

## CAPSULE SUMMARY

Gunpowder Falls State Park

MIHP # BA-3004/HA-2037 (SEE BA-3004 FOR INVENTORY FORM AND PHOTOGRAPHS)

Joppa, Baldwin, Baltimore, Hereford

Baltimore and Harford Counties, Maryland

Park=1960

Public

Gunpowder Falls State Park occupies approximately 14,913 acres, 12,905 acres in Baltimore County and 2,008 acres in Harford counties, Maryland. Gunpowder Falls State Park is a linear, non-contiguous park that contains the stream valleys of the Big Gunpowder and Little Gunpowder Falls Rivers and their tributaries. These natural and scenic corridors are the focus of the park. The park is divided into seven areas: Hereford, Springdale, Sweet Air, Big Gunpowder Central, Little Gunpowder Central, Days Cove, and Hammerman/Dundee. The Northern Central Railroad (NCRR) Trail, also a part of the park, runs north to south from the Pennsylvania State Line to the town of Ashland in Baltimore County.

The State of Maryland initiated property acquisition for Gunpowder Falls State Park in 1960. Gunpowder Falls State Park encompasses a wide variety of built and archeological resources representing prehistory and historic occupation from the early eighteenth century through 1960. The resources include prehistoric archeological sites, farm complexes, industrial and manufacturing buildings and sites, commercial buildings, transportation-related resources, defensive complexes, and single-family residences constructed between ca. 1920 and 1960.

Park improvement and the management policies that have shaped Gunpowder Falls State Park as a public recreation area are less than fifty years of age. The park landscape has been managed to preserve its natural resources and for low intensity recreation. Few park buildings have been constructed. In general, buildings constructed under the park tenure are functional in design. The buildings are not associated with the work of modern masters nor do they possess exceptional architectural merit. Within the context of public recreation from 1960 to the present, the low-intensity development of Gunpowder Falls State Park is a typical expression of changing trends in recreational planning for stream valley parks adapted in Maryland. The park as an

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entity does not appear to be exceptionally significant under Criterion Consideration G for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The status of individual cultural resources for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is contained in the table attached to this MIHP form.