Section III

Identification of Cultural Resources
Archaeological Sites and Traditional Cultural Properties. Mount Spokane has only occasionally been a destination for archaeologists. Early archaeological research efforts in Washington State focused on large coastal shell middens or, in the interior, broad river valleys where archaeological sites were more plentiful and easily accessed. Archaeological investigations in the Spokane vicinity did not begin in earnest until 1940 when the Columbia Basin Archaeological Survey undertook efforts along the Spokane River in association with construction of Grand Coulee Dam (Collier, Hudson, and Ford 1942).

Later in 1950, Louis Caywood of the National Park Service began work at the historic site of Fort Spokane, northwest of Spokane. The fort was a fur trade post erected in 1812 by employees of the Pacific Fur Company, an American fur trade company owned by John Jacob Astor. In his four seasons of fieldwork at Fort Spokane, Caywood exposed most of the fort's palisades, several of its interior features, and a nearby boat house (Caywood 1954).

Work resumed at Fort Spokane in 1962 and 1963 when Richard Daugherty, Washington State University, continued archaeological excavations within the fort's stockade. Daugherty also sought to further delineate the location of a second trading post known as Spokane House. The Hudson's Bay Company erected Spokane House in 1810, nearly two years before the Pacific Fur Company erected Fort Spokane. The two trading posts were located next to each other for protection and as symbols of their respective countries political presence in the region (Combs 1964).

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the Spokane Valley saw limited archaeological survey and excavation work. Most work was undertaken to comply with federal regulations governing cultural resources. A majority of these studies produced negative results and led to a perception that the region possessed low archaeological potential (see discussion by Thoms in Draper and Andrefsky 1991). In 1986, Washington State Parks proposed building a pedestrian trail through metropolitan Spokane to commemorate the Centennial anniversary of Washington's statehood. As proposed, the pedestrian trail extended from the Idaho border, through Spokane, and ended at the historic site of Fort Spokane. An archaeological survey of the proposed trail revealed more than 70 archaeological sites along the trail's route. Subsequent archaeological excavations at several of these sites demonstrated the Spokane Valley possessed a long record of prehistoric occupation (Draper and Andrefsky 1991).

The first archaeological work at Mount Spokane was undertaken in 1979 when Charlotte Benson from the Office of Public Archaeology, University of Washington, visited the park to survey two proposed project developments (Benson 1979). The first was a day-use renovation project in an
undeveloped parking lot near the ski area. The second area surveyed was a lift station and drainfield proposed for the administrative area. Survey results at both locations were negative. Benson did note the presence of historic debris near a horse corral adjacent to the administrative area. She recommended the debris not be disturbed until examined by a historic archaeologist. She also visited the CCC camp remains atop Beauty Mountain taking note of the numerous features atop the mountain. Commenting on the archaeological potential of the area, Benson believed the upper portion of Mount Spokane had a low probability for the presence of cultural resources while the lower administrative area had a higher potential.

The following year, Washington State Parks sought to reconstruct a variety of facilities at Mount Spokane and again contracted with the Office of Public Archaeology, University of Washington, to perform a survey. Unfortunately, construction work commenced before the archaeological contract was issued. It was subsequently judged that no archaeological survey would be performed in light of the area’s low potential noted the year before by Benson. Gerald Holley, Office of Public Archaeology, University of Washington, prepared a brief report about the project. Holley (1980), following Benson, believed that cultural resources were not likely to be preserved on Mount Spokane because of the steep topography and natural erosion processes.

Twenty years later, three archaeological investigations were undertaken by Archaeological and Historical Services, Eastern Washington University, in association with park construction projects (Luttrell 2000a, 2000b, 2000c). Cultural resources identified by those studies were limited to historic objects, structures, and/or sites. No cultural resources with clear prehistoric associations are presently identified at Mount Spokane.

To date, five primary cultural resource surveys have been performed at Mount Spokane. Results of these surveys were largely negative, although some historic resources were recorded in 2000. Nevertheless a potential for historic archaeological deposits is considered high in the vicinity of the historical buildings known as Cook’s Cabin and the Caretaker’s House. Impressions of some authors were that the likelihood of finding prehistoric cultural resources at Mount Spokane is quite low. When the acreage of these limited survey areas is compared to the total landholdings of the park (over 13,000 acres) caution should be applied in using previous cultural resources survey results to extrapolate inferences for the entire park.

Two pieces of information appear to substantiate the latter statement. In an 1895 article published in The Northwest Magazine, Beth Bell (a pseudonym) reported a trip to the top of Mount Spokane, and described the “many, many piles or columns” of rock “built up as high as chimneys,
and all over the locality.” Such constructions are consistent with numerous historic and ethnographic descriptions of vision quest sites common to the Pacific Northwest. Generally, vision quest sites consist of small circular or semi-circular enclosures of piled rock or cairns of piled rock located near mountain peaks or elevations with commanding views. The isolated locations where these cairns were erected afforded young individuals an opportunity to fast and meditate in order to seek a spiritual helper or *vision* for their personal use (Spier and Sapir 1930; Teit 1928).

Today, members of the Colville Confederated Tribes continue to visit Mount Spokane in the summer/fall to harvest bear grass and other plants (Adeline Fredine, personal communication 1999). Bear grass is used to weave baskets and various containers. The antiquity of plant harvesting on Mount Spokane is likely great. In his description of Spokane settlement patterns, Ross noted that their annual subsistence round included moving to higher elevations in autumn to hunt animals and gather autumn berries, and roots, punk wood for smoke tanning and certain medicinal plants. These economic activities continued generally until the first killing frost, when people would return to their riverine villages and prepare for winter (Ross 1991: 5.41).

Over the past two decades, numerous archaeological investigations in high altitude and montane settings throughout the western United States have repeatedly dispelled ideas that montane settings are marginally occupied and contain few cultural resources (Bettinger 1991; Mierendorf; Pavesic 1978; Standford and Day 1992; Thomas). The cairns noted by Beth Bell in 1895 and the continuing practices of members of the Colville Confederated Tribes and the proximal Spokane Tribe attest to a reasonable expectation that many cultural resources likely exist on Mount Spokane.

Such use could constitute a potential Traditional Cultural Property as locations associated with cultural significance such as traditional beliefs or practices of Native American groups. The ecological community of Mount Spokane includes numerous subsistence and medicinal plants, as well as the aforementioned bear grass. Collection of some plants was for the added purposes of trade and exchange with more distant native peoples. In additional, it is likely that Mount Spokane has long functioned as a refuge for game animals – specific species important to subsistence hunting. Sacred associations may relate to Mount Spokane due to its location, elevation, and/or the presence of certain topographical features with significance for the vision quest.
References Cited

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Bettinger, Robert L.

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1978 Archaeological Overview of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River Corridor, Idaho Primitive Area. *Archaeological Reports No. 3*, Boise State University.

Ross, John Alan

Samuels, Stephen R.

Spier, Leslie, and Sapir, Edward

Stanford, Dennia J., and Jane S. Day (Editors)

Teit, J. A.

Thoms, Alston
Cultural Landscapes. A cultural landscape is defined by the National Park Service in *Preservation Briefs 36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes* as “a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources…associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.” Mount Spokane has served as a destination for both traditional and recreational use. This 2009 update of the park’s Cultural Resources Management Plan examined historical records and land use patterns to determine the degree of integrity of various areas used during the historic period. The primary cultural landscape present in the park encompasses a large area near the summit and includes resources from various eras of development. This area is extensive, but retains a high level of integrity and is significant as the early focus of recreational activities on the mountain. Other cultural landscapes, or landscape elements, considered include the Spokane Ski Club area, Bald Knob, roads (including the Summit Road, the Day – Mt. Spokane Road, and Mt. Kit Carson Road), roadway features, and circulation networks (foot and ski trails).

The cultural landscape identified includes the area of Cook’s Paradise Camp, also known as Cook’s Camp with its associated building sites, extant buildings and building remains, the spring with its developed reservoir, the trail to the summit area, and CCC-constructed features along the Summit Road. The area extends to the west to include the site of CCC Camp Francis Cook around the summit of Beauty Mountain and to the north to include the summit area of Mount Spokane and its historic features. See page 30 for a map identifying the boundaries of this cultural landscape. The open area above Cook’s Paradise Camp is the source of the earlier names of Mount Spokane – Old Baldy and Mount Carleton – and was a key feature in differentiating the mountain from surrounding elevations. This area was the focus of initial park development by Cook, which also became the focus for CCC efforts and an early focus for recreational skiing on the upper reaches of the mountain. This area is shown on the accompanying map for reference. Individual features are documented in the following pages identifying the contributing features and providing treatment strategies for each.

The landscape surrounding the Spokane Ski Club building was also evaluated as a potential cultural landscape. This area, located in the northeast quarter of Section 28 (T28N R45E) developed in the early 1930s, and continued to develop as a lower elevation center for skiing. The Ski Club landscape contains the remains of the lodge, but does not continue to convey its historic appearance due to the continued growth of vegetation. The Ski Club had a rope tow in the vicinity as well as a large ski jump; neither of these resources are present today. The area was noted in the 1905 GLO survey of the Township as having recently burned, resulting in an open landscape well suited to skiing. The Ski Club may have also undertaken limited clearing to enlarge the open area. Today, this area is covered with dense stands of trees, and does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered a significant landscape. However, it does present an opportunity for the restoration of the landscape by limited clearing if desired.

Circulation routes, especially roads, are reminders of the early work done by Cook and improvements constructed by the CCC. The current road alignment of the Day – Mt. Spokane Road, the Kit Carson Road, and the Summit Road all reflect the condition that existed during the historic period as indicated in a 1922 log of a trip to the summit as well as the 1940 Master Plan for the park. This network links the various areas of the park and is in itself a cultural landscape feature. The road system retains integrity with the exception of the main park road (Mount Spokane Park Drive), and must be managed as a historic cultural landscape feature to retain its historic character.
Key trails for both hiking and skiing are noted on the 1940 Master Plan for the park, portions of which are still designated as hiking, skiing, or snowmobiling trails. This includes portions of the 1940 “Teakettle Trail” now designated as Trail 101; portions of the 1940 “Tumble Trail” now designated as Trail 124; the 1940 “Trail #1” now designated as portions of Trails 100, 102, and 103; the 1940 “Trail #2” now designated as Trail 160; and portions of the 1940 “Trail #3” now designated as Trail 110. The current alignments do not exactly follow the historic routes shown, which may be due to either more precise mapping or a change in the trail alignment to more closely follow the natural contours of the site. However, the termini are generally the same and lead to key points within the park.

A general location map of the cultural landscape features and boundary within the park is provided on page 30, yet individual elements within the landscape are further detailed in Part C of this section.
Cultural Resources Management Plan

Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Cultural Landscapes

Paradise Camp/Summit Area Cultural Landscape: The landscape consists of a collection of features, structures, and sites associated with popular interest in the mountain dating from the early 1900s to the 1950s. Its component built elements are further identified in this section, but no identification has been made of natural elements, which have evolved and matured over time. At its southern perimeter, it embraces the site of Francis Cook’s Paradise Camp and the CCC development of the same site, its northern extremity includes the summit area reaching to the Vista House, and to the east and west it includes the untreed slopes that first attracted the skiing public. The boundary also extends eastward to the CCC Camp site at Beauty Mountain. Cook’s Road is also considered a part of the cultural landscape within the park, as it was the primary route to both the mountain and the summit prior to the construction of the current Summit Road.

The present identified elements of the landscape include Cook’s Cabin site, Sun Ball site, memorial to Spokane County war dead, latrine at Cook’s Cabin area, woodshed at Cook’s Cabin area, caretaker’s residence site at Cook’s Cabin area, and Mount Spokane Lodge site.

Character-Defining Features: The character defining features of the landscape include the features of individual components that are identified elsewhere in this section. Spatial relationships, circulation patterns, and topography are also considered important characteristics of the landscape.

Historic Photographs: Various photographs of the component elements of the landscape are identified elsewhere in this section.

Plans: The cultural landscape is a contemporary identification, and therefore no plans exist for it.

Current Use: See component elements.

CAMP Classification: Heritage, Resource Recreation

Treatment: Preservation, see individual components for more specific treatments.

Priority: Supplemental, see individual components for more specific treatments.
Paradise Camp/Summit Area Cultural Landscape

General overview of area considered as the cultural landscape within the park, excluding Cook’s Road. See individual component elements for further detail.
**Buildings, Sites, and Structures.** The identification component for buildings, former building sites, and structures concludes in the early 1950s. To date, only a few of the primary existing buildings, sites, and structures within the park have been formally evaluated for potential National Register eligibility. In 2002, the Vista House, Cook’s Cabin Area Latrine, the Cook’s Cabin Area Woodshed, and the CCC Camp Site were determined eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C for association with significant broad patterns of history (Criterion A) and for their design and construction type (Criterion C). It is possible that remaining buildings from the formal park development era (ending in 1960) could be considered significant. The work of prominent Spokane architects is featured within the park, including Bertelsen’s design for Vista House and the Caretaker’s Residence as well as Kenneth Brooks’ design for Lodge One.

Similarly, architect D. M. Sibold (based out of Olympia) designed the Bald Knob cooking shelter and superintendent’s residence at the park entrance in 1953; these buildings were not included in the original version of this document but are included here as they have reached an age where they could be considered significant. Sibold’s angular plan of the cooking shelter owes little to the naturalistic designs favored in park buildings of the 1930s, and is more an example of post-war Modernism at work in a natural setting. It also anticipates some of the architectural forms of Mission 66, the major building program of the National Park Service that introduced non-traditional forms into park settings. Sibold’s work in the park is representative of the new Modern or Northwest Regional style incorporated into State Parks architecture during the 1940s and 1950s. Sibold worked in other parks during his career, but a comprehensive study of his work in the State Parks system has not been completed. He is known to have completed at least two other buildings at Wenberg and Camano Island State Parks.

All identified historic resources are detailed further in the following pages. The individual pages provide a summary history and description of each property, notable character-defining features, and the location of any plans or historic photographs.

The identification also includes current use and the CAMP classification, as well as a recommendation for treatment and priority. The glossary includes definitions for the treatment and priority terms, and all the treatments are summarized in Section IV.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Building and Structures

**Cook’s Cabin Site:** Francis H. Cook built the cabin that bore his name in 1912. It was the central feature of the area Cook called Paradise Camp, and it was removed in the 1930s sometime after 1934. Located near the caretaker’s residence that was built in 1933, an aerial photo from early 1934 shows the cabin near the intersection of the Summit Road and the Mt. Kit Carson Loop Road. A 1940 drawing of the site surrounding the Caretaker’s House shows a small cabin directly adjacent to the house, but this was apparently a smaller secondary structure and not Cook’s Cabin as it was rectangular in plan.

It was a single story log structure, L-shaped in plan, and intended for occupation during the summer months only. The design for the caretaker’s residence does not seem to have been based on Cook’s Cabin, although there was discussion prior to and at the time of the later cabin’s construction that the building should recall the original Cook’s Cabin. Cook’s Cabin was primarily of log construction with squared lap corners. Gable ends were clad with either shakes or board and batten siding. In the broadest sense, the log constructed Caretaker’s House does recall Cook’s Cabin, but was far from a duplicate.

**Character-Defining Features:** Resource not extant; Archaeological materials may remain.


**Plans:** No plans of Cook’s Cabin have been located.

**Current Use:** There is no current use of the cabin site; it may still exist as an archaeological site and may be at least partially beneath the road leading to the lodge site and Beauty Mountain.

**CAMP Classification:** Heritage

**Treatment:** Preservation – No ground disturbance should take place in the area of the cabin prior to an archaeological evaluation of the site to determine the existence of potentially significant deposits.

**Priority:** Primary – the above treatment standard is to be applied immediately.
Cook’s Cabin Site location (conjectural based on aerial photograph).

1934 aerial photo showing Cook’s Cabin (lower left) and Caretaker’s House (center). WSPRC Photo 78.2003.1.P975A.K4.

Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Caretaker’s Residence Site:** The caretaker’s residence, also designed by Bertelsen, served as the home of the chief state park employee in the park from the time of its construction in 1933 to the erection of a new residence at the park entrance 20 years later. It was immediately adjacent to Cook’s Cabin, and occupied the site between the woodshed and the latrine. Park superintendent W. G. Weigle was well pleased with the construction, so much so that he wanted Elmer Highberg, the builder of the cabin, transferred to Rainbow Falls to take charge of construction there.

The cabin was a single story log building erected over a stone and concrete foundation with a roof of intersecting gables. Notable features included a concrete garage that was apparently accessible from the residence, and extensive dry-laid stone construction, including retaining walls, steps, and walkways. The original building was expanded according to drawings produced in 1952 to add additional public space within the building.

The building was destroyed and burned in 1980, and the site obliterated. The only visible remnant is a small fragment of retaining wall as well as the flat graded area once containing the main building.

**Character-Defining Features:** Resource not extant except small portion of stone wall; archaeological materials may remain.

**Historic Photographs:** Several photos are part of the Mount Spokane CCC series and the Oestreicher Collection maintained by Interpretive Services.

**Plans:** H. C. Bertelsen Collection, Eastern Washington State Historical Society. These pencil drawings depict the floor plan as a combination residence and public cabin. Subtle variations are noted between the drawings and historic photographs. An addition was designed in 1952 and constructed shortly thereafter. Plan copies located at WSPRC HQ, Drawing set S650-29.

**Current Use:** There is no current use of the site other than passive recreational use.

**CAMP Classification: Heritage.**

**Treatment:** **Preservation;** no ground disturbance should take place in the area of the cabin prior to an archaeological evaluation of the site to determine the existence of potentially significant deposits.

**Priority:** **Primary;** the above treatment is to be applied immediately.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Caretaker’s Residence Site

Caretaker’s Residence location.

Caretaker’s Residence, October 1934.  Photo SP10-79.


Contemporary view of Caretaker’s Residence site (right).
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Latrine at Cook’s Cabin Area** – The latrine at the former site of Cook’s Cabin was a portion of the work completed by the CCC in the Cook’s Cabin area and was added soon after the completion of the caretaker’s residence. A roadway connects the latrine with the woodshed to the northwest; the roadway does not appear to extend beyond the latrine. Because of its location, it is a distinctive landmark in the park. Its masonry work is much less practiced than that of the Vista House, a result of work done by enrollees rather than contract masons.

The latrine is a small stone structure divided into two sections by a stone wall. Access to each section is through a doorway in the end-wall; the door is no longer in place. The interior accommodated two toilets of a special design, a part of what appears to be the same proprietary septic system that was used at the Vista House. No other interior fittings are apparent. A small window adjacent to the doorway provided illumination. Four vents penetrated the front roof slope for ventilation of the proprietary septic system. The building was rehabilitated in 2003, with work including roof replacement, limited roof member replacement, and masonry repairs.

**Character-Defining Features:** Rubble masonry construction using half-man and smaller stones, hip roof with shingles, rafter poles, hip rafters and ridge of dimensioned lumber, log collar tie or plate, proprietary septic system, door and window openings.

**Historic Photographs:** A single view of the latrine is included as image #64 in the Mount Spokane CCC photo series maintained by Interpretive Services.

**Plans:** No plans of the building have been located.

**Current Use:** None.

**CAMP Classification:** Heritage

**Treatment:** Preservation – clean and maintain roof as required, repoint as necessary.

**Priority:** Primary
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Latrine at Cook’s Cabin Area

Cook’s Cabin area Latrine location.

Looking east about 1934. WSPRC Photo SP10-64.

2008 view of Latrine.
Cultural Resources Management Plan  
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Woodshed at Cook’s Cabin Area:** The woodshed was erected by the CCC soon after the caretaker’s residence and was intended to serve as the storage facility for that building.

It is a single story log and stone building set well into the slope of the site. The log walls rise above a stepped rubble foundation wall that follows the contour of the slope. An offset single leaf door in the front gable provides entry; small windows in the front and rear gable ends originally provided illumination. Log roof beams and smaller log rafters carry milled lumber nailers for the shake roof; the roof is significantly deteriorated and provides no protection for the interior. The interior is a single room floored with heavy boards, now collapsing. At some point in the past, the exterior of the logs walls were covered with milled boards, probably in an attempt to make the cabin suitable as a shelter. The windows have also been boarded over. Earth and duff has accreted around the exterior walls and is contributing to the continuing deterioration of the building.

**Character-Defining Features:** Stone rubble foundation walls supporting upper log walls, offset front entry gable form with shake roof, plank floor, slope-engaged site.

**Historic Photographs:** The Mount Spokane CCC photo collection maintained by Interpretive Services has three views of the wood shed: #72, #73, and #74.

**Plans:** No plans of the woodshed have been located.

**Current Use:** None

**CAMP Classification:** Heritage

**Treatment:** Preservation - reroof, repair and repoint masonry, replace plank floor, replace or consolidate deteriorated logs (primarily rafters, cap logs, and log ends), remove vegetation.

**Priority:** Primary
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Woodshed/Storehouse at Cook’s Cabin Area

Woodshed location.

1934 view of Woodshed. WSPRC Photo SP10-74.

1934 view of Woodshed. WSPRC Photo SP10-73.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Mount Spokane Lodge Site:** The Mount Spokane Lodge was a handsome building first put up in 1940 and expanded by a significant addition in 1952. Both the original lodge and the addition were destroyed by fire in 1952, just prior to the opening of the building with its new addition.

Only the concrete basement and a rear wall survive as the most visible reminders of the building. It is a large ruin, and contains possibly one reusable space in the former basement. The only significant element remaining is the cyclopean masonry retaining wall that ran in front of the building; the wall is artfully done, but is obscured by a growth of small Fir trees.

**Character-Defining Features:** The concrete remains of the lodge are not character-defining of themselves although they serve to mark the site of a popular destination. The surviving character-defining feature is the retaining wall with its large, well-fitted stones.

**Historic Photographs:** Views of the building are located in the Oestreicher Collection held by Interpretive Services.

**Plans.** No source of plans was identified, although they were certainly retained by designing architects Funk, Murray and Johnson. The firm or its successors were not contacted to determine if the plans are available.

**Current Use:** There is no current recreational use; the site appears to be used informally for debris storage.

**CAMP Classification:** Heritage

**Treatment:** Preservation; remove tree growth from area of retaining wall and monitor for signs of deterioration. No specific treatment is necessary for the concrete foundation, walls, and floor, but potential hazards should be identified and addressed for reasons of public safety.

**Priority:** Supplemental
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Mount Spokane Lodge Site

Lodge Site location.

View of Lodge prior to addition. WSPRC Photo 78.2003.1,P1075A,S4.


2008 view of Lodge remains.

2009 view of stone wall.
Cultural Resources Management Plan

Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Reservoir:** The reservoir, located uphill from the former lodge in the Cook’s Cabin area, was constructed by the CCC to make use of a natural spring in the area. The facility served the lodge, as well as other developments including the Caretaker's Residence. The reservoir is largely subterranean, constructed of reinforced concrete with a flat top exposed. The original design called for a 12” earthen cover over the reservoir, but this was apparently not constructed or has been removed. The reservoir is sized at 20,000 gallons, and while it retains a good level of integrity it is a strictly utilitarian feature on the landscape hidden above the lodge remains.

*Character-Defining Features:* Rectangular plan, board-formed concrete, two projecting valve boxes.

*Historic Photographs:* None located.

*Plans:* Two drawings showing the reservoir and septic systems, S650-31-1 and -2.

*Current Use:* The site currently used as it was historically, a water storage facility.

*CAMP Classification:* Heritage

*Treatment:* Preservation; monitor for signs of deterioration.

*Priority:* Supplemental
Reservoir

Reservoir location.

2009 view of reservoir from above. 2009 view of reservoir from below.
Cultural Resources Management Plan

Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Cook’s Auto Road:** The road laid out and constructed by Francis Cook and that made possible much of the use of Mount Spokane prior to the 1930s survives in large part as the route of the Day Mountain Spokane Road and Mount Kit Carson Road. The county road department made later improvements, at did the CCCs, and road work continues to this day along the route first laid down by Cook.

The greatest use of the road in Cook’s day was to reach his recreation establishment at Paradise Camp. The road extended from Paradise Camp to the summit, although it is difficult to say when Cook extended the road to its ultimate designation or how completely constructed it may have been. There is no mention of road construction to the summit in connection with the building of Vista House, although trucks hauled stone to the site. The implication is that a road, however primitive, was in place by that time, and given the concrete construction of the War Memorial and the description by the Inland Automobile Association in 1922, it was likely constructed soon after Paradise Camp was established.

**Character-Defining Features:** Other than the route itself and its unpaved surface, no features of Cook’s original road remain. Rock walls remain in two locations, remnants of formerly extensive rockwork along the route constructed by the CCC. The road alignment, its surface treatment, and associated cuts, fills, and width are also considered character defining features.

**Historic Photographs:** There are several views in the Mount Spokane CCC collection maintained by Interpretive Services.

**Plans:** None located other than the general road layout on the 1940 Master Plan (drawing S650-11).

**Current Use:** The auto road is used as a hiking trail in summer and a snowmobile trail in winter.

**CAMP Classification:** Resource Recreation

**Treatment:** Preservation – continue present activities to maintain grade and character of the road, using caution to preserve and protect CCC-constructed rock walls that remain in place.

**Priority:** Supplemental
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Cook’s Auto Road

A 1935 view of a CCC-improved portion of Cook’s Auto Road. WSPRC Photo H78SP10-178.

Excerpt from 1940 Master Plan showing road route as described in a 1922 trip log of the summit route (highlighted). WSPRC Drawing S650-11.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

Roadway Improvements: Improvements to the roads within Mount Spokane State Park during the historic period included stone revetments as well as stone and log bridges. Several stone revetments remain along the Day Mountain Road and the Kit Carson Road. Another significant rock feature is present at the upper switchback on the Summit Road. It may be that similar improvements are in evidence in other areas, and a more thorough survey along existing roads could reveal other survivors. It is likely, however, that plowing, widening, and paving over the years have resulted in the removal of many of these once-numerous features. Vegetation and lack of maintenance also threaten these constructed features. Stone and log bridges were called for at several locations along Deadman Creek, but only one remains adjacent to the current road leading to the Ski Club site and Camp Fosseen. This extant bridge does not accurately reflect the plans, and appears to have lost a significant amount of integrity.

Character-Defining Features: Retaining walls, steps, and spring enclosures of dry-laid stone, typically half-man or less in size; stone abutments at bridge sites with log beams and side rails. If a bridge has been by-passed by other construction, only the abutments may remain.

Historic Photographs: Aside from clearing, grubbing, and the construction of the roadways themselves, the Mount Spokane CCC photo collection has a number of views that illustrate naturalistic improvements and small-scale bridge construction. Bridge views appear at photo no. 68; dry-laid stone improvements are illustrated in photo numbers 78, 81, and 82.

Plans: Stone retaining walls were built without plans. Plans for two bridge types used in the park are included in Resources Development Division drawing files as S650-30-1 and –2.

Current Use: As planned where the features survive.

CAMP Classification: Heritage, Resource Recreation, Recreation

Treatment: Preservation of known resources; survey and identification are necessary precursors to a wider treatment. A comprehensive inventory of remaining roadway improvements has not been completed at the time of this writing, but is recommended.

Priority: Supplemental
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Roadway Improvements

Switchback near Cook’s Cabin area, July 1935
Photo SP10-184

Project complete, October 1935.
Note rock wall to right.
Photo SP10-193

Stone revetment along Kit Carson Road, October 1934.
Photo SP10-81.

2009 view of revetment shown at left.

2009 view of bridge remaining over Deadman Creek.