

TO: Historic Preservation Board

Information Item: A

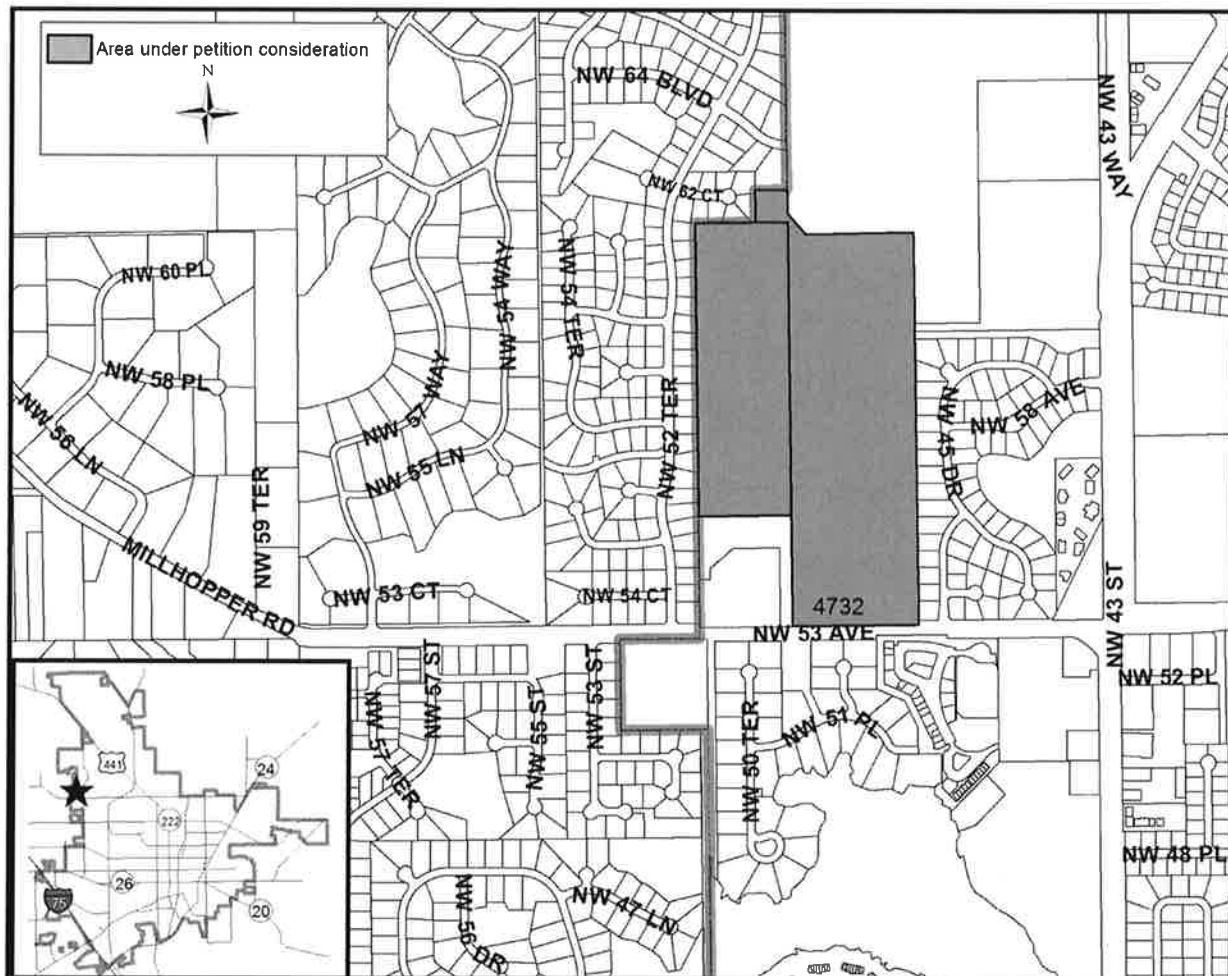
FROM: Planning & Development Services Department Staff

DATE: October 4, 2016

SUBJECT: Information Item A. National Register Nomination: Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park. Located at 4732 NW 53rd Avenue/Millhopper Road. State of Florida, owner.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Board support the nomination of this property to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the HPB may provide official comments to the Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation as to whether or not this property meets eligibility criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



Project Description

The property, located at 4732 NW 53rd Avenue, has been nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places by the State of Florida, Division of Historical Resources. The nomination proposal will be reviewed by the Florida National Register Review Board in a public meeting later in the Fall. If the Review Board finds that the property meets the criteria for listing established by the National register, a formal nomination will be submitted to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington D.C., who will make the final decision (see Exhibit A-1).

Inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places provides recognition that the property is deemed by the federal and state governments to be significant to our history at the national, state and/or local levels.

Background

“The Devil’s Millhopper Geographical State Park (DMGSP) is located at 4732 Millhopper Road/ Northwest 53rd Avenue, in Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida. The 67 acre park contains one of the state’s most significant sink holes, being designated by the National Park Service as a National Natural Landmark as an excellent karst topography notable for scientific investigation. Being over one-hundred feet deep, the novelty of the sink hole has drawn tourists for over a century and associated with this are the park entry gates built in 1938 as a Civilian Conservation Corps project as well as a trail down the western slope into the sink, and a trail around the sink. The sink serving as a water source has been a place of human habitation from 10,000 years ago the archaeological Millhopper Site, AL5697, is located within the park. The State of Florida acquired the property in 1974 for a state park to protect the geological feature and interpret it for the public. A non-historic education center has displays explaining the geology and natural setting of the sink.”

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Persons
Interim Principal Planner

Prepared by:



Jason Simmons
Planner

List of Exhibits

- Exhibit A-1 Notification Letter from Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation to Planning Department**
- Exhibit A-2 Florida Master Site File web Details Report AL5697**
- Exhibit A-3 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**
- Exhibit A-4 National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheets**
- Exhibit A-5 Photos of Property**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Ken Detzner
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

August 24, 2016

Mr. Jason Simmons, Planner
City of Gainesville
Post Office Box 490, Station 11
Gainesville, Florida 32602-0490

Re: Devil's Millhopper

Dear Mr. Simmons:

A Florida National Register Nomination Proposal for the above referenced property has been received by the State Historic Preservation Officer. We solicit your review and recommendation concerning eligibility in accordance with the procedures established by the National Historic Preservation Act [Title I, Section 101 (16 U.S.C. 470a) (c)(2)] which created the basis for the participation of Certified Local Governments in the Florida National Register of Historic Places nomination process.

According to the Act, before a property within the jurisdiction of the certified local government may be considered by the State to be nominated for inclusion on the National Register, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall notify the owner, the applicable chief local elected official, and the local historic preservation commission. The commission, after reasonable opportunity for public comment, shall prepare a report as to whether or not such property meets the eligibility criteria. Within sixty days of the notice from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the chief local elected official shall transmit the report of the commission and his recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer. If no such report and recommendation are received within sixty days, the State shall proceed with the nomination process.

If either the preservation agency or the chief local elected official supports the nomination of the property, the proposal will be scheduled for consideration by the Florida National Register Review Board. If both the commission and the chief local elected official recommend that a property not be nominated to the National Register, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall take no further action, unless within thirty days of the receipt of such recommendation by the State Historic Preservation Officer an

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Director's Office
850.245.6300 • FAX: 850.245.6435

Archaeological Research
850.245.6444 • FAX: 850.245.6452

Historic Preservation
850.245.6333 • FAX: 850.245.6437

Simmons
August 24, 2016
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appeal is filed with the State. Any party may file an appeal with the State Historic Preservation Officer. If the State Historic Preservation Officer, after hearing the appeal, determines that the property is eligible, he shall proceed with the nomination process. The State Historic Preservation Officer shall include any reports and recommendations from any party along with the nomination submitted to the Keeper of the Register.

We look forward to your recommendation and comments regarding this property. If we can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert O. Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Robert O. Jones
Historic Preservationist
Survey and Registration Section

Enclosure



<< Previous Next >> Record 1 of 1



AL5697 - Millhopper
SHPO Evaluation

Not Evaluated by SHPO

Archaeological Site

Quick Search
(Enter SiteID or MS#)

[New Search](#)

[Back to Results](#)

[Print/Save Report](#)

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View Associated Manuscript PDFs
21343

Culture Types

- American-20th Century
- Early Archaic
- Late Archaic
- Middle Archaic
- Paleoindian, 10000 B.C.-8500 B.C.
- Prehistoric-Aceramic
- Seminole 1716-present

Site Types

- Habitation (prehistoric)
- Land-terrestrial

Artifact Categories

- Aboriginal ceramics
- Lithics
- Miscellaneous historic

Diagnostic Artifacts

- Chattahoochee Brushed
- Hardee Beveled Point
- Orange
- Transitional Paleoindian/ Archaic Poin

Quad Map Names

GAINESVILLE WEST

City

Gainesville

Township | Range | Section

09S | 19E | 15

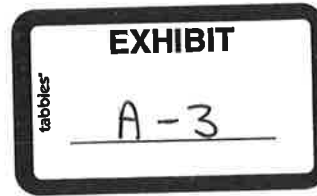
Associated Manuscripts

21343

Field Visit Dates

July 2014





**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name DEVIL'S MILLHOPPER GEOLOGICAL STATE PARK

other names/site number FMSF #AL5718

2. Location

street & number 4732 Millhopper Road N/A not for publication

city or town Gainesville N/A vicinity

state Florida code FL countv Alachua code 001 zip code 32653

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
3	0	structures
0	1	objects
4	1	total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

"N/A"

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

PARK

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

PARK

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A

roof N/A
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHAEOLOGY: prehistoric
 ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION: park

Period of Significance

Late Paleoindian-Early Archaic (8000-1000BCE)
 1938-1966

Significant Dates

8000BCE
 1938

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Paleoindian Period

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

 # _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 18 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 2 2 4 3 5	3 1 0 4 4 9 3	3											
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing									
2				4											

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Byrd, Julia/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date March 2016

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund: Deborah Poppel

street & number 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard telephone 850-965-5530

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-3000

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

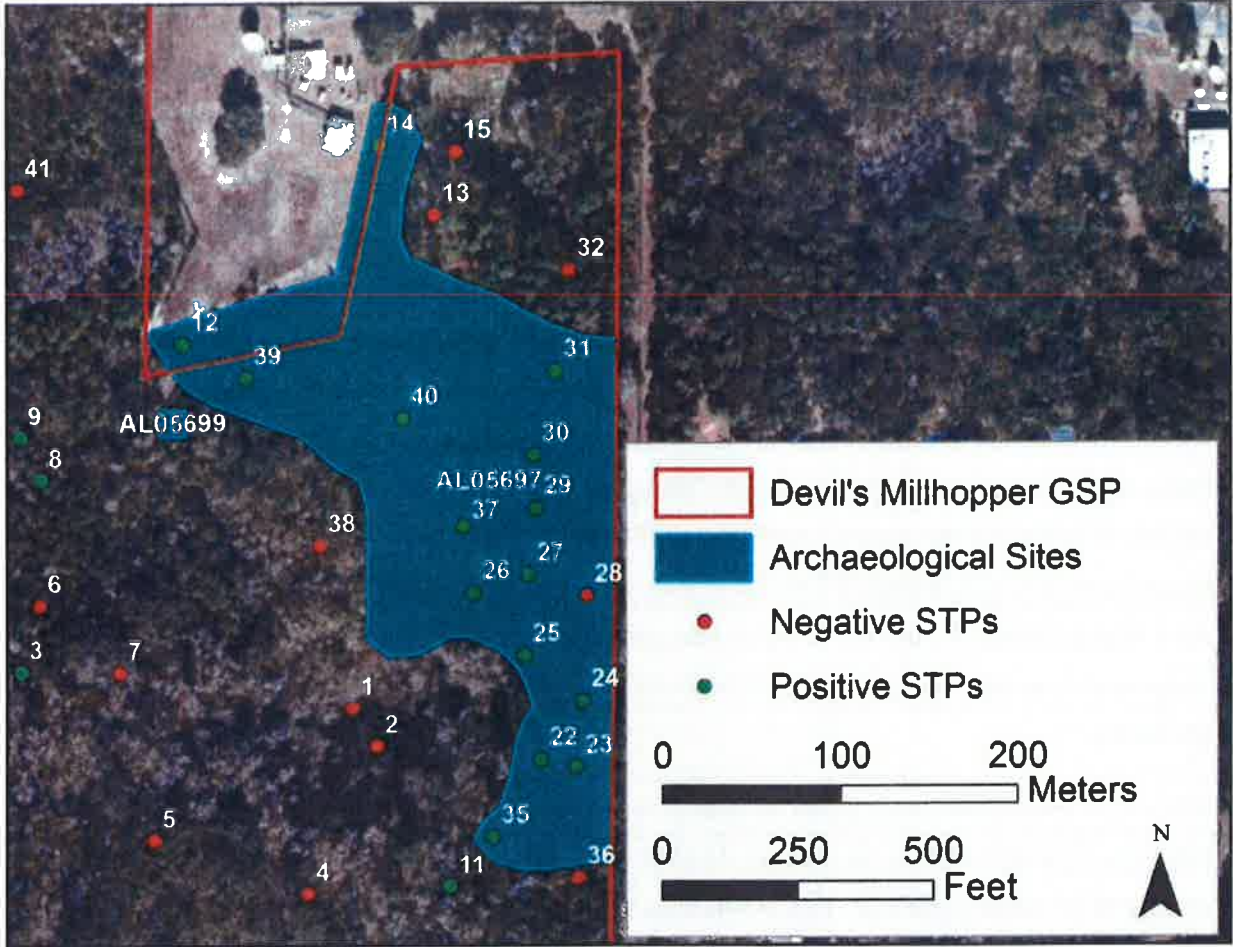


Figure #1 - Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park – Millhopper Site AL5697

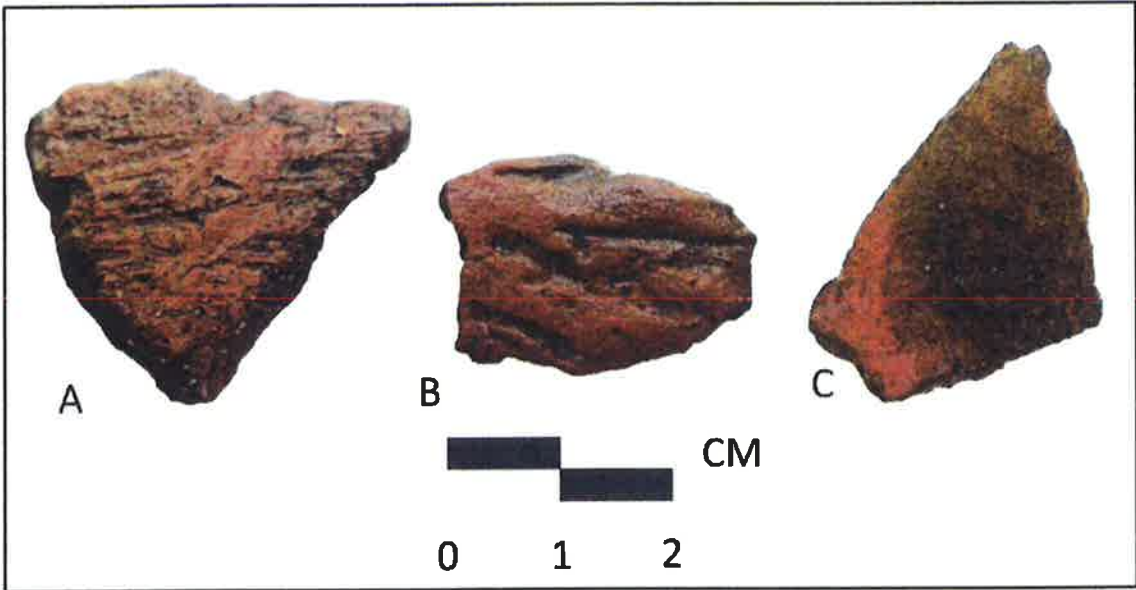


Figure #2 – Ceramic potsherds

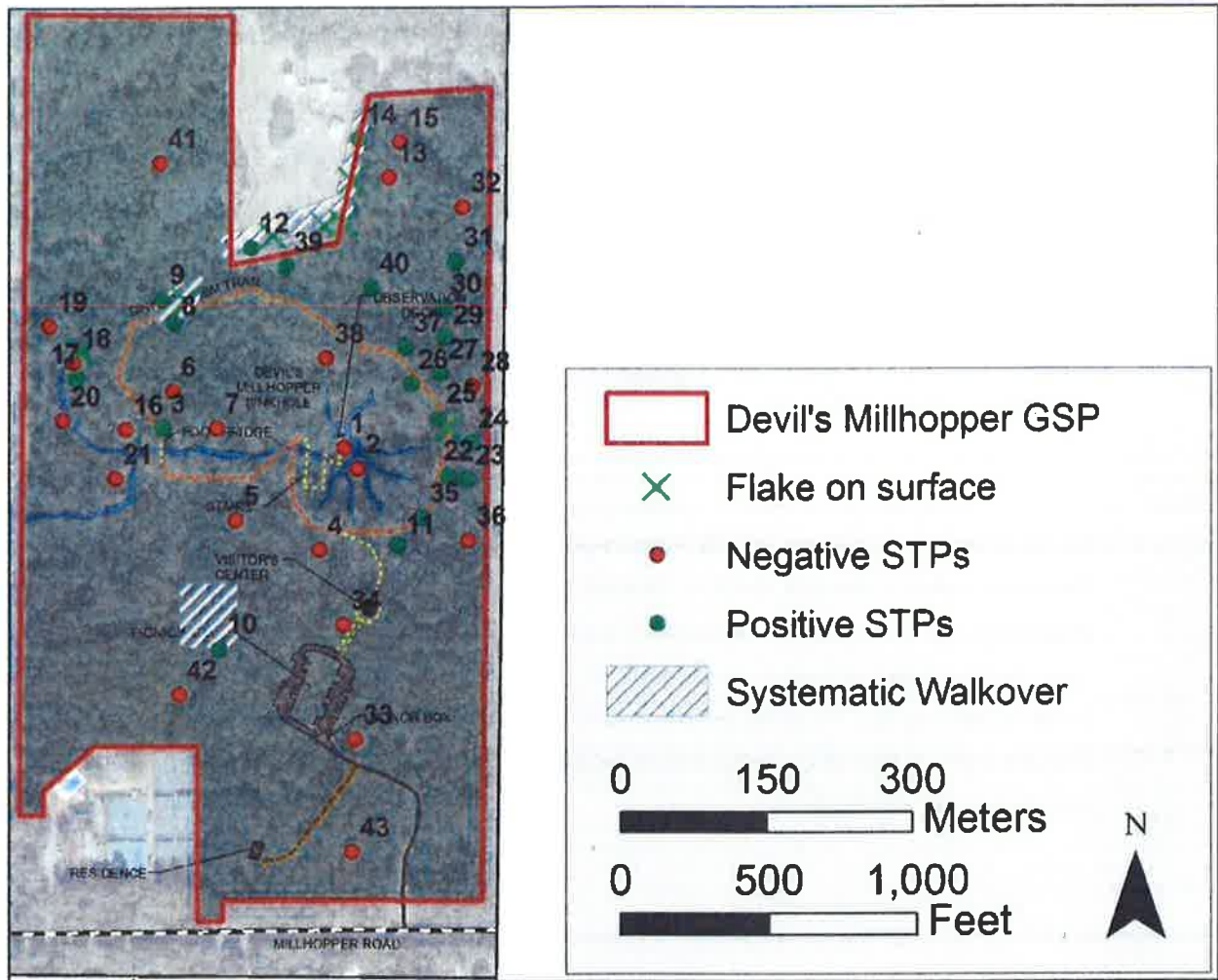


Figure # - Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park - Location of Shovel Test Pits, 2014

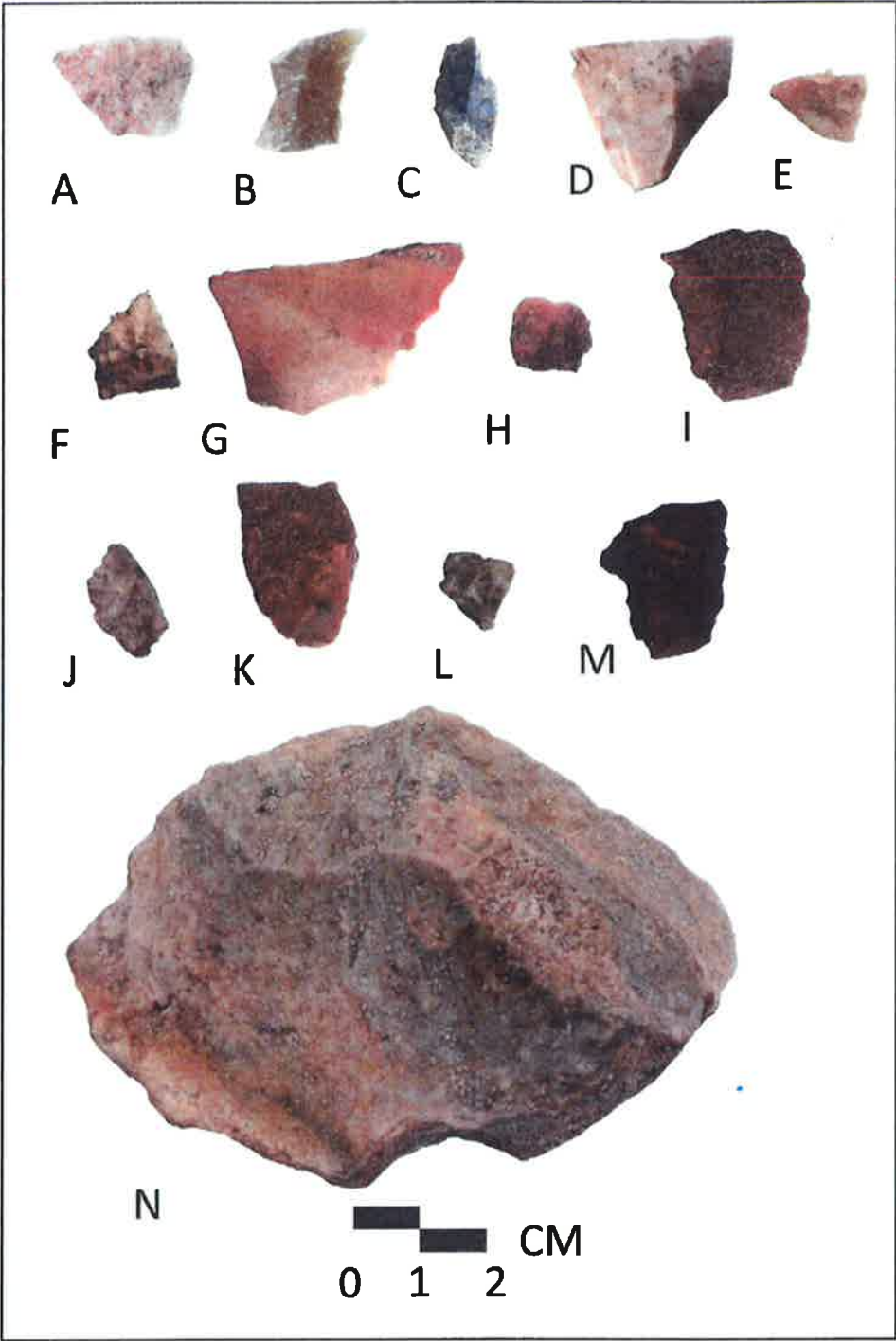
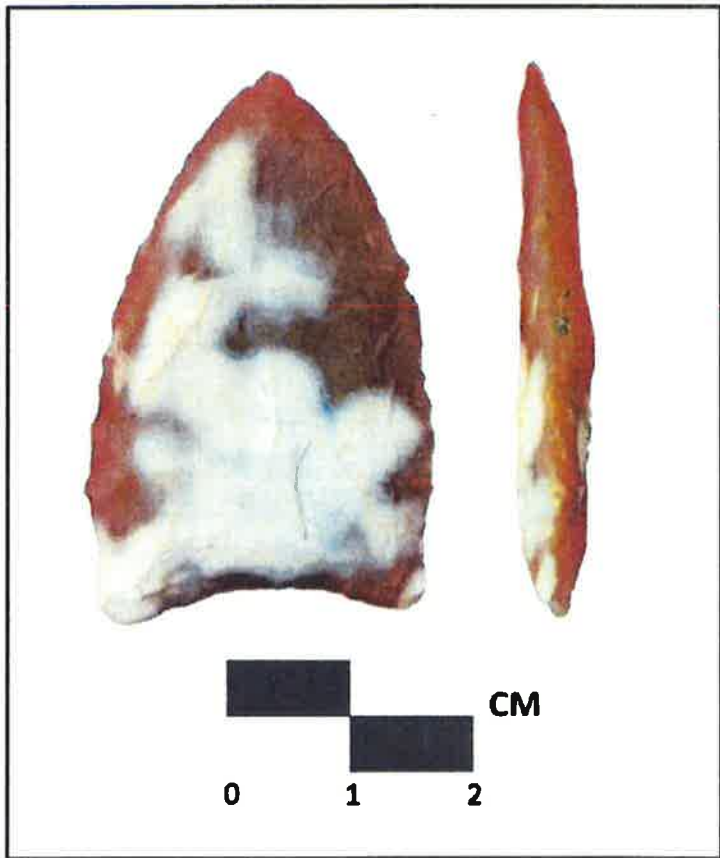


Figure #4, Selected artifacts from AL5697. A) flake from STP #11; B) flake from STP #12; C) flake from STP #22; D-F) flakes from STP #23; G-K) flakes from STP #27; L,M) flakes from STP #29; N) core from STP #25.



Figures #5 & #6, Late Paleoindian/Early Archaic Transitional projectile point collected on the surface of AL5697. Close up of projectile point showing basal grinding.

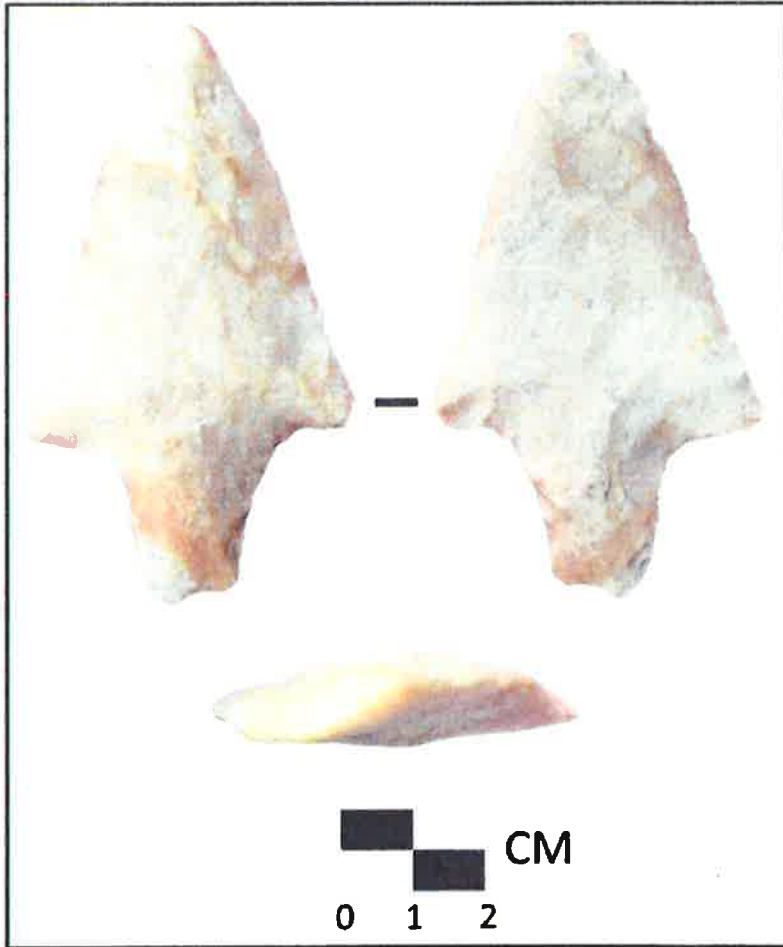


Figure #7, Hardee Beveled projectile point/knife reported found in firebreak on west side of University of Florida radio tower in site AL5697. The bottom image is a profile view illustrating the bevel.

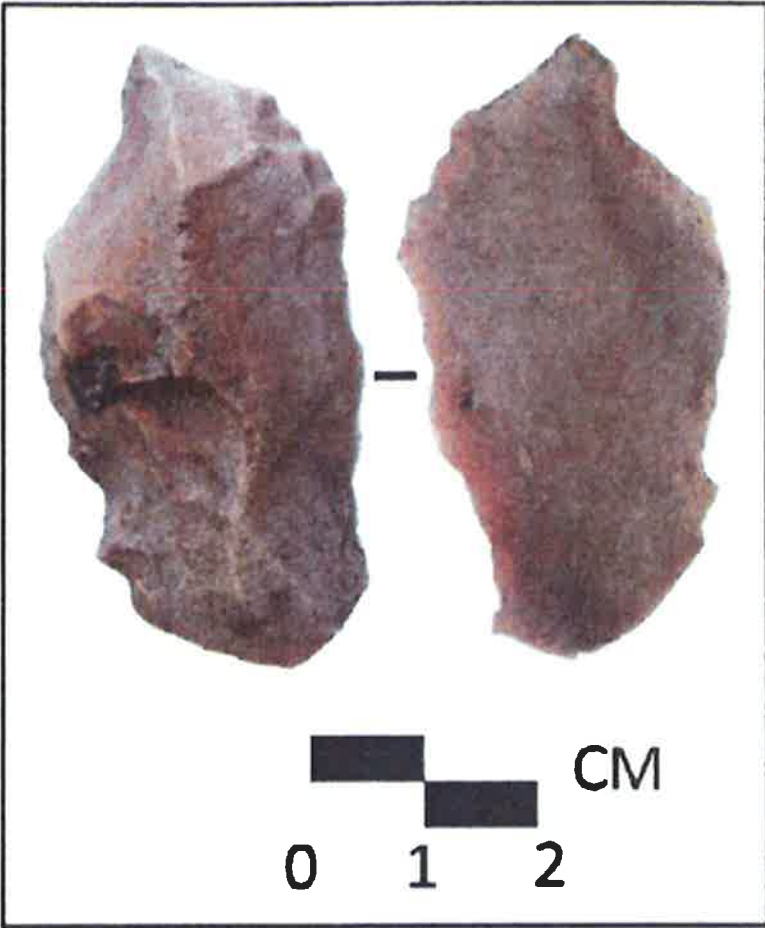


Figure #8, Scraper/graver from Survey Test Pit #14

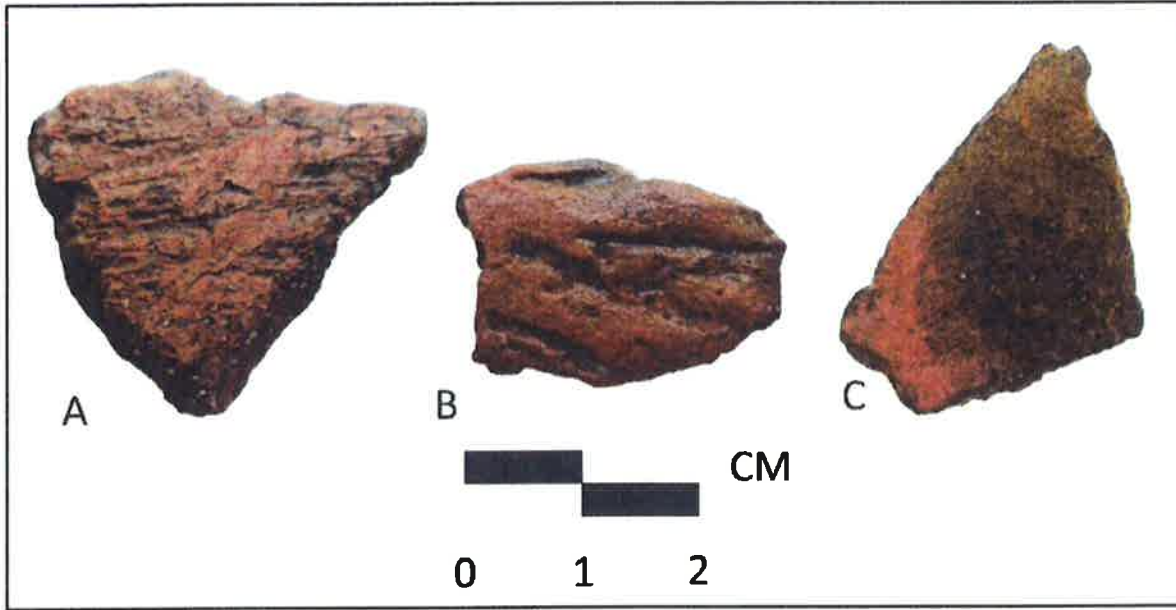
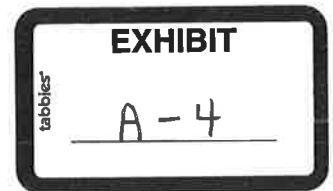


Figure #2, Pottery fragments from AL5697. A) Chattahoochee Brushed (photographed at an angle to accentuate surface decoration); B) Un-typed sand and grit-tempered, undecorated.



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **DEVIL'S MILLHOPPER GEOLOGICAL
STATE PARK, ALACHUA COUNTY,
FLORIDA**

SUMMARY

The Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park (DMGSP) is located at 4732 Millhopper Road/ Northwest 53rd Avenue, in Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida. The 67 acre park contains one of the state's most significant sink holes, being designated by the National Park Service as a National Natural Landmark as an excellent karst topography notable for scientific investigation. Being over one-hundred feet deep, the novelty of the sink hole has drawn tourists for over a century and associated with this are the park entry gates built in 1938 as a Civilian Conservation Corps project as well as a trail down the western slope into the sink, and a trail around the sink. The sink serving as a water source has been a place of human habitation from 10,000 years ago the archaeological Millhopper Site, AL5697, is located within the park. The State of Florida acquired the property in 1974 for a state park to protect the geological feature and interpret it for the public. A non-historic education center has displays explaining the geology and natural setting of the sink.

SETTING

The park is on the north side of the City of Gainesville, and north of Northwest 53rd Avenue also known as Millhopper Road. The area has a continuous tree cover and residences are in the surrounding area. Interstate 75 is three and one-half miles to the west, and two miles to the east is State Highway 41/441. Deer Run Creek originates a mile to the northwest of the sink in a residential sub-division, and is a main source of water into the Devil's Millhopper sinkhole. A visitor's trail that circles the sinkhole has a bridge that crosses Deer Run Creek to the west. From the bridge the creek is visible to the west and the east where it enters the sinkhole (**Photo #1**).

Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park (DMGSP) is located in an archaeologically rich area. There are over 150 archaeological sites and nearly 200 historic structures within five miles of the park. Two of these sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Mission San Francisco de Potano (AL272), and Liberty Hill Schoolhouse (AL4863) (Florida Master Site File). Liberty Hill Schoolhouse is an 1892 one-room schoolhouse used by African American children. Mission San Francisco de Potano, is a Spanish Mission site and Potano-Timucua archaeological site located less than two miles (3.2 km)

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northwest of DMGSP. Fox Pond was the capital city of the Potano-Timucua Indians at the time of European contact. Established in 1606 and abandoned in 1706, the mission was the earliest Spanish mission with a resident friar established in interior Florida, and the last of the missions to be abandoned.

Geography

Natural communities and soils are important to archaeologists because they are variables to help predict cultural site locations. Devil's Millhopper lies near the northwestern edge of a plateau and forms a transitional zone with the flatter area to the west. Sinkholes are common in the region (Cooke 1939:4). Sinkholes to the southwest of Devil's Millhopper tend to have broader and more gently sloping sides and sit directly on top of Ocala Limestone or lie beneath a thin layer of sediment overlying Ocala Limestone. At Devil's Millhopper, the Ocala Limestone is buried beneath thick Hawthorne Formation sediments (Brinkmann 2013:116-117). Hawthorne sediments begin at approximately three feet below the surface, are Miocene-age and possibly Pleistocene-age clayey sands and sandy clays with phosphorite grains (Pirkle 1956a:169; Pirkle 1958:149). Hawthorne sediments predate human habitation. Pelham sand covers the sinkhole and the seepage spring run to the west of the sinkhole.

The sinkhole does not fill with water nor is it typically dry. Three major streams feed water into the sink hole with the largest being the stream from Deer Run Creek to the west. All sides of the sinkhole drain water dependent on the rain absorption in surrounding ground, and the streams are reduced during droughts but never completely dry (Arnold 1936:79-80). The age of the sink hole is not known but geologists agree that a reasonable estimate is in thousands of years old (Harley Means, personal communication). One geologist reasons that the sinkhole formed via two collapse episodes. At almost 60 feet below surface, or half way down the sink hole, there is a ledge reported to be 25 to 30 feet wide (Arnold 1936:78, 88).

With respect to cultural resources, relative drainage characteristics are more important than absolute drainage character or soil type. In other words, preferable habitation areas may not necessarily align with certain soil types, but preferable areas are more likely to lie on

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 7 Page 3 **DEVIL'S MILLHOPPER GEOLOGICAL
STATE PARK, ALACHUA COUNTY,
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soils that are relatively drier than neighboring soils. Following this logic, the interface of Millhopper sand and Pelham sand on the eastern side of the sink are targets for archaeological investigation. Likewise the well-drained Arredondo soils next to water features in the northwest will be targeted.

Most of the forest at DMGSP is mixed hardwoods and pines, with an area of sandhill pines in the northeast, mesic flatwoods in the northwest, and a stand of long-needle pines planted as a Civilian Conservation Corps project in the southeast. At DMGSP, scrubby flatwoods and sandhill pine areas may contain deep sands with the potential for intact prehistoric sites. Areas within the mixed-hardwood coniferous and mesic flatwoods near water features may also hold prehistoric sites.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Entrance Gates – 1938

Turning north off of Millhopper Boulevard one enters the Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park between rustic square limestone pillars and stone walls that flank the driveway (**Photos #2 & 3**). The rubble limestone and chert is assembled with concrete. The work was done by a Civilian Conservation Corp crew in 1938 (Gainesville Sun, 1938). After the acquisition of the property by the Florida Park Service, the wall was extended in 1977. The CCC crew also planted the long-needle pine that cover the southern portion of the park.

The road between the pillars was used by cars who drove northward and parked mostly on the east side of the sinkhole. Several hundred feet into the park the historic route was diverted in 1977 westward to the parking area and kept cars away from the sinkhole (**Photo #4**).

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) got involved with the property recognizing that it was a significant geological feature as well as a popular public gathering spot. The public's unregulated use of the feature was causing degradation with the destroying of

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**DEVIL'S MILLHOPPER GEOLOGICAL
STATE PARK, ALACHUA COUNTY,
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vegetation and erosion of the land around and within the sinkhole. Access into the sink hole was from all directions.

Two Trails – 1938

The WPA workers in 1938 built two hiking trails that exist to this day. One is a trail within the western portion of the sinkhole with switch-backs and wooden hand rails. Toward the bottom of the sinkhole and by the Deer Run Creek, a bench was built to serve as an “observation deck.” They also established a hiking trail that encircled the sinkhole and crossed Deer Run Creek with a log bridge.

Despite the planned trail within the west side of the sinkhole, people continued to explore the sink from all directions, impacting the site, and removing archaeological materials and pre-historic sharks teeth. When the State Park acquired the property in 1974, they made plans to refurbish the trail around the sinkhole (**Photos #5 & 6**) and eliminated several trails that meandered into the depression. The trail into the western side of the sinkhole now has wooden steps and slightly elevated walkways with handrails (**Photos #7 & 8**). Visitors are kept to the walkway and vegetation around the trail has returned. The aged log bridge was replaced with a wooden bridge that is safer for the public and more easily repaired (**Photo #9**).

National Natural Landmark Bronze Marker

Attached to a limestone boulder near the entrance to the trail into the sinkhole is a plaque that acknowledges the designation of the sinkhole as a National Natural Landmark (**Photos #10 & 11**). The title was conferred in 1974 by the Department of the Interior, and the date of 1976 on the marker is an error. The sinkhole was designated as an excellent example of karst topography in the Southeast, and a significant cultural and historic site in the Alachua area. The sinkhole is notable also in that it contains several ecosystems and microhabitats, and major plant associations that demonstrate vertical zonation. Due to its age the marker is not a contributing resource in this nomination.

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**DEVIL'S MILLHOPPER GEOLOGICAL
STATE PARK, ALACHUA COUNTY,
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Millhopper Site - AL5697

Field work at the site was conducted in July of 2014, and the site was recorded in the Florida Master Site File on November 26, 2014. The 11-acre (45,280 m²) site covers much of the east side of DMGSP property from the south rim of the sink to the slightly higher ground to the east and north of the sink (**Photo #12**). Millhopper Site (AL5697) is located exclusively on Millhopper Sand. There were sixteen shovel test pits (STP) within the designated site, and low-density and vacant pits were defined as beyond the site (**Figure #1**). Most STPs are spaced 30 m apart, and up to 50m apart. The western border of the site is delineated by a marked reduction in artifact density. The boundary to the east is artificially defined by the property boundary, where the northwest boundary extends onto University of Florida radio tower property which is beyond park property. Much of the site evidence is subsurface, with the majority of the artifacts in the top 50 cm of soil.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 8 Page 1 **DEVIL'S MILLHOPPER GEOLOGICAL
STATE PARK, ALACHUA COUNTY,
FLORIDA**

SUMMARY

The Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park is nominated to the National Register for its local significance under Criteria A and D in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation: Tourism, and Prehistoric Archaeology. The Devil's Millhopper is a sinkhole 120 deep, of unknown age but estimated at over ten-thousand years since Paleoindians (10,000 years ago) inhabited the site. The sinkhole is one of 597 National Natural Landmarks, and was designated by the Department of the Interior in 1974. This Paleo Archaeological site, "Millhopper Site," AL5697, is located north and east of the sinkhole. The novelty of the geological site has attracted visitors since the 19th century, with 1869 the first known record of this use. Tourism in a concerted way was promoted since the 1880s. In recognition of this popular tourist site the Works Progress Administration in 1938, and working with the Civilian Conservation Corps created trails, and limestone entrance gates south of the sinkhole. The University of Florida stepped in to manage and try to protect the geological feature in 1952. The Florida Park Service acquired the property in 1973. The Millhopper archaeological site has been surveyed and designated as a base camp dating to Late Paleoindian/Early Archaic Periods. The nomination contains 1 archaeological site, and 4 structures (gates, 2 trails, bridge), and the periods of significance are 8,000-1,000 BCE, and 1938-1966.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

By the early 20th century, many of the forests in Florida were depleted after decades of supporting the logging and naval stores industries. The Florida Forest Service was created in the 1920s to begin replanting the 16 million acres of virgin pine forests lost in the preceding decades of logging and turpentine harvests (Shofner 1987:434). The effort continued in earnest during the Works Progress Administration (WPA) era of the 1930s. "Roosevelt's tree army," as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was sometimes called, planted more than half of all the trees ever planted in the United States (Nelson 2008:49, Shofner 1987) and played a significant role in making Florida's earliest conservation lands accessible to the public. The Florida Park Service was established in 1935, originally supervised by the Florida Forestry Board, with the goal of bringing tourists to Florida's natural areas. The Florida Park Service was created in part to provide work

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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projects for the CCC and allow Florida to receive and use the federal assistance of the WPA (Nelson 2008:110-111). As a result, CCC crews built the tourist infrastructure for Florida's earliest state parks.

The name "Devil's Millhopper" is derived from its funnel-like shape which resembles a "hopper" that was used to dispense grain onto a millstone in a water powered gristmill. Because fossilized bones and teeth have been found at the bottom of the sink, it was said that the Devil's Millhopper fed bodies to the devil (Florida State Parks brochure).

The Devil's Millhopper sinkhole has attracted visitors to this remarkable geologic formation since the early years of Florida's settlement by the United States. The earliest discovered mention of it is in a visitor's guidebook, the 1869 "Guide-book of Florida and the South," by Daniel Brinton who briefly mentions the sinkhole referred to as "Devil's Wash Pot," (1869:94). The "Devil's Washpot" is mentioned in 1883 by James Gambier, describing it as "another curious place visited by pleasure parties" (Gambier 1883:92). Norton's 1892 "Handbook of Florida," describes the sinkhole and writes that the waterfalls into the sink and the "pool at the bottom of the hopper, whose level has not changed materially since the county was settled." Norton's handbook contains information on the sink hole and describes it as a "curiosity" and "a bowl-shaped depression about three acres in extent, and 150 feet deep" (Norton 1892:286). Prior to 1914, the Dell family of Gainesville promoted visitation and drove tour carriages from their livery stable in the city.

Early dirt roadways ran across the northern edge of the sinkhole, and south of the sink. Visitors to Devil's Millhopper approached the sinkhole from various directions, and degradation of the site was obvious. In the 1930s, with offers of the federal Works Progress Administration to develop protective infrastructure for the tourists and frequent scientists, the Dells family sold the property with the Devil's Millhopper in 1935 to the Gainesville Junior Chamber of Commerce, a public organization for a minimal price.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The land was transferred from the Junior Chamber of Commerce to Alachua County to receive federal funding, and the Civilian Conservation Corps was called upon to plant

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long-needle pine trees, which today fill the property south of the sinkhole. They also built a stone entry gate off of Millhopper Road/53rd Avenue, and fencing to restrict traffic on was then 48 acres. The also built pathways with railings to the bottom of the sink on its west side in an effort to regulate access of the sinkhole. The also built a trail encircling the sinkhole that crossed Deer Run Creek to the west with a rustic bridge built from a large tree. Also built were rustic tables and benches, and they cleared underbrush around the top of the sinkhole. The work was done in 1938. With these improvements the Devil's Millhopper was frequently promoted as a local tourist attraction.

The Devil's Millhopper continued to be a popular attraction, but following the Great Depression and World War II years, and a lack of public funds to maintain the site, it was badly degraded by 1950. In 1952, the University of Florida with an interest in the geology and biodiversity of the site, agreed to administer it. Various plans for fencing and trail improvement were developed but not carried out. By the 1960s the University students knew the property as a party destination. Litter accumulated, erosion was accelerated, and prehistoric sharks teeth and Native American artifacts were removed as souvenirs. In 1973, the University acknowledged that they could not management it, but hoped the State's Division of Recreation and Parks could, and at the same time allow the University to use the property for research (Press Release 1973). The State purchased 37 acres surrounding Devil's Millhopper on January 16, 1974, and added 26-acres for Deer Run Creek on May 19, 1977 (FDRP 1979-1987).

The site became the Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park under the management of the Division of Recreation and Parks. Under active management the appreciation of the site as a place of natural beauty became its focus. Although most visitors to the sink in 1975 still parked their cars on the eastern side of the sinkhole (Cardozo 1975), plans were underway to improve the park. In September 1977, the Park installed the hexagonal visitor's center with interpretive displays that focused visitors' attention on the natural and pre-historic interests of Devil's Millhopper (O'Neal 1977). The Secretary of the Interior designated the site a National Natural Landmark in December 1974 (NPS 1974b; NPS 1975). A plaque near the edge of the sinkhole and trail marks this National Natural Landmark designation. Internal FDEP documents state that Devil's Millhopper received National Natural Landmark (NNL) status in 1976 (FDRP 2014; FDRP 1979-1987), and a

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bronze marker placed at the site bears the date of 1976 (Photo #). However, National Park Service (NPS) records place Landmark designation in December 1974 (NPS 1974b; NPS 2012).

PREHISTORIC CONTEXT

Paleoindian

Paleoindians were the first inhabitants of Florida, arriving by at least 12,000 radiocarbon years ago at the end of the Pleistocene. Average temperatures were cooler with warmer winters, though the climate was beginning a gradual warming trend that would level off with our current climactic conditions by around 5,000 years ago. With lower Pleistocene global temperatures, more water worldwide was locked up in glaciers, making sea level and surface waters tied into the Floridian aquifer several hundred meters lower than today. Lower sea levels on the order of 80 m below present resulted in a coastline much farther from the present day coast (Miller 1998:45). If Paleoindians were living near the ocean, material evidence of their coastal lifeways is now submerged and inaccessible through terrestrial survey. Similarly, many Paleoindian sites like Harney Flats, a large Paleoindian base camp near Tampa, are now deeply buried beneath younger soils (Daniel and Wisenbaker 1987) and may not be detectable by digging shallow shovel test pits. When preservation of organics is good, as it can be at submerged sites, the more common Paleoindian points are accompanied by worked wood, ivory tools, beads, bone tools, and other perishable material (Hemmings 2004). However, many Paleoindian sites are only detectable today through the presence of flakes, or the chipped stone debris created during the manufacture and maintenance of stone tools. There are five recorded sites within eight miles of DMGSP that have a Paleoindian component. In all of Alachua County, there are only nine Paleoindian sites.

Archaic

Following the Paleoindian period, the Archaic period in Florida spans approximately 7,000 years, from 10,000 years ago to roughly 3,000 years ago. The Archaic period in Florida encompasses large scale cultural changes including an increasingly settled lifestyle,

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population growth, and the invention of pottery. The first few thousand years, termed the Early Archaic period, show many similarities with the late Paleoindian period. Like Paleoindians, Archaic period groups subsisted through gathering plants and hunting a variety of animals small and large (Hemmings 2004). Continuing settlement patterns well established in Paleoindian times, groups lived in bands and they targeted areas near freshwater sources to establish their campsites —some used only briefly and some used for longer periods of time. Isotopic studies indicate that Early Archaic period peoples did consume aquatic resources (Tucker 2009), but few shell middens have been radiocarbon dated to the Early Holocene. Early Archaic groups also gathered a variety of plants including medicinal plants, and hunters took small and large game, especially deer. Communities sometimes buried ancestors underwater in ponds, securing bodies to the bottom of the pond with wooden stakes. At sites where organics are preserved, organic tools such as bone points greatly outnumber stone projectile points (Doran 2002). Because organics are not usually preserved, Early Archaic period sites are often identified by scatters of lithic flakes (stone tool making debris) or notched projectile points at sites that lack associated ceramics. There are nine sites recorded in the Florida Master Site File within eight miles of DMGSP with an Early Archaic component, and sixteen sites in Alachua County with Early Archaic components.

The Middle Archaic period, roughly 7,500 to 5,000 radiocarbon years ago, coincides with continued gradual sea level rise and the establishment of large estuarine systems in Florida. The oldest known dugout canoe from Florida dates to approximately 6,000 radiocarbon years ago (8VO30 file at FMSF), suggesting groups were on the water and able to harvest fish and shellfish in greater quantities and in more remote locations. Middle Archaic period sites frequently bear large amounts of shell, testifying to intensive consumption of shellfish and, at some sites, even intentional mounding of the shells. Some Middle Archaic period groups also buried their dead in the shell. They acquired items from faraway places all over the Southeast and even into the Midwest. Middle Archaic groups moved marine shells from the coastal areas to interior sites in Florida and beyond. They were fishers, hunters, and gatherers with seasonal patterns of shell fishing and camp relocation (Russo 1994). A Middle Archaic advancement in the stone toolkit is the widespread use of heat-treatment. Heating stone makes it easier to work, thus improving the quality of poor lithic material (Crabtree and Butler 1964; Amick and Carr 1996:45). Prior to the Middle Archaic, only 30

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percent of diagnostic projectile point types were thermally altered. During the Middle Archaic, the frequency of diagnostic points with evidence of heat-treatment is over 70 percent, which is higher than any other time period (Ste. Claire 1987). Some interpret the results of Ste. Claire's study as evidence that heat-treated flakes are diagnostic of the Middle Archaic period, but this is not always a safe assumption. The presence of a large frequency of heat-treated flakes does indicate, however, that components of the site probably postdate the Paleoindian and Early Archaic periods. Twenty-three sites within eight miles of DMGSP are recorded as having a Middle Archaic component. Forty-three sites in Alachua County are classified as Middle Archaic in the Florida Master Site File, a drastic increase over the number of Early Archaic and Paleoindian sites recorded in the same area. One reason for this increase may be the attribution of heat-treated flakes to the Middle Archaic period. The increase in sites probably also reflects increased population.

By approximately 5,000 years ago sea level rise abated and the climate became much like it is today. By 4200 Radio Carbon Year Before Present (RCYBP), Late Archaic peoples were making and using pottery (Sassaman 2003). The ceramic type is called Orange, and it is created by adding palmetto fibers to clay in the early stages of ceramic production. Population increased quickly in the Late Archaic, and the circular footprints of large coastal villages left behind conspicuous rings of shell. In the interior where shell was less abundant, the same circular arrangement is visible in pottery distributions. These ring-shaped villages are the footprints left by long-term settlement. Late Archaic period groups buried their dead in shell mounds and in cemeteries adjacent to water features (Russo 1994). Only twelve sites within eight miles of DMGSP have a Late Archaic component, and 30 sites in Alachua County have components classified as Late Archaic or contain fiber-tempered pottery.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The largest archaeological site at Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park is Millhopper Site AL5697, (**Figure #1**). It is a prehistoric base camp, dating primarily to the transitional Late Paleoindian/Early Archaic periods through Middle Archaic period based on two diagnostic surface collected projectile points. The 11-acre (45,280 m²) site covers most of the east side of DMGSP property, from the south rim of the sink to the slightly higher

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ground north of the sink. Millhopper Site (AL5697) is located exclusively on Millhopper Sand, a moderately well-drained soil, but the site spans several natural communities (Figures 34 and 35). AL5697 is predominantly aceramic, with chipped stone accounting for 97% of the subsurface artifact assemblage. Most of the lithic artifacts encountered are flakes, or the garbage produced while making and resharpening stone tools. Public Lands Archaeology recorded one graver/scrapper (Shovel Test Pit (STP) #14) and documented two projectile points found long ago by a former land manager. The site held only three ceramic potsherds (**Figure #2**). All of the pottery came from a single shovel test pit (STP #29). Interestingly, the ceramics date to two time periods, Late Archaic (Orange pottery) and Seminole (Chattahoochee Brushed pottery).

The boundaries of Millhopper Site (AL5697) are approximate and based on limits of the survey, water features, negative shovel test pits at 25 to 50 m intervals, and decreased artifact density (**Figure #3**). The site is bounded on the north with two negative shovel test pits and a water feature. The southwestern edge of the site is bordered by the sinkhole and a negative shovel test pit on the northern rim of the sink. The western border of the site is delineated by a marked reduction in artifact density, with only one flake in STPs #8 and #9 contrasted with 7 and 8 flakes in STPs #39 and #12, respectively. Similarly STP #11 contained only one flake, but STP #35, only 35 m away held four flakes. Because the region is so rich in lithic material and because flakes are abundant throughout the property in low density, the boundary of the site excludes the single artifact occurrences on the edges of AL5697. The eastern boundary of Millhopper Site (AL5697) is artificial defined by the park boundary. It is likely that the site extends beyond the borders, and it may even connect to the northeast with Hopper Site (AL4822), which is a Middle Archaic campsite only 300 m north of the DMGSP boundary. In total, sixteen positive STPs represent AL5697, with most spaced 30 m apart from one another and many of the shovel test pits spaced up to 50 m apart (**Figure #4**). Note that the boundaries on the northwestern side of the site follow the fence line of the University of Florida radio tower and extend outside the State Park boundaries.

The only truly diagnostic artifacts associated with AL5697 are two projectile points reported found on the surface on the northern edge of the site. The first is a Late Paleoindian/Early Archaic Transitional projectile point from the surface of the disturbed

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University of Florida radio tower fence line (**Figures #5 & 6**). The point could also probably be classified as a Greenbriar or Suwannee depending on the analyst, but all of these fall in the same general time range and indicate a Late Paleoindian to Early Archaic date (Jim Dunbar, Grayal Farr, David Thulman, Mike Wisenbaker, personal communication). The same informant reported finding a second projectile point/knife in the firebreak to the west of the first point. The exact location of the find is unknown. The tool is a Hardee Beveled projectile point/knife, which dates to the Middle Archaic period (**Figure #7**).

Of the lithic artifacts encountered in shovel test pits from AL5697, there are no definitive diagnostics. The site produced one scraper/graver (STP #14), a common tool type for the Late Pleistocene/Early Holocene also used at other times during prehistory (**Figure #8**). This graver shows evidence of heat-treatment, which could suggest it postdates the Early Archaic period, when thermal alteration was not employed as frequently as in the Middle Archaic period. Thermally altered artifacts comprise 66% of the total subsurface lithic artifacts recovered. Thermal alteration is most highly associated with Middle Archaic and Woodland period point types, but the association is not exclusive to those periods (Ste. Claire 1987). The incidence of thermal alteration combined with a paucity of Woodland period ceramics elsewhere at the site suggests the scraper/graver, as well as many of the other stone artifacts, may date to the Middle Archaic period.

Much of the site is subsurface, with the majority of the artifacts in the top 50 cm of soil. Fifty (or 61%) of the 82 artifacts with reliable depth information were found between 0 and 50 cm below the surface (cmbs). Another 32 artifacts (39%) were at a depth of 50-103 cmbs. Of those deeper than 50 cmbs, 19 (59% of the deep artifacts) were recovered below 70 cmbs. As a result of shallow depth of much of the site, the northwestern portion of AL5697 is exposed on the surface near the disturbance from the Radio tower. In that area, surface finds were abundant, with three areas along the fence containing clusters of flakes and two reported surface projectile points. Flakes were also observed on the surface of the trail near STP #24. A total of nine flakes were observed on the surface of AL5697, four of which show thermal alteration, and two of which bear cortex. Because flakes are visible on the surface in areas where there is no leaf litter, minimal ground disturbance on the site could cause it to become exposed.

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The Millhopper Site, AL5697, is locally significant due to the age of the site and its association with the geologically significant Millhopper sinkhole.

Research Questions

It would be valuable to do more in depth work at the site, and around the sink hole itself and try to get in-situ diagnostics. The placement of 1x2 meter units in some of the more dense areas would help define the vertical distribution of artifacts within the site and with respect to stratigraphy. How continuous, or intermittent, was the site occupation during the various cultural periods? Is there evidence of hunting within the sink hole? How does the Archaic occupation of the Millhopper Site compare to other sink holes in North Florida? Was the Paleo use of the site primarily habitation, or as a hunting or production site? Is the site a continuation of a quarry site, known as Hopper Site, immediately to the northeast? Are the sources of chert for tool making from the Hopper Site, the sink hole itself, or a source at Fox Pond directly to the west? The Millhopper Site is significant in its rarity as a site with Paleo-to-contact use. Further insights to these question topics could contribute to our understanding of settlement and hunting/subsistence patterns across pre-historic North and Central Florida.

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STATE PARK, GAINESVILLE,
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

PHYSICAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

W 818.4 FT of E 2079.00 FT of S 2574 FT of Sec Less R/W SR S0232 Also Com at NW
Cor of Above Parcel POB N 80 Ft W208.75 FT N208.75 FT E 208.75 Ft S 153.92 FT S 40
Deg E 176.25 FT W 113.60 FT To POB or 695/23 & OR 698/121 & OR 831/501
Parcel # 06021-000-000

And

N 1905.76 FT of S 2658.76 FT of E 600 FT of W 3196.21 FT OR 1067/979
Parcel #06023-003-001

The two parcels comprise the Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The archaeological Millhopper Site AL5697 is located within a portion of the #06021-000-000 parcel. The stone entry gates, the trail within the Hillhopper sink hole, and the majority of the encircling trail, all built by Civilian Conservation Corps crews in 1938 are also located within the #06021-000-000 parcel. A western portion of the encircling trail is located within the #06023-003-001 parcel (see National Register boundary map).

EXHIBIT

tabbles

A-5

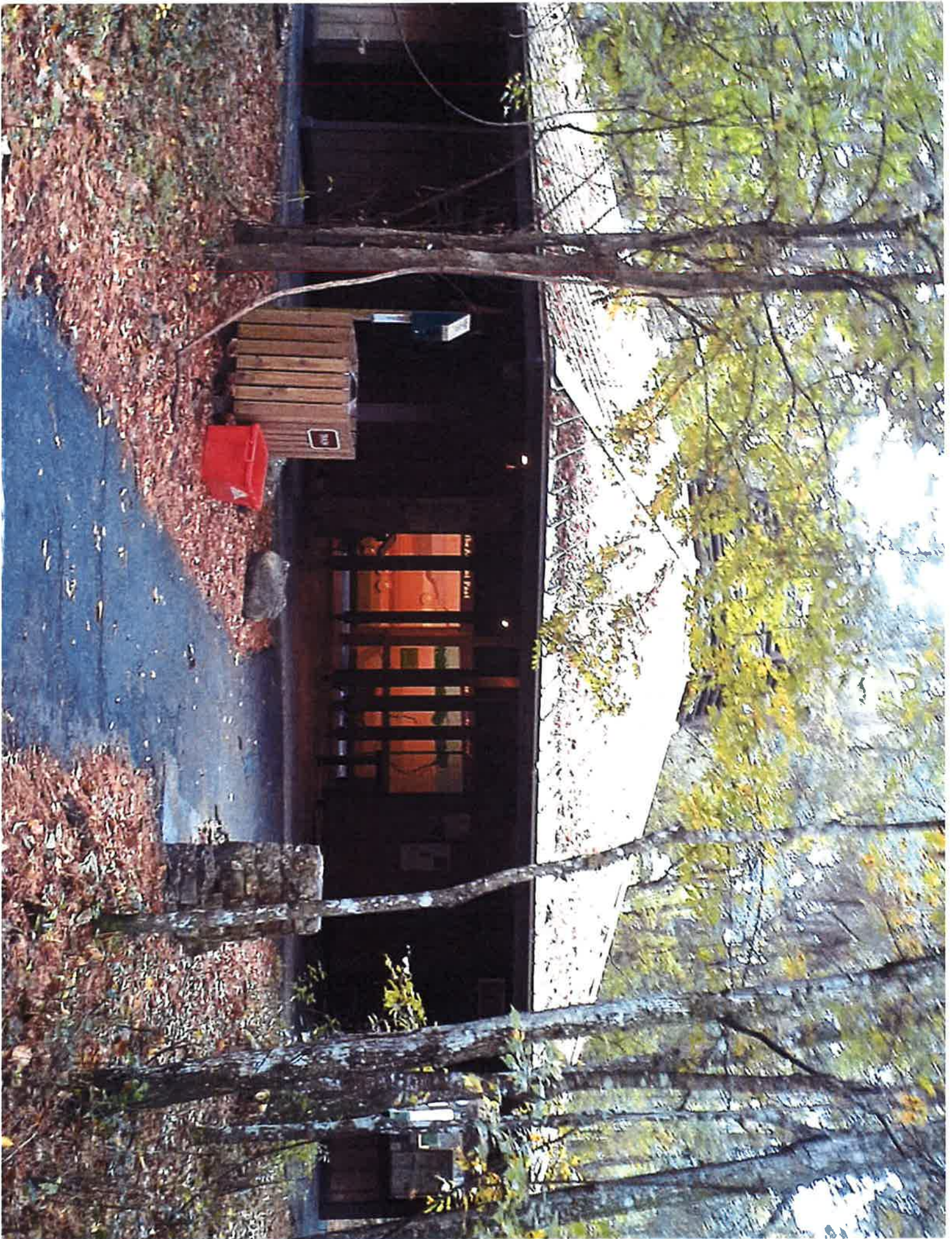




OPEN HOURS
SPRAY-SUNDAY
M TO 5:00 PM
CLOSED ON
AND TUESDAY





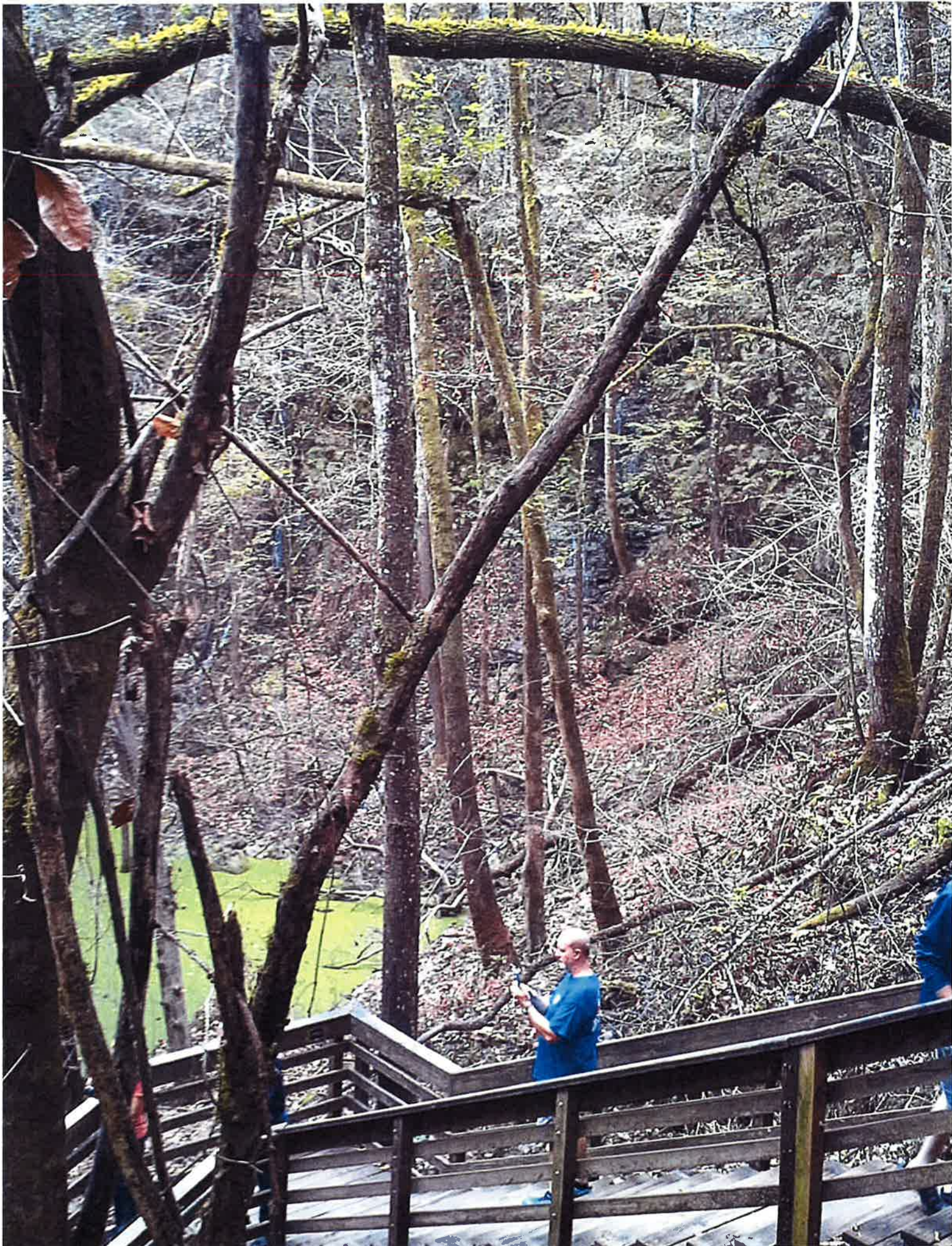


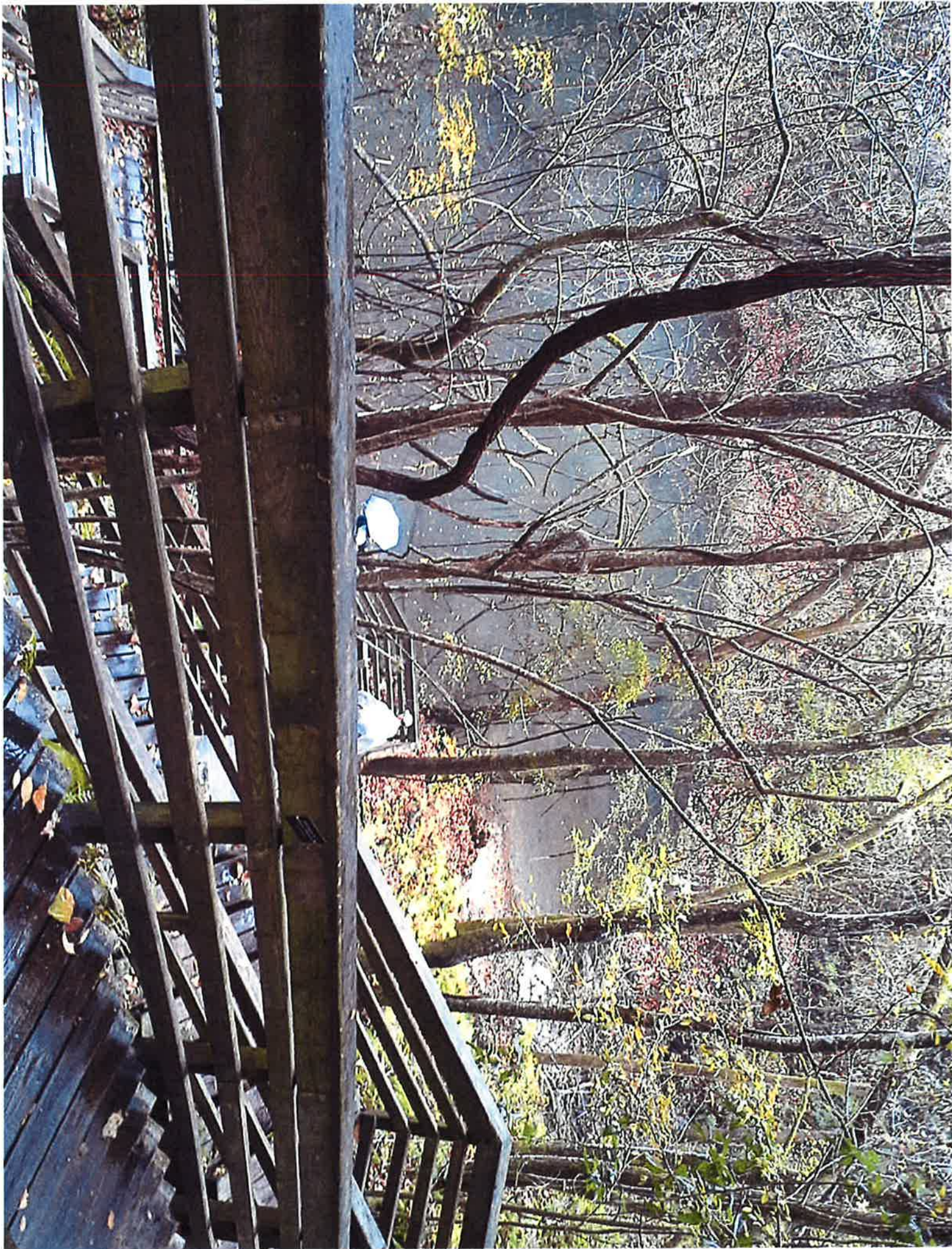


SINKHOLE
→

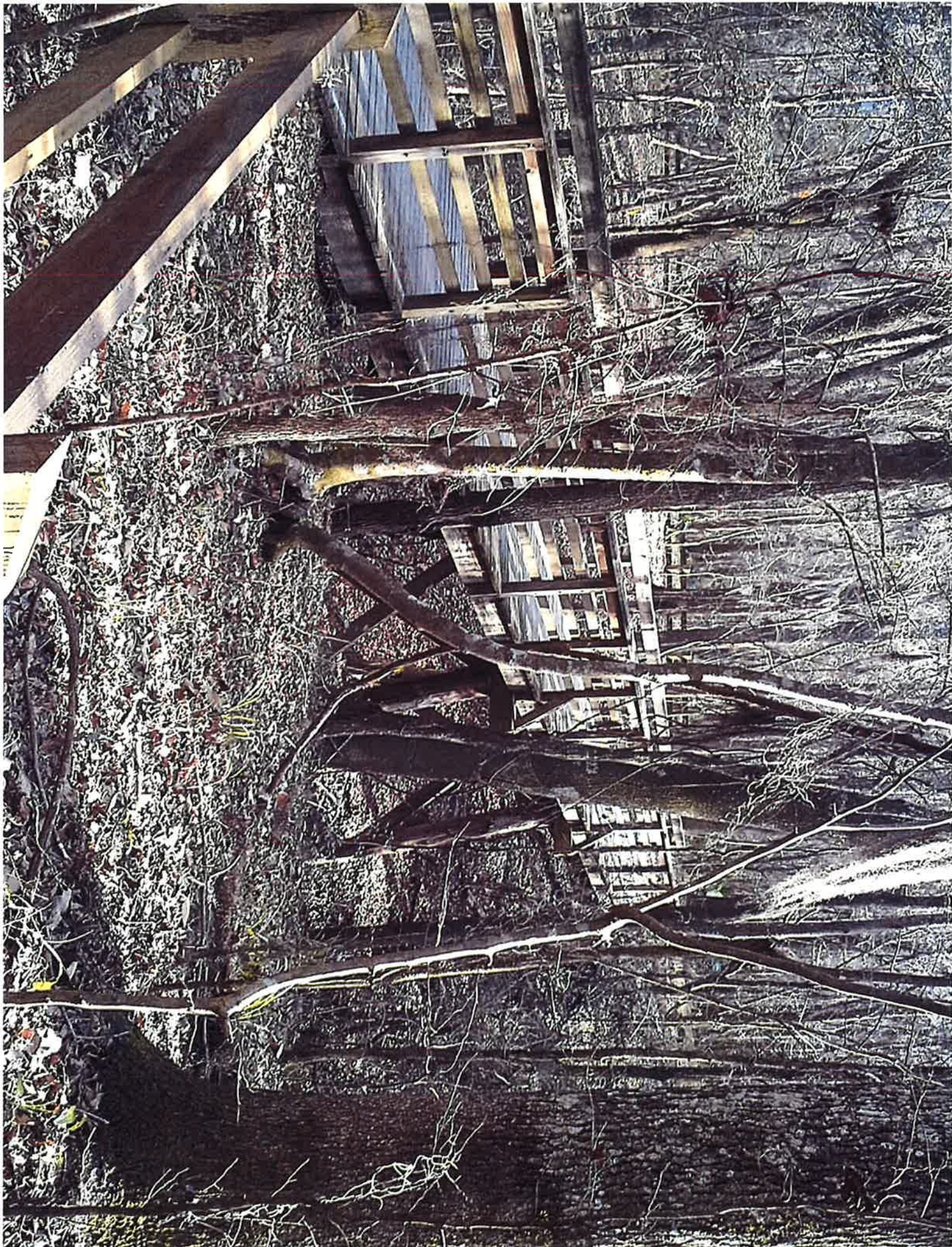
NATURE TRAIL
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DEVIL'S MILLHOPPER
HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A

REGISTERED
NATURAL LANDMARK

THIS SITE POSSESSES EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE NATION'S NATURAL
HERITAGE AND CONTRIBUTES TO A BETTER
UNDERSTANDING OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT

1976

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

