

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

LISTED IN:	
VLR	06/17/2010
NRHP	03/15/2011

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center  
other names/site number Surrender Grounds Forest, Holiday Lake 4-H Camp, VDHR File #006-5009

## 2. Location

street & number 1267 4-H Camp Road; Route 2, Box 630  not for publication  
city or town Appomattox  vicinity  
state Virginia code 011 county Appomattox code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 24522

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

national  statewide  local

*[Signature]*  
Signature of certifying official

*January 28, 2011*  
Date

*Deputy Director, Deputy SHPO*  
Title

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
23	3	buildings
2	0	sites
1	6	structures
0	0	objects
0	0	buildings
26	9	<b>Total</b>

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Institutional Housing, Camp

Commerce/Trade: Organizational

Government: Public Works

Industry/Processing/Extraction: Waterworks

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Camp

Commerce/Trade: Business

Social: Meeting Hall/Civic

Education: Research Facility, Education-Related

Recreation/Culture: Theater, Outdoor Recreation

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick

walls: Wood

roof: Asphalt Shingle

other:

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Education
- Entertainment/Recreation
- Landscape Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1937 – 1960

**Significant Dates**

- 1937-Camp Construction
- 1940- 4-H begins use of Camp

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The historic core of Holiday Lake 4-H Camp was built by the Works Progress Administration workers (in association with the Resettlement Administration) in 1937 as part of a multi-year Reforestation Project in west central Virginia. Since the earliest buildings can be dated to this period, 1937 is chosen for the beginning of the Period of Significance. The 4-H Club took over the camp in 1941 (some camping most likely occurred in 1940) and has used and expanded the facility up to the present. Since the history of the 4-H Club has ongoing significance, the fifty-year point, 1960, is chosen for the end of the period of significance.

**Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)**

Not Applicable

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: **Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

See Continuation Sheets

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 11.17 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17 S</u> Zone	<u>708845</u> Easting	<u>4140797</u> Northing	3	<u>17 S</u> Zone	<u>708979</u> Easting	<u>4140410</u> Northing
2	<u>17 S</u> Zone	<u>709151</u> Easting	<u>4140751</u> Northing	4	<u>17 S</u> Zone	<u>708773</u> Easting	<u>4140415</u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

Beginning at the southernmost point, on the east side of the Camp peninsula, the boundary follows the edge of the land on Holliday Lake except for where there are two boat docks. The boundary follows the edges of both docks. The water's edge creates the boundary on southeast, east and north sides of the Camp's peninsula. The western edge follows a wetlands area in a straight line from northeast to southwest, until that line intersects with the southern edge of the entrance road. The boundary follows the road edge for about 50 feet and then jogs around a building constructed within the last 20 years, and heads due south to the starting point. (See attached maps).

The precise boundary is recorded on an aerial that is at 1 inch equals 200 feet scale. The aerial was produced on ESRI 2010 software using mapping data provided by Virginia Geographic Information Network. The aerial image dates to 2002. Note that the photorevised Holiday Lake USGS Quadrangle map shows less of the

peninsula land form than the actual aerial so the boundary appears include lake area on the USGS quad., but there is no area of the lake included in the boundary. The boundary follows the land edge.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes all historic resources that relate to the period of significance, 1937 to 1960. The boundary includes the core 1930s camp area and excludes areas that are not essential for understanding the residential camp environment. While the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Resettlement Administration (RA) both worked throughout the wooded area, reforestation, building roads, and improving drainage, in the Camp, the State Park, and State Forest, these areas were not included since these activities were not residential camp areas for WPA, RA, or 4-H. The area included is the present center of operations and activities for the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Marc C. Wagner VDHR and Dr. Robert R. Meadows, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources

date May 16, 2010

street & number 2801 Kensington Avenue

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center

County: Appomattox County State: Virginia

Photographer: Marc C. Wagner

Date Photographed: March 9, 2010

13 Photographs

1. Activity Field, terracing
2. Lawson Dining Center
3. Pavilion
4. Amphitheatre
5. Outdoor Classroom-Gathering Area
6. WPA Office
7. Boys' Bath House
8. Girls' Bunk House
9. Girls' Cabins, general view
10. Buckingham Cabin (Boy's side)
11. Rear View of Boy's Cabin from ravine
12. Cabin Interior showing 4 bunks and storage

13. Cabin site on Boy's Cabin side

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

### Architectural Description

#### Summary Architectural Description:

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center Historic District is a 11.33 acre historic section of the 158-acre camp situated in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest (Virginia Department of Forestry land), in Appomattox County, Virginia. The original part of the camp is adjacent to Holliday Lake, part of Holliday Lake State Park (listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in September 18, 2008). Constructed by Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers, who may have been working with the Resettlement Administration, in 1937, the current historic residential camp is comprised of 34 buildings/structures/sites that comprise a scenic wooded landscape adjacent to the 150 acre Holliday Lake. Both State Park and 4-H Educational Center are surrounded by 19,808 acres of forest land. The residential camp was built in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-era, and there are similarities to the more commonly known rustic designed architecture of the CCC. This WPA complex was completed to house workers whose main tasks were to build Holliday Lake and conduct reforestation activities in a area of old farmstead properties. The core of the camp is planned between two low ridges that surround a manmade terraced field. In an approximately symmetrical arrangement, fifteen, small, eight-bunk cabins, were built along the ridges above the activity field. A large activity building/dining hall sits at the south-western end of the field, atop the terraced area, facing Holliday Lake. When the Farm Security Administration (successor to the Resettlement Administration) had completed operations in the early 1940s, the lake, park, and WPA camp (and forest area) were transferred to the state within several years. The unusually intact WPA camp survives today because it was used by local 4-H as early as 1940 and officially became a 4-H camp in 1941. The continuity of operations at the site has preserved the 1930s camp and as the 4-H educational center has grown over the years, the oldest section of the institution with its highly intact 1930s landscape has survived as a rare example of a very complete WPA-built complex in Virginia. Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its association with the Works Progress Administration, Resettlement Administration/Farm Security Administration and 4-H history in Virginia, and its integrity of design in its camp plan and buildings. (One will note that the state park uses the "Holliday" name with two Ls, after a family that owned land in the area. The 4-H Camp uses the "Holiday" spelling with one L.)

The complex includes a dining center (one contributing building), fifteen (8 bunk) cabins and associated cabin site (fifteen contributing buildings and one contributing site), a girl's bunk house and boy's bunk house (two contributing buildings), a boy's bath house and girl's bath house (one non-contributing building and one contributing building), a main office building (one contributing building), a covered open-air pavilion (one

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contributing building), a covered open-air amphitheatre (one contributing building), an uncovered seating area (one contributing structure), three sheds (one contributing and two non-contributing buildings), two canoe racks (two non-contributing structures), a campfire circle (a non-contributing structure), two boat docks (two non-contributing structures), and a wooden bridge crossing a drainage trench at the beach area (a non-contributing structure). The landscape includes paths, terracing, drainage, road traces and other manmade land features and counts as a contributing site. There are twenty three contributing buildings and three non-contributing buildings; two contributing sites; one contributing structure and six non-contributing structures.

### Detailed Architectural Description

#### Camp Landscape and Setting

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center Historic District was initially planned as part of a Demonstration Forest Project by the Resettlement Administration beginning in Oct 1935<sup>1</sup>, however, construction of the camp appears to have taken place in 1937-1938 and was likely completed by Works Progress Administration workers.

Appomattox County is within the Piedmont physiographic area, a broad, elevated belt situated between the Coastal Plain and Blue Ridge geographic areas that extends from Alabama to New Jersey. The Piedmont is essentially a plateau with mature stream development and erosion-resistant hills or mountains which occasionally appear in level terrain, promoting a rolling landscape. Elevations in the county vary from approximately 460 feet above sea level at the point where the Appomattox River flows into Prince Edward County to 1,151 feet on the top of Piney Mountain. Most of the county, however, lies between 500 and 800 feet.<sup>2</sup> Holliday Lake's surface is at 445 feet and surrounding hills, immediate to the lake, range from 500 to nearly 650 feet.

The Camp is accessed by a State Route 732 from the north-northwest. This is the only paved access road into the camp. The road passes through the post 1950s period area of the site (not included in the district) and terminates at a small loop within the historic area. The landscape of the historic section of the camp is partially natural, but there are distinct manmade/designed features at the core. The Camp is surrounded by lake and creek beds on all sides. Cemetery Creek is at the northwestern edge, the lake is at northern and east-southeast edges. A small creek (or wetlands area) runs across the northwestern side (possibly a branch of Cemetery Creek). The camp site chosen was elevated on dry ridge land that now forms a double point peninsula at the southern end of Holliday Lake. All primary buildings were built on higher ground. The Camp is located about 500 feet west of the concrete Holliday Lake dam.

The Rachel F. Lawson Family Dining Center (1937) was and is the current central building in the Camp. It is sited at the head of an open field, facing Holliday Lake. The Dining Center's design is locked into a central axis position by virtue of its simple, but substantial, one-story porch, which reads as a simple central portico. The view from the Lawson Center is framed by the two ridges that surround the field, forming a protected area: a



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natural bowl effect. The field in front of the Lawson Center descends towards the lake in three manmade terraces. A campfire amphitheatre is situated at one of the lower terraces, close to the lake. A ceremonial triple flagpole stand has been built at the edge of the highest terrace, centered on the Lawson Center. The ground drops off behind the Lawson Center, towards the southwest, where access loop and car parking are located.

Two lines of frame gable-front cabins are sited along the two ridges above (and facing) the terraced activity field. The cabins on the northern ridge are used for boys and those on the southern ridge for girls. All of these cabins were completed by 1937. Currently, there are six 8-bunk cabins on the northwestern ridge line. A seventh cabin—at the northern-most end of the ridge -- was destroyed by fire, but the concrete footers survive marking the site. The southeastern ridge, which reaches further northward into Holliday Lake, features nine 8-bunk cabins, identical in design to the cabins that line the northwestern ridge. Both lines of cabins are accessed by well worn wide paths that traverse each ridge line. The path on the southeastern ridge continues past the cabins and terminates at the end of the ridge at an outdoor seating area with wood planks on blocks, a site that appears to have been used for outdoor teaching and Sunday services.

Adjacent to the Dining Center are several more primary buildings. On the northwestern side, a 1940s-50s Boys' Bunk House is located next to a recently built Boys' Bath House. The Main Office, which is essentially a small simply detailed cottage, is just south of the Boys' Bunkhouse. On the southeastern side of the Dining Center, the row of Girls' Cabins terminates at the 1930s Girls' Bath House. A c. 1955 covered open-air pavilion and 1930s store/clinic is located between the Dining Center and the first four Girls' cabins.

The southern-most section of the historic area, south of the loop road and parking areas, includes the Girls' Bunk House and a covered open-air Amphitheatre (most likely contemporary with the 1950s Pavilion). The primary swimming activity area and beach during the early 4-H period (1941-1960s) was at the bottom of the terraced lawn in front of the Dining Center. Photographs from the 1940s and 50s show a sandy beach between the two ridges and some road traces or terraced areas at each side of the beach on the northwest and southeast. This area now has a campfire circle and terminates at water's edge in grass. The beach has been relocated to the southern edge of the historic area (c. 1980), where there is a slight inlet on a narrow branch of the lake. The beach features a V-shaped concrete block retaining wall, two recently built wooden boat docks, and two recent wood frame canoe racks.

There are three frame sheds in the historic district. The two non-contributing frame sheds appear to have been built in the past twenty years. One is by the campfire circle at the northern section of the district—while the building is not historic, it features a horizontal panel door identical to those on the cabins. It is most likely reused from one of the 1930s buildings. This shed is used for miscellaneous storage. A modern frame shed (non-contributing) is located next to the Girls' Bunk House. The contributing shed, located near the parking area at the Main Office, has been identified as the original WPA Office for the Recreation Area construction project. Though currently referred to as a shed, the building has two rooms with a separate door for each space. It is likely that these two rooms had specialized office functions.

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Architectural Design/Style and Physical Integrity:

There are primary design themes throughout the 4-H Camp. In general, the collection of buildings exhibit Rustic style similar to that used at National and State recreation parks that were built in 1930s Virginia. There is some tendency towards utilitarian construction, but not as simple as military or Civilian Conservation Corps barracks. Based on the inspection of historic photographs that have been provided by the 4-H Educational Center<sup>3</sup> and photos available on the internet site Virginia Tech ImageBase<sup>4</sup>, it is possible to make direct comparison with the near original conditions of the oldest buildings and note the physical evolution of buildings and landscape over 70 years.

The original buildings were wired for electricity in 1941, when the local 4-H Club started preparing the Camp for their use. In early 4-H photographs, very few improvements are shown. The predominant design motif throughout the Camp is an exterior wall cladding that features board and batten lower sections and weatherboard upper sections. The patterns appear to be half and half on all exteriors of buildings built in the 1930s. The Covered Open-Air Amphitheatre and the Boys' Bath House also share this design pattern though they were built later. The early color scheme shown in black and white photos shows a dark color used on the lower board and batten and a light color on the upper weatherboard. The Covered Open-Air Pavilion has a board and batten patterned half wall on all sides. Early photos show roofs, on all buildings, clad in composite material, perhaps asbestos or asphalt shingle.

Three buildings have undergone substantial renovation over the years. The Dining Center (used by WPA as a mess hall and most likely general assembly area), the Store/Clinic, and the Main Office. All three buildings have been clad with vertical groove panels and have significant rear additions.

**Dining Center:** Photographs dating to the 1950s show this core Camp building set on piers, without foundation walls and operating with flap up shutters that were locked in open position by an angled rods, resting on a fixture on the lower wall of the building. The openings were most likely screened. The interior photographs of the Dining Center show simple exposed structural elements in the building with wall-attached fold down tables that stowed up against the walls when not in use. Over the recent decades, the building has been weatherized and updated with interior finishes (c. 1976). The updated materials include permanent glass windows and modern vertical groove board cladding. The original plan of the WPA mess hall was 24' x 120', a large rectangle. The rear of the building has an original long kitchen ell. All of these sections are still in place with the addition of a significant two-story frame area that fills in the area from the kitchen ell out to the northwest corner of the Dining Center. This recent rear addition is not as visible from the front of the Dining Center. The multiple gallery porches, on the back and side of this addition, are visible from the loop road and parking areas. Because the essential form of building is intact, and it still acts as the center of the complex, as it faces towards Holliday Lake and the primary activity field, the Dining Center still conveys enough integrity to support Criterion A significance of the Camp.

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**Store/Clinic Building:** The Store/Clinic Building appears in early photographs as having the typical Camp exterior wall pattern: board and batten upper with weatherboard lower wall pattern. It has been resided recently with vertical groove paneling and has a large rear addition. The front elevation appears with a screened porch in early photos and still maintains this appearance. The building is a contributing building in the district because it generally maintains its form and its primary elevation still appears as it did in the 1940s and 50s, despite the change in material treatment. The rear addition does not affect the appearance of the building as viewed from the primary activity field.

**Main Office:** The Main Office has been updated with recent vertical groove paneling. This building may date to the 1930s or 1940s, and may not have had the board and batten lower and weatherboard upper exterior wall pattern. This building maintains its form despite updating and is a critical building for supporting the Criterion A significance relating to the 4-H camp period.

**Cabins:** The fifteen cabins possess a high level of integrity. The only minor changes that have been made are the removal of low brick flues at the central roof ridge and replacement of porch post supports. There are sections of brick flues surviving in rafter areas of the cabins. The use of heating stoves dates to the WPA use of the buildings. Since 4-H use of the cabins was limited to warmer months, the stoves and lower sections of the flues were removed. The cabin chimnies still appear in historic photographs from the late 1950s. Photographs from the 1930s, '40s and '50s show porch posts (two on each cabin) thicker at the bottom, trimmed with a collar at about 3 feet above the deck, and smaller from the collar to the porch ceiling. These have been replaced with single dimension posts.

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Inventory of Resources:

The following inventory of resources was developed during a survey that was conducted on March 9, 2010 and documents Camp resources that are contributing and non-contributing to the historic district.

**Circulation System**

The vehicle circulation system consists of a loop driveway with parking areas at the end of State Route 723. The road is part of the general setting and is not singled out as an individual resource.

**Landscape**

The integration of the buildings and site design for Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center is critical for understanding the evolution of the resources in the WPA and 4-H periods. There was careful thought behind the approximate symmetry of the Dining Center, the terraced lawn and flanking lines of cabins. The terracing towards the lake is manmade, and during the early 4-H period, it transitioned the activity field from the core Dining Hall/Activity Building to a flag stand, to beach, ending at lake's edge. The more recent Campfire Circle has replaced the beach at lake's edge. There are other features that were not definitely dated to the period of significance, such as drainage trenches, that may be part of the contributing landscape. While it is unclear how much of the land between the two parallel ridges was filled in to create the terracing, with the substantial equipment that was used for creating Holliday Lake, it is possible that the field may have been a low area that was filled in from soil excavated during lake construction.

Date: 1937-1960

DHR Number 006-5009

CONTRIBUTING (1 – site)

**Carol F. Lawson Dining Center (WPA Mess Hall/Interior Assembly)**

When built by the WPA workers, the Mess Hall, now the Dining Center, was the largest building at the Camp. It was and still is the largest interior gathering area in the 4-H Educational Center. The Dining Center is a one-story, 13-bay wide, frame building with an asphalt-shingle clad gable roof. There are square attic vents in the gable peaks and the rafter tails are no longer exposed (assumed to be in the boxed soffit). The primary elevation features a large, deep-eave, gable-front porch that shelters the central entrance and flanking windows. The building has one-over-one single-pane, double-hung sash windows. The exterior walls feature a more recent vertical-groove panel cladding. The rear of the building has an original kitchen ell, which is still the kitchen. It has multiple steel exhaust cowls on the gable roof ridge and on side walls. The foundation is parged concrete block. The one-story kitchen ell is connected to the 2002 two-story rear addition which sits at the northwestern side of the main block. The frame addition has double-level gallery porches (with slant-out railings) along south and west walls and exterior stairs. The interior of the Dining Center is still used for dining and general activities. The 2002 addition, includes more dining space on the first floor and activity space on the second floor. While the oldest section of this building has been updated for year around use, wallboard and insulation added, the open interior roof structure has been left exposed in the oldest part of the building, as it appeared in earlier periods.

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Date: c. 1937

DHR Number DHR Number 006-5009-0002

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

### Cabins-Fifteen Identical Buildings

The residential cabins are sited along two ridges that overlook the activity field, flag stand, and Dining Center. There are currently six boys' cabins on the northwestern ridge and nine girls' cabins on the southeastern ridge. There was a seventh boys' cabin that burned and it is now a site with concrete footers. The footers show the former cabin matching dimensions with the extant examples. The cabins were built with maximum air circulation in mind. All cabins are placed at the edge of each ridge so that most of the buildings are supported on posts over a slope area, without foundation walls, allowing air to circulate under the cabin frame. When in use by the WPA workers, the cabins had heating stoves with brick flues at the center of the roof ridge. The flue tops have been removed and there has been some minor replacement and repair work, but in general these are the most intact buildings in the complex. Each cabin has eight bunks, four on each side of a single room. With the original sixteen cabins, there would have been housing for 128 men. All bunks have flap-up shutters with screened openings. Originally, the flaps were on the exterior, now shutters are in the interior. All cabin buildings are one-story, frame, with front gable, asphalt-shingle, roofs that have deep eaves with exposed rafter tails, and deep front porches supported on two posts, set on wood decks. The siding maintains the design motif of board and batten lower and weatherboard upper cladding. All cabins have wooden screen doors and wooden five-horizontal-panel doors. The screen doors may have been updated, but all panel doors are original. The interiors are designed for basic functionality with four bunks on each side wall and a built-in four storage unit shelf inbetween each bunk stack. A second exit is provided at the rear of each cabin with a wood ladder that reaches the ground. At the steepest points of the slope, some of the cabins have a rear height of nearly ten feet above ground. Eleven cabins have been assigned county names for the 4-H service area. The names are on wood panels in the front gable peak area, with cabin number. The Boys' Cabin row originally had seven buildings. The last cabin at the north end of the row burned, but the concrete footers survive, above ground. The cabin site is contributing to the district.

Girls' Cabins (from southwest to northeast)

Cabin # 1-Charlotte County (close to the activity building complex, this cabin has a wooden handicap access ramp).

Cabin #2- Nelson County

Cabin #3- Nottoway County

Cabin #4- Prince Edward County

Cabin #5- Campbell County

Cabin #6- Louisa County

Cabin #7- No Label

Cabin #8- No Label

Cabin #9- No Label

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Boys' Cabins (from southwest to northeast)

Cabin # 10-Appomattox County

Cabin #11- Amherst County

Cabin #12- Amelia County

Cabin #13- Fluvana County

Cabin #14- Buckingham County

Cabin #15- No Label

Cabin Site

Date: c. 1937

DHR Number DHR Number 006-5009-

CONTRIBUTING (15- buildings)

CONTRIBUTING (1- site)

### Boys' Bunkhouse

The Boys' Bunkhouse is at the southeastern end of the Boys' Cabin row. Its placement is near the Boys' Bathhouse and close to the Dining Center. With four rooms in this house, there are multiple bunks in each room and, currently, the 4-H can house as many as 35 campers in this building. The Bunkhouse is built into the ridge on a concrete block foundation. The basement of the building is a functioning space accessed from a lower ground level. The Bunkhouse is a one-story, 3-bay wide, frame building with an asphalt-shingle clad gable roof. The rafter tails are not exposed (and there are no early images of this building that show its design). The primary elevation features a large, deep eave, gable-front porch supported on two metal posts, above a concrete deck. The building has two-over-two double-horizontal-pane, double-hung sash windows. The exterior walls feature the camp motif lower board and batten and upper weatherboard cladding. There are no additions on this building.

Date: c. 1940s-1955

DHR Number 006-5009-

CONTRIBUTING (1 - building)

### Boys' Bathhouse

The Boys' Bathhouse was completed in 2008 and replaced the frame 1937 WPA building that was similar, if not nearly identical, to the existing Girls' Bathhouse. The new building was designed to blend and match with other buildings in the complex, including the use the exterior wall motif, board and batten lower and weatherboard upper cladding. The Bathhouse is a one-story, 3-bay wide, frame building with an asphalt-shingle clad gable roof. There are no rafter tails, but the deep eaves match the predominant camp design. The primary elevation features a large, shed-roof porch supported on two heavy, bracketed, rustic, clear-coated, wooden posts, above a concrete deck. The building has single pane modern windows. There are square attic vents and the entry features a two-leaf metal panel door system with upper glass panels. The foundation is solid masonry.

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Date: 2008

DHR Number 006-5009-

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

### Girls' Bunkhouse

The Girls' Bunkhouse is further away from the core complex, on the far side of the entrance loop, south of the Dining Hall. The building is frame, but placed on a high concrete block basement. With two large rooms upstairs and two downstairs, the Bunkhouse has current housing for up to 64 campers. The Bunkhouse is an 8-bay wide, two-story frame building, set on a high concrete block basement, with an asphalt-shingle clad gable roof. The rafter tails are exposed and there are square attic vents in each gable peak.. The primary elevation features a large, deep eave, gable-front porch supported on two wooden posts, above a wood deck. The entrance to the second floor is from a tall set of stairs at the porch. All entrances have screen doors. The building has one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. Photographs from the 1950s show that the building had flap up wooden shutters, and most likely, screened openings, on both upper and lower floors. The exterior walls (on the frame portion of the building) feature the camp motif lower board and batten and upper weatherboard cladding. Decks have been extended to each side of the original entry porch, full length of the building. The rear of the building also features a full-length deck with two stair access points. The rear deck is most likely a later feature. There are no additions to this building.

Date: c. 1937

DHR Number 006-5009-

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

### Girls' Bathhouse

The Girls' Bathhouse is adjacent to the Store/Clinic Building and Girls' Cabin #1/Charlotte County. The Bathhouse is a one-story, 2-bay wide, frame building, with an asphalt-shingle clad gable roof. The roof rafter tails are exposed. The entrance is at the northwest corner of the building and features a ramp and concrete decking. The entrance has a screen door. The building does not have sash. The original horizontal openings are screened and would most likely have had flap up covers originally. The exterior walls feature the camp motif lower board and batten and upper weatherboard cladding. The foundation is parged concrete block. There are no additions in this building.

Date: c. 1937

DHR Number 006-5009-

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

### Store/Clinic Building

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The Store/Clinic Building is located inbetween Girls' Cabin #1/Charlotte County and the Dining Center. Partial views of the front of this building appear in 1950s photographic images. The Store/Clinic is a one-story, about 2-3 bays wide, frame building, with an asphalt-shingle clad gable roof. The building has a wide, shed-roof, screened-in porch with a solid halfwall. In 1950s images, the porch did not have a half wall. The windows are one-over-one, recent double-hung sash with clip in muntins. The exterior walls are clad in 1990s vertical groove panels, indential to those that clad the Dining Center and the Main Office. The foundation is concrete block. There is a large rear addition with shed-form roof.

Date: c. 1937

DHR Number 006-5009-

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

### **Main Office Building**

The Main Office Building is located adjacent to the Boys' Bunkhouse and Bathhouse, on the road loop, near a parking lot and the Dining Center. There were no historic images of this building located during research for this nomination. The Main Office Building appears to have nearly identical dimensions and form with the Store/Clinic Building. The Main Office is a one-story, 3-bays wide, frame building, with an asphalt-shingle clad gable roof. The small square attic vent at the south gable peak is original. The north gable has a exterior access door to the attic with exterior stairs and decking. The building has a wide shed-roof front porch set on 3 square posts. The rafter tails are still visible in several areas at the roof edge. A concrete block flue is on the primary elevation, extending though the porch roof. The windows are two-over-two, horizontal, double-hung sash (1960s). The exterior walls are clad in 1990s vertical groove panels, indential to those that clad the Dining Center and the Store/Clinic Building. The foundation is parged concrete block. There is a rear addition with shed-form roof.

Date: c. 1937 (or 1940s)

DHR Number 006-5009-

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

### **Pavilion Building**

The Pavilion Building is located adjacent to the Boys' Cabins, on the southeast side of the camp, near the Dining Center. Historic images of this building show that it was built c. 1954-55 and that it was preceded by activities that were conducted in a large pole-supported tent on the same site. The Pavilion Building is a one-story frame building, 3-bays wide at ends with 6-bays on the sides. It is covered by an asphalt-shingle clad gable roof. The small square attic vent at the south gable peak is original. The sides are open with grooved board half walls topped by a railing. The support posts have simple brackets. The gable roof structure has weatherboarded gable ends and an exposed structural system on the interior. The building sits in a concrete slab. The entrances are open areas in the half wall. The roof structure is comprised of flat board frames with a "W" bracing pattern.

Date: c. 1955

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CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Amphitheatre (Covered)**

The Amphitheatre Building is located adjacent to the Girls' Bunkhouse and the more recent beach/boating area, at the south end of the historic district. There were no historic images of the building located at the time of this research. The building is built into a hill and has three open sides and a stage and enclosed area in the fourth side. The Amphitheatre is a tall one-story frame building, 3-bays wide at the upper end, with an asphalt-shingle clad gable roof. The closed end of the building features the Camps' design motif: board and batten lower and weatherboard upper cladding. There are several access doors and covered window openings, simple vertical board door and shutters. The support posts are simple (telephone pole size). The gable roof structure has weatherboarded gable ends and an exposed structural system on the interior. There is a round fan vent in the southern gable. The foundation is not visible. The stage is a simple wooden platform backed by a vertical board wall that exhibits a round panel with the 4-H Club symbol. There are 2 seating sections separated by an aisle with 11 rows of board benches that sit atop round wood supports.

Date: c. 1955

DHR Number 006-5009-

CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**WPA Project Office (Tool Shed)**

The building is referred to in DHR records as the WPA Project Office and is currently used for tool storage. It is located near the current Main Office Building, adjacent to a parking lot. This was originally a two room office. Along with the cabins, this building has high physical integrity to the 1930s period, and is the least altered historic building at the Camp. There were no historic images of this building located during research for this nomination. The Office is a one-story, 3-bay wide, frame building, with an asphalt-shingle clad gable roof. There are small square attic vents in both gable peaks. The rafter tails are intact. There is no surviving stove flue (though this building may not have been heated). The windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash. The exterior walls are clad in the Camp design motif of board and batten on lower wall and weatherboard on upper wall. The building still sits on concrete piers. There are no additions to the building. The offices were of equal size, each with a five horizontal-panel door and a window on the front and back of the building.

Date: c. 1937

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CONTRIBUTING (1 – building)

**Outdoor Assembly Area**

The path that crosses the southeastern ridge, where the Girls' Cabins are located, terminates at the top of the hill, on the larger of the two camp peninsulas that extends into Holliday Lake. Photographs taken in the 1950s show religious services being held at this site. The site has not changed since the the earliest photograph found

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during research for this nomination (1954). There are two areas of seating (eleven rows in each) with a central aisle. The seats are plank boards resting on concrete blocks. The seating faces a presentation table. The site was most likely graded for use.

Date: c. 1954 (or earlier)

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CONTRIBUTING (1 – site)

**Canoe Racks (Two)**

There are two wood canoe racks adjacent to the more recent beach/boating area, at the southern end of the Historic District. Both racks have identical design: three square posts, in a line, that support a metal panel gable roof. Cross beams on the three posts support a total of 6 canoes per rack. There are corner posts at one end of each rack providing stability.

Date: c. 2005

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NON-CONTRIBUTING (2 – structures)

**Bridge**

A rustic wooden bridge with a plank deck, four heavy round post rail supports (set in concrete footers), with simple hand rail, is located at the beach/boating area. It crosses over a drainage trench, providing easy access to boat docks.

Date: c. 2005

DHR Number 006-5009-

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1 – structure)

**Boat Docks (Two)**

Two recently built boat docks are at the more recent beach area. Both docks are set on round posts and have plank decks. At opposite sides of the small beach, both docks extend about 50 feet into Holliday Lake.

Date: c. 2005

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NON-CONTRIBUTING (2 – structures)

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### **Campfire Circle**

A recent Campfire Circle is located adjacent to Holliday Lake, at the northern end of the historic district. Historic photographs dating to 1958, show that this area was a well-established beach that was nestled between the two peninsula points in a gentle "U" plan. The beach no longer exists, but a semi-circular Campfire Circle now occupies the area that is adjacent to the lake's edge. The structure is built into the hill so that seating generally faces the lake and the flat sandy area where wood is burned. There are six levels of seating, created by concrete beams. The overall shape is a semi-circle. Small drainage trenches around the structure guides water away from the structure. Photos from the 1940s and 50s show another area of the Camp being used for campfire activities.

Date: c. 1990

DHR Number 006-5009-

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1– site)

### **Tool Sheds (Two)**

There are two frame tool sheds, both have shed roofs and single doors. One shed is located to the northwest of the Campfire Circle. Despite being a modern shed, there is one feature of note, it has a 1930s door that matches the type found on the cabins. The second shed is located just south of the Girls' Bathhouse. It is also of recent construction.

Date: c. 2000

DHR Number 006-5009-

NON-CONTRIBUTING (2–buildings)

### **Endnotes-Section 7**

<sup>1</sup> Times-Virgnian, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1935.

<sup>2</sup> Appomattox Community Development Plan, A Guidebook for Elected Officials, Government Staff, Civic Groups, and Concerned Citizens of Appomattox County and the Towns of Appomattox and Pamplin, 2003, p. III-2.

<sup>3</sup> Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, DHR File Number 006-5009, file photographs for Preliminary Information Form.

<sup>4</sup> Virginia Tech Imagebase, <http://imagebase.lib.vt.edu/index.php>. Search for "Holiday Lake" yields 70 images of the Camp that span nearly 20 years.

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, for New Deal agency and 4-H Club activities, and under Criterion C, for its Depression Era and 4-H period rustic camp architecture. The Camp is eligible at state level of significance because it relates to a multi-county Resettlement Administration project, Surrender Grounds Forest, and the 4-H Club with campers who were (and still are) drawn from a large region of Virginia, during the complete period of significance.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center was built as part of a New Deal reforestation demonstration project, which was initiated in 1935. Embedded in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, and adjacent to Holliday Lake, the 1937 buildings in the Camp housed Works Progress Administration workers (WPA) who built the adjacent Holliday Lake State Park, and also took part in reforestation of the surrounding, then depleted, farmland. At the completion of the federal project, the Camp was turned over to the state of Virginia for use as a park and state forest. Local interest resulted in the 4-H Club taking over the Camp in 1941.

The Camp is significant under Criterion A because it conveys the history of two progressive American movements in Virginia, the encouragement of good land management in the 1930s by the New Deal programs, and the history of 4-H organization in Virginia with Agricultural Extension training offered by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (from 1941 to 1960). The history is manifested by the survival of the camp, in its buildings, sites, and manmade landscape.

The Camp is also significant under Criterion C, because the plan and manmade landscape of the camp are notable. At the time that the camp was transferred from federal to state hands, twenty-four buildings were on the site. Most of these buildings survive to convey the WPA history. Buildings added since 1941 (and before 1960); convey the history of the 4-H use of the Camp. Built in a design that was more sophisticated than the many military-like Civilian Conservation Corps barracks-style camps, Holiday Lake 4-H Camp is a rare example of a largely complete WPA worker camp. The 4-H buildings added later enhance the rustic nature of the early complex, and were built to meet the camping and educational needs of 4-H Club programs.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

**Camp Origins and Construction in New Deal Era**

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center was built as part of a large New Deal-era federal government demonstration project that had reforestation and recreation goals. Built in the latter part of 1937 and the early part of 1938, by the Resettlement Administration as one of the temporary relief measures instigated to afford employment, the project included construction of a lake and was co-sponsored by the Navy, which planned to

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use the lake as an inland emergency landing base. The original plan to construct a dam 55 feet high had to be abandoned when a private cemetery was discovered and the owners/relatives could not be located so that permission to move the bodies could be obtained. The dam was completed at 48 feet (the depth of the water at the dam is 35 feet) and the lake was smaller than originally planned and was not made into the Navy emergency landing base. The conversion from a landscape of old farms to forest, park and camp was accomplished between 1935 and 1942. In the early 1940s, the Federal Government gave the State a 99-year lease on the entire forest area of between 25,000 and 28,000 acres - about half in Appomattox County and half in Buckingham County.

### **Resettlement Administration Virginia Projects**

There are several significant Resettlement Administration projects that occurred in Virginia during the 1930s, including the Surrender Ground Forest. In July 1933, Section 208 of the National Industrial Recovery Act created the Subsistence Homestead Division, which was placed in the Department of the Interior. The subsistence homesteads undertaking was considered one of the most innovative and utopian resettlement programs of the New Deal era. The division resettled families that had little hope of escaping poverty into new communities. The resettlement program was, however, one of the most controversial of the New Deal, and was often labeled communistic by its critics. After June 1935, the programs and projects of the division were transferred to the newly created Resettlement Administration (RA), and in 1937, the Farm Security Administration (FSA), the successor to the RA, assumed its functions. About a hundred subsistence homesteads were constructed nationwide, with two of them located in Virginia. Shenandoah Homesteads was built to house the mountain families who lost their land to Shenandoah National Park.<sup>1</sup> Aberdeen Gardens, a community built for African-American workers in the city of Hampton, who were primarily employed at the nearby shipyards, was designed by notable African American architect Hilyard Robinson. Built by many of those who would become residents in the community, the scheme included super blocks that allowed room for small farm plots and chickens. For a short period, the community had a green belt farm nearby.<sup>2</sup>

The Surrender Ground Forest Project, managed by the RA and FSA did not result in the construction of a new community within the project area, but it did involve employing the labor of many residents who were in the project area and Appomattox and Buckingham County region. On October 17, 1935, a "Demonstration Forest Project" was announced in Appomattox's *Times-Virginian*. James M. Gray, the Director of the RA Land Utilization announced that \$229,000 had been approved for acquiring land in Appomattox and Buckingham Counties. The land had been offered for sale voluntarily. The project area had been identified as a "problem area" in Virginia's Central Piedmont. The area had been farmed and lumbered to the point where farmers were abandoning land with depleted soils and areas of high erosion. The RA proposed to buy the land and redevelop it with new roads, campgrounds, fish propagation facilities, game sanctuaries, feed and cover crops, artificial lakes and a fire protection system. It was reported that 125 of the 150 families living in the project area were to be resettled on more fertile farms in the neighboring region.<sup>3</sup>

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The Surrender Grounds project was also associated with the development of the National Historic Park at the Appomattox Surrender Grounds, the area that was adjacent to the Town of Appomattox, about ten miles away from the Appomattox-Buckingham Demonstration Project. The park centered on the historic Appomattox Court House and the site of Robert E. Lee's surrender in 1865. Established by law on August 3, 1935, efforts were being made in October to purchase land from owners in the historic area. Eventually two Civilian Conservation Corps Companies (CCC) worked in Appomattox, Company 1351, comprised of African American World War I veterans, and Company 2391.<sup>4</sup> Company 1351 had worked in Vermont in 1933, and at Colonial Parkway in James City County in 1934.<sup>5</sup> Company 2391 worked in Appomattox in 1935 and by 1940, they had moved on to Lexington.<sup>5</sup> The CCC worked at Appomattox Court House developing the National Historic Park in 1941 and they built Camp Lee-Grant near the project site.<sup>6</sup> Given the proximity of the National Historic Park and Surrender Ground Forest projects, the CCC may have assisted with some of the RA forestry work and construction of the Camp to house WPA workers.

The Surrender Ground Forest project was well under way by 1936, but all indications were that most of the RA workers were not living at the project site. The local newspaper reported, "All available relief workers within commuting distance of the project are being transported by government trucks to work in the morning and returned to their home at night."<sup>7</sup> The RA Camp was built in 1937 and construction of the lake and park was finished by 1939, when Holliday Lake opened to the public. By 1940, the public was using Holliday Lake, though in June of that year, the bathhouse still needed electric lighting and was closed to the public.<sup>8</sup>

Still owned by the Federal government's Department of Agriculture in 1941, but operated by the State Conservation Commission, the WPA camp was not in use. CCC camps were usually demolished or buildings were sometimes converted for reuse, and occasionally buildings were moved for reuse. The Appomattox Lions Club approached the State Conservation Commission in February 1941 to ask for improved roads at Holiday Lake, the completion of cottages and dining hall, and completion of REA (Rural Electrification Administration) work in the area. As reported, there is indication that the camp needed completion, but this may have just meant that repair or conversion work was in progress to remodel the buildings for their new use. By this point, the "24 cottages" had been inspected for 4-H Camp use for summer of 1941. Gordon Elean of the State 4-H Club had visited the site with Randolph Odell of the State Conservation Commission.<sup>9</sup> The Camp was wired in the spring and on June 23, the first 4-H Camp took place.

The federal government transferred ownership of the Appomattox-Buckingham Forest and Holliday Lake Park to the state completely by 1954. The 4-H Club currently leases the Camp from the State Department of Forestry.

### **Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps Architecture**

The Holiday Lake camp is a rare surviving example of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) camp in Virginia and most likely a rare example in the eastern United States.<sup>10</sup> While Virginia has numerous examples of

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WPA and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) craftsmanship and project work, the residential camp complexes and related facilities that were used by the workers rarely survive. Built as temporary facilities, most camps were disassembled by the 1950s. In some rare cases individual buildings were moved or spared from demolition, but complexes were not retained for the most part. While there has not been a thorough state survey to locate all surviving camps<sup>11</sup>, there are two that have been identified as mostly intact: Holiday Lake WPA camp and the former CCC camp that is now called the Natural Bridge Juvenile Correction Center in Rockbridge County.

Both surviving camps have design and plan similarities. Membership and organization of WPA and CCC differed. The WPA workers were drawn from the local region, some commuting to the project site, and the average worker age was close to middle age. In some cases the WPA program employed women, but not for the construction or forestry projects. The CCC, on the other hand, employed men between the ages of 18-25 who often lived long distances from the project sites, very often from across the state or from another state. The CCC men were organized into companies, in military style organization, and were led by reserve officers.

Each of these “Rigid Construction Camps” (as opposed to tent camps) generally consisted of residence areas, cabins or barracks, a kitchen/mess hall (that doubled as a meeting hall in many instances), showers/washroom building, an infirmary building, administrative building, shop building(s), garage building(s) and some camps included a recreation building. Since the CCC camps were run by military officers, they had officers quarters.<sup>12</sup> It is not clear whether there were separate accommodations for the superintendents/managers of the WPA camps. The CCC core of the Natural Bridge camp features large military barracks-form buildings, rectangular in plan with gable roofs. The buildings tightly surround a parade ground. The Holiday Lake camp is more free form and features individual cabins (sleeping eight per cabin—relatively small) and one larger barracks building. The Holiday Lake WPA Mess Hall (now the Lawson Dining Center) faces an open area that resembles a parade ground (most likely used for recreation, but the cabins are set back in the woods, atop two parallel ridges. In both cases, at Natural Bridge and Holiday Lake, some buildings have been upgraded from less substantial “temporary” to weatherized permanent buildings.

As built, the buildings that were used for CCC and WPA camps were designed for short-term use. The first stages of these organized camps usually had tent housing until buildings could be finished. Most CCC camps were designed to house workers in long gable-roofed frame barracks-form buildings. Many were clad in tarpaper that was attached with vertical wooden strips (battens). The plans for CCC camps/buildings were based on Army prototypes.<sup>13</sup> The Natural Bridge Station buildings most likely had this type of exterior cladding. Holiday Lake had more substantial siding from the start. At both sites, window openings were most likely screened, but there were no sash, just shutter-style solid board covers. The cabins at Holiday Lake are essentially in 1930s conditions (with some maintenance updates). Early images of Holiday Lake 4-H Camp show the Mess Hall on an open pier foundation. Today, the Lawson Center is a year-round facility. New exterior siding has replaced the original, and the interior is finished with modern sheet rock over insulation. In the early 4-H years, camping was seasonal and not conducted in the winter. The cabins originally had wood stoves for the WPA use during cold weather. The stoves were removed during the 4-H period. Early images of the Mess Hall/Lawson

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Center building show screened windows and no interior wall finishes, just rafters and studs.<sup>14</sup> The rare survival of both of these complexes has occurred because of continuity of use. At Natural Bridge, the camp became a Federal correctional facility, later passing into state ownership. The transition from WPA use to 4-H camp may have just occurred within a few months since 4-H camping appears to have started in 1940.

**Endnotes – Pre-1941/4-H Camp Period**

1. Ronald L. Heinemann, Depression and New Deal in Virginia: the enduring dominion, p. 123.
2. Aberdeen Gardens National Register of Historic Places nomination, VDHR File Number 143-0146, John S. Salmon and Marc C. Wagner. December 22, 1993.
3. "Demonstration Forest Project Started Here" Times-Virginian, October 17, 1935.
4. CCC Legacy website: Virginia Camps- [http://www.ccclegacy.org/camps\\_virginia.htm](http://www.ccclegacy.org/camps_virginia.htm)
5. "When the Veterans Came to Vermont: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Winooski River Flood Control Project", Thomas W. Patton, Vermont Historical Society Journal, p.166.  
[http://www.vermonthistory.org/journal/73/06\\_Patton.pdf](http://www.vermonthistory.org/journal/73/06_Patton.pdf)
6. "Progress of Program is Reviewed," Times-Virginian, January 9, 1936.
7. "Progress of Program is Reviewed," Times-Virginian, January 9, 1936.
8. "Holiday Lake Drawing Large Crowds So Far" Times-Virginian, June 20, 1940.
9. "Lions ask for Holiday Lake Development" Times-Virginian, February 20, 1941.
10. An email poll was conducted by Marc Wagner with all State Historic Preservation Offices in July 2010 and no complete examples of surviving camps were identified. At best there are some fragments of camps and buildings that do survive, but no complete camps. Further research may reveal other examples. This was not an exhaustive and complete study on the matter.
11. The Civilian Conservation Corps website CCC Legacy has identified 178 CCC camps that were related to projects throughout the state. Whether all of these had substantial buildings and structures is not known. Some of the camps may have been to support short term projects and tents may have housed the men during the project duration. There is no readily available list of WPA camps. A systematic survey of all 178 camps has never been conducted. This link lists the 178 Virginia camps:  
[http://www.ccclegacy.org/camps\\_virginia.htm](http://www.ccclegacy.org/camps_virginia.htm)
12. A detailed description of CCC camps can be found in the internet book: "The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps": 1933-42/ Chapter 12- Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Features and Land Use Improvements  
[http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/ccc/ccc/chap12.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/ccc/ccc/chap12.htm)
13. Website: "The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933-42/ Chapter 13-George Washington National Forest." This was according to James R. Wilkins CCC Camp Superintendent in western Virginia.  
[http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/ccc/ccc/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/ccc/ccc/index.htm)
14. The Virginia Tech Imagebase website has 70 images that show the camp in the 1940s and 1950s. The Mess Hall/Lawson Center appeared to be unchanged from the 1930s in a set of photographs that date to 1950 and 1954:  
[http://imagebase.lib.vt.edu/browse.php?folio\\_ID=/vaes/boxtw/holi](http://imagebase.lib.vt.edu/browse.php?folio_ID=/vaes/boxtw/holi)



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*The following historical narrative was written by Dr. Robert R. Meadows, Associate Director, 4-H Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The section used for establishing significance and reporting history in this nomination was excerpted from Dr. Meadows doctoral dissertation: A History of Virginia's 4-H Camping Program: A Case Study on Events Leading to the Development of the 4-H Educational Centers. Dr. Meadows has graciously given permission for the use of this research and dissertation in support of listing the Camp Holiday 4-H Educational Center.*

#### **Holiday Lake 4-H Camp and Educational Center History**

Although Holiday Lake 4-H Camp was established as the second camp in the state in 1941, it is the oldest 4-H camp located on its original site. Prior to its establishment, 4-H'ers in this region were involved in 4-H camp-type programs at Hampden-Sydney College near Farmville, from 1926-1940, and other nearby facilities. An early example of one of these camps was the Goochland County 4-H Camp that was conducted June 15-19, 1925 at the Sabot Hill Farm in that county. "Classes in foods and room improvement work were taught..."<sup>22</sup> As part of the Resettlement Administration of the United States government's plan to relocate owners from low production farms to more productive land, forest land was purchased from 1934 to 1939 in what is now known as the Buckingham-Appomattox State Forest. Farming in this area had been marginal because of unproductive soil types and many farms had delinquent tax levies. This forest contains 19,210 acres with 10,428 located in Appomattox County, and 8,782 in Buckingham. "In order to provide employment, the Resettlement Administration determined that the construction of a dam would serve as a temporary work relief measure and also provide a recreational area for this area of the state. The Navy Department co-sponsored the planning of the lake which was to serve as an emergency inland landing base." The construction of the lake began in late 1937 and was completed in early 1938. Located in both Appomattox and Buckingham counties, the lake is 150 acres and is fed by three streams of water with the main one being Holliday Creek, named for a family of that name. The dam built to form the lake has a normal depth of water of about 35 feet.

On December 28, 1940, a meeting took place in Appomattox for the purpose of leasing a campsite for 4-H youth in that area. Representatives from Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, and Campbell counties were present as were those from the State 4-H Club Department of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Mr. William Skelton was serving as Appomattox County 4-H club agent during this time. As a result of this meeting, a lease on land and buildings in good condition from the previously used WPA Camp, which had been built during the Depression years by the work relief program, was secured for the purpose of building a district 4-H camp. The property was located on land joining the newly built Holliday Lake. During the spring of that year, "E. T. Swink, an Agricultural Engineer and W. E. Skelton, Extension Agent and Agricultural Engineer were assisted by 4-H boys from Appomattox, Campbell, Buckingham and Prince Edward Counties in wiring the camp." The original lease was for 19 1/2 acres of land and included 16 cabins, a dining hall, kitchen, and two bathhouses.

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Opening officially for 4-H camps in 1941, the first group of 4-H'ers participated in camp the week of June 23, 1941 and included campers from Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte, and Prince Edward counties. During that summer, a total of four camp weeks were provided for the counties and cities of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Campbell, Franklin, Fluvanna, Goochland, Halifax, Henry, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Nelson, and Patrick. In 1963, the camp was increased to 62 acres. In 1974, the lease was made for twenty-five years with the option of renewal for an additional twenty-five years. The decision was made in 1976 by the 4-H camp board to convert the camp into a winterized, year-round 4-H educational center, thus becoming the fourth 4-H educational center to be established in the state. In 1980, the state legislature authorized the State Commission of Conservation and Economic Development to lease 157.8 acres of land for 99 years.

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center serves the counties and cities of Albemarle/Charlottesville, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Lunenburg, Lynchburg, Mecklenburg, Nelson, Nottoway, and Prince Edward. The center operates under the supervision of a director and is managed by a board of directors. Currently, the center has 159 acres of land and is valued at \$1.5 million. The site has facilities that can accommodate approximately 260 campers per week.

Today, while day as well as overnight programs are offered at the center, the major program is the summer camp program that annually provides educational service in the outdoor setting to over 2,000 youth from 17 counties and the cities of Lynchburg and Charlottesville. Forestry Camp, conducted by the Virginia Department of Forestry, a Shooting Education Camp and a Family Camp are also a part of the summer camping program. Other major programs include a Natural Education Program for youth during the spring and fall. This program offers training for educators, schools and other youth in the areas of forestry, wildlife, lake and stream ecology, orienteering, astronomy, herpetology, entomology, natural resources, soil studies, water quality and weather investigation. The 4-H Center also serves as the host for the Virginia Tech Forestry School Spring Camp during the month of April each year, offering the students an opportunity to practice forest management techniques in the working forest. Currently over 10,500 participants pass through the various programs each year.

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BOUNDARY MAP



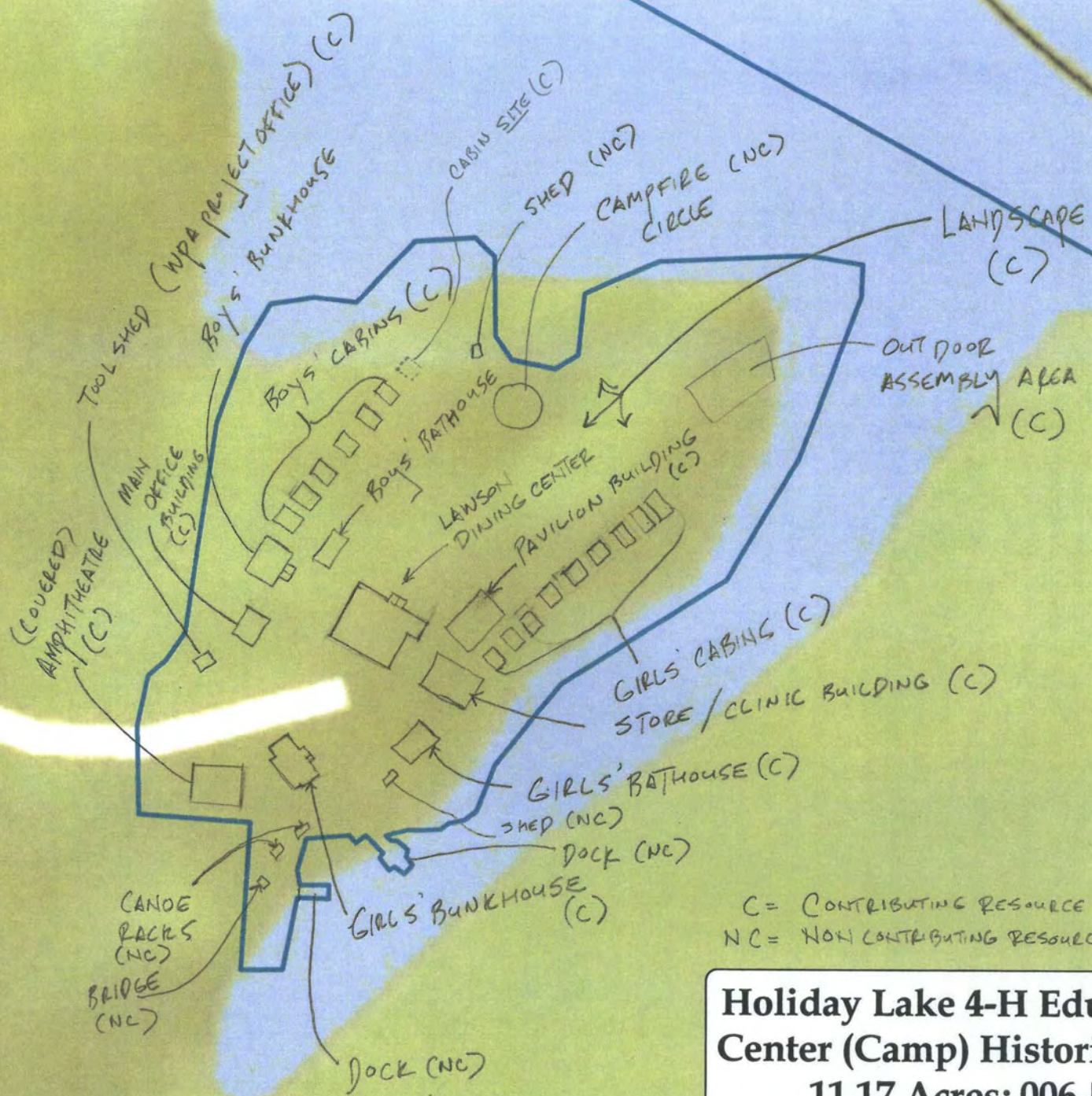
**Holiday Lake 4-H Educational  
Center (Camp) Historic District  
11.17 Acres; 006-5009**

1 inch = 200 feet

Created By: D. Bascone January 21, 2011  
Sources: VDHR 2011, ESRI 2010



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C = CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE  
 NC = NON CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

**Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center (Camp) Historic District**  
**11.17 Acres; 006-5009**

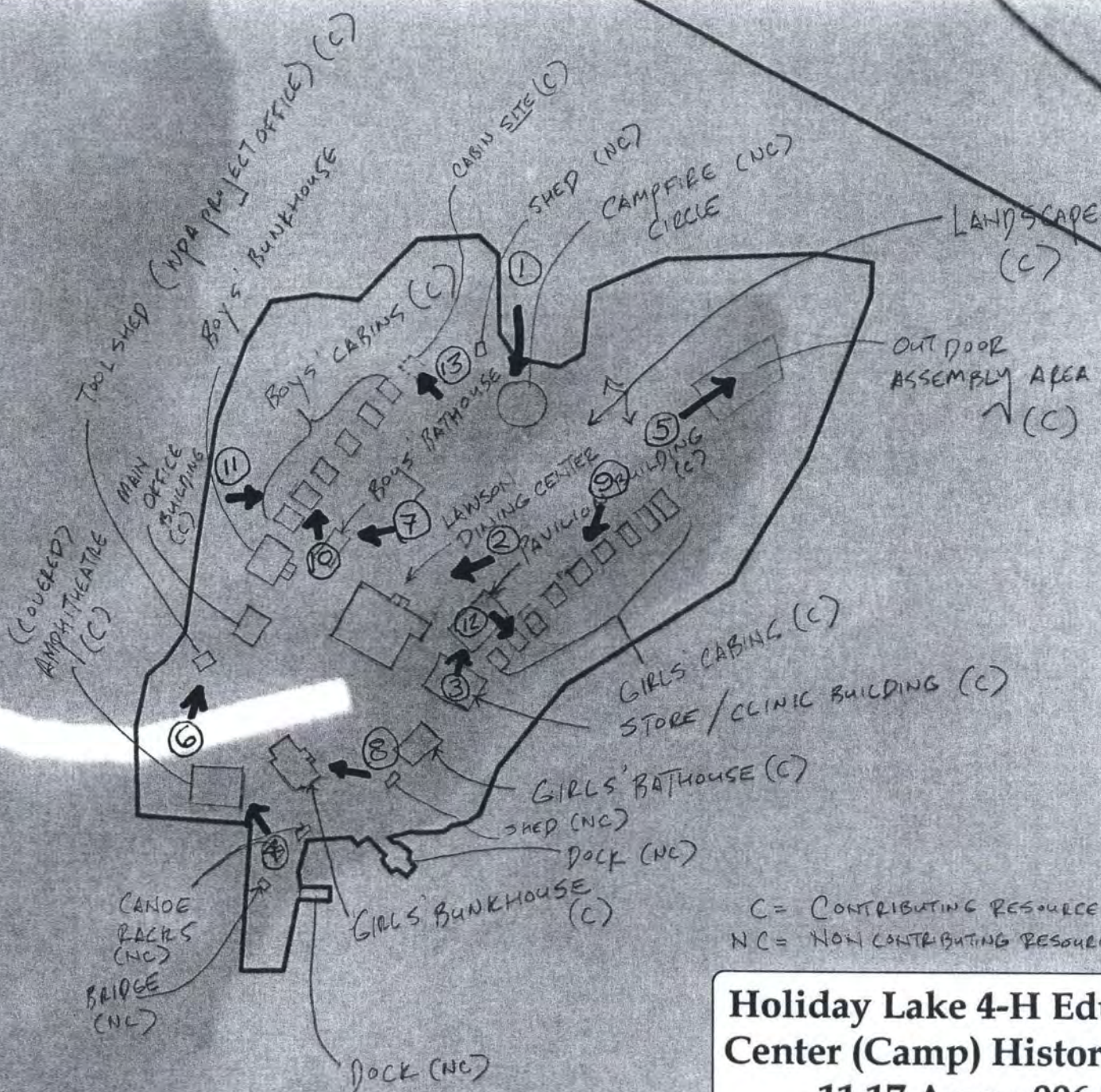
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PHOTO KEY



C = CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE  
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PHOTOGRAPH  
 KEY

**Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center (Camp) Historic District**  
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NOTE ABOUT QUADRANGE ACCURACY - VGIN 2092 AERIAL SHOWS MORE LAND SO ACTUAL BOUNDARY ON THIS MAP APPEARS TO INCLUDE LAKE AREA. THE BOUNDARY FOLLOWS 25' LAND EDGE IN REALITY.

UTM POINTS  
 ZONE 17 South  
 E N  
 ① 708845-4140797  
 ② 709151-4140751  
 ③ 708979-4140410  
 ④ 708773-4140415

HOLIDAY LAKE  
 4-H EDUCATIONAL CENTER  
 APPOMATTOX COUNTY  
 VIRGINIA  
 VDHR FILE #  
 006-5009



HOLIDAY LAKE, VA.

4139000m.N.  
 37°22'30"  
 78°37'30"  
 710000m.E.  
 (PROSPECT)  
 5258 / SE