

# **CAMP MICHAUX SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR**

**– Revised –**



**Bunker Hill Farm**

**Pine Grove Furnace CCC Camp**

**Pine Grove Furnace POW Interrogation Camp**

**Church Camp Michaux**

**David L. Smith, Director**

**Camp Michaux Recognition and Development Project  
Cumberland County Historical Society**

**2019**

*This booklet is dedicated to the following:*

The farmers and their families who lived at and worked Bunker Hill Farm from 1787-1924,

the staff and young men who built Pine Grove Furnace CCC Camp S-51-PA, and lived and worked in the South Mountain region, 1933-1942,

the staff and interrogators of the Pine Grove Furnace POW Interrogation Camp, 1943-1945,

the staff and campers from the United Church of Christ and the United Presbyterian Churches at Camp Michaux, 1947-1972,

AND

all of the volunteers who made improvements to the accessibility of the site during April of 2011 including: John Bland, Andre Weltman, Vince Montano, David Smith, Rich Beistline, Mike Emanuel, Ron Kutz, Gary Cribbs, Begee Staub, Diane Batt, Mary Beth Zeigler, Bob Shenk, Diane Shenk, Ann Smith, Dan Sheaffer, Pat Leinbach, Carl Leinbach, Jay Sexton, Jerry Cutshall, Tony Bushey, Wayne Bushey, Roger Bushey, Brandan Bushey, Art Herrold and Pastor Kim Blocker and the Zion UCC Church, Arendtsville, PA.

This is the second revision of the self-guided tour book. The first was completed in 2014 and included updated information about the camp not available when the original book was published in 2011. That revision included additional photos and a newly located map from 1946. Two additional optional trails were cleared in 2012 and 2014 and were included in that revision. The 2019 revision includes additional information, particularly information about changes to the landscape that were completed in 2017 by an effort entitled Tom's Run Restoration Project to restore the natural flow of Tom's Run around the lower dam. That effort was made possible by a grant from the Nature Conservancy. Another project initiated in 2018 entitled Bunker Hill Habitat Restoration Project was funded in part by a grant from the National Wild Turkey Federation.

# CAUTION

## **Persons planning to visit Camp Michaux should be aware of the following:**

1. Although newly cleared trails and sites make the camp more accessible, the trails are rough with rocks, holes, small stumps, and protruding roots along its length. There are also sections that in rainy weather can be very wet. Sturdy shoes should be worn and care should be taken when walking along the trails.
2. In warm weather, there are both copperhead snakes and rattlesnakes in the area. Use care.
3. Be aware that poison ivy is prevalent in the area, particularly if you wander off the trail.
4. Ticks are a constant threat in warmer weather and appropriate clothing should be worn and visitors should carefully check themselves for tick bites following a visit to the site.

# Camp Michaux

## Self-guided Walking Tour

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Nestled in the ridges of South Mountain, two miles northwest of Pine Grove Furnace State Park along Michaux Road, lies the site of Camp Michaux. This church camp, formerly shared by the United Presbyterian Church and The United Church of Christ, has an unusual history that is linked to the iron industry in the late 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries when the area was a working farm known as Bunker Hill Farm. The history continues with a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp (CCC) during the Great Depression and a secret Prisoner of War Interrogation Camp during World War II before the advent of the church camp. More details on the history can be found at the end of this booklet.

### Directions

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From I-81 take exit 37, Newville, Rt. 233, Centerville Rd. Turn south on Rt. 233 and proceed 7 miles to Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Centerville Rd. ends at Pine Grove Rd. Turn right onto Pine Grove Rd. and follow 1.4 miles west to Michaux Rd. Turn right onto Michaux Rd. and proceed 1.4 miles north to Bunker Hill Rd. Turn right onto Bunker Hill Rd. and park in the parking area on the left. An additional parking area is also available along Michaux Rd. Locate the first marker at the right side of the Bunker Hill Road parking area and begin the tour.

**NOTE:** The building numbers in parentheses referenced in the text refer to the numbers in column one on the building use chart found on pages 28 and 29. The same numbers, handwritten in black, were used on the U.S. War Department map found on page 26 and 27. This map will help with orientation as you proceed with your self-guided tour. The numbers in the white boxes match the Marker Posts located along this self-guided walking tour. The map on page 30 shows the camp in 1946. The contour map on the rear cover shows the overall area.



## Marker One

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Marker One is located in the parking area along Bunker Hill Road, just east of Michaux Road. It is in the middle of the former Bunker Hill Farm (between 29 and 30 on the camp map). The marker is adjacent to a new wayside panel that was erected in 2019 as part of grant funding provided by the Nature Conservancy. When the CCC camp was established in 1933, this area was the site of several garages (31, 32), a gas station (29) and other structures used by the CCC to conduct the conservation work that was the purpose of the camp. During WWII, immediately to the north of this marker was the location of POW Compound Two (40) where officers were intended to be housed while at the camp. Visible beyond the site of the Compound Two barracks are the ruins of the collapsed barn wall which is one of two surviving features of Bunker Hill Farm. Proceed east (to the right) along Bunker Hill Road for 80 paces to a trail that leads off to the left. Locate Marker Two near the beginning of this trail.

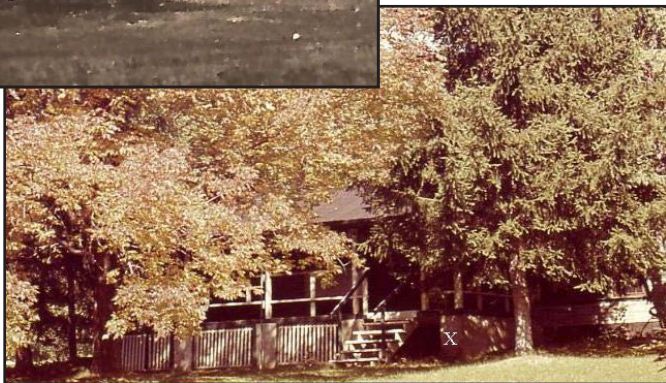




## Marker Two

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For many years this short segment of the trail was part of the farm



road that led to Bunker Hill Farm. It was also part of the Appalachian Trail (AT) for many years before the trail was moved north of Camp Michaux. From Pine Grove Furnace State Park the AT follows the old road that led to the farm before the CCC constructed Michaux Road. It then followed Bunker Hill Road to this trail until it intersected with Michaux Road. The AT then followed Michaux Road for several hundred yards before it turned off the road to the left. In 2010, the AT was officially moved off of both Bunker Hill Road and Michaux Road. It now crosses the area north of where the former farm and camp were located. At Marker Two turn right onto the trail that leads to the ruins of the old farmhouse (34). In the spring you will notice daffodils and forsythia blooming in the area around the farmhouse. The building was used by the CCC, the POW camp, and the church camp for housing staff. The foundations of the porch were improved during the POW era. An inscription, Erich John Berlin can be seen in the top right of the porch foundation. Recent reviews of POW transportation records reveal that he was Erich John from Berlin. The photo above shows the farmhouse around 1913 when it was much larger than this photo from around 1960 when only the one story section of the building remained.

Proceed directly north from the farmhouse for 125 paces to Marker Three. Ignore the arrow post on the left about half-way up the hill.





## Marker Three

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This is the site of Vesper Hill, the area used by the church camp for outdoor worship. You may see a few surviving bench supports and the remains of one bench seat is visible to the left. From here, retrace your path about halfway back towards the farmhouse to the Arrow Post pointing to the right, then proceed 90 paces southwest toward a group of spruce trees east of the barn wall and locate Marker Four.

## Marker Four

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Just to the east of the barn site, you will see the base of one of two guard towers (T6) that guarded Compound Two. Fencing around the compound ran directly adjacent to the ruins of the barn. A CCC garage (35) was located just behind the barn wall and was used by the POW camp to house horses that were kept there for security purposes in case of an



The panel was provided by a grand from the South Mountain Partnership.

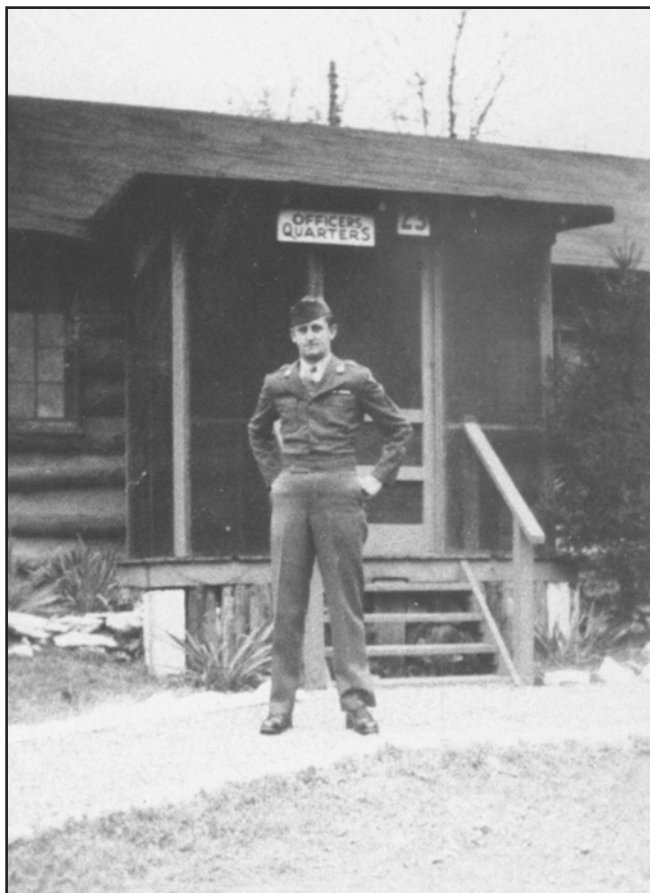




escape. The horses were never needed for this purpose but did provide recreation for guards and camp staff. The earliest history of the farm dates to 1787. The barn was built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century or the very early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The farm was acquired by the iron industry in 1794. Produce from the farm was used to support the needs of workers, their families, and animals at the iron industrial complex. After the iron industry lands were sold to the state in 1913, the farm continued to be leased until at least the mid-1920s, when it closed. It is not known when the barn burned. The barn wall as shown in the photo below collapsed in 2016. A wayside panel here tells more of the history of the farm with photos of the barn in 1913. Proceed west along the split rail fence\*, then follow the gravel path on the left to the parking area and then right to the base of the second guard tower (T5) for Compound Two. Two of the four base structures of this guard tower are visible. The other two are buried in Michaux Road. Cross the road and locate Marker Five.

\*The area around the barn wall is fenced off to protect the public. The barn wall is unstable and poisonous snakes are known to live in voids in the wall.





## Marker Five

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Cross Michaux Road to Marker Five, on the right, you will notice a private road that was at one time part of the POW camp outer perimeter security system. To the left of the road you will find the foundations of one of two CCC log cabins (24). The two cabins provided housing for CCC officers. During World War II the Army used the cabins for similar purposes. This cabin was used for NCO housing. The church camp used the cabins for housing counselors. From here, proceed south on Michaux Road for 110 paces and locate Marker Six by the CCC historical marker.



## Marker Six

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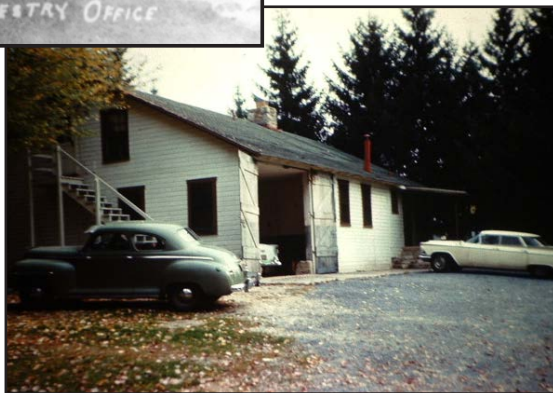
You will pass a former parking lot (note the wooden posts marking the edge of the parking area) on the right before reaching the marker. The CCC program selected this site for the first of two Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the State of Pennsylvania.\* Known as Camp S-51- PA, CCC Company 329, the camp functioned until early 1942. During the nine years of its existence, the camp was responsible for road construction, planting trees throughout the 60 square mile area of the environmentally devastated area of the former iron plantation and developing the infrastructure of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. The photo shows the camp in 1933 before the barracks buildings had been constructed. Young men, aged 18-25, enlisted in the program for six months and could renew their enlistment for up to two years. They received a salary, uniforms, three meals a day, and medical and dental care. They also learned various construction related skills. Proceed further south on Michaux Road to the camp entrance road on the right (across from Bunker Hill Road). Locate Marker Seven on the right of the entrance road. To the left of the entrance road you will see the information marker giving the history of the site. The official State Historical Marker is located at the junction of Pine Grove Road and Michaux Road.

\*Additional camps were constructed across the state including another in Cumberland County at Big Pond.



## Marker Seven

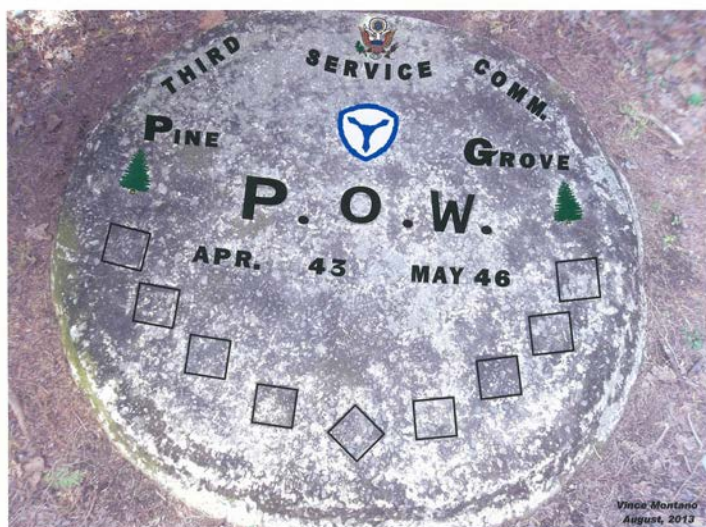
The building ruins located at the junction of Michaux Road and the main camp entrance road was constructed by the CCC program in 1933 for their Forestry Office (25). From



here, all plans for CCC work were developed and organized. In 1942, when the CCC camp was converted to a POW Interrogation Center, this building was extensively renovated to be used to conduct interrogations. In 1946, the building was converted by the church camp to be used as housing for camp leaders during the summer and a conference center during the remainder of the year. Known as Michaux Lodge, it could be used year round and gave the churches the opportunity to use the camp beyond its normal function as a summer youth camp. For at least 16 years the AT held its fall meetings here. In March of 1970, the building burned. The second photo shows the building in the church camp era. The State refused to rebuild it after the fire and this issue and other concerns about the deterioration of the original 1933 buildings, resulted in the churches deciding to abandon their lease in 1972. In 1975, the state auctioned the surviving buildings of the camp, and the site began reverting to forest. Follow the entrance road west for 40 paces to Marker Eight.



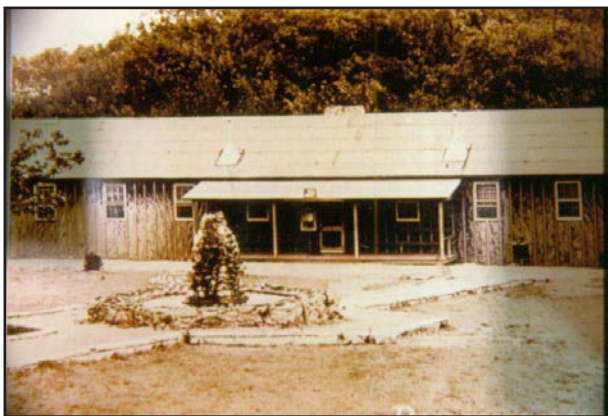
The P.O.W. Marker at Camp Michaux



## Marker Eight

On the right of the entrance road you will find a round concrete marker (between 21 and 25 on the map). Impressed into the concrete it is possible to read three letters near the center – POW. It is difficult to read other wording on the marker. Careful study seems to indicate the following: at the top, the words, Third Service Command, with the triangular insignia for the Third Service Command underneath, then the words Pine Grove Camp, the large POW letters at the middle of the marker, then April 43 – May 46.\* Above the word Service at the top of the marker, is an American eagle. At the bottom of the marker were places for unit insignia of military units stationed at the camp. The representation above shows the likely appearance of the marker (courtesy of Vince Montano). Up until 2011, this was the only commemorative marker regarding the POW camp. See the history section of this booklet for more information. Follow the entrance road west (90 paces) to Marker Nine.

\*The dates are not correct, they should be May 43 – Nov 45.



## Marker Nine

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Three features of the former camp can be observed from Marker Nine. The first is to the left and is the location of the recreation building (14). It was used for this purpose by all three camps (shown here as it looked circa 1934). It

was heavily modified by the Army when it became the staff recreation building. During church camp years, campers remember German POW paintings that hung in the building. The second feature is the CCC fountain (near T1) which lies at the end of the short avenue of spruce trees. This is one of the few features of the camp that is not in ruins. The original CCC builders of the fountain used blue slag (a waste product of the iron industry) and white quartz to decorate the fountain. The third feature of the camp which can be found near Marker Nine is the base of the southeast guard tower (T1). The four concrete bases are just north of the fountain. From the fountain, proceed to the west for 20 paces to Marker Ten.



## Marker Ten

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Notice a metal plate in concrete in the ground at Marker Ten. It was part of the locking mechanism for the gates that provided access to prison Compound One, the main POW housing facility. Just north of the first set of gates was a second set of gates. The foundation of this second set of gates has been excavated. This is the gate shown in the photograph. The Compound One area was formerly housing for CCC men and was used by the church camp to house youth. One of the barracks in this area was converted for use as a chapel. Proceed 35 paces further west to Marker Eleven

## Marker Eleven

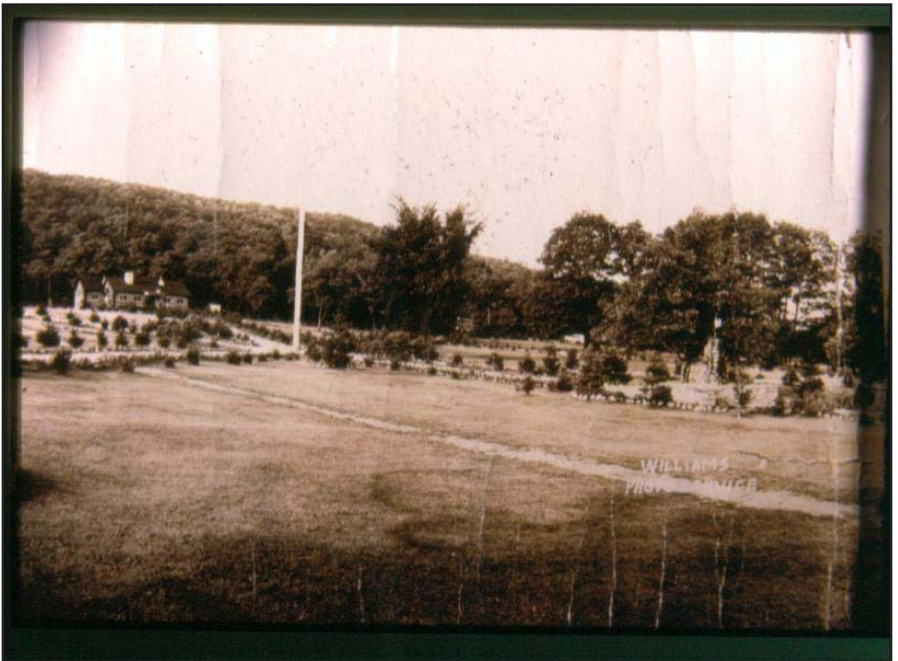
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At Marker Eleven notice the star shaped concrete structure in the ground decorated with slag and quartz. This is thought to be another remnant of the CCC era. The concrete foundation immediately north of the star was a storage building (7) built by the Army during the POW era. Proceed east 50 paces (to the right) from this point to Marker Twelve.

## Marker Twelve

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The concrete structure in the ground at Marker Twelve is the base of the CCC flagpole (north of T1 and inside the Compound One fencing). It is made in the shape of a north facing arrow. This flagpole was not used during the POW era since it was inside the POW compound. Just east of the arrow, note the long avenue of spruces that lead to the first log cabin (seen earlier at Marker Five). Part of the sewage system lies underneath this path. Follow this trail approximately 75 paces and turn right at the right arrow post and follow a second avenue of spruce trees another 50 paces to Marker Thirteen.







## Marker Thirteen

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This marker shows the location of the POW era infirmary (22). The original CCC infirmary was in the path of the Compound One fence. That building was removed and a new infirmary (shown in the photo) was constructed with a partial basement. During the church camp era, this was the home of the year-round caretaker and his family. Retrace your steps to the end of the first avenue of spruces and turn right following the rock lined path on the right with the former fence line on the left for 75 paces to Marker Fourteen. (You can see the impression of two parallel lines, six feet apart, which were the bases of the double fencing around Compound One)



## Marker Fourteen

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Two features are visible at Marker Fourteen. The first is the Northeast Guard Tower (T4) and the second is the foundation of the second CCC log cabin (23). This building housed the commander of the CCC camp and also the commander of the POW camp. The last commander of the camp, Major Laurence Thomas had a talented German POW artist assigned to him as his orderly. Heinrich Bachaus painted the picture shown here of Thomas' home and office. From here retrace your steps south for 25 paces and turn right for another 25 paces to Marker Fifteen, or you may want to explore the optional trail described on the next page.

## OPTIONAL TRAIL ONE

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The optional trail developed in 2014 may be accessed at this point.

### Marker Twenty-eight

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Locate this marker directly across the perimeter road from the rear of Building 23. This is the beginning of the optional trail. Follow the trail to Marker Twenty-nine.



### Marker Twenty-nine

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This is the site of Vesper Hill 2. Evening Vespers were held here for younger campers. The original Vesper Hill (Marker Three) was used by the older campers. Continue on the trail to Marker Thirty.

### Marker Thirty

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This is the location of the water tanks. Water was pumped from the pumping station adjacent to the original church camp swimming facility (Marker Twenty) to three holding tanks at this location. The water was then fed by gravity back into the camp kitchens, bath houses, and latrines throughout the camp. At some point, additional water tanks were added across Michaux Road, further up the side of the mountain.

Return to Marker Fourteen and continue your tour at Marker Fifteen.



## Marker Fifteen

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The ruins at Marker Fifteen are the site of an original CCC barracks (6). The War Department renovated this building to become the German POW Mess Hall. This included the construction of a kitchen ell on the south side of the building, the ruins of which are clearly visible. The church camp used the building for arts and crafts. Just south of these ruins you can locate a stone and earth embankment. Another star made from white gravel was located in front of this embankment (probably built by the US Army or by the German prisoners). Roll Call of the German

prisoners was held next to this star. The photo shows the building and the embankment during the POW era.

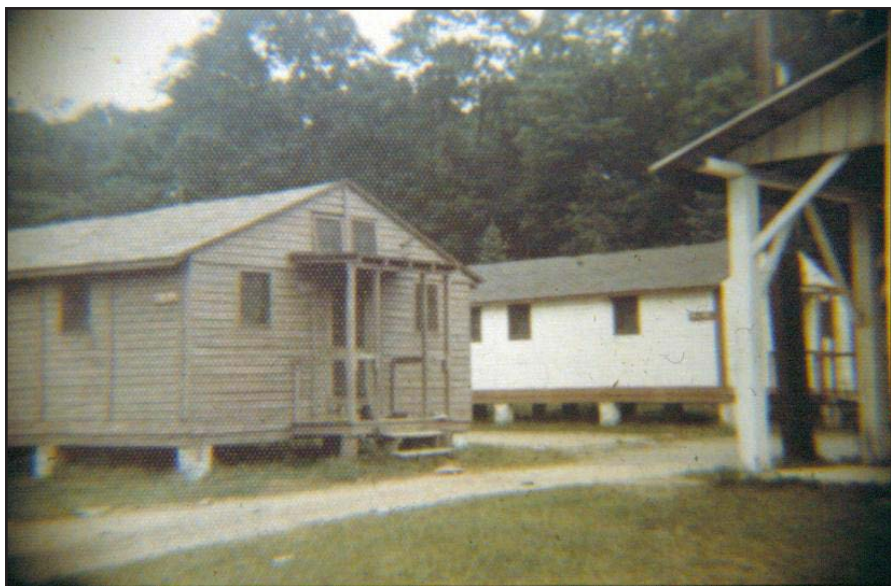
Proceed to the far end of the old POW mess hall and move west 10 paces to Marker Sixteen.

## Marker Sixteen

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The foundation here is the location of one of the CCC barracks (3) and one of the barracks used to house German prisoners in 1943 (the photo shows the row of barracks during the CCC era). No ruins of the other barracks survive. Later the church camp used this building for youth campers. There were originally four identical CCC barracks (including 4 and 5) arranged north to south in this section of the camp. One of them was removed during the conversion of the camp for POWs because it was considered too close to the compound fence. Later, when the demand for prisoner housing increased, a new barracks was rebuilt to replace the one that had been torn down and another was built north of the surviving foundation. Proceed further west for 25 paces past a black-topped recreation area and another 20 paces to Marker Seventeen.





## Marker Seventeen

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From this location several features of the camp can be seen. The ruins to the left in this area are the latrine and bath house (1 and 2) structures of the camp. Each subsequent version of the camp made improvements to these facilities. Just north (to the right) of these ruins is the base of the pavilion built by the church camp, and further north of that are the “steps to nowhere.” These steps were built by the CCC camp and were used by the church camp to pose campers for photographs. Non-native yucca plants in the area have survived since the CCC era. These plants were included in some of the German paintings of the camp.

The vacant forested area west of the latrine and bath house ruins was the location of five additional barracks built to house the increased demand for German prisoners. In 1945 Compound One was divided in half and the newer western section was converted for use to house Japanese prisoners. The war came to a close and only 161 Japanese Prisoners are documented to have been housed here. There was space for 400. Two of those barracks were retained for church camp use. Very limited physical remains exist for any of these buildings. The photo from the church camp era shows the edge of the church camp pavilion and the two surviving barracks. Return to the bath house area and follow the trail south 70 paces to Marker Eighteen.





## Marker Eighteen

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This is the ruin of the church camp swimming pool. Built in the early 1950s, the spring fed pool provided an improved location for water activities when the water in the reservoir on Tom's Run was no longer considered safe. The new pool was one of several improvements made by Camp Michaux, Inc. during the church camp years. Follow the trail to the west for 50 paces and then turn left and go south for another 70 paces to a post with a right facing arrow where the path intersects with the camp entrance trail (an extension of the entrance road). Turn right and follow the trail 90 paces to Marker Nineteen (off the map). Proceed 50 paces past the marker to the dam and bridge abutments.

## Marker Nineteen

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The bridge abutments were constructed for the perimeter road during the POW era and carried the road over Tom's Run. The upper dam on Tom's Run is also seen here. The water held back by the dam was used for drinking water for the camp. Cross the wooden bridge and examine the wall that surrounds the reservoir. The following inscription can be found in the concrete – PW 22-5-45 – indicating work was done on the reservoir by German prisoners in May of 1945. Retrace your steps to the east going back to the arrow post. From here proceed 110 paces to Marker Twenty. Or you may want to follow the new trail to the right to the west end of the pond.

## OPTIONAL TRAIL TWO

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This trail, constructed in 2014, takes you to the west end of the original church camp water recreation area. Here, there were two concrete channels used to divert water from Tom's Run into the pond and the other to maintain a flow of water in Tom's Run. Today, you can clearly see the new channel constructed for Tom's Run. If you walk to the edge of the old swimming area you can see the base of the diving board and the concrete walls that surround the pond. Return to the main trail and proceed to Marker Twenty.

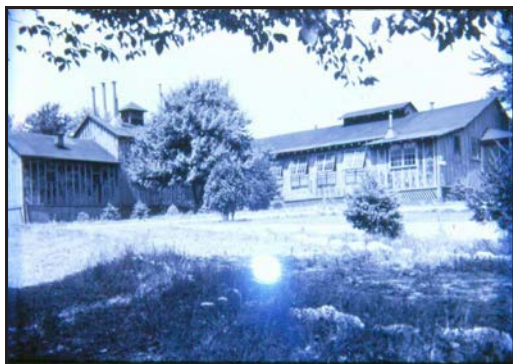
## Marker Twenty

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Turn right and proceed beyond the marker to the ruins of the Pump House (9) and the second dam on Tom's Run. This dam and reservoir were built by Camp Michaux, Inc. and used for recreation during the early years of the church camp. It is possible that an earlier smaller dam existed at this site and was used by either the CCC or the POW camp. In 2017 a new channel was constructed to restore the natural flow of Tom's Run, but many of the original concrete structures were retained. A wayside panel here tells more about the project and the history of this site. This panel is part of the funding from the Nature Conservancy that was used to restore the natural flow of Toms Run. Return to Marker Twenty and turn right 15 paces to Marker Twenty-one.







## Marker Twenty-one

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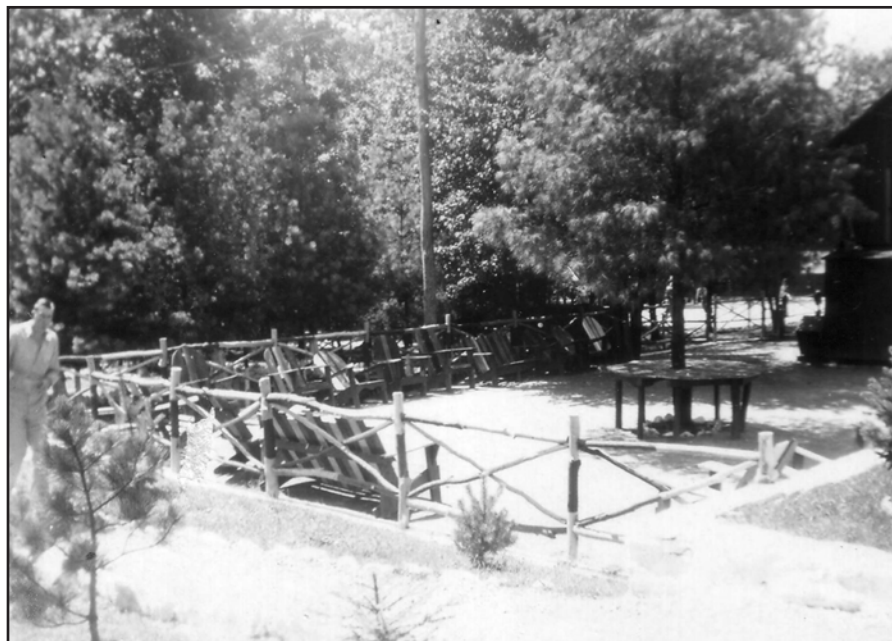
This is the location of the main mess hall (11). Originally constructed in 1933, this was the CCC mess hall. It was heavily modified by the Army in 1942 and served as the dining facility for staff and guards during the POW era. The church camp used it as the dining hall from 1947 – 1972. Immediately across from the dining hall ruins are the remains of the camp incinerator (10). A path has been cleared out to the incinerator base. Return to the main trail and proceed east to Marker Twenty-two on the left.



## Marker Twenty-two

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Turn left at Marker Twenty-two and proceed 15 paces and locate the excavated base of the POW and church camp flagpole on the left side of the entrance road trail. From here, go directly across the entrance road path to an area between the headquarters building on the right (12) and the recreation building (14) on the left and locate Marker Twenty-three.



## Marker Twenty-three

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Proceed to the area behind Marker Twenty-three. This area is the site of the outdoor recreation areas. The photo shows the patio area to the left of the recreation building during the POW era (14). There was also a pavilion and recreation area behind the headquarters building (12). Proceed east from here for 85 paces to Marker Twenty-four.

## Marker Twenty-four

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These ruins show the location of another bath house and latrine. This area was used by the guards and staff of the CCC and POW Camps. It served church campers who stayed in barracks located in this area of the camp. To the right of the marker, a short trail leads to Youtz bridge. This concrete bridge likely carried military personnel over one of the drainage channels in this area although it is not in its original location. Lewis Youtz was a guard during the POW era. From these ruins turn to the northeast for 40 paces to Marker Twenty-five.



## Marker Twenty-five

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The foundation at Marker Twenty-five was originally a CCC barracks (17) used for housing CCC staff. During the development of the CCC program it was realized that an educational component would be useful. An arrangement was worked out with Shippensburg State Teachers College to develop such a program. This barracks was converted for educational use. The educational program was responsible for publication of a newspaper entitled Bunker Hill Bunk. The POW camp used this building for housing military staff and guards. The church camp used it for housing campers. Notice the keystone doorway on the west end of the building. Go directly north to the camp entrance road and turn right, returning to Michaux Road. Turn right and follow Michaux Road to the bridge over Tom's Run at Marker Twenty-six.



## Marker Twenty-six

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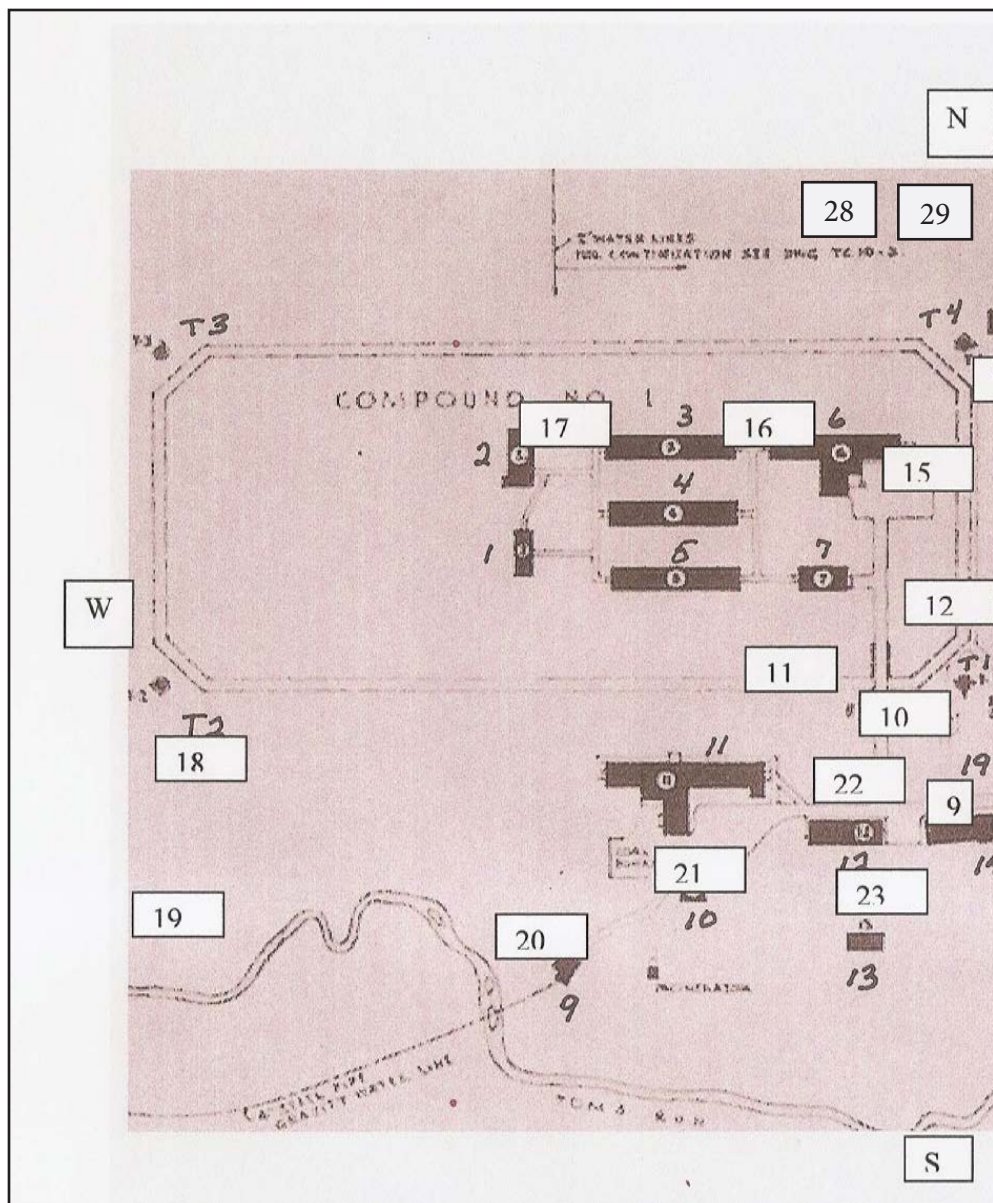
The Tom's Run Bridge was originally built by the CCC program when Michaux Road (originally known as High Mountain Road) was constructed in 1933. The bridge was improved by the military and German writing can be found on the southeast side of

the bridge. Approximately 100 yards south of the bridge was the location of the south guard gate and entrance to the POW camp. A similar gate was located on the north side of the camp. Michaux Road was not paved until the church camp era. Turn north on Michaux Road for 50 paces and turn right. Follow the trail to Marker Twenty-seven.

## Marker Twenty-seven

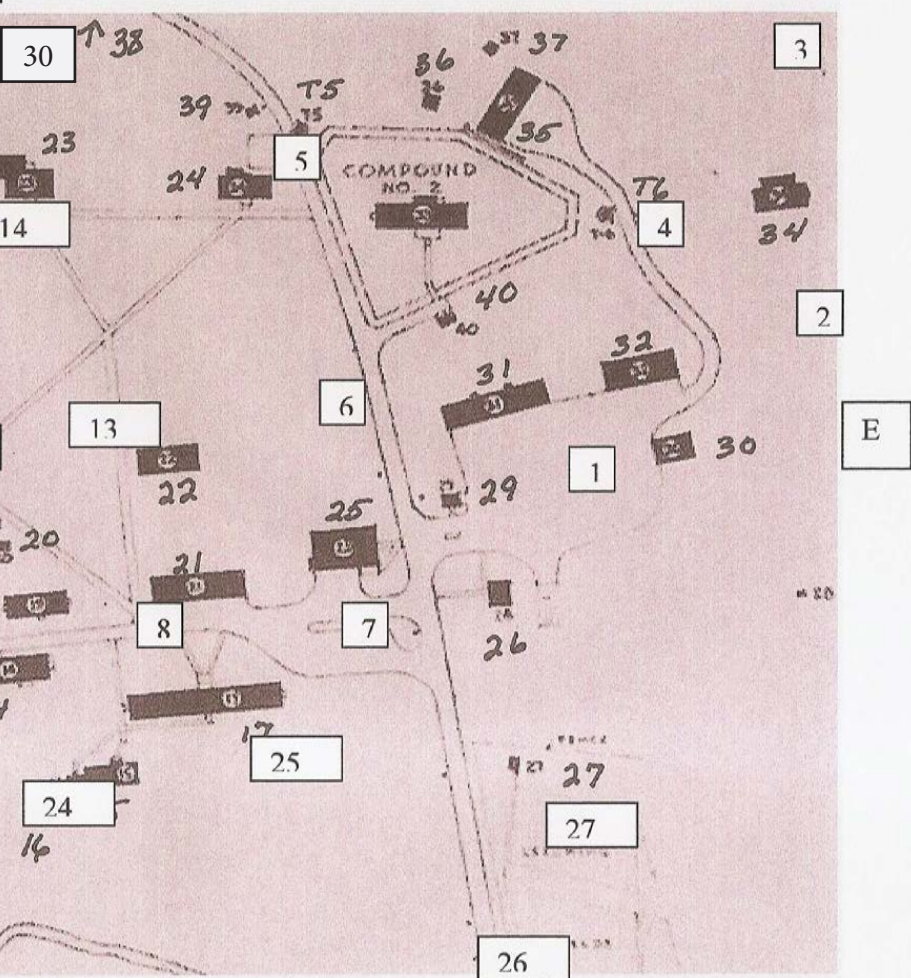
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This is the location of the sewage treatment plant (27) for the camp. The plant was originally built by the CCC program and extensively improved by the Army. From here return to Michaux Road and then to Bunker Hill Road and the parking area.



This map is from the POW era. The numbers in white boxes have been added and are the marker post numbers keyed to this walking guide. The numbers in black are the building numbers shown on the accompanying table. These numbers are the ones used by the War Department. Buildings known to exist during the CCC and Church camp era are identified in the appropriate columns. The road





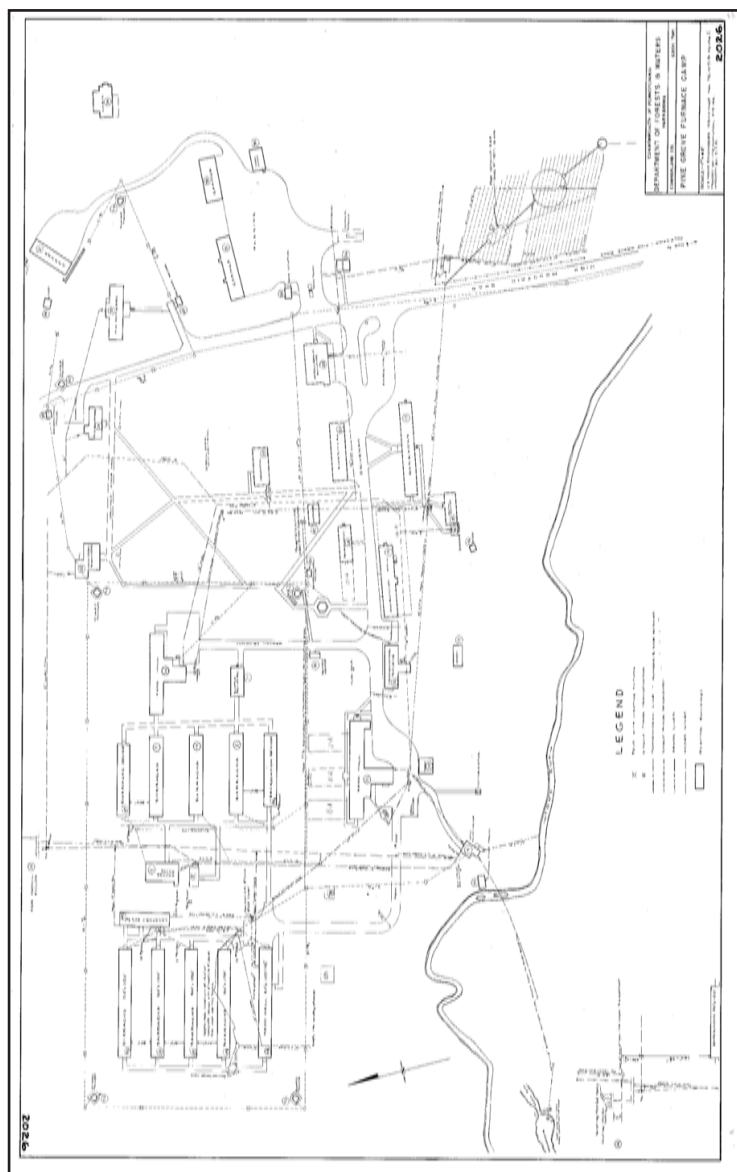
shown running north to south through the camp is now named Michaux Road. Additional buildings and structures were constructed after this map was drawn and are shown on the 1946 map on page 30. The church camp constructed the dam and reservoir (Marker 20) and the new pool on the west side of the camp and the pavilion on the north side of the camp as well as additional latrines.

## Building use during the CCC, POW and Church Camp Eras

No.	CCC	POW	Church Camp	Today
1		Shower House	Bath House	Floor
2		Latrine	Latrine	Floor
3	Barracks	POW Barracks	Crafts Building	Foundation
4	Barracks	POW Barracks	Witherspoon barracks	
5	Barracks	POW Barracks	Knox barracks	
6	Barracks	POW Mess Hall	Upper Rec Hall	Foundation
6a	Barracks	Removed, later re-placed	Chapel	
7	Supply Building	Supply Bldg.	Supply Bldg.	Foundation
8		Guard House	Secretary's Office	Foundation
9		Pump House	Pump House	Foundation
10		Shed		
11	Mess Hall	Staff Mess Hall	Mess Hall	Kitchen Ruins
12	Headquarters	Headquarters	Camp Office and nurse (bldg replaced by camp)	Foundation
13		Shed		
14	Recreation Hall	Staff Recreation Hall	Recreation Hall	Concrete Porch
15		Staff Bath House	Bath House	Foundation
16		Shed		
17	Staff Barracks, later, Education Bldg	Staff Barracks	Zwingli Barracks	Foundation
18		South Gate House		
19	Staff Barracks	Staff Barracks (removed from compound one)	Calvin Annex Barracks	Foundation
20		Generator House		
21		Garage	Calvin Barracks	Foundation
21a			POW Marker	POW Marker
22		Hospital	Caretaker's Home	Partial foundation
23	Commanding Officer's Quarters	Commanding Officer's Quarters	Honeymoon Staff Quarters	Foundation
24	Officer's Quarters	N.C.O. Quarters	Hutch Staff Quarters	Foundation
25	Forestry Office	Intelligence Bldg.	Michaux Lodge	Foundations
26	Motor Pool shed	Shed	Shop	
27		Chlorinator Bldg	Chlorinator Bldg	
27a		Sewage Treatment	Sewage Treatment	Ruins
28		Privy		
29	Motor Pool shed	Transport Office, Gas Station	Shop	
30		Tool Shed		
31	Garage	Garage	Garage	
32	Garage	Garage	Garage	
33	Staff Barracks	P.W. Officers, Compound 2	Trail Lodge	
34	Farm House	Cabin	Deer Lodge Staff Barracks	

No.	CCC	POW	Church Camp	Today
35	Barn Wall and garage	Garage (horse stable) at barn wall	Barn Wall and sheds	Barn Wall
36		Shed		
37		Shed		
38		North Gate House		
39		Generator House		
40		Guard House		
41		Barber Shop		
T1		SE Guard Tower by fountain	Foundation	Foundation
T2		Guard Tower		
T3		Guard Tower		
T4		NE Guard Tower by Commander's Quarters	Foundation	Foundation
T5		Compound 2 Guard Tower (by Michaux Rd.)	Foundation	Foundation
T6		Compound 2 Guard Tower (east of barn)	Foundation	Foundation
		New Barracks (Japanese mess hall)	Removed	
		New Barracks	Removed	
		New Barracks	Removed	
		New Barracks	Building 51	
		New Barracks	Building 52	
	Steps	Steps	Steps	Steps
			Pavilion (west of bldg 3)	Concrete base
			Pavilion (south of bldg 14)	
			Ball Court	
		Ball Court (south of bldg 14)	Ball Court	Blacktop base
			Camp Office	Foundation
	CCC Flag Pole	Flag Pole Base	Flag Pole Base	Flag Pole Base
		POW Flag Pole (east of main dining hall, bldg 11)	POW Flag Pole Base	POW Flag Pole Base
		Star and Embankment in front of Bldg 6	Embankment	Embankment
	Star	Star (in front of bldg. 7	Star	Star
		POW Compound One Entrance (west of fountain)	Concrete entrance	Concrete entrance
		Incinerator	Incinerator	Foundation
		Old Pool and dam	Old Pool and dam	Old Pool and dam
			New Pool	Ruins
	Fountain (near T1)	Fountain	Fountain	Fountain
		Upper dam (west of camp on Tom's Run)	Upper dam	Upper Dam





This map from 1945 was recently located by DCNR (Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) and shows the camp at the end of its operation as a POW camp. This is the group of buildings leased by Camp Michaux, Inc. The map shows all the buildings that had been built by that time. It also reveals that a third mess hall had been created by converting one of the newer barracks buildings. This was done to provide a mess hall for the Japanese prisoners housed there for a brief time in 1945.

# History

## Bunker Hill Farm

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The recorded history of the site begins in 1787 with the establishment of a family farm that came to be known as Bunker Hill Farm. The farm consisted of approximately 250 acres and was acquired in 1794 by the growing iron industrial complex at Pine Grove Furnace and Laurel Forge. It was one of several farms owned by the iron industry and was used to supply food for men and their families who worked for the company as well as food for animals that were part of the mining operation. The extensive farm operation led the owners of the South Mountain Mining Company to hire a farm expert in 1878 to assist with management of the farms. J.D. North was an expert planter and fruit culturist from North Carolina. Later in 1887, three of the farms including Bunker Hill Farm were leased to William F. Swigert. The iron industry failed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century but for a time a brick works at Pine Grove kept the company town alive until 1913 when the State of Pennsylvania acquired the entire iron industry estate's sixty square miles for \$29,827.00. By this time the need for charcoal to run the furnace had caused the forests on South Mountain to be removed. The area was in very poor ecological condition.

The last lease holder of the farm was John Gardner who leased it from the Commonwealth. Because of this some locals refer to the farm as the Gardner Farm. The only surviving features of the farm are remnants of the stone barn wall and the foundations of the farmhouse nearby. Gardner gave up his lease in 1919 even though a year before it was reported that 1,000 bushels of wheat had been produced there. Subsequent information indicates that he was still farming there in 1924 when overpopulation of deer threatened agriculture in the region.

## Pine Grove Furnace Civilian Conservation Corps Camp

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The land remained idle for several years. In 1933, with the Great Depression gripping the country, Franklin Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as part of his New Deal. The Corps' purpose was to provide employment and training for young men ages 18 – 25. Sites across the country were selected for this program and it was not uncommon for former iron plantations to be selected because the iron industry had not been envi-

ronmentally kind to the land that it occupied; the land was in need of reclamation. The former Bunker Hill farm was selected for the first CCC camp on state land in Pennsylvania. (Another site in western Pennsylvania was selected about the same time and was on federal land in the Allegheny National Forest.)

The first CCC men arrived to construct the camp on the old farm in May of 1933. They arrived from Fort Monroe, Virginia (116 men) and Carlisle Barracks (82 men) using the railroad that still operated between Hunter's Run and Pine Grove. The men stayed adjacent to the railroad station and set up their dining tent in front of the iron industry's furnace stack. They walked the four miles round trip each day to the farm site to begin construction of the camp. Once they had a mess hall constructed, a tent camp was set up at the farm and from that time on the CCC camp operated at the new site. By late December of 1933, the 200 men and their leaders could move into newly constructed barracks. During the course of the nine years Pine Grove Furnace Civilian Conservation Corps Camp S-51-PA was open, the men built roads (including Michaux Road, the road that leads to the camp today) installed telephone lines, reforested land throughout the region, built infrastructure in the state park, and continually made improvements to the CCC camp. By the time the camp closed there were more than 40 buildings at the site with a fully functioning water and sewage system and electricity. With the advent of World War II in late 1941, the men were now needed for national defense and the CCC program came to an end early in 1942.

## Pine Grove Furnace POW Interrogation Camp

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In 1942, the War Department was faced with the need to house prisoners of war. There was also need to learn strategic information from the prisoners regarding weaponry, and the operation of the German war machine. Similar needs would emerge regarding the Japanese as the war progressed. Interrogation sites were set

up at Ft. Hunt, Virginia and Byron Hot Springs, California in addition to over 660 internment camps across the country to house prisoners for the duration of the war. It was evident early on that Ft. Hunt could not handle the interrogation demands and a second site was selected from among three that were considered. That site was the former CCC camp at Pine Grove Furnace.

The Pine Grove Furnace CCC Camp had been converted for use as an internment camp with two prison compounds created using the existing CCC buildings, one compound for officers and one for enlisted men. Prison Compound One was the larger of the compounds and was located near the CCC Fountain. Compound Two was located by the old barn wall. Compound One had four guard towers (the bases of two of them survive today), and Compound Two had two guard towers (both bases can be seen today.) When the mission of the camp changed, extensive renovations were completed on the former Forestry Building where prisoners would be interrogated. Fencing around the entire 100+ acre site plus guarded entrance gates on High Mountain road prevented any non-military persons from gaining access to the camp. More than 7,500 German prisoners were interrogated there during the course of the war. 161 Japanese prisoners have been documented to have been held here toward the end of the war. A separate area for the Japanese was created by erecting a fence in the middle of Compound One and the newer barracks that had been constructed in the formerly unoccupied western area of the compound were utilized for them. One of those barracks was converted for use as a mess hall. The war came to an end before the camp could be fully used for Japanese interrogation.

The Pine Grove Furnace Prisoner of War Interrogation Camp operated until the November of 1945. The land reverted back to the Commonwealth at that time. The land on which it was located was part of Michaux State Forest which was named for Andre Michaux, a French naturalist sent to North America by the French government in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He was commissioned to study the plant life of the Appalachian region and gather plants for the Royal Gardens. Pennsylvania chose to recognize his contributions to the understanding of the plants of the region by naming the forest for him.

## Camp Michaux

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In 1947 representatives of the United Presbyterian Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church (later the United Church of Christ) formed an alliance and arranged with the State to lease the former POW camp. The Boy Scouts of America also submitted a proposal to use the camp. In 1948 a formal lease arrangement was worked out with Camp Michaux, Incorporated (this is the first time the name Michaux was given to the property). The organization ran summer church

camps here until 1972 in addition to other activities throughout the year. The Appalachian Trail held its annual fall meeting at the site for 16 years. The churches were responsible for maintaining the buildings and grounds. Leases ran for 10 years with a \$600.00 annual payment. The lease was renewed in 1958 and again in 1968. In early 1970 one of the few winterized buildings on the site burned due to a malfunctioning furnace. That building, called Michaux Lodge, had been the CCC Forestry Office and the POW Interrogation Building. The churches did not want to replace the building since they did not own the property. The State was not interested in replacing it either. Without the revenue that could be realized from the use of the camp year round and the rapid deterioration of many of the former CCC barracks buildings, the churches finally decided to abandon the lease in 1972. The camp closed at that time.

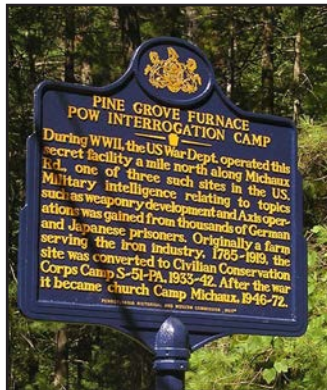
The Commonwealth was unable to find other uses for the site and the buildings rapidly deteriorated. In 1975, an auction of the surviving buildings was held (some of the buildings had already been dismantled). Purchasers of the buildings removed what they could take away. What remained of the camp was then removed by the State. Today foundations of several of the buildings remain as well as the CCC fountain, the dams on Tom's Run and the deck and control room for the swimming pool that had been built by Camp Michaux, Inc. These surviving ruins and structures make a fairly accurate analysis of the site possible.

## Recent History

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In 2010, the Cumberland County Historical Society in partnership with Michaux State forest initiated a project funded by a grant from the South Mountain Partnership to enhance access to Camp Michaux and to provide information to correctly interpret the history of the site. Trails and sites were cleared, a walking tour was created with 30 numbered posts keyed to a self-guided walking tour book. Application was made for and approved for an official State Historical marker which was dedicated in July of 2011. Volunteers have continued to maintain the access to the site and revisions were made to the walking tour booklet in 2014 and 2019.

A new project in 2017 provided for the restoration of Tom's Run around the lower dam and three wayside panels were added to assist with interpretation of the site. Grants from the Nature Conservancy and South Mountain Partnership provided funds for this effort.





## Additional Information

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Extensive research has been done about the history of the site and can be found in a book published by the Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS) entitled *Secret War at Home, The Pine Grove Furnace Prisoner of War Interrogation Camp* by John Paul Bland. The book is available for sale at CCHS and at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. John spent untold hours at the National Archives and Records Administration in Adelphi, Maryland, reviewing the original records regarding the site. Information can also be learned by going to the following web site posted by Lee Schaeffer, a former church camp counselor: [www.schaeffersite.com/michaux](http://www.schaeffersite.com/michaux). Additional information can be found in the 2017 and 2018 edition of “Cumberland County History,” the annual journal of the Cumberland County Historical Society. Guided tours of the site sponsored by CCHS are given each spring and fall. Contact the Society (249-7610) for information about registering for the tours. In addition, 25 volunteers worked one or more Saturdays during April of 2011 to clear trails, erect the numbered posts, and clear various sites within the former camp. Improvements to the site have continued in 2012, 2013 and 2014 and volunteers return each Spring for one Saturday to clear the trails and sites from winter damage. During the Spring semester of 2013, Dickinson College began archeological work at the site which continues today.



Dickinson Archaeology Class – site dig.



The Camp Michaux Recognition and Development Project is a cooperative effort of the Cumberland County Historical Society and Michaux State Forest. It has been financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. We are a partner of the South Mountain Partnership, an alliance of organizations working to preserve and enhance the cultural and natural assets of the South Mountain Landscape in Central Pennsylvania. This project was awarded through the South Mountain Partnership with management oversight of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The 2019 revision of this book was underwritten by another grant from the South Mountain Partnership.



German Prisoner, Heinrich Backhaus, painting circa 1945.