

## For More Information

**Cumberland County Historical Society**  
21 North Pitt Street  
Carlisle, PA 17013  
(717) 249-7610  
[www.historicalsociety.com](http://www.historicalsociety.com)

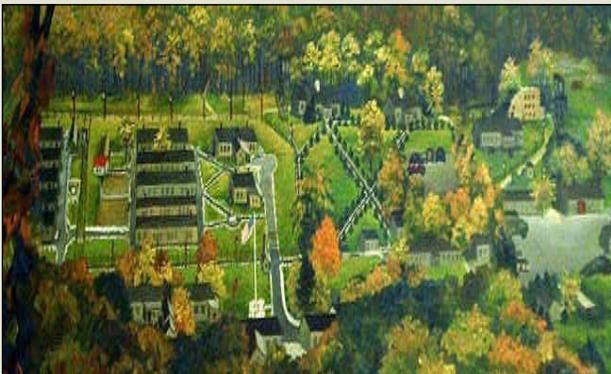
**Adams County Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 4325  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
(717) 334-4723  
[www.achs-pa.org](http://www.achs-pa.org)

## Resources

**Camp Michaux Self-Guided Walking Tour** by David Smith. Purchase at the Pine Grove Furnace State Park Visitor Center or the Cumberland County Historical Society, or download for free at [www.historicalsociety.com](http://www.historicalsociety.com).

**“The Secret War at Home: The Pine Grove Furnace Prisoner of War Interrogation Camp”** by John Paul Bland. Purchase at the Pine Grove Furnace State Park Visitor Center or the Cumberland County Historical Society.

**Camp Michaux Website**  
[www.schaeffersite.com/michaux/](http://www.schaeffersite.com/michaux/)  
An online resource with extensive info and photos, maintained by Lee Schaeffer.



*Gate to Main Camp Rd from Michaux Rd*

### Directions from Pine Grove Furnace Park Office:

Continue south on Route 233 for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Michaux Rd and continue for approximately 1.5 miles. When the intersection of Bunker Hill Rd is to the right, the lower gate entrance to the camp will be on the left. Off-road parking is available beyond the intersection on the right. The upper gate entrance is across from the parking area.

If using GPS, input the following coordinates:  
40° 02' 16"N -77° 20' 27"W  
40.0379°N -77.3404°W

## For More Information

**Pine Grove Furnace State Park**  
1100 Pine Grove Road  
Gardners, Pa 17324

Telephone Number : (717) 486-7174

Email: [PineGroveSP@pa.gov](mailto:PineGroveSP@pa.gov)

[www.VisitPAParks.com](http://www.VisitPAParks.com)

## Michaux State Forest

# History of Camp Michaux



## A Farm for the Iron Furnace

The area was originally a farm established in 1787. In 1794 it became part of Pine Grove Iron Works, as one of five farms that supported the people and animals of the ironmaking community. Farming continued here until the late 1920s. Evidence of the farm includes remnants of a stone barn. The barn's end wall, visible from Michaux Road, partly collapsed in 2016.

## CCC Camp S-51, Company 329

In 1933, during the Great Depression, the newly established Civilian Conservation Corps used Bunker Hill Farm (also known as Gardner Farm) as a site for Camp S-51, the first CCC camp on state-owned land in Pennsylvania.



*CCC memorial sign along Michaux Road*

In May 1933, the first group of “CCC boys” arrived by train from Philadelphia, seeking a reprieve from the economic woes of the day. Initially, they lived out of the railroad coaches and trekked four miles round trip to construct the camp at the former farm. They established a tent camp until a mess hall and barracks were built. Living in tents was unpleasant with the onslaught of the summer heat, and was dangerous — two young men died from a lightning strike.

About 200 young men from 18 to 25 years of age occupied the camp at any time. The first work crews in 1933 improved nearby roads and constructed the camp. Later years were spent constructing roads, establishing tree plantations, fighting forest fires, and making general improvements in the State Forest and nearby State Park.

## The War at Home

After nine years of operation, the CCC camp was closed and converted for military use as a prison camp. In February 1942, the Intelligence Department of the Army established the Pine Grove Furnace POW Interrogation Camp. Importantly, the isolated camp could be kept secret. Military staff assigned here used nearby Carlisle Barracks as their mailing address. Access to the site was blocked by guarded gates on High Mountain Road (now Michaux Road).

Initially the camp was intended for extracting information from German submarine officers, but later became a destination for prisoners from Rommel's African Corps and others. More than 7,500 German prisoners were assessed during the 30 months the camp was open. Prisoners were dispersed to regular POW camps across the country upon the satisfaction of American interrogators, or might be sent to other special sites for additional interrogation. Near the war's end, at least 165 Japanese prisoners were also sent to the camp. Around 150 American personnel were stationed at the camp to guard nearly 1,500 prisoners at any given time.

Some leisure activities were permitted by prisoners including painting, crafts, and music. (A prisoner's painting of the camp is shown below “Resources” on the opposite side of this brochure.)

Remains of the CCC and POW camp can still be seen today, including the concrete bases of watch-towers, building foundations, and German names and words embedded in concrete steps, bridges and waterways constructed by prisoners. A large round concrete marker commemorating the services of U.S. military personnel is located near the main gate into the camp. Another feature still visible was built during the CCC era: a fountain decorated with blue slag — a waste product of the iron industry — and white quartz (see cover of this brochure).

## A New Beginning

At the end of the war in 1945, the site was once again abandoned. A group of youth leaders from the United Presbyterian and Reformed



churches were looking for a summer camp for their youth. They united to form Camp Michaux, Inc. and used the camp for the first time in the summer of 1947, leasing the site from Michaux State Forest. In 1948, the first of three ten-year leases was initiated. For \$600 a year, the churches had the use of the camp with an agreement to maintain the buildings and grounds.



*(Above) The swimming pool as it appeared in 1961.*

*(Right) The same pool as it appeared in 2003.*



The camp remained open until 1972 when the property reverted back to the State Forest. All buildings and appurtenances were removed in 1975, and the land was once again left to the devices of nature.