

Cultural Resources Management Plan

Mount Spokane State Park

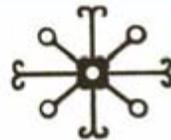


July 2009

Prepared in compliance with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Policy 12-98-01 on Cultural Resources Management

Washington State Parks

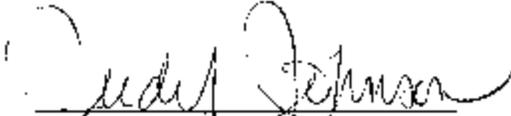
Historic
Preservation Program



Cultural Resources Management Plan Mount Spokane State Park

Approval and Adoption

Approved and adopted as provided by Commission Policy #12-98-01, Section D. 2, and issued for implementation on the date below.



Judy Johnson, Deputy Director
Date 8/25/09

This cultural resources management plan was prepared with a five-year horizon. The plan should be reevaluated, new information integrated, and reissued in 2014.

<p><i>At Region Headquarters</i></p> <p>If you are Operations Division or Resources Development Division staff working on the park:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read it all, front to back. 2. Pay particular attention to the Range of Treatments (Section IV); contact the agency Historic Preservation Officer or the Parks Archaeologist if you do not understand what is intended. 3. Participate in agency training so you are familiar with the principles of historic preservation and cultural resource management. 4. Understand and be able to implement the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for projects that involve resources that are identified in the plan. 5. Consult with the agency Historic Preservation Officer in the development of project work and maintenance plans. 6. Prepare the reports and records as established in Section V.
<p><i>In the Park</i></p> <p>If you are the park manager:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read it all, front to back. Look closely at the individual property sheets in Section II, Identification of Cultural Resources. Know where these properties are and why they are important. 2. Understand the Range of Treatments (Section IV), and make any monitoring reports that may be required. 3. Participate in agency training in the principles of historic preservation and cultural resource management. 4. Ensure that maintenance staff or others that will be involved in any of the resources identified in the plan attend the training identified in 3. Above. 5. Support additional training for specialized needs. 6. Ensure that staff are following the maintenance plans and that they are preparing the reports and records as established in Section V. 7. Ensure that consultants and any other non-employees working in the park are familiar with the CRMP.

<p><i>In the Park</i></p> <p>If you do any work on any historic building or cultural resource:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your job and your ability to do your job well count more than anything else in this document. 2. Before you go to work, check Section II, Identification of Cultural Resources. If you will be working on any of the properties included in this section, read and be familiar with the character-defining features for that property. 3. Participate in agency training so that you understand the principles of historic preservation and cultural resource management. 4. Participate in specialized training if you need it to do the job right. 5. Make a record of the job according to the outline in Section V.
--	--

A basic assumption is that appropriated funds will be the primary source of the dollars necessary to accomplish the treatments identified in this plan. However, all park employees need to be alert to the availability of alternative funding (e.g. grants) and labor sources that can help meet those same ends. All grant applications must be coordinated through the regional parks planner and agency HPO.

Contributors

Authors

Alex McMurry, Historic Preservation Planner, Olympia

Charles Luttrell, Parks Archaeologist, Olympia

Reviewers

Tom Ernsberger, Assistant Region Director, Eastern Region

Larry Fairleigh, Assistant Director, Resources Development Division, Olympia

Ted Smith, Stewardship Program Manager, Olympia

Bill Koss, Parks Planner, Olympia

Robert Fimbel, Chief, Natural Resources Stewardship, Olympia

Jim Harris, Region Director, Eastern Region

Peter Herzog, Environmental Planner, Olympia

Dan Meatte, Archaeologist

Mark Schulz, Environmental Specialist, Eastern Region

Ryan Karlson, Interpretive Program Manager, Olympia

Steve Christiansen, Manager, Mount Spokane State Park

Chris Regan, Environmental Program Manager, Olympia

Andrew Fielding, Resource Stewardship, Eastern Region

2001 Edition Authors

David Hansen, Historic Preservation Officer (retired)

Dan Meatte, Archaeology Program Manager

Executive Summary

Mount Spokane is a park that has a long history with Native American, as well as European American peoples in the Spokane area. While the prehistory of the park has not yet been fully established, its more recent past has been marked by many events that indicate its importance to the community as a notable destination. Mount Spokane's initial development as a park was pursued privately, then by county and state park departments in succession.

The older developed areas of the park owe much of their present appearance to the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and contractors working for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) in the 1930s. The original site of the CCC camp remains largely intact, as do important structures such as the Vista House and the stone latrine at the Cook's Cabin area. Also included in the important work of the CCCs are improved roads throughout the park.

This Cultural Resources Management Plan identifies 24 individual resources significantly associated with the history of Mount Spokane and specifies a range of treatments for them from preservation to demolition to limited restoration. Many of these identified resources contribute to the cultural landscape within the park, which is separately identified as a historic feature. It also identifies the priority for these treatments, from primary to supplemental.

The 2001 edition of this plan, authored by David Hansen and Dan Meatte, served as the agency prototype Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for parks containing cultural resources. This type of management plan is intended to be a living document, requiring periodic review and updating. This document has a revision horizon of 2014 to incorporate new and revised information. Since the completion of the original CRMP for Mount Spokane, significant work on the park's historic buildings has taken place, notably the Vista House and Cook's Cabin Latrine Preservation Project in 2003. This 2009 plan update focuses on incorporating new information and providing additional information regarding cultural landscapes and archaeology. This update also includes information regarding park resources constructed during the 1950s.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Approval and Adoption	ii
Your Responsibilities	iii
Contributors	vi
Executive Summary	vii
Section 1: Introduction	
Purpose and Scope	1
Summary of Existing Reports and Surveys.....	1
Historical Context of Park Lands	2
Section 2: Historic Development of Mount Spokane	
Initial Park Development, 1890 – 1932.....	4
Formal State Park Development, 1933 – 1960	10
Section 3: Identification of Cultural Resources	
Archaeological Sites and Traditional Cultural Properties	22
Cultural Landscapes	27
Buildings, Sites, and Structures	31
Section 4: Impacts to Cultural Resources	
Archaeological Sites and Traditional Cultural Properties	84
Cultural Landscapes	84
Buildings, Sites, and Structures	84
Section 5: Range of Treatments	
Range of Treatments Table	87
Section 6: Other Considerations	
Design Standards for New Construction.....	92
Decision Making Criteria.....	92
Relationship with Other Planning and Policy Documents	92
Reporting and Record Keeping.....	92
Section VII: Glossary	
Glossary.....	93

Section I

Introduction

Purpose and Scope. The purpose of the Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) is to identify properties related to the human use and occupation of Mount Spokane and to describe methods of managing those properties for future generations. The scope of the June 2009 revision and update of the CRMP includes all historic properties identified in the 2001 version, as well as information regarding the cultural landscapes within the park and most buildings constructed after 1950 to be a more complete representation of the resources present in Mount Spokane State Park.

The plan generally divides cultural resources into three types: archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, and buildings and structures. *Archaeological sites* are those that contain the material evidence (artifacts or objects) of a culture that can add to our understanding of a people, either historic or prehistoric; traditional cultural properties (as a type of archaeological site) are associated with the cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are rooted in that community's history and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. It must be noted that detailed information regarding traditional cultural properties is still lacking for the park as a whole, and this information may not be readily shared by tribes with an interest in the area. However, some information does exist regarding traditional uses of park lands. *Cultural landscapes* are geographic areas associated with an historic event, activity, or person, or are areas that exhibit other cultural or aesthetic values. *Buildings and structures* are constructed features, typically habitable, but not always. The majority of this document focuses on these constructed resources.

Summary of Existing Reports and Surveys. A limited number of reports and surveys covering the resources within the park are on file with the Park Development Service Center. These reports, along with other important documents related to the history of the park are listed in the Section I Bibliography and the Section II References. The archaeological reports are typically associated with specific projects and, as such, are not intended to be comprehensive but are intended to provide a snapshot of the types of resources that may be expected within the park.

The 1997 Historic Properties Condition Assessment identified and evaluated structures and sites associated with the development of Mount Spokane during the 1930s. The assessment called out the Vista House and the CCC camp as the most notable properties associated with the Depression-era work, but also included other resources constructed during this era. The assessment concluded that the composition and configuration of the park had been much changed since this era of development.

Historical Context of Park Lands. Mount Spokane has always been a destination. For select Native Americans, the mountain was the goal of spiritual pilgrimage, and it remained the destination for pilgrimages of a different sort when the Spokane Valley filled with Euro-American settlers. Once admired for its prominence in the landscape and its quality as a natural viewpoint, early recreational skiers galvanized the future of Mount Spokane as a winter playground valued more for its slopes than its summit.

Section II

Historic Development of Mount Spokane

Initial Park Development 1890 - 1932

It is difficult to think what might have become of Mount Spokane without Francis H. Cook. Cook was a figure of legend – a newspaper man with experience on both sides of the Cascades, delegate to the territorial legislature, real estate developer and street railroad promoter, visionary, and a man of wealth whose estate collapsed in the Depression of 1893. However, his view of the future was not withered by a troublesome present. There were only 100 people in the area when he founded his Spokane paper in 1879, and not all of them could read.¹ Similarly, the wooded flanks of Mt. Carleton (the predecessor name for Mount Spokane) created impressions that only Cook could ignore. A traveler to the mountain in the early 1890s recalled the “...black caverns where all manner of unknown evils might lurk [or be] tenanted with unearthly spirits; it was such a lonely, far-away spot . . .” No roads led to the top, only “the narrowest possible zig-zag path . . . back and forth, from side to side, not more than the length of a horse in one direction, then doubling back again.” Cook thought this was the grandest place on earth.²

Cook may not have had much cash after the depression, but he did have land. He owned a farm of 640 acres on the Little Spokane River that he landscaped with artificial lakes and streams to support 100,000 trout. He also owned the very top of Mt. Carleton. Cook was inspired by the views from the summit. While he was not the first to speak of their beauty and extent, his appreciation carried with it an increment of profit. Cook declared it was the world’s finest viewpoint, the slopes freshened by the purest air and springs of the coldest water. Here was a place of quiet and rest in an invigorating atmosphere; Cook invited all to his mountain top as a pilgrimage of health and as an opportunity to see at a glance an area covering some 100,000 square miles. And it would cost only 50 cents.³

In 1909, Cook began the construction of a road to a site on the mountain he called Paradise Camp. Following the Cook Auto Road, a route that Cook himself declared to be “that wonderful feat of clever engineering and surpassingly easy grades”, travelers arrived at the camp with their half-dollars in hand. The entrance fee purchased the opportunity to climb a steep three-quarter mile trail

¹ “Francis Cook; The Mountain Named Spokane.” *Spokane Spokesman-Review*, October 30, 1974.

² Beth Bell, “On Top of Mount Carlton,” *The Northwest Magazine*, June 1895, 24.

³ Mount Spokane promotional flyer, n.d., Mount Spokane clipping file, Northwest Room, Spokane Public Library; Jonathan Edwards, *History of Spokane County*, (San Francisco? W. H. Lever, 1900), 494.

to the summit and access to camping sites with free wood and water. Saddle ponies were available for another 50 cents, and each additional day's stay was a quarter.⁴

Cook encouraged locals to take their family, friends, and business associates to the top of the mountain so they could see the best viewpoint on earth and appreciate the greatness of the Spokane country. He urged the Chamber of Commerce to make it a destination for visitors of prominence. He promoted not just his enterprise, but in emphasizing the rightness of the destination for businessmen, he promoted also the commercial possibilities of the Spokane area at large. Cook couldn't lose. He made money if people came to Paradise Camp, and if some of those chose to invest in Spokane businesses, he made money if they or their workers chose to build homes in Cook's Addition near town. His platted addition featured the first streetcar line in Spokane, powered by steam. To make sure the connection between his mountain and the city was clear, he changed the name in 1912 from Mt. Carleton (also referred to locally as Old Baldy) to Mount Spokane.⁵

To Cook's credentials as the Father of Mount Spokane must be added his innovation of the Mount Spokane media event. To ensure that the renaming got the attention that he felt it was due, he put together a "christening" ceremony at the summit. A seven-car convoy carrying the Governor, the Spokane Mayor, Margaret Motie (a beauty who had been named Miss Spokane), and other notables made the dusty three-hour trip through the August heat up to Paradise Camp. The daughters of Francis Cook prepared a praiseful lunch for the assembly, and afterwards they all made their way up the trail to the top. Miss Motie poured the christening water from a vase loaned by Cook for the occasion (the water itself coming from the spring behind Cook's cabin), the governor and the mayor gave their official blessing, and the flags of the United States and the City of Spokane were sent snapping in the afternoon sky. Cook had made special arrangements recognizing the presence of the governor; lacking a cannon, he fired a salute by setting off dynamite cartridges hung in the branches of the surrounding trees.⁶

Others saw the community value of Mount Spokane and fell in with the thought of the Mount Spokane summit as a major park, perhaps a national park, because of the belief that its great panorama must constitute one of America's scenic wonders. A host of prominent Spokane citizens

⁴ "Motor Road up Mount Spokane," promotional flyer, n.d., Mount Spokane clipping file.

⁵ "'Old Baldy' now 'Mount Spokane,'" *Spokesman-Review*, August 24, 1912.

⁶ Both the spring and Francis Cook were the subjects of hagiography some 20 years after the event. By the middle 1930s, the spring was celebrated as a "sacred shrine," for it was here that Cook prayed and "held tryst with the God of

collected behind the idea, including Frank W. Guilbert of the Inland Automobile Association and the Good Roads Association, City Park Board President Aubrey L. White, hotelier Louis Davenport, as well as the Chamber of Commerce and the county commissioners. Their promotion was effective, and in May 1919 the county purchased Cook's land on Mount Spokane. Louis Davenport held the deed in trust for the community and the City Parks Department agreed to help care for the new acquisition.⁷

The dedication of the new publicly owned park lands took place in 1922. There was another automobile convoy from the city, the members of Automobile Association and the Spokane County Good Roads Association pooling their vehicles to carry celebrants up the mountain. There was lunch and a hike up the trail to the summit for speeches, declarations, and proclamations.⁸

The key point on any journey to Mount Spokane was Cook's Cabin. It was there that Cook's Auto Road terminated, and although the county graded and improved Cook's route, no attempt was made to extend it to the summit. Cook's Cabin was a resting spot and picnic ground for those who chose not to hike to the very top, and it was also a reminder of



Cook's Cabin, August 1933. WSPRC Photo SP10-3

the man who had started it all. Cook had built the cabin after the renaming of the mountain, and it was there that he and his family would retreat for several months during the summer. By 1926 the cabin was in disrepair. The chinking had fallen out, the logs were rotted, the roof was covered by a sheet of tin, and the interior filled with mud and water every spring. County engineer Harry S. Baker declared that saving the cabin for historical purposes was "almost an utter impossibility." The county commissioners declared their intent to tear the old cabin down and build a new one. However, the opinion of Baker and the commissioners was not shared by all.⁹

the high places." The spring also was promoted as an appropriate source of baptismal waters. Fathers' Day Silver Anniversary Program, 1935, Northwest Room.

⁷ "Mount Spokane for National Park," *Spokesman-Review*, January 9, 1916; "Mount Spokane Now State Park, Washington's Highest Auto Road," *Spokesman-Review*, July 9, 1927. Other sources place the purchase in 1920.

⁸ Clyde Stricker, "Purchasing a Mountain", (Spokane: Stricker 1975) not paginated

⁹ "Why Tear Down the Little Old Cabin on Mount Spokane?" Daughter of Late Francis H. Cook Protest at Plan" *Spokane Daily Chronicle* May 19, 1926

Clara Cook Fuson, one of Cook's daughters, supported both a new building and the retention of the original cabin. "Why should the cabin be torn down?" she asked in a Spokane paper.

Has it not served as a beacon light to Boy Scouts and others who have taken the long hike over deep, drifted snows? The little log cabin with its fireplace, at which every visitor has felt free to boil his pot of coffee, is surely dear to the hearts of thousands of Spokane and Inland Empire people.

It seems only yesterday that [representatives of the Spokane Chronicle] came to the family home, just 20 minutes before Mr. Cook passed away, telling of the promise given by the commissioners to keep as a memorial to Francis H. Cook the little log cabin. Why let it be only a memory?¹⁰

Chagrined and embarrassed, the commissioners let the proposal drop. The cabin stayed and no other structure was built as a replacement or supplement until the early-1930s. Organizations and individuals continued to purchase or donate lands to expand the park holdings. For reasons that are not now clear, by 1927 the county commissioners had determined that they would no longer seek to develop Mount Spokane as a park, and in July of that year, the State Park Committee accepted deeds to some 500 acres, including the summits of Mount Spokane and Mt. Kit Carson. Additional acreage was also donated shortly thereafter for a total of 1,500 acres as Mount Spokane joined the six other state parks east of the Cascades.¹¹

There was another hot August pilgrimage to the summit to celebrate the event, and there was much to celebrate. For some, state park ownership meant that Mount Spokane would be preserved for all time and be developed as a tourist-oriented resort and recreation center, a future that would have been heartily endorsed by Francis Cook. For others it was another christening on the mountain top. A convoy of cars left the city once again, and drove up the mountain road, this time patrolled by Boy Scouts and highway police. The scouts stood by to help water any overheating engines and to caution drivers about the steep grades and hairpin turns. In the saddle between the two heights at the summit, the army band from Fort George Wright took up position on a specially prepared platform while some 400 attendees stood or sat to hear both the band and a parade of speakers. Clark V. Savidge, Chair of the State Park Committee, was there as were Secretary of State J. Grant Hinkle and Lieutenant Governor W. Lon Johnson. The county engineer

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Minutes of the Washington State Parks Committee, May 24 and August 2, 1927, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia, Washington

was present and so too a former chair of the board of county commissioners, the state parks superintendent, and a clutch of state and local elected officials.¹²

Savidge noted the need for places like Mount Spokane to provide refuge and sanctuary from the demands of modern life. Lieutenant Governor Johnson took advantage of the opportunity to note the need for preserving the scenic assets of the state while providing a supply of merchantable timber. Secretary Hinkle recalled that the state now had 26 state parks, all acquired without cost to the taxpayer, and he wanted things to stay that way. “We want to maintain these parks,” he said, “but do not come to us with plans for bond issues or withdrawals from the general fund.” State Senator Oliver Hall then stood up and declared his intent for an appropriation bill in the next legislative session.¹³

Improvements for the new state park were slow in coming. In 1928, the State Parks Committee authorized community kitchens, flagpoles, sanitary provisions, and the cleaning of springs, but in the years that followed, the only real expenditures appeared to be for road improvements. With the veto of the state parks budget in 1929, there were no funds to support a caretaker at Mount Spokane; the park became a dumping ground, and the decaying garbage became so severe that the Committee asked the Department of Health to step in to correct the polluted condition. The Committee and several Spokane organizations discussed ways in which the park could be open at least in the summer through local efforts, but those discussions did not lead to an agreement.¹⁴

Although as a state park Mount Spokane was stagnating, it was still hallowed ground for the Spokane community and it remained the destination of special events. Spokane County soldiers and sailors killed during World War I were memorialized there in 1925 and five years later, in June of 1930, another ceremony dedicated the mountain to all fatherhood.¹⁵

The dedication would recognize Mount Spokane as Father Mountain, the ever-watchful sentinel of Spokane. From its summit lay “a broad panorama of rivers, crystal lakes, valleys of orchards, fields of grain, and many cities with smoke curling from the chimneys of their dwelling

¹² “Mount Spokane Becomes State Park,” unsourced newspaper clippings, August 19, 1927; “Decade Dream Realized Here,” *Spokesman-Review*, August 21, 1927, Mount Spokane clipping file

¹³ “Decade Dream Realized Here”

¹⁴ Minutes of the State Parks Committee, May 10, 1928; April 2, 1929; June 28, 1929, and July 15, 1929

¹⁵ “Spokane Honors Its Dead with Mountain Memorial,” *Spokesman-Review*, July 28, 1925

places at dawn, and with lights beckoning to those happy homes at eventide. Thus, from Father Mountain, may be seen life in its fullness.”¹⁶

The Federation of Women’s Clubs, the International Fathers’ Day Association, and the Chamber of Commerce arranged the program, which featured Spokane resident and the originator of Father’s Day, Mrs. John Bruce Dodd. Between 300 and 400 gathered to witness the liberation of rose petals that were carried on the breeze to the young evergreens and to hear the laudatory addresses. There was another picnic, the celebrants pitched horseshoes, and then they went home.¹⁷

The 1932 Father’s Day celebration easily trumped the event of two years before. The Spokane City Federation of Women’s Organizations, the Chamber, and the Spokane Tribe joined forces in the dedication of the Sun Ball, a chrome-plated copper sphere four feet in diameter that rested at the top of a ten-foot tall stone spire. The Sun Ball celebrated not only fatherhood, but also the bicentennial of the birth of George Washington, the father of the nation.

Yet another convoy left the city, 150 cars carrying 700 people to the summit. There, Chief Willie Andrews of the Spokanes gave an invocation to the sun, a Congregational minister offered a prayer, and a Gold Star mother led the flag salute. There were remarks, Mrs. John Bruce Dodd unveiled the Sun Ball, and Alvin H. Collin accepted the presentation on behalf of Secretary of State Hinckle. The Camp Fire Girls, the Boy Scouts, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars all played a part as well. They saw, as did the others at the event, a small plane circling low overhead, and watched as the pilot dropped flowers above them, the blooms drifting down and sliding off the glistening surface of the Sun Ball.¹⁸



Sun Ball. WSPRC Photo 78.2003.1.P617A.O2

The ceremony also marked a change for the future of Mount Spokane. From this point forward, the development of the park would be the result of the activities of both the Civilian Conservation Corps, guided by professional planners and architects, and the State Parks Committee. Visitors to

¹⁶ Silver Anniversary Program

¹⁷ “Honor Fathers on Mount Spokane,” unsourced clipping, June 6, 1930, Mount Spokane clipping file

¹⁸ “Unveil Sun Ball on Mount Today,” *Spokesman-Review*, June 26, 1932; “Sun Ball Draws Valley Crowd,” *Spokesman-Review*, June 24, 1932

the park would increase in the years ahead, but these were visitors drawn principally to the excitement of downhill skiing rather than to the tempering effects of clean air and spectacular vistas.

Significant Improvements Related to Initial Park Development, 1890 – 1932

Cook's Cabin Site

Cook's Auto Road

Boy Scout Monument

Sun Ball Site

Memorial to Spokane County War Dead

View Tubes

Formal State Park Development, 1933 – 1960

The long-awaited appearance of something to indicate that a state park was present on Mount Spokane came with the federal dollars made available through programs designed to counter the Depression. For the first time, the State Parks Committee had the capital necessary to field a true park system. Also for the first time it had to deal with the expectations of federal program managers and designers, and a new recreational community that had its own idea of how the park should be developed.

Because the work in State Parks was guided by the National Park Service (NPS), the naturalistic designs that had been adopted earlier by the NPS became the foundation for the designs used in state parks throughout the United States. Stone and timber structures were meant to emerge from their surroundings as if they were expressions of the site, rather than foreign improvements that had been imposed upon them. The State Park Committee had no architect of its own to prepare any plans or guide the construction, and as the winter of 1933 turned to spring, the committee brought in new skills. The members hired Charles Saunders as the parks architect, and they also brought on W. G. Weigle as parks superintendent. Weigle would turn out to be an excellent choice, a person equally at ease with well diggers as he was with politicians, and with a remarkable capacity for work. Where plans called for major construction, the committee retained a local architect; at Mount Spokane they hired Spokane architect Henry C. Bertelsen.

Bertelsen (1888 – 1963) was well established in Spokane. He had arrived there in 1905 following study at the Chicago Institute of Fine Art, and was the chief draftsman for Kirtland Cutter in the design of the Davenport Hotel. He also designed, or had a part in the design, of the Spokane

Coliseum, the Inland Automobile Association Building, the Shrine Hospital, and several buildings on the campus of Gonzaga University. He was prominent in charitable and civic betterment projects, and was a member of the Spokane Club and the Inland Empire Boy Scout Council.¹⁹

The initial plan described by Secretary of State Hutchinson contained all that had been wanting in the past. There would be a year-round keeper and a residence for him, Cook's Cabin would be retained, roads would be improved, and a water system installed. First priority would be a "suitable, massive, but economically operated outlook" to capitalize on the views that had made a name for Mount Spokane. This was to be a park for the masses, Hutchinson said, and one that would increase in value by virtue of an expanding tourist economy that would ultimately become the state's greatest income. He also gave a nod in the direction of winter sports, acknowledging that Mount Spokane could be a "great center" for those activities.²⁰

Hutchinson had identified the two forces that would guide construction on the mountain: the NPS interpretation of park lands as passive areas for the appreciation nature and the view of a growing number of downhill skiers who found the same area well suited for active recreation. The park builders erected one kind of park, but they found by accident that the facilities could be used successfully in ways other than intended.

It would be difficult to fault anyone for underestimating the interest of skiers. It emerged as a popular sport in Washington about 1930, and certainly the Spokane area provided one of its most active cores. In 1930, there were two ski clubs in the state. Nine years later the number had grown to 30 clubs affiliated with the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association alone. Two of the earliest organizations were in Spokane: the Spokane Ski Club, formed in 1931, and the Selkirk Ski Club formed in 1933. These groups weighed in to ensure that their interests were accounted for as park construction began.²¹

In July 1933, the State Parks Committee approved the construction of the Vista House and of the retention of the original Cook's Cabin, as well as a more functional caretaker's cabin adjacent to it.²² These two projects were completed by the winter of 1933 using outside contractors in a competitive bid process. Both buildings were designed by Bertelsen, and Elmer Highberg was the low bidder of the new Caretaker's Cabin while E.O. Fieldstad won the contract for the Vista House.

¹⁹ Finding Aid, H. C. Bertelsen Collection, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane

²⁰ "Form Big Plans for Mount Spokane," *Spokesman Review*, July 25, 1933

²¹ Washington State Planning Council, A Study of Parks, Parkways, and Recreational Areas, 1941-44; Stricker

²² Minutes of the State Parks Committee, July 27, 1933

What to do with Cook's Cabin caused rancor within the committee. Parks superintendent Weigle had looked at it and had come away unimpressed with the possibility of putting it into useful repair. It was in bad shape. He felt it would be better to construct a new cabin of about the same design. Chairman Hutchinson had his own idea. He understood the historic importance of the cabin and advocated removing the rotted portions and replacing them with cement, with more cement in any logs that were cracked, a little more cement in the chinking, and finally cement under a corner of the cabin to hold it up. After all, he told his fellow commissioners, he had seen plenty of log cabins elsewhere in the United States; surely they could retain this one.²³

Commissioner A. C. Martin didn't agree, and buttressed with the support of some of Spokane's own citizens, called for the replacement of the old cabin with a new structure. The committee resolved the impasse by electing to retain Cook's Cabin and by putting up nearby a new building as well.²⁴

By the end of 1933, both the Vista House and the new cabin adjacent to the pioneer Cook's Cabin were complete and ready for use. The Spokane Ski Club had supported the idea of a new cabin, although the members were particularly interested in the capacity of the Vista House design to meet their needs. They were pleased that the main room would be large enough to accommodate the members and guests, and asked for two additions: furnishings, including a table of a size sufficient to hold skis for waxing; and alcoves or partitions (Hutchinson called them "withdrawing rooms") for men and women should they be forced to spend the night on the summit.²⁵



Aerial view of Cook's Cabin (far left) and Caretaker's House (left center). Latrine in cluster of trees at center. WSPRC Photo 78.2003.1.P975A.K4

In the spring of 1934, the ski club was enthusiastic about the results of the first season. The registration book at Cook's Cabin contained over 500 names, many of them members of the club, and a good portion of those had participated in or were spectators at the club's first slalom race near the cabin. The premier season indicated that the center for skiing would not be at the summit and

²³ Report of Ernest H. Hutchinson, Chair, State Parks Committee, contained in the Committee minutes of July 27, 1933.

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ "Mount's Vista House Rushed," Spokesman-Review, October 8, 1933; Hutchinson Report

the Vista House, but at the lower elevation of Francis Cook's Paradise Camp and both the old and new cabins at that location. The only item that was wanting to make the experiences of the skiers first-rate was a good road.²⁶

The State Parks Committee and the Spokane Chamber of Commerce had petitioned for a camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps to be placed at Mount Spokane, a necessary precursor to any extensive road construction in the park. They were successful, and in March 1934, Weigle and others picked out the site for the camp on Beauty Mountain, a rise of about 5,000 feet elevation just west of Mount Spokane and about one road mile from Cook's Cabin. Here would be created the tent camp for 200 young men of the CCC, in operation for six months out of each year, and the center of developments on Mount Spokane through the remainder of the 1930s.²⁷

The camp was laid out as a series of tiers in a quarter circle, approximating the contours of the even slopes of Beauty Mountain. Low rock walls separated each tier, and the tiers themselves were



Aerial view of Camp Francis Cook. WSPRC Photo 78.2003.1.P1062D.V4

connected by a long flagstone path running from west to east. At the highest point of the camp, a shorter flagstone path running north to south crossed the first path, and at the intersection was the camp flag pole and the symbolic focal point of camp activities. A long and narrow mess hall built of milled timber flanked the main pathway. The flagstone path with its cascade of stairways dominated the setting and provided a grand entrance for those that saw it for the first time. "They give great swank to this camp," reported one visitor, adding that a "general could feel most important making his entrance there."²⁸

The enrollees had hardly put up their tents along the gently arcing tiers when Major George S. Clarke, District Commandant of the CCC, announced that the camp would be named for and dedicated to Francis Cook. The dedication ceremony would take place on June 17, the day before a similar ceremony at Grand Coulee dam, and no doubt Major Clarke sought to capture some of that

²⁶ Geo. Ingraham, Jr., President, Spokane Ski Club, to Hutchinson, March 10, 1934, W. G. Weigle Papers, Washington State Archives, Olympia, Washington

²⁷ Weigle to State Parks Committee, March 26, 1934, Weigle Papers

²⁸ "Mount Spokane and Its CCC Camp Two Subjects for City's Pride," *Spokesman-Review*, October 15, 1934

dedicatory fervor for Mount Spokane. Several local organizations planned to present gifts to the camp in commemoration of Cook, and the Major wrote to Park Superintendent Weigle on June 8 asking that a log cabin be put up to house those gifts. The cabin, offered Major Clarke, could be used afterward as a shelter.²⁹

The request placed Weigle in an awkward position. There was no mention in the camp plan for the cabin that Major Clarke wanted, and that meant that there was no money in the budget. Even if Weigle had the money, it was not likely that a CCC crew could put up the cabin in the nine days that remained before the dedication ceremony. In addition, the local inspector from the National Park Service was pressuring Weigle to find some way to comply with Major Clarke's expectation, even to the extent of having the State Parks Committee donate the funds necessary to have the cabin built by a crew of workmen. Weigle asked the committee for 300 dollars so he could hire five or six carpenters, reluctantly commenting that perhaps Major Clarke's general enthusiasm for the CCC might be of some unspecified benefit throughout the state. The committee agreed, and the cabin, built of peeled tamarack logs, was put up in a few days just east of the flagpole and looking out over the camp.³⁰

The dedication ceremony was a mixture of the old and the new. There was the auto convoy, the dusty trip, the long climb up the steep grades. As in the past, the band from Fort George Wright was present, as was Chief Willie Andrews and a party from the Spokanes, two sons of Francis Cook, and members of the Grand Army of the Republic, and various other patriotic organizations. Superintendent Weigle was there, as were two members of the State Parks Committee, a representative of the National Park Service, and a collection of other dignitaries. Also present was Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, for the dedication was also to be another commemoration of Father's Day. One thousand people gathered to hear the speeches and witness the events.³¹

The dedication of the camp and the celebration of Father's Day took place on the small flag pole plaza, immediately in front of the new cabin. The walls were up, the roof complete, and the windows fitted, but it was not finished. The logs were not chinked and work on the masonry fireplace, located on the back of the building and not visible to the celebrants, had yet to start. Major Clarke was happy since he had the repository for the dedicatory gifts, and the CCC members no doubt were pleased since the cabin would serve as the camp headquarters. The response of the

²⁹ Weigle to A. C. Martin, June 8, 1934, Weigle Papers

³⁰ Weigle to State Parks Committee, June 23, 1934, Weigle Papers

³¹ "Mount Spokane Father's Day Fete Also Honors Pioneers and CCC," Spokesman-Review, June 18, 1934

State Park Committee is more difficult to assess. It had been the unexpected financier of the construction and by virtue of that role, the park would have a permanent building after the camp departed, even though there was no understanding of how the cabin might be used.³²

While the ceremony had a familiar look and a familiar gathering, it was the first pilgrimage to Mount Spokane that did not terminate at the summit. The venue had changed to the CCC camp, a subtle recognition that the development of the mountain as a park was what was important, not the summit with its views of great renown. There would be no more pilgrimages of remembrance. Auto traffic to Mount Spokane would increase, but more and more, the cars would carry recreational skiers.

The major projects of the CCC camp were to improve the existing road to Cook's Cabin and to cut a new road from the Cook's Cabin area down the east side of the mountain to intersect with the existing Deadman Creek Road. The new road had a better chance of being free of snow for much of the season and would permit easier access to skiing at Cook's Cabin. There were construction delays – Weigle fussed at the NPS for burdensome and slow approvals – but in the end he declared the road “splendid,” adding that “the Spokane people are wild about it.” It was completed in the summer of 1937, making possible for the first time a loop through the mountain while also adding a new entrance to the park. It was also a shorter and more direct route for people leaving Spokane to visit the park, and increasing numbers were doing just that. The year before the new road opened, 25,000 people had visited Mount Spokane, and the number was expected to rise as a result of the improved access.³³

Most of those making the trip were skiers. They headed to Cook's Cabin and the nearby rope tow for skiing on the sparsely treed slopes near the summit, the same area that had once given the mountain the name of Old Baldy. To supplement the runs, the Spokane Ski Club identified an area lower on the mountain that was well suited for a ski jump and ski tourneys. The club hoped that the development of the site could be added to the CCC projects already in progress, but that proved not possible. Sometime in the 1930s, according to one source as early as 1931 but after 1934 is more plausible, the club itself purchased the property and developed a ski facility for its own

³² Mount Spokane CCC Photo Collection, Interpretive Services, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia

³³ Weigle to State Parks Committee, July 28, 1934 and October 13, 1934, Weigle Papers

members. Improvements included a log clubhouse, two rope tows, a lighted area for night skiing, a small jump hill, and a 100-meter jump hill.³⁴

Meanwhile, Superintendent Weigle and NPS officials were trying to determine the best place for a campground, kitchen, and latrine within the park. The facilities would be for summertime campers rather than skiers, and the desire of state park and NPS officials to locate these improvements is an indication of the sway held by ideas of outdoor recreation that had been developed in the 1920s. They selected a site on Beauty Mountain just east of the CCC camp and began the construction of the latrine, but their additions were modest compared with what was coming next.³⁵

Skiers crowded the slopes around Cook's Cabin. By 1938, the name had come to indicate the caretaker's residence built a few years before, and the new structure that was intended to supplement the original cabin of Francis Cook, which by this time had disappeared. Up to 50 people in the 1937 season slept over in the small building that was meant to house the caretaker and his wife, and happily for the skiers, people of great charity. The Spokane Ski Club urged that a lodge be built for overnight stays. The group was equally eager for a ski lift at an estimated cost of 6,000 dollars, and although there were no ideas how to cover the amount, they pressed hard during the summer of 1938 to get it built.³⁶



Skiers at the Caretaker's House near Cook's Cabin.
WSPRC Photo 78.2003.1.P990A.K4

Weigle thought that the NPS might be persuaded to use the CCC to construct the ski lift towers, and then might be persuaded yet again to sponsor a Public Works Administration (PWA) project for the balance of the project. Fifty-five percent of the PWA project would have to be raised locally since there were no public dollars available. Any fund-raising would find the desire for a lodge and the wish for a ski lift competing with each other. Work on other Mount Spokane CCC

³⁴ Stricker; "Locate Ski Hill on Mount Spokane", February 3, 1934

³⁵ Weigle to State Parks Committee, August 7, 1937, Weigle Papers

³⁶ Weigle to State Parks Committee, February 19, 1938 and May 28, 1938; minutes of the State Parks Committee, June 2, 1938

projects slowed as crews devoted more time to developing a detailed topography of the area prompted by the interest of the ski club in its lift.³⁷

Politics had always played a large part in the administration of state parks and CCC projects, and Mount Spokane was no exception. By the next summer, the State Parks Committee suddenly found itself with enough money to build the lodge and the ability to lease a ski lift back to the ski club should the club build a lift. The materials for the new lodge were purchased through the CCC as a cost-saving measure and the construction would be done by skilled masons and carpenters from the area. The site selected was adjacent to Cook's Cabin.³⁸

The lodge opened to the public in October 1940. It was quickly labeled as a chalet and its broad shingled roof overhanging the frame and stone superstructure that rose from a plinth of cyclopean masonry recalled as well the principles of naturalistic design. The interior was grand and

made an immediate impression on the first of those to see it. A natural granite fireplace dominated a big central living room that led in turn to a waxing room, four dormitories, showers, and quarters for the caretakers. One visitor said that he had seen the great buildings at Yellowstone and Glacier national parks, but nowhere had he witnessed a cozier building than the one at Mount Spokane.³⁹



View of Mt. Spokane Lodge. WSPRC Photo 78.2003.1.P1075A.S4

The ski club got its lift during the war years as the result of a gift arranged through a local bank. The club acquired an ore bucket mining tram, and with the help of the locally headquartered Riblet Aerial Tramway Company, converted it to what was then considered the world's first double chair lift. It operated for three seasons and then closed in 1949 because of high cost.⁴⁰

The lodge proved popular and was frequently filled to capacity. Immediately after the war, the Mount Spokane Association, an affiliation of local outdoor and business groups, pressed for an expansion. The association hosted an all-day tour of the park for members of the Legislature,

³⁷ Weigle to State Parks Committee, July 30, 1938 and August 13, 1938

³⁸ Weigle to State Parks Committee, June 9, 1939; minutes of the State Parks Committee, September 28, 1938

³⁹ "Mountain Lodge Opening Thrills," *Spokesman-Review*, October 21, 1940

county commissioners, and state park officials, following it up with a dinner meeting where they urged more road construction, consolidation of land ownership within the park boundaries, and the operation of all facilities in the park by the state. The work of the group was effective. Land consolidation and road improvements followed, and in 1950 so did a major addition to the lodge.⁴¹

The long and narrow three-story wing of the addition stretched south toward Cook's Cabin, its floor to ceiling windows providing a view over central Washington with the Cascades beyond. It housed a dining room for 250, 16 private rooms, a dormitory for 40, and an additional dormitory in the cavernous third floor attic. The design was by the Spokane firm of Funk, Murray, and Johnson.⁴²

The addition heralded for some a future for Mount Spokane as one of the world's most visited mountains, the top ski resort west of the Rockies, and the destination of airline ski tours, an engine of local commerce fueled by tourist dollars. Those dreams ended in a sudden and spectacular fire in January 1952 that consumed the lodge and its addition just weeks before the scheduled opening.⁴³

The following summer, John Vanderzicht, the director of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (the State Parks Committee having succumbed to government reforms in 1947), announced that a modest warming and eating cabin would be built on Bald Knob (then under lease to the ski association) as an interim replacement. The single-story structure would be capable of expansion later, said Vanderzicht, and the location was in keeping with the recently adopted master plan for the park. The road above Bald Knob would not be kept open in the winter and the rope tows at Cook's Cabin would be relocated to Bald Knob. Since the road leading to the cabin would be closed, a new residence for the park superintendent would be built at the park entrance.⁴⁴

Those plans were modified at the request of the ski association. Instead of a new warming cabin on Bald Knob, Cook's Cabin received an addition to shelter skiers, accommodate the ski patrol, and house a coffee bar. Two new rope tows would also be put up at Cook's Cabin. Bald Knob received a kitchen and comfort station for summer use only; the sweeping angular forms of the kitchen shelter made it an interesting counterpoint to the design concepts expressed in the buildings erected two decades earlier. The Cook's Cabin addition, the kitchen shelter, and the new

⁴⁰ Stricker

⁴¹ "Mount Spokane Park Is Favored," *Spokesman-Review*, February 2, 1948

⁴² "Lodge Planning Started in 1939," *Spokesman-Review*, January 24, 1952

⁴³ "Spokane to Have \$200,000 Mountain Top Inn," *Spokesman Review*, June 29, 1950

⁴⁴ Minutes of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of June 30, 1952

superintendent's residence were the designs of D. M. Sibold, an Olympia architect retained by the Parks Commission.⁴⁵

The fire prompted one more change, one that brought to Mount Spokane the features that remain today. Al Mettler, the concessionaire who had planned to operate the lodge prior to its destruction believed strongly in the future of winter recreation at Mount Spokane and began to plan the development of a completely new complex on the east slope.⁴⁶

Properties Related to Formal State Park Development 1933 - 1960

Vista House

Caretaker's Residence Site

Latrine at Cook's Cabin

Wood Shed at Cook's Cabin (sometimes called Cook's Cabin today)

Mount Spokane Lodge Site

Reservoir above Lodge Site

CCC Camp or Camp Francis Cook

Community Building, CCC Camp Headquarters

Beauty Mountain Latrine

Bald Knob Kitchen Shelter

Bald Knob Comfort Station

Roadway Improvements

Quarry #1

Spokane Ski Club

Camp Fosseen

Lodge #1

Superintendent's Residence

Quartz Mountain Fire Lookout (constructed post-1960)

⁴⁵ Minutes, Parks Commission, July 28, 1952; Mount Spokane State Park, drawings, Resources Development Division, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

⁴⁶ Stricker

Bibliography

H. C. Bertelsen Collection. Eastern Washington State Historical Society. Spokane.

Cook, Francis H. *The Territory of Washington, 1879*. Introductory essay by J. Orin Oliphant, ed. Cheney: State Normal School, 1925.

Cox, Thomas R. *The Park Builders: A History of State Parks in the Pacific Northwest*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1988.

Edwards, Jonathan. *History of Spokane County*. W. H. Lever, 1900.

Fargo, Lucille F. *Spokane Story*. Minneapolis: Northwestern Press, 1957.

“Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks.” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. National Park Service, 1995.

McClelland, Linda Flint. *Building the National Parks*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

Greg McCracken. Personal communication with David Hansen. August 12, 1999.

Minutes of the State Parks Committee and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Committee, various dates, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia.

Mount Spokane State Park Drawing Files. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Olympia.

Northwest Room, Spokane Public Library. Clipping Files, Mount Spokane and Civilian Conservation Corps.

Oestreicher Photo Collection and CCC Photo Collection. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia.

SERA Architects with E. Gail Throop. Washington State Parks Historic Properties Condition Assessment, Group V. Amended September 15, 1997.

Stricker, Clyde Thomas. *Purchasing a Mountain*. Spokane: Stricker, 1975.

Washington State Archives, Parks and Recreation Commission Record Group AR-20060921-01, Box 209.

Washington State Planning Council. *A Study of Parks, Parkways, and Recreational Areas*. Olympia, 1941.

Papers of W. G. Weigle. Washington State Archives. Olympia.