

NORTH PARK HISTORIC SHELTERS

Origin of Shelter Names:

- **Beveridge Shelter**
 - Located along South Ridge Drive
 - From 1920 census: Andrew and Elizabeth Beveridge lived on either Rolshouse Road or Pearce Mill Road next to Wagener
 - From 1876 map: W. Beveridge across creek from Pearce Mill and R. T. Beveridge in location of girl scout cabin
- **Camp Hemlock, Camp Westridge and Camp Irwin**



Figure 1: Camp Hemlock

- Located at the intersection of Peebles Road and Hemlock Road.
- Camp Hemlock, Camp Westridge, and Camp Irwin were constructed in 1938 as overnight camping facilities for underprivileged children. An overturned flagpole is all that remains of Camp Irwin. Camp Westridge was demolished for the police and fire training academy.
- **Cottage Grove Shelter**
 - Along Old Ingomar
 - From observation: 3-5 cottages rented out by Anderson family in the area of Cottage Grove. Either demolished or moved when county bought land
- **Devils Elbow Shelters**
 - Across from the pool

- From 1910 topographic map and 1939 aerial photos, Hemlock and Babcock area road previously had 2 sharp hairpin turns thus the naming of the shelters. County annual report 1931 shows the devils elbow removed from Babcock Blvd.
- **Enright Shelter**
 - Near Nike site/Police Academy
 - From Post-Gazette: Thomas Enright was the first person killed from Allegheny County WWI
- **Gold Star Shelter**
 - Along Lakeshore Drive
 - Gold star mothers is a term that came into general use with the creation of the service flags used to show that a family had a son in the service (a blue star) or a son that had died in the service (a gold star almost covering the blue star so that a rim of blue still shows).
- **Henderson Shelter**
 - At intersection of Babcock and Hemlock
 - From County annual report 1930: E.W. Henderson owned the land upon which the shelter was constructed. \$500.00/acre containing fine groves, level plateau, and fine stand of Jersey Pine
- **Kolich Shelter**
 - Along Lakeshore Drive
 - From Post-Gazette, 10/6/82: Mr. Kolich helped clean up county streams and now streams support trout.
- **Latham Shelter**
 - Along Lakeshore Drive
 - Roger Latham: Chief of Research at the Pennsylvania Game Commission in the mid-1950s, Outdoor Editor of the Pittsburgh Press 1957-1979
- **Mill Shelter (now Avalon Shelter)**
 - Along McKinney Road
 - Named for the Pearce Family whose home is now the Administration Building. They ran the Pearce Milling Company which was located behind the Administration building. Larry Pearce, whose father grew up in what is now the Administration building, has written about his family history.
- **Pearce Shelter**
 - Along Pearce Mill Road
 - Named for the Pearce Family whose home is now the Administration Building. They ran the Pearce Milling Company which was located behind the Administration building. Larry Pearce, whose father grew up in what is now the Administration building, has written about his family history.
- **Moon Shelter**
 - Along Old Ingomar Road.
 - County annual report, 1934: The old barn on the Moon property was razed and a large shelter erected on the foundation walls. This shelter will have three inside ovens and will be large enough to accommodate at least 200 persons. The property around the old Moon House and barn is being improved and landscaped.
 - Moon property directly south of Guyton property: [McCandless 1914 Map](#)

- **Pie Traynor Field**
 - From Society for American Baseball Research: During the late '40s, Traynor was comfortably settling into the role of "Mr. Pittsburgh." The man was everywhere. He became a sort of professional raconteur, traveling all over western Pennsylvania, often several nights a week, speaking to clubs and fraternal organizations. In 1946 he was appointed Allegheny County's recreation supervisor for county parks, which paid him about \$3,300 a year to set up baseball schools for area kids, modeled after those that Rogers Hornsby ran in Chicago. He remained in that post for about 18 months, until general manager Roy Hamey welcomed him back into the Pirates family as a scout and goodwill ambassador. Traynor's responsibilities were light; he ran tryout camps and baseball schools and represented the team at public events.
- **Schoolhouse Shelter**
 - Along Walter Road
 - From Town of McCandless Sesquicentennial Anniversary book, 1851-2001: Walters school was located at the present site of the schoolhouse Grove in North Park. It was a 1 room schoolhouse, constructed between 1834-1837. Walters school closed around 1923 and the students were transferred to the Ingomar School. The school and its 1/2 acre were sold to Union Trust 11/17/27 and were destroyed by fire in 1938. Schoolhouse shelter constructed in its place in 1941.
- **Renaming of Groves in 1929:**
 - Pittsburgh Press:
 - Walters to Parish Hill
 - Willow to The Willows
 - Klein to Forest Glen
 - Pearce Mill to Mill Grove
 - All groves were equipped with tables, benches, and outdoor ovens. Natural springs are either in or near the groves. Wading pools for children in some groves

Description of Oven Shelters from the Fifth Annual Report County Of Allegheny Bureau Of Parks 1931:

"In close conformity with successful experience, pointing unmistakably to the camp oven and oven shelter as an important dominating-feature of the picnic groves, a number of ovens and oven shelters have been built in various groves, especially those of North Park. These ovens are primarily intended to make possible light cooking, having in some instances been elaborated to present a modified shelter for smaller groups and, to a certain extent, have functioned as headquarters for particular groves. Their presence has added a distinctive feature to each unit and assisted the picnickers greatly in finding an assigned area. Many of the groves have grown more popular and have become favorites on that account.

These buildings are always the outgrowth of very careful study on the ground, giving due consideration to physical surroundings, etc. The architecture of the ovens is a result of these studies, their materials related to the region, and tastefully blended. Thus, they fit into the setting and never fail to impart a sincere woodland character and spirit of the outdoor, a breath of nature, a delightful harmony of the artificial with nature's own handiwork. This procedure permits the use of boulders or stratified rock, as the case may be, according to the indigenous, geological formations, and in consequence offers a wide range of interesting structures.

At the Cottonwoods in North Park a modified council ring has been built in which the oven becomes the central feature.

A similar but larger oven was constructed at the Hickories, North Park, with stone seats and tables, which adds considerable interest to this popular picnic area.

An open oven was built at Ledgewood at North Park. The procedure here was different in that native boulders, present on the site were re-arranged and supplemented until on completion each served in its capacity as a seat, table, or part of the oven; the entire treatment fitting into the landscape as naturally as did the stones before the new positions were assigned them.

An oven shelter was constructed at Oakdene, also in North Park, on the site of an old quarry. This oven shelter, with its fireplace, stone seat and crane, forms the central feature and is flanked by stone tables and pergolas on either side. Its seclusion, in a less accessible part, has added greatly to the desirability of this splendid forested area and overcame many objections that were had on that account."

Historical Photos of Oven Shelters:

HICKORIES



Figure 2: Hickories Shelter, Parks & Recreation Magazine, August 1931, page 683

GPS coordinates N40.59347, W80.00632

Located in the woods along Ingomar Road between Babcock and Kummer Roads.

Built with oven with stone seats and tables.

OAKDENE



ON THE SIDE OF AN OLD QUARRY

An eight foot parapet wall makes possible a generous forecourt containing an open hearth, and two additional fireplaces. Stone tables are arranged on each side of the oven shelter's long axis, and are given unity and greater intimacy by sheltering pergolas.

Figure 3: Oakdene Shelter, Parks & Recreation Magazine, August 1931, page 686

GPS coordinates N40.59931, W79.99829

Located along Pearce Mill Road near intersection with Babcock Boulevard near Oakdale shelter. Not identified with sign.

An oven shelter was constructed at **Oakdene** on the site of an old quarry. This oven shelter, with its fireplace, stone seat and crane, forms the central feature and is flanked by stone tables and pergolas on either side. Its seclusion, in a less accessible part, added greatly to the desirability of this splendid forested area and overcame many objections that were had on that account.

COTTONWOODS



Figure 4: Cottonwoods Shelter, Parks & Recreation, Volume 14, August 1931, page 683

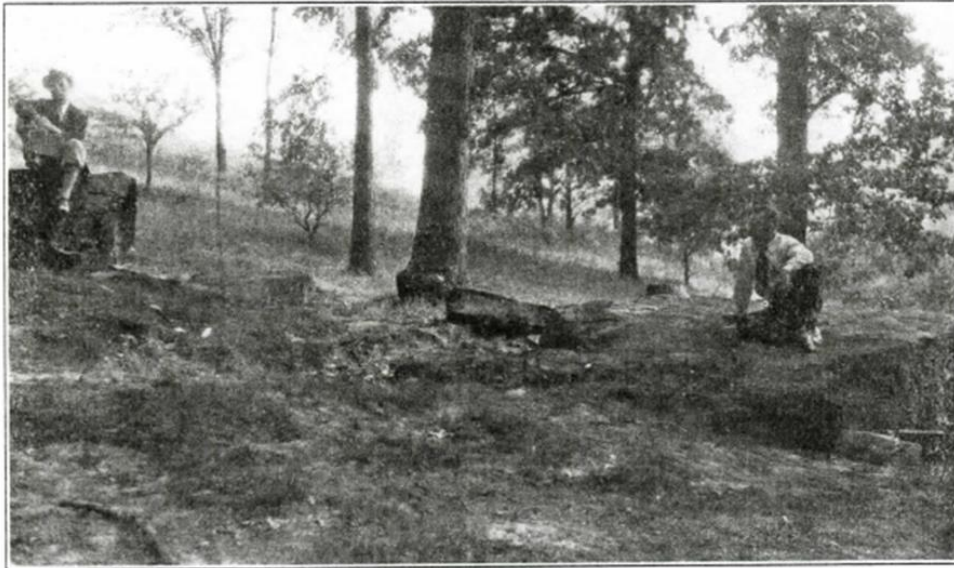


Figure 5: Cottonwoods Shelter, 1931 Annual Report, page 615

GPS coordinates N40.59081, W79.99868

There is a sign but no shelter and it is located in woods. Along Old Ingomar Road near intersection with Babcock Boulevard. A modified council ring was built to become the central feature

LEDGEWOOD



**“Before”—Ledgewood, North Park—A Boulder-Strewn Grove Suggests
Natural Treatment**

Figure 6: Ledgewood, 1931 Annual Report, page 618



**“After” Ledgewood, North Park—The Shifting of a Few Boulders Resulted in This
Naturalistic Oven**

Figure 7: Ledgewood, 1931 Annual Report, page 619

GPS coordinates N40.5916, W80.01292

Located in the woods along Ingomar Road at intersection with Kummer Road.

An open oven was built at **Ledgewood**. The procedure here was different in that native boulders, present on the site were re-arranged and supplemented until on completion each served in its capacity as a seat, table, or part of the oven; the entire treatment fitting into the landscape as naturally as did the stones before the new positions were assigned them.

TUPELO



Figure 8: Tupelo Shelter, 1930 Annual Report, page 25

GPS coordinates N40.59116, W79.99242

3-sided log cabin behind swimming pool located in the woods.

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