



The WPA at the Lindbergh Site

Lindbergh Historic Site — By the 1930s, the boyhood home of famous aviator Charles A. Lindbergh had been badly damaged by souvenir-hunters. In 1936, the WPA began restoration of the house, which, along with the adjoining farmland, had been given to the state of Minnesota by the Lindberghs. Today, the homesite is a National Historic Landmark managed by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Lindbergh State Park — The WPA also put in two miles of footpaths, planted 4,000 trees and bushes, and built shelters, parking lots and other amenities on the Lindbergh property, creating what is now a state park. One of the shelters is still in use, and several other structures have survived.



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WPA Worker at Lindbergh Home, 1936 (map)
Minnesota Historical Society Collections

WPA Workers Planting Trees at Lindbergh State Park, 1936 (cover)
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WPA Workers Constructing Chairs, 1937 (above)
Minnesota Historical Society WPA Collection

WPA Crew Working at Charles Lindbergh Home, 1936 (panels)
Minnesota Historical Society Collections

WPA Restroom Building, photographed 2009 (map)
Minnesota Historical Society

“Kitchen Shelter” Under Construction, 1936 (map)
Minnesota Historical Society WPA Collection

Water Tower Under Construction, 1939 (map)
Minnesota Historical Society WPA Collection

Trail Shelter Near Mississippi River Trail, about 1936 (map)
Minnesota Historical Society WPA Collection

Family at Water Fountain, 1940 (map)
courtesy Clarence Tuller and Family

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WPA Walking Tour

Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site
Charles A. Lindbergh State Park



Minnesota Historical Society



About the WPA

Created in 1935, the WPA (Works Progress Administration) put unemployed men and women to work during the Great Depression. It was part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's “New Deal” legislation.

More than 8 million Americans worked for the WPA nationwide, on a variety of public projects. The WPA built roads, bridges, sewers and park buildings, and made significant contributions in human services and the arts.

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WPA Park Shelter

Known as the "Kitchen Shelter" because it includes a fireplace and stove, it was constructed in 1936, making it one of the first WPA buildings in the park.



WPA Drinking Fountains

Still functional, these drinking fountains were made of native granite in 1939.



WPA Water Tower

Built of native granite in 1939, it once held 5,000 gallons of water.



WPA Restroom Building

This pine structure was built around 1939 and is still in use. The building exterior is unchanged, although the inside has been modernized.

Footbridge Approximate site where, as a child, Lindbergh built a suspension bridge over Pike Creek - a Mississippi tributary.

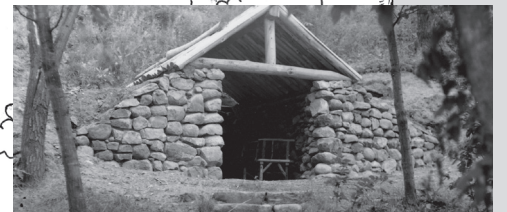
Footbridge

Lindbergh State Park Contact Station

Caretaker/Farmer Home

Built around 1901, it was the home of the Lindberghs' hired farmer and later of the park caretaker.

Lindbergh Historic Site Visitor Center



WPA Trail Shelter Ruin

Down the river bluffs, four stone walls remain from this structure, which was built around 1936. The walls are visible from an overlook marked with a sign.



Lindbergh Boyhood Home

Restoration by the WPA began in 1936 to repair damage caused by souvenir-seekers.

