

CARR-1692

## Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center, (Rainbow Roller Rink)

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 02-04-2016***

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes  no

Property Name: Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center Inventory Number: CARR-1692  
 Address: 3939 and 3959 Old Taneytown Road Historic district:  yes  no  
 City: Taneytown Zip Code: 21791 County: Carroll  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Taneytown  
 Property Owner: Paint Ball Adventure Park LLC (Parcels 327 and 4), Pipe Cr Tax Account ID Number: 012134  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 327,273,4 Tax Map Number: 28  
*15.41 ac; 2.20 ac; 26.67 ac; = 44.28 Total Ac.*  
 Project: Deck Replacement, Bridge 6025 on MD 832 over Big Pipe Cr. Agency: SHA  
 Agency Prepared By: EHT Traceries, Inc.  
 Preparer's Name: Patti Kuhn Date Prepared: 08/08/2006  
 Documentation is presented in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation:  Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
 Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible:  yes  no Listed:  yes  no  
 Site visit by MHT Staff  yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

**Architectural Description**

The Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center at 3939 and 3959 Old Taneytown Road faces north. It is located on Parcels 273, 327, and 4 of Carroll County Tax Map 28 on the east and west bank of Big Pipe Creek. The property currently contains two structures and nine buildings. Six of the buildings and the two structures are historic and formed part of a popular recreational complex during the second and third quarters of the twentieth century. The restaurant and roller skating rink/bowling alley building is located along Old Taneytown Road, on Parcel 273. Paved parking areas surround the building, and the rear (south) section of the property is enclosed by a metal chain-link fence. A non-historic garage is located west of the main building. A gas pump was originally located in front of the main entrance on the east section of the property and has been removed. A large wood-frame pavilion and a round-roof barn are located southeast of the restaurant and roller skating rink/bowling alley, on Parcel 327. These buildings are accessible by a gravel drive and are located south of Taneytown Road. A beam bridge with a wood deck, located north of the wood pavilion, and a concrete dam, sited south of the large pavilion, span Big Pipe Creek and connect Parcel 327 to Parcel 4. Parcel 4 runs along the east bank of Big Pipe Creek. A gravel road runs parallel to the creek from the bridge to the dam. A non-historic pavilion is sited on the east side of the road near the bridge. Two historic pavilions are sited on the west side of the

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended   
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

**MHT Comments:**

*Jan [Signature]* 9/27/06  
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date  
*[Signature]* 9/27/06  
 Reviewer, National Register Program Date

gravel road in between the bridge and the dam. A playground is located in between the two pavilions. Currently, apparatus for the paint ball park occupies the area on the east side of the gravel road, near the dam.

Parcel 273: Constructed circa 1939, the restaurant and roller skating rink/bowling alley has two sections: a two-story masonry building and a large two-story wood-frame wing with a barrel-vaulted roof. The masonry section comprises the eastern portion of the building and originally housed the caretaker's residence, offices, and a restaurant. It is constructed of Flemish-bond brick and has a flat roof with metal coping and a center interior chimney of stretcher-bond brick with a corbelled cap. A double basket-weave course spans the roofline and the corners of the building are ornamented with rock-faced concrete-block quoins. The building is fenestrated by 1/1 vinyl-sash replacement windows with rowlock sills and soldier lintels. Two single-leaf metal replacement doors are located on the east elevation and have soldier lintels. The transom windows have been enclosed. An opening, marked by a vertical row of rusticated concrete block and a soldier lintel, is located on the south corner of the east elevation and has been enclosed. A two-story projecting bay is located on the north elevation, and originally held the main entrance to the building. The entrance has been enclosed with stretcher-bond brick. A decorative rectangular-shaped concrete relief panel is located above the entrance and features four ornamental diamonds in each corner. First-story window openings located on the side elevations of the projecting bay have been enclosed with stretcher-bond brick. The large storefront windows that flank the projecting bay on the first story have been partially enclosed with vinyl siding and hold two 1/1 vinyl-sash windows. Two concrete diamond-shaped relief panels located on the upper corners of the main elevation read "1936" and "1939." A one-story entrance vestibule with a flat roof is attached to the west elevation. It has a double basket-weave course along its roofline. A double-leaf flush metal door is located on the north elevation and is sheltered by a flat awning with a metal cornice. Glass-block windows flank the entrance, and the glass-block window on the northwest corner curves around to the west elevation. A pair of 1/1 windows with a soldier lintel is located on the west elevation. A shed addition is located on the rear (south) elevation and has a roll-up garage door on its east elevation.

The large two-story wing, comprising the west section of the building, was historically the bowling alley/skating rink. It sits on a rock-faced concrete-block foundation and has been clad in vinyl siding. Its barrel-vaulted roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The wing is fenestrated by 10/10 windows. A projecting bay is located on the main (north) elevation.

The interior of the skating rink/bowling alley section of the building is two stories, and the building is entered through the vestibule at ground level. The lower story is located partially below grade and served as the bowling alley. It was damaged in 1972 as a result of Hurricane Agnes, and sections of the bowling facility have been removed (the pinsetter equipment was given to another bowling alley in Taneytown, and portions of one lane now serves as a counter in the roller skating rink area). The bowling alley area is currently used as storage and SHA was not allowed to view the area.

The upper story of this section of the building served as the roller skating rink. The floor consists of wooden planks that are approximately 1/2" wide and are laid in a stepped pattern. A central rectangular section is located in the middle of the skating floor, with the planks laid both east-west and north-south. Beyond the central section, each board becomes gradually longer, forming a visible stepped pattern. The north and south walls are paneled with wood to a height of about four feet above the floor. The west wall is clad in rough-sawn boards that are stained the same color as the paneling. The barrel vault is supported by trusses that are made of the same rough-sawn wood as the west wall paneling. The trusses are formed by two arched pieces that are held together by narrow pieces of crossed wood forming trusses. The trusses, approximately 6" wide, support the barrel vault and spring from the wall above the paneling. At the east end of the building, the former balcony, including the stair leading to it, has been enclosed and turned into office space for the current operations of a classic car dealer and a party equipment operation. The original bathrooms remain. According to one current owner, the skaters could skate to the bathrooms or around them. The multi-light square windows are evenly spaced on the north and south walls. Some of the windows have been covered over, but all are original and in place. There is one rear door on the north wall of the skating rink. None of the modifications to

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| Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services     | Date   |
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| Reviewer, National Register Program           | Date   |

the skating rink appear to be permanent, or are done in a way that the original fabric has been lost. The majority of the floor space is given over to antique cars and one-quarter to one-third of the space has been enclosed to serve as office space.

Parcel 327: The circa-1940, one-story large frame pavilion is clad in vinyl siding and sits atop a raised, poured concrete foundation. Due to the slope of the lot, the basement level is exposed on the side and rear elevations. It has a front-gable configuration with a partial-façade, gable-roof extension that is both an open porch and an enclosed vestibule. Centered on the main elevation, the porch is enclosed by a turned balustrade and applied sawnwork decorations that replicate those used during the Victorian era. Entrance to the interior is gained through a set of half-glazed replacement doors. Replacement windows flank the covered entrance and a louvered vent is located in the apex of the gable. The side elevations are each dominated by bands of multi-pane windows. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and features overhanging-eaves. A tall, interior, concrete-block chimney extends from the roof.

The two-story, wood-frame, round-roof barn is four bays wide and sits atop a poured-concrete foundation. The barn dates to circa 1940. It is clad in vinyl siding on its north, east, and south elevations. The west elevation is faced in glazed tile. The barn has a central overhung door flanked by two sets of 9-pane, replacement windows. Two wooden doors are located on the loft level. The sides of the barn have irregularly spaced, 9-pane replacement windows. A metal roof with flared eaves tops the building and is the dominant feature of the barn. A shed-roof structure is attached to the west elevation of the barn and extends to the north. The shed-roof extension is also clad in vinyl siding on its north and east elevations. The west elevation is clad in glazed tile. The extension contains an overhung door on its east elevation.

The wood-frame shed, located directly south of the barn, was constructed circa 1940. It is one story high is clad in vinyl siding. Its front-gabled roof is covered in corrugated metal and features overhanging eaves. The east and north elevations are fenestrated by a wood door.

Parcel 4: Constructed circa 1940, Pavilion 1 is one-story high, one bay wide, and three bays long. It is set on a concrete pier foundation and is covered with a gabled roof of corrugated metal. The southern two bays of the building consist of an open pavilion supported by wood posts with supporting brackets. The north bay of the building is enclosed and has been partially clad in vinyl siding. This section holds two cabins separated by an interior partition. The south wall of the cabin area is covered in vertical board siding and is fenestrated by two doors, one of which has been enclosed. The remaining elevations are fenestrated by 6/6 windows. The gabled roof overhangs the north elevation and shelters two single-paneled and glazed doors. The overhang is supported by brackets that have been clad in vinyl siding.

Pavilion 2, constructed circa 1940, is one story high, one bay wide, and six bays long. It has a concrete pier foundation and a front-gabled roof covered in standing seam metal. The south and north bays are enclosed, and historically contained cabins. They have been clad in vinyl siding. The south cabin is fenestrated by a two-light vinyl slider window and a single-leaf door on its north elevation and 1/1 vinyl-sash windows on the east elevation. The north cabin is open on its south elevation and the remaining elevations are unfenestrated. A shed addition is attached to its north elevation. The center open bays are supported by wood posts with supporting brackets.

Bridge and Dam: Constructed circa 1945, the beam bridge spanning Big Pipe Creek has four poured concrete piers and metal beams. It has a wood-plank deck and wood railings. The dam, built circa 1936, is constructed of poured concrete that spans Big Pipe Creek. Concrete embankment walls line the east and west banks of the creek near the dam. Four small square openings pierce the dam. These openings originally held gates to control the water flow of Big Pipe Creek, and also were used to create a swimming hole on the north side of the dam. The bridge and the dam were constructed contemporaneously with the improvements made to Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center during the late 1930s and 1940s

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_  
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Three buildings less than fifty years of age are located on the property. Constructed circa 1990, the one-story garage on Parcel 273 is constructed of concrete block. It has a side-gabled roof of asphalt shingles and its gables are clad in vinyl siding. Two metal roll-up doors are located on the north elevation. The non-historic gazebo, constructed circa 1990 on Parcel 327, is located northeast of the large pavilion on the west side of Big Pipe Creek. It is one-story high and is four-sided. It has an asphalt-shingle pyramidal roof and a turned balustrade. The non-historic pavilion, constructed circa 1990 on Parcel 4, is one story high, one bay wide, and four bays deep. It has a gabled roof covered in corrugated metal. The north portion of the building consists of an open pavilion supported by round posts. The south end of the building is enclosed with concrete block. It is fenestrated by jalousie windows and a single-leaf door that is located on its north elevation. The concrete-block section has a concrete-block chimney. These three buildings do not contribute to the Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center.

Historical Background

Between 1936 and 1939, the Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center was constructed along Old Taneytown Road east of Taneytown on the western bank of Big Pipe Creek. Historically, Old Taneytown Road (MD 832) was an important transportation route which ran from Baltimore west to Westminster, Uniontown, Taneytown, and Emmitsburg. It gained importance during the nineteenth century, when in 1817, the Westminster, Taneytown, and Emmitsburg Turnpike Company was established to finance improvements to the road. In 1852, the company began construction of a plank road along this route, establishing its significance as a major transportation route through Taneytown and Westminster, a status that remains today. Farmsteads, many established in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, are located along Old Taneytown Road and Big Pipe Creek, illustrating the continuing importance of agriculture in Carroll County and their dependence on transportation routes for trade.

In 1929, the State Roads Commission (SRC) constructed a new reinforced concrete girder bridge over Big Pipe Creek. Beginning in the 1920s, the SRC emphasized improving the safety and comfort of primary routes while developing secondary networks and feeder roads. During that time, many bridges became unacceptable due to increased traffic loads and as a result, a number of new bridges were constructed throughout Maryland in the late 1920s and 1930s. The bridge over Big Pipe Creek (Bridge #6025) improved what was most likely a nineteenth-century bridge and in turn, allowed for increased traffic between Taneytown and Westminster.

At the time of the construction of the Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center, Taneytown's industrial base was beginning to expand. Although agriculture remained the primary market, larger industries were established, providing industrial and manufacturing jobs for the community. Two such businesses include the Blue Ridge Rubber Company that established a plant in Taneytown in 1936, and the Model Steam Bakery that expanded in 1936 with a new commercial building. The town expanded at this time with both new commercial and residential development; however, the area outside of the town limits remained primarily agricultural.

In 1936, the park was constructed along Big Pipe Creek on a 28-acre parcel owned by George W. and Marlin E. Shriner. The Big Pipe Creek Park became a recreation area for outdoor events, such as family reunions, as well as for "games, dancing, bathing, fishing, swimming, boating, tennis, horseshoe pitching. . ." (Carroll Record 1936). The park was praised for its convenient location to the public, especially due to the "new concrete bridge on the state highway from Westminster to Taneytown," which made it "easy of access" ("The Big Pipe Creek Park Project," Carroll Record 1936). According to an article in the June 26 edition of the Carroll Record, the recreation area expanded to the east side of the creek, which was accessible by a wide concrete dam. Building lots were also advertised for private homes or summer cottages. Drinking water and electricity were to be provided and would offer "about every advantage of a high-class summer resort of its kind" (Carroll Record 1936). By May 1938, the park celebrated its third season and the creek was stocked with fish by the State Conservation Committee (Baltimore Sun 1938).

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In May 1939, it was announced that construction had started on "extensive additions and improvements to Big Pipe Creek Park" (Carroll Record 1939). The improvements included a two-story brick building that fronted the highway that was to be used as a caretaker's residence, a business office, and a restaurant. The second building was described as being two stories and would contain a large hall with a hard-wood floor "for dancing, large socials, public meetings and other such gatherings as require large space" (Carroll Record 1939). The expansion of Big Creek Park also included a gas pump for motorists, located near the brick building, and a barn for sheep. It was also noted in 1939 that a plan was in place for the construction of bungalows and small cabins, and that no lots remained for sale. However, it was stated that "At this time only a very general summary can be given as to the various uses of such a building, as only the future will demonstrate this; but we predict that it will be liberally patronized" (Carroll Record 1939).

A circa 1945 postcard illustrating the Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center shows a bowling alley, located in the lower level of the large frame section of the building, and the Rainbow Skating Rink, which occupied the upper level. Introduced in the late nineteenth century, the popularity of roller skating increased tremendously in the 1930s and the production of roller skates had doubled by end of the decade. (Traub 1944). According to the National Museum of Roller Skating, roller skating rinks constructed from the 1930s through the 1950s were typically located in larger cities and were concentrated in the upper mid-west and west coast, with only a handful in New England and the south. However, Pennsylvania had the largest population of roller skating rinks in the country, with 182 rinks open in 1948. In addition, roller skating rinks were not unusual in resort areas such as Braddock Heights, in Frederick County, Maryland, where a bowling alley and skating rink were constructed in the casino in 1909.

Oral testimony given by several local residents who frequented the center confirms that the recreation center quickly became a popular destination for residents from neighboring towns and counties, particularly because of the roller skating rink. The recreation center and skating rink was opened until 1975. Its closure was a result of flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes, which destroyed the cabins along the creek and damaged the below-grade bowling alley. Today, the park is the Big Pipe Creek Park Paint Ball Adventure Park, and the original restaurant and bowling alley/roller skating rink buildings remain intact and serve as an offices for an auto-repair business.

Significance

The Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center is significant as an exceptional example of a recreation area in Carroll County Maryland, and has been evaluated under seven aspects of integrity identified by the National Register of Historic Places. The location of the park and its supporting buildings has not changed since its establishment and construction between 1936 and 1940. The design of the buildings, including their massing and form, remains intact, and the recreational center retains its historical agricultural and rural setting. The materials of the buildings have been compromised due to the application of vinyl siding to the roller skating rink/bowling alley, the wood-frame pavilion, and the barn. As a result, the workmanship of these buildings has also been compromised. The property retains its historic feeling due to the relationship of the buildings to their natural setting along the creek, and the agricultural surroundings of the site. Although the buildings do not retain their exact historical use, the property continues to be used primarily as a recreation center.

The Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center at 3939 and 3959 Old Taneytown Road is eligible under Criterion A as a unique example of a twentieth-century recreation center in Carroll County, Maryland. The Big Pipe Creek Park and its six supporting recreational buildings served as a significant destination for local residents from 1936 through the 1970s. All of the buildings reflect these recreational uses.

The property is not eligible under Criterion B: no persons significant in local, state, or national history have been determined to be

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| <b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>       |  |
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| Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services     | Date   |
| _____   | _____  |
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associated with the property.

None of the six historic buildings on the property are eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C due to alterations and unsympathetic additions including the application of vinyl siding, replacement of the majority of the original windows, and the enclosing of several of the original openings. The bridge is an undistinguished example of a mid-to-late twentieth-century privately-constructed steel-beam bridge, and it is not eligible under Criterion C. The dam is a typical example of a small concrete dam constructed during the first half of the twentieth century, of a type commonly found throughout the State of Maryland. Thus, the dam is not eligible under Criterion C. Therefore none of the buildings or structures of the Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center are eligible under Criterion C.

The Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center was not evaluated under Criterion D.

Less than fifty years of age, the garage, gazebo, and pavilion are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

It has been determined that the Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center, coterminous with tax parcels 273, 327 and 4, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center and its supporting recreational buildings is a unique example of a twentieth-century recreation center, and served as a significant destination for local residents during its period of significance from 1936 until 1972.

References Cited

"To Open Big Pipe Creek Park Season," Baltimore Sun, 15 May, 1938.

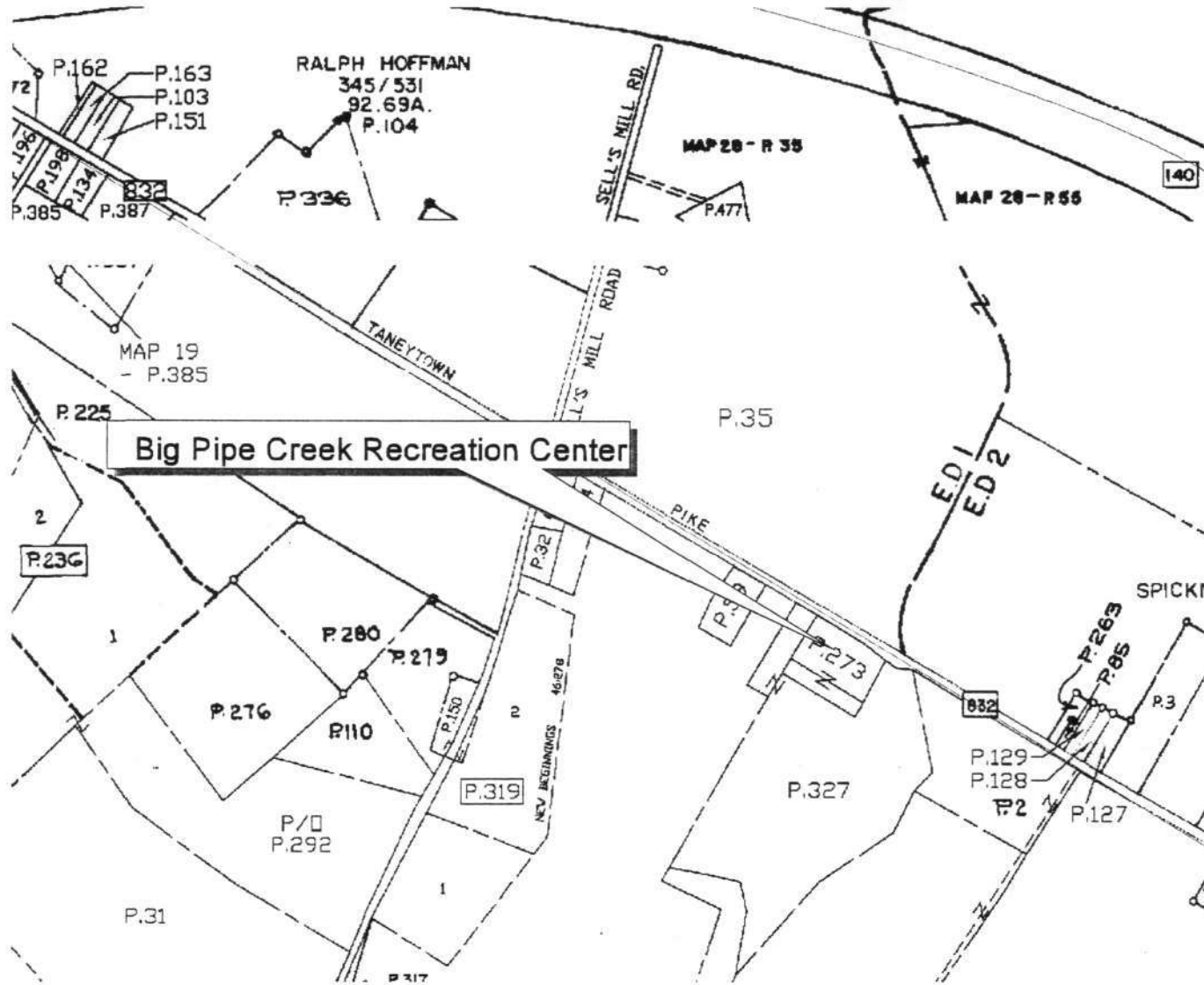
"The Big Pipe Creek Park Project," Carroll Record, 26 June, 1936.

"Big Pipe Creek Park," Carroll Record, 12 May, 1939.

Traub, Morris, ed. Roller Skating Through the Years: The Story of Roller Skates, Rinks, and Skaters. New York: William-Frederick Press, 1944.

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| <b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>          |  |
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| <b>Reviewer, National Register Program</b>       | <b>Date</b>  |

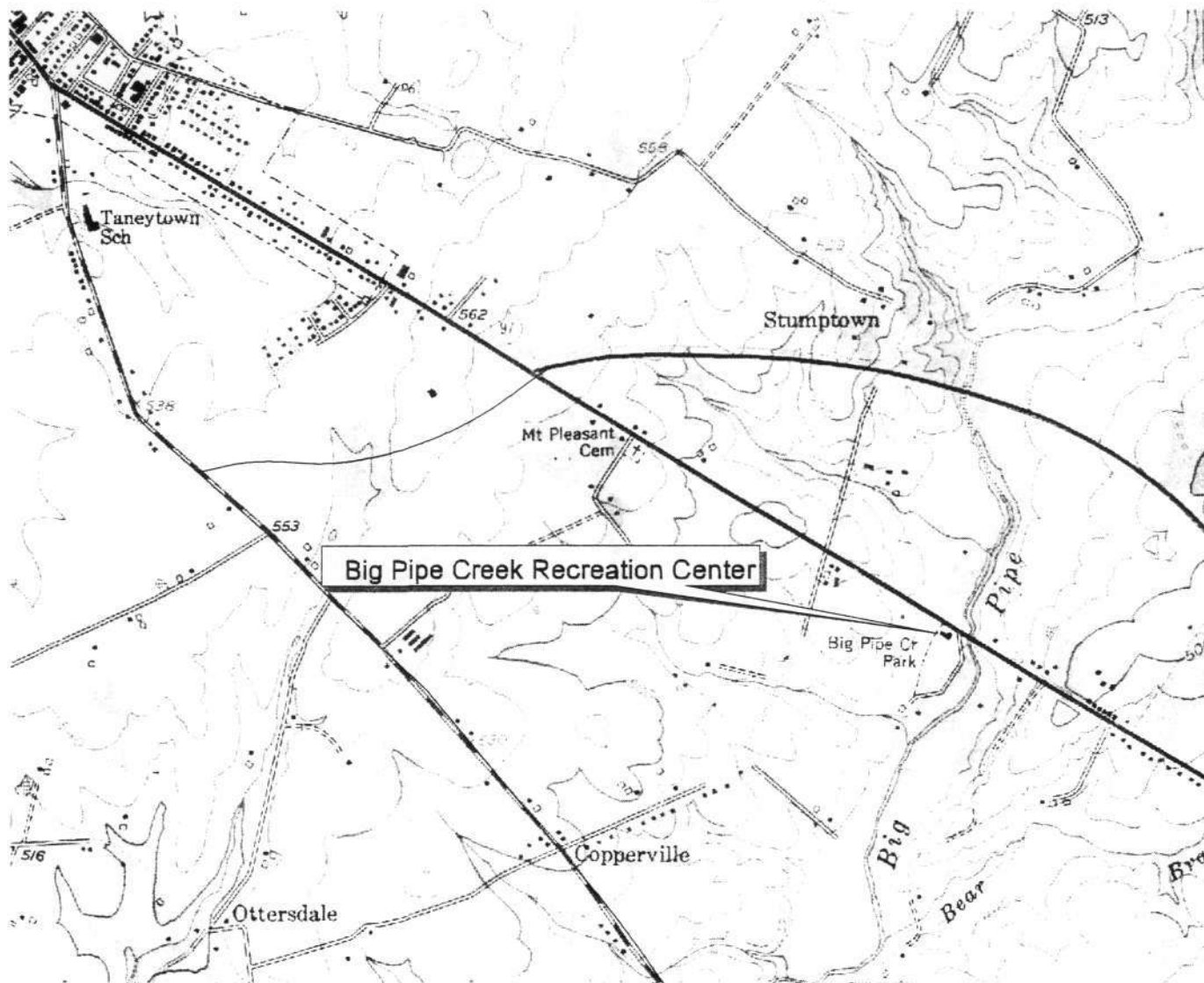
# Big Pipe Creek Recreation Center 3959 Old Taneytown Road Taneytown, Carroll County, MD Tax Map 28, Parcel 273



CARR-1692



**Big Pipe Creek Recreation Center  
3959 Old Taneytown Road  
Taneytown, Carroll County, MD  
Tax Map 28, Parcel 273**



CFRR-1692



CASE-169Z

BIG PIPE CREEK RECREATIONAL  
CENTER

GARZON CO., MD

FOUNDER

000313 1119 <5R18 11>

AUG. 2006

ENTRANCE VESTIBULE OF  
SKATING RINK/ROLLING ALLEY

Y31



FOR SALE  
PLEASE ASK FOR THE  
[illegible text]

Case 1692

PAG, PIPE CREEK RECREATIONAL  
CENTER

Crozon Co, MD

FOUNDER

000313 2/19 (SR18 11)

AUG. 2001

FORMER BOWLING ALLEY LANE AS TABLE  
IN SKATING RINK

2/31





Case-1692

Big Pipe Creek Recreational  
Center

Carroll County, MD

Finder

000313 7/19 (5R18 11)

AUG. 2008

PARCEL VAULT ROOF WITH TRUSS  
SYSTEM & PANELING

3/31



A PENNZOIL PRODUCT

Motor Matched

**PENNZIP**

Gasoline

Case 1692

Big Pipe Creek Recreational Center

Chesoon Co., MD

Parade

000313 4/19 (SR18 11)

Aug. 2000

PANELLING AND TRUSS ON NORTH

WALL

3 00 M0 Y0 D0 00/11/06

4/31





CAR-167Z

PINE CREEK RECREATION CENTER  
CARROLL CO, MD

BENDER 4 08 10 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

AUG. 2006

LOOKING NORTH EAST

000313 5:19 <SR16 110

8/31

Copyright © 2006  
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DUPLICATE



PLEASE  
DO NOT  
TOUCH

Informational card on the windshield of the car on the left.

Informational card on the windshield of the car on the right.

CASE-169Z

PIG PIPE CREEK RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL CO, MD

PAINTER

AUG. 2006

000013 6-19 (5R18 21)

WINDOW ON SOUTHWEST SIDE OF  
BUILDING

20 08 10 00 05/11/06

6/31



Cross-169Z

PAG TREE CREEK RECREATION CENTER

CHARCOLE CO, MD

BOWLER

000313 7/19 (SR18, 11)

AUG. 2006

LOOKING AT NORTH END OF SKATING

RINK

6 00 00 00 00 08/11/06

7/31





C108-1092.

RAKPIE CREEK RECREATION CENTER  
CARSON CO, MO.

FACILITY

AUG. 2000

LOOKING AT SOUTH END OF  
SKATING AREA TOWARD "BALCONY"

AREA

8/31

000313 8/19 <SR18 11>

7 00 10 10 00 00 11 00



Cree-169Z

Pipe Creek Recreation Center

Carroll Co, MD.

Handed

000313 9/19 25R18 113

Aug. 2006

SOUTHWEST SECTION OF FLOOR

8 00 M0 Y0 D0 08/11/06

9/31



Case - 1692

Big Pipe Creek Recreation Center

Carson Co, MD.

FORWARD

000313 10/19 (SR18 11)

AUG. 2006

LOOKING WEST AT SKATING RINK

9 00 MO Y0 D0 00/11/06

10/31



Case-169Z

Big Pipe Creek Recreation Center

Chesow Co., MD.

Formerly

Ave. 2006

Transfers.

11/31

000313 11/19 (SR18 11)

10 CO MO YO DO 08/11/06





CARR-1092

BIG PIPE CREEK RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

JULY 2004

MDSHPD

MAIN ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

Photo 12 of 31



CARR-1092

BIG PIPE CREEK RECREATION CENTER  
CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

JULY 2004

MD SHDO

MAIN ENTRANCE, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

PHOTO 13 OF 31



CARR-1692

BIG PIPE CREEK RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

JULY 2004

MS8HP6

LOOKING SOUTHWEST

PHOTO 14 OF 31



CARR-1092

BIG PIPE CREEK RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

ERT TRACERIES, INC.

JULY 2004

MDSHPO

LOOKING SOUTHEAST

Photo 15 of 31





CARR-1092

BIG PIPE CREEK PARK RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

ENT TRACERIES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MDSHPO

BARN, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

Photo 16 of 31



CARR-11092

BIG PIPE CREEK PARK RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MD SHPO

BARN, LOOKING NORTHWEST

Photo 17 of 31



CARR-1692

BIG PIPE CREEK ~~PARK~~ RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MD SHPO

SHED, LOOKING WEST

PHOTO 18 of 31



CAK -

BIG PIPE CREEK PARK RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

AUGUST 2006

MDSHPD

BARN'S SITED, LOOKING EAST

Photo 19 of 31





CARR-1692

BIG PIPE CREEK PARK RECREATION CENTER  
CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TREENERIES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MD SHPO

LARGE PAVILION, LOOKING NORTHEAST

PHOTO 20 of 31



CARR-1692

BIG PIPE CREEK ~~PARK~~ RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

ERT TRACERIES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MDSHPD

LARGE PAVILION, MAIN ELEVATION, COOKING SOUTH

PHOTO 21 OF 31



CARR-1692

BIG PIPE CREEK ~~PARK~~ RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

AUGUST 2006

MDSHPD

LARGE PAVILION, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

Photo 22 of 31



CARR-1092

BIG PIPE CREEK PARK RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRXENIES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MD SHPO

GAZEBO, LOOKING EAST

PHOTO 23 OF 31





CARR-1692

BIG PIPE CREEK ~~PARK~~ RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACEMES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MDSHPD

PAVILION , LOOKING SOUTHWEST

PHOTO 24 OF 31



CLKK-1092

BIG PIPE CREEK ~~PARK~~ RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

ETT TRACEMES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MD3HP6

PAULION , LOOKING NORTHEAST

PHOTO 25 of 31



CARR-1092

BIG PIPE CREEK ~~PARK~~ RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MD SHPO

PAVILION, LOOKING NORTHWEST

photo 26 of 31



CARR - 1692

BIG PIPE CREEK ~~PARK~~ RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACINGS, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MD SHPO

PAVILION , LOOKING SOUTHEAST

PHOTO 27 of 31





CARR-1692

BIG PIPE CREEK PARK RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACEMES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MD SHPO

PAVILLION, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

PHOTO 28 of 31



CARR - 1692

BIG PIPE CREEK ~~PARK RECREATION~~ CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACEMES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MD SHPO

BRIDGE, LOOKING NORTHWEST

PHOTO 29 of 31



CARR-1092

BIG PIPE CREEK ~~PARK~~ RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

AUGUST 2004

MD SHPO

DAM, LOOKING NORTHWEST

PHOTO 30 of 31



CARR-1092

BIG PIPE CREEK PARK RECREATION CENTER

CARROLL COUNTY, MD.

EHT TRACEMES, INC.

AUGUST 2006

MD SHPO

Dam, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

photo 31 of 31



**Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center  
(CARR-1692)  
3939 and 3959 Old Taneytown Road  
Taneytown, Carroll County  
Circa 1936  
Private Access**

The Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center is located on the south side of Old Taneytown Road directly to the northwest of the bridge over Big Pipe Creek and approximately one mile southeast of Taneytown. Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center consists of a main recreation building and an attached office, as well as several outbuildings. Constructed from 1936-1939, Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center provided camping, roller skating, bowling, sports fields, and other outdoor recreation spaces; both the park and the recreational buildings were privately owned.

The center's location in Maryland afforded Carroll County's rural communities with leisure and recreational opportunities at a time when such centers did not exist in the area. The Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center closed in 1975, and its buildings continue to be used by various businesses. The Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center was previously determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 2006 under Criterion A. It was a unique example of a rural recreational facility in Carroll County, serving as a destination for local residents. It is significant in the area of recreation, providing leisure activities first during the New Deal era in the years following the Great Depression, and continuing this purpose into the 1970s. Research has not indicated significance under Criteria B, C, or D. The historic property boundary encompasses contributing built resources, including the recreation center/office, historic pavilions, and a barn, from the period of significance, which extends from 1936 until 1972, when the facility incurred significant damage from Hurricane Agnes.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-1692

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center (preferred)  
other Rainbow Roller Rink

## 2. Location

street and number 3939-3959 Old Taneytown Road not for publication  
city, town Taneytown vicinity  
county Carroll

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Pipe Creek Holdings, LLC  
street and number 750 McKinstry's Mill Road telephone 410-756-5500  
city, town Union Bridge state MD zip code 21791

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Courthouse liber N/A folio N/A  
city, town Westminster tax map 28 tax parcel 4, 273, and 327 tax ID number 012134

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Current Function                        |  | Resource Count   |                     |
|---|---|---|--|--|---------------------|
|   |   |   |  | Contributing   | Noncontributing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape                     | <u>7</u>   | <u>3</u> buildings  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | <u>2</u>   | <u>3</u> sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> defense        | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                      | <u>9</u>   | <u>3</u> structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic       | <input type="checkbox"/> social                        |  | <u>3</u> objects    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 |   | <input type="checkbox"/> education      | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                |  | Total               |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary       | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress              |  |                     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> government     | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown                       |  |                     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> health care    | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use             |  |                     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> industry       | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                        |  |                     |
|   |   |   |  | <b>Number of Contributing Resources<br/>previously listed in the Inventory</b><br><u>9</u> |                     |

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CARR-1692

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary Paragraph

The Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center is located on the south side of Old Taneytown Road directly to the northwest of the bridge over Big Pipe Creek and approximately one mile southeast of Taneytown. Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center consists of a main recreation building and an attached office, as well as several historic and recently constructed outbuildings with varying degrees of integrity. Constructed from 1936-1939, Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center provided camping, roller skating, bowling, sports fields, and other outdoor recreation spaces; both the park and the recreational buildings were privately owned. The center's location in Maryland afforded Carroll County's rural communities with leisure and recreational opportunities at a time when such centers did not exist in the area. The Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center closed in 1975, and its buildings continue to be used by various businesses.

### Architectural Description

*Select description information derived from the Determination of Eligibility form for Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center completed August 8, 2006. Portions of the property were not accessible during the 2013 survey due to privacy and insurance reasons.*

Constructed in 1939, the Big Pipe Creek Recreation Center's main building is its former roller skating rink and associated administrative building and restaurant. Located near the park's main entrance on the south side of Old Taneytown Road, the building is divided into a two-story brick building and a large, two-story wood-framed, barrel-vaulted roof section to its west. The brick section originally housed offices, a caretaker's residence, and restaurant, while the barrel-vaulted roof section housed a roller skating rink on its main floor and a bowling alley in its lower level.

The brick section is constructed using a Flemish bond brick pattern; it rests on a concrete foundation and is topped with a flat roof. The flat roof has metal coping and a center interior chimney of stretcher-bond brick with a corbelled cap. A double basket-weave course spans the roofline and the corners of the building are ornamented with rock-faced concrete-block quoins. The building is fenestrated by one-over-one vinyl-sash replacement windows with rowlock sills and soldier lintels. Two single-leaf metal replacement doors are located on the east elevation and have soldier lintels. The transom windows have been enclosed. An opening, marked by a vertical row of rusticated concrete block and a soldier lintel, is located on the south corner of the east elevation and has been enclosed. A two-story projecting bay is located on the north-facing facade, and originally held the main entrance to the building. The entrance has been enclosed with stretcher-bond brick. A decorative rectangular-shaped concrete relief panel is located above the entrance and features four ornamental diamonds in each corner. First-story window openings located on the side elevations of the projecting bay have been partially enclosed with vinyl siding and hold two one-over-one vinyl-sash windows. Two concrete diamond-shaped relief panels located on the upper corners of the facade read "1936" and "1939," reflecting the

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-1692

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Continuation Sheet

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years of Big Pipe Creek Park's establishment and the building's construction, respectively. A one-story entrance vestibule with a flat roof is attached to the west elevation. It has a double basket-weave course along its roofline. A double-leaf flush metal door is located on the north elevation and is sheltered by a flat awning with a metal cornice. Glass-block windows flank the entrance, and the glass-block window on the northwest corner curves around to the west elevation. A paired three-over-one window with a soldier lintel is located on the west elevation. A shed addition is located on the rear, south elevation and contains an overhung metal garage door on its elevation.

The large, two-story barrel-vaulted roof section, comprising the west section of the building, originally contained the recreation center's roller skating rink and bowling alley. It sits on a rock-faced, concrete-block foundation and has been clad in vinyl siding. In several places where the siding is failing, brick can be seen beneath it. Its barrel-vaulted roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The wing's north-facing facade is fenestrated by six openings comprised of two ten-over-ten, vinyl-sash windows flanked on either side by openings enclosed by vinyl. At the wing's center is a small, one-story projecting room with an asphalt-shingled shed roof. The wing's west end elevation contains two openings covered by vinyl. The wing's rear, south elevation is similar to the north-facing facade; however, its westernmost window opening is located beneath a shed-roofed garage entrance constructed of concrete block-and-aluminum cladding. A metal overhung garage door is located against the elevation beneath shed roof. At the south elevation's center is a small, one-story projecting opening. The wing's east elevation contains a metal garage shed-roofed addition clad with vinyl siding.

The wing's interior is two stories. The lower story is located partially below grade and served as a bowling alley. It was damaged in 1972 as a result of Hurricane Agnes and has been removed. The large, rectangular area is currently used as storage. No remnants of the bowling alley are extant and the space is finished entirely in concrete. Above, the roller skating rink was located below the wide, barrel-vaulted roof. While the essential open-space configuration remains intact, some features have been changed over time. The floor consists of original half-inch wide wooden planks laid in a stepped pattern. A central rectangular section is located in the middle of the skating floor, with the planks laid both east-west and north-south. Beyond the central section, each board becomes gradually longer, forming a visible stepped pattern. The north and south walls are clad with four-foot high wood paneling. The west wall is clad in rough-sawn boards that are stained the same color as the paneling. The barrel vault is supported by trusses that are made of the same rough-sawn wood as the west wall paneling. The trusses are formed by two arched pieces that are held together by narrow pieces of crossed wood, forming trusses. The trusses, approximately six inches wide, support the barrel vault and spring from the wall above the paneling. At the east end of the building, the former balcony and bleachers, including the stair leading to them, has been closed and turned into office space for the current antique car repair business. The original organ has also been removed. The original bathrooms remain. The two-story brick section's interior was not accessible during survey. The office building and the roller rink are contributing resources.

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Immediately west of the main building is a rectangular concrete block garage building oriented parallel to Old Taneytown Road. The concrete garage is covered by a gable-end, asphalt shingle roof. Two roll-up metal garage doors are located on its north elevation. This building is recently constructed and is noncontributing.

Elsewhere on the property is a ca. 1940 one-story large frame pavilion clad in vinyl siding on a raised, poured concrete foundation. Due to the lot's slope, the basement level is exposed on the side and rear elevations. The pavilion has a front-gable configuration with a partial-facade, gable-roof extension that is both an open porch and an enclosed vestibule. Centered on the main elevation, the porch is enclosed by a turned balustrade and applied sawnwork decorations that replicated those used during the Victorian era. Entrance to the interior is gained through a set of half-glazed replacement doors. Replacement windows flank the covered entrance and a louvered vent is located in the apex of the gable. The side elevations are each dominated by bands of multi-pane windows. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and features overhanging eaves. A tall, interior, concrete-block chimney extends from the roof. Despite these alterations, this pavilion is a contributing resource.

The two-story, wood-frame, round-roof barn is four bays wide and sits atop a concrete foundation. The barn dates to ca. 1940. It is clad in vinyl siding on its north, east, and south elevations. The west elevation is faced in glazed tile. The barn has a central overhung door flanked by two sets of nine-pane, replacement windows. A metal roof with flared eaves tops the building and is the dominant features of the barn. A shed-roof structure is attached to the west elevation of the barn and extends to the north. The shed-roof extension is also clad in vinyl siding on its north and east elevations. The west elevation is clad in glazed tile. The extension contains an overhung door on its east elevation. The barn is a contributing resource.

The wood-frame shed, also a contributing resource, located directly south of the barn, was constructed ca. 1940. It is one story high and is clad in vinyl siding. Its front-gabled roof is covered in corrugated metal and features overhanging eaves. The east and north elevations are fenestrated by a wood door.

Constructed ca. 1940, Pavilion 1 is one-story high, one bay wide, and three bays long. It is set on a concrete pier foundation and is covered with a gabled roof of corrugated metal. The southern two bays of the building consist of an open pavilion supported by wood posts with supporting brackets. The north bay of the building is enclosed and has been partially clad in vinyl siding. This section holds two cabins separated by an interior partition. The south wall of the cabin area is covered in vertical bound siding and is fenestrated by two doors, one of which has been enclosed. The remaining elevations are fenestrated by six-over-six windows. The gabled roof overhangs the north elevation and shelters two single-paneled and glazed doors. The overhang is supported by brackets that have been clad in vinyl siding. Despite changes, Pavilion 1 is a contributing resource.

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Pavilion 2, constructed ca. 1940, is one story high, one bay wide, and six bays long. It has a concrete pier foundation and a front-gabled roof covered in standing seam metal. The south and north bays are enclosed, and historically contained cabins. They have been clad in vinyl siding. The south cabin is fenestrated by two-light vinyl slider windows, a single-leaf door on its north elevation, and one-over-one, vinyl-sash windows on the east elevation. The north cabin is open on its south elevation and the remaining elevations lack fenestration. A shed addition is attached to its north elevation. The center open bays are supported by wood posts with supporting brackets. Like Pavilion 1, Pavilion 2 is a contributing resource.

Constructed ca. 1945, the beam bridge spanning Big Pipe Creek has four concrete piers and metal beams. It has a wood-plank deck and wood railings. The dam, built ca. 1936, is constructed of poured concrete that spans Big Pipe creek. Concrete embankment walls line the east and west banks of the creek near the dam. Four small square openings pierce the dam. These openings originally held gates to control the water flow of Big Pipe Creek, and also were used to create a swimming hole on the north side of the dam. The bridge and the dam were constructed contemporaneously with the improvements made to Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center during the late 1930s and 1940s and both are contributing resources.

Two additional non-historic buildings are located on the property. A gazebo, constructed ca. 1990, is located northeast of the large pavilion on the west side of Big Pipe Creek. It is one-story high and is four-sided. It has an asphalt-shingle pyramidal roof and a turned balustrade. The non-historic pavilion, constructed ca. 1990, is one-story high, one bay wide, and four bays deep. It has a gabled roof covered in corrugated metal. The north portion of the building consists of an open pavilion supported by round posts. The south end of the building is enclosed with concrete block. It is fenestrated by jalousie windows and a single-leaf door that is located on its north elevation. The concrete block section has a concrete block chimney. With the previously mentioned concrete block garage building, these three buildings do not contribute to the Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CARR-1692

| Period  | Areas of Significance                       | Check and justify below  |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture        | <input type="checkbox"/> economics                               | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine        | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology         | <input type="checkbox"/> education                               | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899            | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture       | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                             | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/<br>recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000-                | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce           | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage                         | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science             |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> communications     | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/<br>settlement              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> social history      |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning |  | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history       | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation       |  | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____        |

**Specific dates** 1936-1972 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1936-1939

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Significance Summary

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center was determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in a determination of eligibility form dated August, 8, 2006. The recreation center is significant under Criterion A as a unique and exceptional example of a twentieth century recreation center in rural Carroll County, Maryland, that provided lodging and recreational opportunities. Constructed between 1936 and 1940, Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center and its six supporting recreation buildings served as a significant destination for area residents from its construction until severe storm damage in 1972 that eventually led to its closure in 1975. The remaining buildings and structures from this period convey the park's recreational history.

### **Historic Context**

#### Taneytown

Taneytown was founded in 1754 by Raphael Taney and Edward Diggs, who received a 7,900 acre land grant in what is now Carroll County. Working through local agent Jacob Good, Taney and Diggs profited as land speculators, likely never setting foot in the town. The town was established along an important crossroads in the area: the north-south Monocacy Road, developed over an old Indian trail called the Conestoga Path, and an east-west road from Baltimore. During the early-1700s, the Monocacy road allowed migration into central Pennsylvania and was improved into a wagon road from the Monocacy River to the Susquehanna River. Many towns were founded along the road by the 1760s.

The east-west road from Baltimore grew in importance as settlers continued moving west. Eventually, the road was improved and became the Westminster and Taneytown Turnpike, run by the Westminster and Taneytown Turnpike Company. The road is now MD 832, which is known as Baltimore Street/MD 140 as it extends through Taneytown.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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The first lots in newly established Taneytown were sold in 1762. Originally, the town plan consisted of 46 half-acre lots platted along Monocacy Road. Later additions came by way of 44 additional lots on Baltimore Street, and by 1769, a majority of lots had been conveyed. The town followed similar plans used in piedmont Maryland's surrounding communities requiring half acre lots, with ground rents paid to the community's founders, and twenty feet by twenty-four feet houses with brick or stone chimneys constructed within a year of conveyance.

Located approximately forty miles northwest of Baltimore, Taneytown developed into a small commercial center with merchants, craftsmen, and taverns, all supported by the town's surrounding farms and visitors traveling the town's major crossroads. The basic services provided by the town include butchers, tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, blacksmiths, gunsmiths, millwrights, and wheelwrights. Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star Spangled Banner," was raised near Taneytown, and in 1791, George Washington spent a night at Adam Good Tavern in Taneytown.

During the Civil War, Taneytown played a role as the Union Army's headquarters leading into the battle at nearby Gettysburg. General George Meade developed his plans for battle while in Taneytown; Meade led his army from Taneytown, arriving near the battlefield at midnight on July 1, 1863. The Union Army's victory at Gettysburg became a turning point in the war.

In 1872, Taneytown was connected to the country via a spur of the Pennsylvania Railroad linking Littlestown, Pennsylvania, to Frederick, Maryland. With this connection came improvements to lines of communication, attracting new businesses and residents to the town. Taneytown incorporated in 1884, providing the town with paved streets and improved sidewalks, and leading to a steady population increase. Still, the town stood among a large agricultural swath within Maryland; businesses traded in grain, hay, lumber, and coal.

The area's rural nature continued into the early twentieth century. By 1930, farmland comprised approximately 267,260 acres in Carroll County and 41.21% of the county's population worked in agriculture. Entertainment and leisure opportunities were minimal, and the onslaught of radio programming during the Great Depression years kept many families home. The nearby town of Westminster provided more entertainment opportunities than its surrounding towns, including a theater and ice cream parlors. President Roosevelt's New Deal policies were felt in Carroll County and included Civil Works Administration, Public Works Administration, and Works Progress Administration projects throughout the county. Schools and roads were the largest beneficiaries, as were farmers who were provided substantial funding aid.



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### Recreation Movement

The recreation movement's earliest developments occurred in the mid-nineteenth century, as outdoor gymnasiums constructed at schools and universities brought attention to the German-influenced idea of physical education and fresh air. Similarly, New York City's Central Park provided horseback riding, picnicking, boating, and skating to urban dwellers seeking an active leisure time. By the end of the century, small neighborhood playgrounds were constructed in an effort to shape urban youth through organized play led by a playground director. Beginning in Boston, the effort quickly spread to other major cities. In a short time, playgrounds expanded to include areas for playing handball and baseball, serving a larger population in addition to playground-aged children.

The recreation movement quickly gained national traction in the early-twentieth century. Soon, school buildings were opened for after-hours recreational activities and hosted numerous social and civic functions. New construction at schools focused on features that benefited both the student body and the surrounding community. Beyond the expanding school function, major cities like Chicago began constructing indoor and outdoor facilities for use by all ages throughout the year. In Chicago's South Park, facilities included field houses constructed to provide assembly halls, gymnasiums, and locker rooms, and outdoor spaces expanded to provide swimming pools, bandstands, fields, and game courts.

Nationally, the Playground Association of America (later the Playground and Recreation Association of America) was established to provide nationwide leadership to the recreation movement. In the years prior to World War I, the association emphasized a municipality's responsibility to provide recreational opportunities, and between 1906 and 1912, one hundred fifty-eight cities constructed playgrounds, an increase from twenty-six prior to 1906. The association also demonstrated the importance for recreation opportunities for underprivileged neighborhoods and communities, and a new emphasis began on music, drama, arts programming, civic activities, holiday celebrations, and festivals. During World War I, military camps provided soldiers with recreational opportunities to break daily routines; soldiers returning home longed for similar facilities and pressured localities to emphasize community recreation, leading to widespread construction of community centers as war memorials.

Occurring almost simultaneously, the Playground and Recreation Association of America and National Education Association focused their attention on the relationship between recreation and leisure. Leisure time and the concept of a lack of structure were initially viewed as major problems, and education on leisure time's appropriate use became a priority. As a result, recreation quickly became an acceptable use of one's leisure time during the 1920s, with recreation being an important balance to work. The decade saw rapid expansion of community recreation areas, municipal budgeting devoted to recreation, and increased participation in organized recreational activities. State legislatures began passing laws authorizing cities to create departments

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# Maryland Historical Trust

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devoted to handle expanded recreational programming. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge called together the Conference on Outdoor Recreation, giving national attention to the importance of recreation and leisure.

During the Great Depression, high unemployment impacted recreation areas' use and staffing. An unprecedented number of people began using public recreation areas, turning away from more expensive activities. In turn, sports programs increased their number of participants and spectators. Cities, however, were forced to reduce funding for recreation, resulting in a loss of leadership staff able to operate recreational facilities. From 1932 to 1933, a large number of recreation centers and playgrounds were run by volunteers and a limited paid staff. The Great Depression also kept many families from traveling. Hobbies increased while interests in activities involving potentially expensive sports equipment declined. From 1929 to 1933, the country experienced a fifty-seven percent reduction in the value of sporting goods produced. Relief efforts promulgated by New Deal legislation provided jobless workers with employment opportunities as recreational leaders. Projects spearheaded by the Civil Works Administration (CWA), Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) helped construct new recreation and play areas, affording jobs for unemployed construction workers. These projects included swimming pools, tennis courts, playgrounds, and winter sports facilities. The nationwide reach of these New Deal recreation improvement efforts led to many smaller communities securing public recreation spaces for the first time.

World War II witnessed large numbers of recreation leaders departing for the armed forces, once again requiring volunteers to run the nation's recreational facilities. While a dearth of available young men decreased a need for some athletic programs in many cities, the demand placed on recreation resources near military installations required increased funding for social and recreational activities in those communities. Both the Recreation Division of the Office of Community War Services and the United Service Organizations (USO) provided the funds needed for an array of local programming benefitting servicemen. These programs included sports, dances, church services, socials, carnivals, festivals, and commercial recreational activities. For factory workers aiding the war effort, community recreation departments expanded their programs to include afterschool supervision and play time for children of working mothers. Following the war, many servicemen were able to enjoy recreation facilities and their new programs for the first time. Similar to the post-war effects of World War I, World War II memorials by way of new recreational buildings, parks, fields, pools, and band shells were constructed throughout the country.

Despite the surge in memorial building construction, the period from 1940-1960 witnessed a decrease in available recreation facilities and was unable to meet demands of an increasing population. Land acquisition for recreational opportunities decreased, creating shortages in available areas and competition for space. The booming population led to sprawling suburban areas and highway construction that eliminated many open areas. Unincorporated areas beyond municipal control were quickly developed with little or no recreational opportunities and no city recreation department support. Some communities in the South, facing integration requirements, eliminated public recreational areas while others quietly integrated their public spaces. Still,

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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other communities opened members-only community clubs with swimming pools and other recreational facilities.

### *Recreation in Rural Areas*

Generally, cities were better equipped to provide recreation opportunities for citizens. In agricultural areas, a philosophy of play did not exist because of the demands of rural life, and many of the benefits of post-war building and New Deal recreation spending were unfelt. Economic factors in rural areas, especially during the Depression years, emboldened the shift in attitudes against play and recreation. Farming communities viewed leisure time unfavorably, with activities needed to earn a living preferred over recreation. Hard work was praised, and play and recreation were criticized, developing a different set of agricultural and rural values. Some rural communities even viewed leisure time and specific activities, like dances, as sinful. In addition to the rural work philosophy, rural areas rarely obtained the funding needed to construct recreation facilities, and when funding was available, money was spent on electricity, road, and school improvements rather than recreation.

One advantage of rural areas over urban centers was the abundance of natural and undeveloped areas. Oftentimes, these natural areas were destroyed in efforts to farm the land, once again lending to value of work over leisure. Rural areas also lacked artificial recreation and leisure opportunities, like sports fields, playgrounds, theaters, and libraries. The sparse population inhibited the ability to form sports teams or theatrical groups.

Working hours were not standardized in rural communities; seasonal cycles dictated farming demands. During the summer months, farmers in rural areas work as long as twelve hours a day. Seldom did farmers desire sporting activities at the end of a long day of work. Over time, rural life began providing more leisure time as technological advancements provided comparatively shorter and easier working days.

Some rural areas did benefit from the rash of memorial building following World Wars I and II. Community houses and buildings built as war memorials in cities across the country were erected in rural areas on a smaller scale. These small social halls would generally contain a platform or stage and sometimes a kitchen, providing a similar function as their municipal auditorium counterparts. Although some rural communities sought support from their county's governing body to develop, organize, and provide recreation opportunities, funding was scarce. Many county-wide community centers were developed to provide a variety of activities for children and adults.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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### Vacationing

The concept of vacationing began with society's elite who traveled in search of pleasure or health. During the nineteenth century, these wealthy Americans and the burgeoning middle class initiated the growth of vacation-goers, and soon a range of summer resorts were developed across the country. Resorts varied from lakes, seashores, and springs, to mountains, country towns, and rural landscapes. Vacationers took advantage of the nation's expanding railroad infrastructure, connecting cities with various attractions. Others still sought the solitude of the outdoors, choosing to spend time camping in tents or cabins.

By the mid-nineteenth century, towns like Cape May, Atlantic City, and Saratoga Springs accommodated several thousand visitors per year and provided amenities like restaurants, ice-cream shops, bowling alleys, billiard rooms, and bathing houses. While coastal towns afforded ample swimming opportunities, interior and mountain resorts offered country walks and rides, bowling greens, and fishing.

At summer resorts, competitiveness resulted in an increasing variety of games and sports. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, Americans' involvement in more competitive and physical sports increased. Rowing and baseball quickly grew in popularity nationwide among middle class men, with football gaining traction at the nation's universities. Bicycle races, lawn tennis, boat races, and swimming matches increased, and many resorts constructed roller skating rinks.

Camping as vacation also increased in the late-nineteenth century. Romanticized by post-Civil war photographers and writers who visited the western United States, camping was viewed as a means to regain strength and health exhausted by city life. The physical requirements of camping also helped prevent idleness. Initially involving tents, easily moving from one scenic location to another, camping vacations would last as long as two weeks. Toward the turn of the century, camping within the vicinity of one's residence rose in popularity. Many families would lease or purchase land on nearby lakes, constructing one-room cabins and cottages. Families brought groceries with them and stayed a weekend or longer, creating a domestic camping experience.

By the twentieth century, vacationing spread beyond the privileged classes. Politicians and concerned citizens began drawing attention to working conditions and the poor, seeking changes to the workforce's hours and promoting vacation time. By the time of the Great Depression, a majority of working-class Americans received annual paid summer vacations. A local camping vacation quickly became an affordable alternative to faraway summer resorts.

# Maryland Historical Trust

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### Concurrent Nationwide Efforts to Increase Recreational Opportunities

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was established in 1935 as part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal policies. Lasting for eight years, WPA aimed to create labor-intensive projects with low-cost materials. "Small useful projects" as Executive Order 7034 stated, described the purpose of the WPA. No WPA requirements existed for local project financing, but in 1936, project sponsors averaged about 10% of the costs, and by the 1940s, that number had increased to 30%.

Early on, WPA projects focused on infrastructure needs like roads, electricity in rural areas, water, sanitation, and flood control. The 1936 Emergency Relief Appropriations Act added new categories that included public buildings, parks, public utilities, airports, and transit facilities, as well as educational, professional, and women's projects. WPA was prohibited from building on private property and was required to make sure its projects did not become private property.

The WPA's projects varied. Major public spaces include the River Walk in downtown San Antonio, Texas, and with nearly two miles of landscaped walkways and bridges, an amphitheater, and the restored La Villita. Sections of Balboa Park in San Diego include an example of WPA recreation facilities. Park fixtures include a gymnasium, outdoor theater, clubhouse for golf, a bowling green, and concrete picnic tables and benches. Other WPA recreation projects included promenades, band shells, waterfront areas developed for recreation, and multi-use recreation centers. During its existence, the WPA added 1,668 parks and improved some 6,524 existing parks, built 900 swimming pools, 9,300 recreational buildings and gymnasiums, 1,200 skating rinks, and 12,800 playgrounds. All over the country, many Americans enjoyed the results of this program for decades.

### Recreation Center Design

Nationwide, larger recreation centers constructed during the 1930s usually consisted of several buildings, with the main, administration building providing several functions. Common practice was to combine administration spaces such as offices and a visitors' center with a caretaker's dwelling. For smaller parks, a dominant building was designed in the nature of a multi-purpose community building. Because the administration offices were designed as point of control, these multi-purpose buildings were generally located in a prominent location near a park's entrance.

The design of roller skating rinks also took familiar forms. David Sternbergh opened York, Pennsylvania's Playland in 1941, providing an above-ground pool and roller skating rink complex. Playland's rink was designed as a "Quonset hut-style" roller rink. Similarly, near Taneytown, the town of Upperco, Maryland, was home to the Sportsman's Hall Roller Skating Club. The club, opening in 1959, was constructed with an arched

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# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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wooden roof aimed at providing excellent acoustics. Both the original roller rinks in York and Upperco were destroyed by fire in 1985 and 1992, respectively.

### Roller Skating

Roller skating began in Europe in the 1700s, with the earliest iterations of roller skates first patented in the early 1800s. In 1857, the first public skating rink opened in London.

In the late-nineteenth century United States, vacationers at summer resorts began participating in competitive physical activities and games including golf, ball games, and lawn tennis. Resorts met demand through creating game spaces and constructing buildings to house indoor activities like roller skating and bowling. The popularity of roller skating in the United States rose from the summer resort communities in the late-nineteenth century.

In Maryland, roller skating was popular as early as 1909 when a bowling alley and roller rink were constructed at Braddock Heights in Frederick County. The popularity of roller skating increased dramatically in the 1930s, leading to the Roller Skating Association's formation. The production of roller skates doubled by the end of the decade, with skating taking hold especially in the Midwest and western United States. Typically, larger cities housed roller skating rinks, with hundreds constructed from the 1930s to 1950s. Pennsylvania had largest population of roller skating rinks in the country, amassing 182 rinks by 1948. A second boom in roller skating popularity occurred during the disco era in the 1970s. In many rural areas that were underserved with recreational facilities, school gymnasiums or cafeterias were transformed into roller rinks on weekend nights, providing a fun experience for local children in close proximity to their homes.

### Bowling

Bowling as a game involving pins and balls has been documented as early as the 1300s, although similar games were possibly played by the Egyptians as early as 3200 BC. Records show the sport's modern application began as early the 1300s, with several related variations of the game including bocce and lawn bowling. The game spread throughout Europe, and eventually immigrants brought their own versions of the game to the United States. Early American references to bowling include a game of "ninepins" and the development of a lawn bowling green in lower Manhattan. The game rose in popularity as both a sport and gambling activity, leading to its prohibition in several states. Other states quickly followed suit, possibly leading to the use of ten pins as a way to circumvent state laws.

By 1840, indoor bowling lanes were developed in New York, and by the late-nineteenth century, bowling became a staple of many vacation spots as well as the homes of the nation's wealthiest citizens. The ten pin

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# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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game was extremely popular in the northeast and Midwest, eventually leading to the game's standardization by 1895.

The automatic pinsetter was invented in 1936, improving the pace of the game and leading to an expansion of bowling alley construction. During World War II, exposure to bowling continued to increase as military bases across the United States constructed bowling lanes, exposing some servicemen to the sport for the first time. Bowling was quickly identified and promoted as a sport that carried well into adulthood and soon became one of the most popular indoor sports of the twentieth century.

### Big Pipe Creek Park

Big Pipe Creek Park was constructed in 1936 by George and Marlin Shriver; it has historically been a private park. Located along Big Pipe Creek, the 28-acre tract hosted a variety of outdoor recreation activities including swimming, boating, and fishing, as well as family reunions, dancing, and tennis. The park's proximity to both Taneytown and Westminster, and its accessible location on Old Taneytown Road, made the park popular with the rural area's residents. With electricity and drinking water provided, the park also began expanding to the creek's east bank and advertising building lots for homes and summer cottages. It was the Shriver's original intent that Big Pipe Creek Park be viewed as a high-class summer resort.

In 1939, plans were made to improve Big Pipe Creek Park by constructing a two-story brick building near the state highway. The building included an office, restaurant, and residence for the park's caretaker. A wide, barrel-roofed, clapboard-clad building constructed and attached to this brick building contained a hardwood floor for dancing and other social events. Along with these improvements was a gas pump for motorists along the highway and a small barn for sheep. Sheep were acquired to limit the undergrowth around the park, essentially providing an affordable means of landscaping maintenance. Further plans included erecting bungalows and small cabins available as rental homes for visitors. A grove of black walnut trees and road improvements were also planned for the near future. In addition to these improvements, the park continued hosting reunions and small gatherings and providing opportunities for boating, swimming, sports, and other entertainment for children.

The Rainbow Restaurant opened in 1939 with the roller skating rink opening a year later at a cost of \$12,200. By 1945, the barrel-roofed building had become home to the Rainbow Skating Rink (also known as the Rainbow Roller Rink) on the main level and a bowling alley on the lower level. The roller skating rink played live organ music. The Smith family, John and Edna with their daughter Mary, lived at Big Pipe Creek Park and ran the restaurant and rink. Rainbow Roller Rink started its own hockey team in 1949 called the Tom Cats.

The recreation center was popular with residents from surrounding towns, and some traveled as far as Baltimore to roller skate at the Rainbow Skating Rink. Although the area's avid roller skaters would travel to nearby

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**Maryland Historical Trust**  
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Number 8 Page 9

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communities to visit other roller rinks, Rainbow Skating Rink remained the only one that played live organ music.

In 1975, unable to fully recover from damage caused by flooding during Hurricane Agnes in 1972, the recreation center and roller skating rink closed. The hurricane destroyed cabins along Big Pipe Creek and flooded the bowling alley located beneath the skating rink. Soon afterward, a Baltimore company purchased the rink and turned it into a dance hall called Noah's Ark. After Noah's Ark closed, another dance hall called The Showcase opened. Open only a few years, the dance hall was soon closed, repurchased by the Shriner family, and reopened as the Rainbow Farm and Home Center in 1981.

Currently, the park is the Big Pipe Creek Park Paint Ball Adventure Park, while the main building and skating rink house an antique car repair business.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CARR-1692

See Continuation Sheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 17.4 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 17.4 acres  
Quadrangle name Taneytown, MD-PA Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center's boundary includes the entire area historically associated with the recreation center's original boundaries. The historic property boundary includes the main building with its former roller skating rink and the park's outbuildings and Big Pipe Creek. The boundary includes tax parcels 4, 273, and 327 and corresponds to the boundary established by the 2006 Maryland Historical Trust Determination of Eligibility Form for Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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|                 |  |           |              |
|-----------------|--|-----------|--------------|
| name/title      | Guy Blanchard, Architectural Historian               |           |              |
| organization    | Parsons Brinckerhoff                                 | date      | May 10, 2013 |
| street & number | 4 Penn Center, 1600 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 700 | telephone | 215/209.1251 |
| city or town    | Philadelphia   | state     | PA           |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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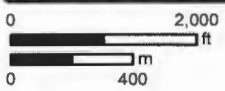
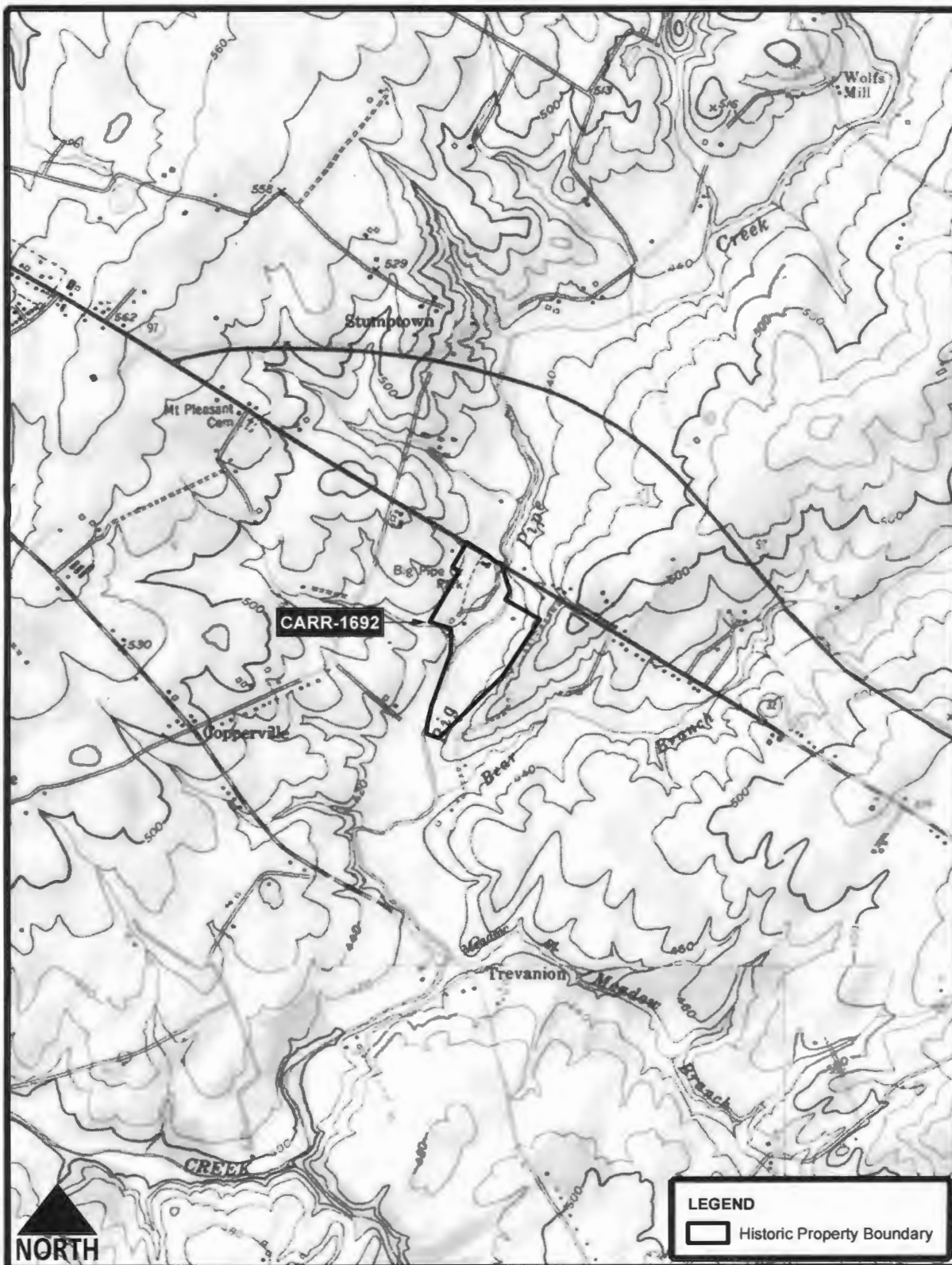
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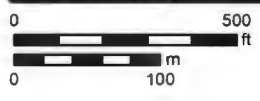
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CARR-1692 | Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center

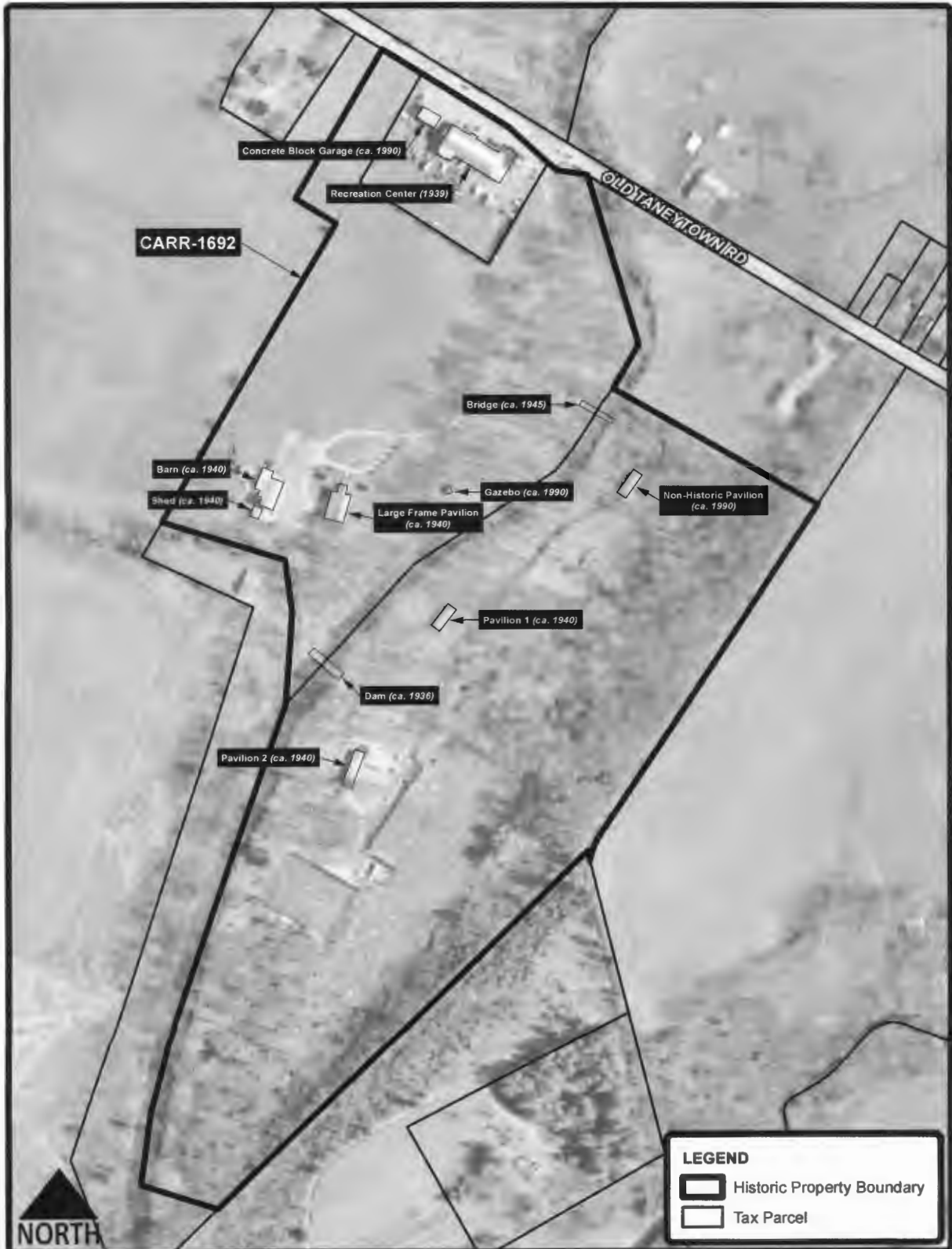


USGS 7.5 Minute Series 1:24000 Topographic Quadrangle: Taneytown, MD-PA (1971)

CARR-1692 | Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center



CARR-1692 | Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center



## Photo Log

### CARR-1692, Big Pipe Creek Park Recreational Center

All printed photographs were created using HP 100 Gray Photo Cartridge and HP Premium Plus Photo Paper, Soft Gloss.

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_01

Recreation Center, view to the southeast

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_02

Roller rink building, view to the northwest

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_03

Roller rink building, view to the south

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_04

Roller rink building, view to the northeast

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_05

Administrative building/restaurant, view to the southeast

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_06

Administrative building/restaurant, view to the southwest

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_07

Administrative building/restaurant, view to the northwest

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_08

Interior of the roller rink, view to the northwest

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_09

Interior of the roller rink, view to the southeast

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_10

Former bowling alley space, view to the southeast

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_11

Entrance to roller rink, view to the southwest

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_12

Entrance to former bowling alley, view to the southwest

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_13

Non-historic concrete-block garage, view to the southwest

CARR-1692\_2013-03-19\_14

View to the park area, to the south





CARR-1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center

Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD SHPO

Recreation Center, view to the southeast

1/14



CARR - 1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center

Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD SHPO

Roller rink building, view to the north west

2/14



CARR-1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center

Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD STPO

Roller rink building, view to the south

3/14



CARR-1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center

Carroll County, MD

S. Fell

3/19/2013

MD STPO

Roller rink building, view to the northeast

4/14



ENTRANCE



CARR-1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center

Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD SHPO

Administrative building / restaurant, view to  
the southeast

5/14



CARR-1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center

Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD STARO

Administrative building/restaurant,  
view to the southwest

6/14



CIARR-1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center

Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD SHPO

Administrative building/restaurant, view to  
the northwest

7/14



CARR-1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center  
Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD SHPO

Interior of roller rink, view to the  
northwest

8/14





CHARR-1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center  
Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD STPO

Interior of the roller rink, view to the  
southeast

9/14



CHARR-1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center  
Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD SHPO

Former bowling alley space, view to  
the southeast

10/14



CARR-169Z

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center  
Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD SHTPO

Entrance to roller rink, view to  
the southwest

11/14



CARR - 1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center  
Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD SHPO

Entrance to former bowling alley,  
view to the southwest

12/14





CARR-11692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center  
Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD SHPO

Non-historic concrete-block garage, view  
to the southwest

13/14



SPEED  
LIMIT  
10  
MPH

CARR - 1692

Big Pipe Creek Park Recreation Center  
Carroll County, MD

S. Foell

3/19/2013

MD STAPO

View to park area, to the south

14/14