D encompasses the park entrance and numerous modern buildings, situated on or near gypsum bluffs in a heavily wooded area. Among the modern buildings are the park headquarters building, the park lodge, and the golf shop. A golf course is also located in the area. Originally this node contained the "Negro camping area," but no traces remain. The park entrance features the original park sign, consisting of a stone carving supposedly depicting Chief Roman Nose. The sign is an important work of New Deal art. Aside from the sign, which appears to be individually eligible for listing, however, this node should not be nominated to the National Register, as it no longer retains historical integrity.

# Roman Nose State Park



Big Springs Creek

Park Road

Node A

Node B

Node C

Node D

- Contributing resource
- △ Noncontributing resource