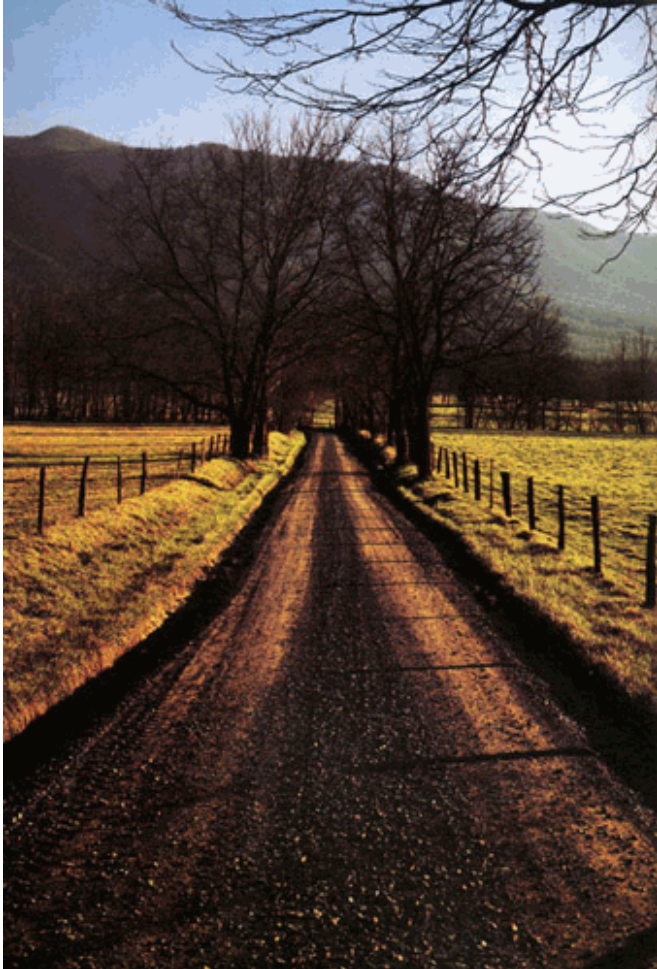

National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
1998



Cades Cove Landscape
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

Table of Contents

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Cades Cove is a 6,800 acre valley nestled in the Great Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee. Completely surrounded by mountains, contemporary access to the valley is from the northeast via a winding road that parallels Laurel Creek.

The vernacular landscape consists of several distinct qualities that work in unison to create the pastoral ambiance of Cades Cove. These features include: an open, grassy valley floor enclosed by steep, wooded mountains; Abrams Creek and its two main branches that drain the valley; three c. 1830s roads that at one time provided access to the cove, and a valley loop road that connects several historic homes, churches and a mill.

Cades Cove is listed in the National Register with a period of significance from 1800-1899, emphasizing the resources related to the early settlement and later development of the Appalachian South. The cultural landscape period of significance extends from 1818-1942, to include the Park Development Era improvements. The existing landscape character primarily depicts the Park Development Era master plan and its interpretation of the cove "pioneer" settlement.

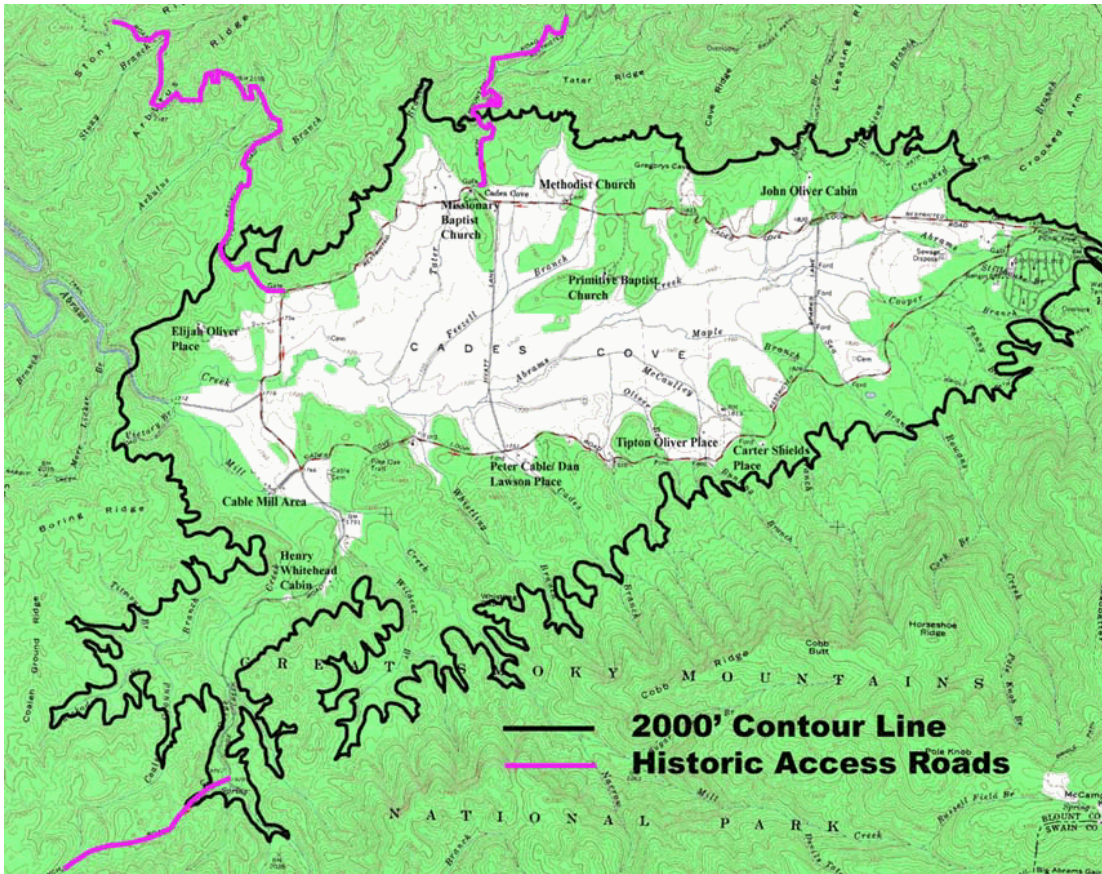
The historic condition of the valley was a subsistence agricultural community with links to the outside world via three roads that traversed the northwestern, western and southwestern mountains. The cleared valley floor was divided into small and large agricultural fields and pastureland for grazing animals. The lower slopes of the mountains were cleared for crops and working wood lots. Cattle and sheep grazed on the high mountain balds above the valley. Homesteads, churches, schools, mills, stores, and cemeteries were connected via a loop road that encircled the open valley floor.

Implementation of the 1938 Master Plan substantially altered access to the cove. Construction of the new Laurel Creek Road, which entered the eastern end of the cove, allowed visitors to access the cove in a way the settlers never did. Additionally, one historic road was closed while the other two were limited to outgoing traffic only. Ultimately, the way one approached the cove was permanently changed.

Because the emphasis of the original GRSM legislation (1930) was protection of natural resources, the current condition of the landscape has been substantially altered from the historic landscape. Since the park's establishment, park natural resource specialists have made a concerted effort to "restore" the valley to its natural state. Aside from removing a majority of the structures, vegetation succession has substantially filled cleared lands and reforested clear-cut areas. There has also been an effort to remove the physical manipulations of Abrams Creek and restore the wetland on the western end of the cove. Native grasses have been planted in large portions of the valley floor.

There is no similarity between the present permit boundaries and the historical farm boundaries. In 1933, of the 75 farms purchased, 89% were under 200 acres in size and most included woodland.

Site Plan



Cades Cove

Property Level and CLI Numbers

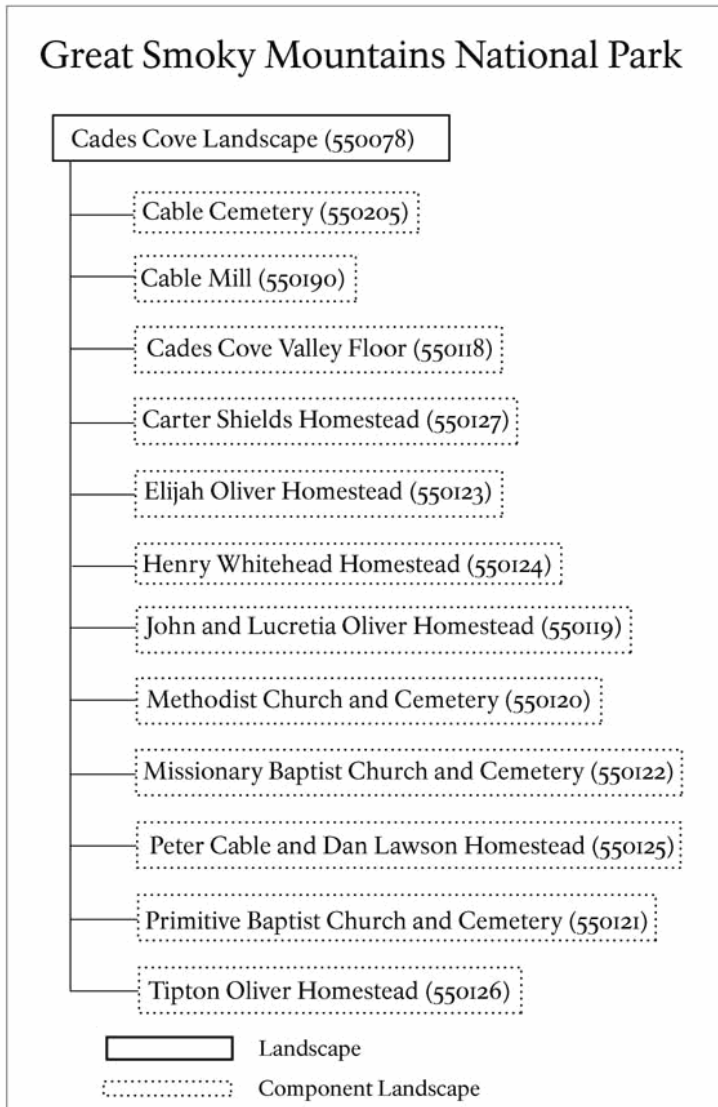
Inventory Unit Name:	Cades Cove Landscape
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	550078
Parent Landscape:	550078

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict -GRSM
Park Organization Code:	5470
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict - GRSM
Park Administrative Unit:	Great Smoky Mountains National Park

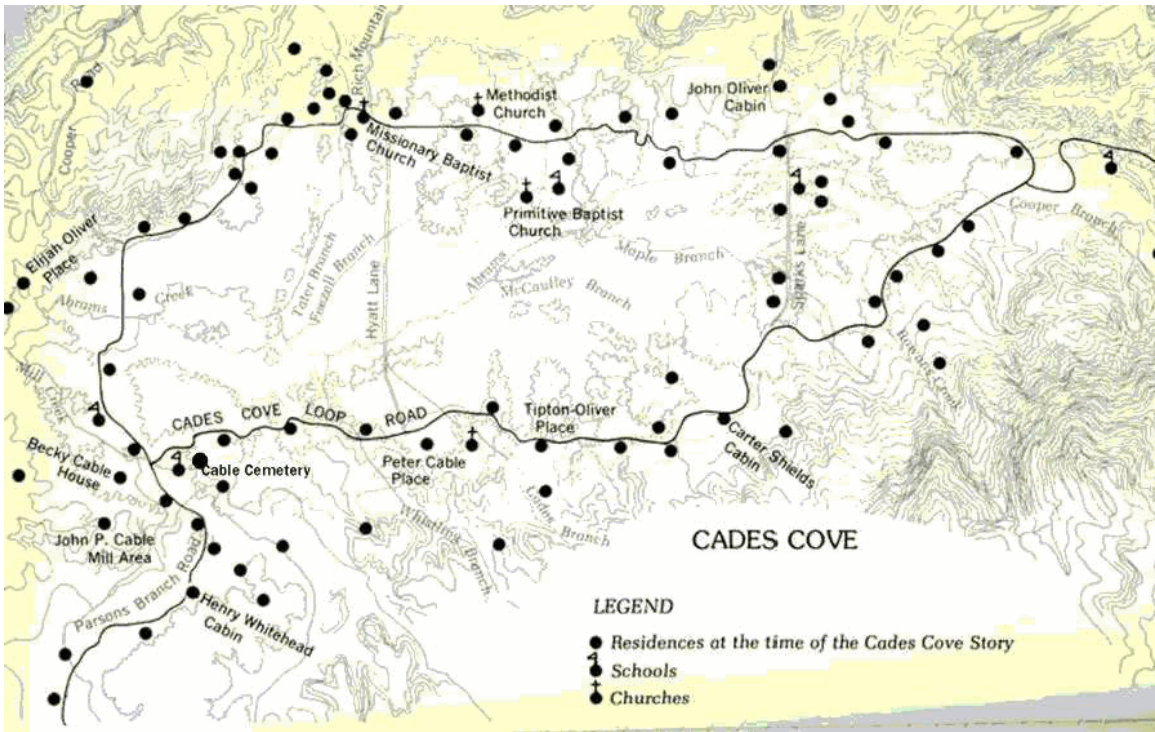
CLI Hierarchy Description

The Cades Cove Landscape is an approximately 6,800 acre valley in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park of eastern Tennessee. The landscape has integrity of key characteristics including topography, water courses, four mountain access roads, a valley loop road, the open valley floor, and numerous Park Development Era planning features. Within the landscape, twelve distinct component landscapes were identified: Cades Cove Valley Floor, John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead, Methodist Church and Cemetery, Primitive Baptist Church and Cemetery, Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery, Elijah Oliver Homestead, Cable Mill, Cable Cemetery, Henry Whitehead Homestead, Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead, Tipton-Oliver Homestead, and the Carter Shields Homestead. Individual Cultural Landscape Inventories have been prepared for the component landscapes. Four additional sites were mapped in the cove: the Horse Concession area, NPS Horse Barn, Maintenance and Government Quarters, and the Campground and Day Use area. These sites are not considered significant component landscapes primarily because they do not meet the National Register criteria of 50 years old. These sites are discussed in this overall landscape form.



Hierarchy Map

Cades Cove Landscape
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict



Cades Cove Cultural Landscape

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The site was visited several times in 1996-1997 by Lucy Lawliss, Cari Goetcheus and several interns. A review of all park maps and photographs was undertaken. The team photographed the key features of the landscape, mapped and photographed the component landscapes. An additional visit was made in June 2006 by SERO CLI staff to reconfirm condition assessments of Cades Cove and its 12 component landscapes. The park contacts are: Kent Cave, acting Historian, and Nancy Finley, Resource Management and Science Division Chief.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/15/2006

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 08/25/2006

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

TN-SHPO concurred with the following comments:

"We have reviewed the submitted documentation that identifies cultural landscape features at the Cades Cove Historic District in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory, with the exception of the comments below, and understand that these features have the potential to contribute to the existing National Register of Historic Places nomination for Cades Cove Historic District.

Comments: We have some technical concerns that have more to do with National Register than CLI. The CLI uses a period of significance up to 1942 in order to include the changes that occurred to Cades Cove when the park was established. This is an excellent idea and acknowledges the fact not only that the NPS had a major impact on Cades Cove, but that these changes represent important early twentieth century ideas of historic preservation. The concerns are that there are instances when road patterns or buildings that were built after the 1942 period of significance are considered contributing to the landscape. Either the district period of significance should be extended to include these resources, criterion considerations should be noted, or the resources should be considered non-contributing. In addition, while Mission 66 is mentioned, there does not appear to be any assessment of that program's impact on the cultural landscape. I am assuming it is just not being addressed at this time."

Future CLI updating should include a more complete analysis of the Mission 66 era of development at the property.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Cades Cove Landscape
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

We have reviewed the submitted documentation that identifies cultural landscape features at the Cades Cove Historic District in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. We concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory, with the exception of the comments below, and understand that these features have the potential to contribute to the existing National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Cades Cove Historic District.

Comments: We have some technical concerns that have more to do with National Register than the CLI. The CLI uses a period of significance up to 1942 in order to include the changes that occurred to Cades Cove when the park was established. This is an excellent idea and acknowledges the fact not only that the NPS had a major impact on Cades Cove, but that these changes now represent important early twentieth century ideas of historic preservation. The concerns are that there are instances when road patterns or buildings that were built after the 1942 period of significance are considered contributing to the landscape. Either the district period of significance should be extended to include these resources, criterion considerations should be noted, or the resources should be considered non-contributing. In addition, while Mission 66 is mentioned, there does not appear to be any assessment of that program's impact on the cultural landscape. I am assuming it is just not being addressed at this time.


Tennessee Historical Commission Representative

8/15/06
Date

SHPO Signature of Concurrence

Cades Cove Landscape
 Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

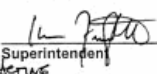
**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
 CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET - 8 August 2006**

Park Information
Park: Great Smoky Mountains National Park
District: Cades Cove Subdistrict
State: Tennessee
Counties: Blount

Cultural Landscape Condition

Inventory Name	CLI Id #	Condition
Cades Cove Landscape	550078	Good
Cades Cove Valley Floor	550118	Fair
John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead	550119	Fair
Primitive Baptist Church and Cemetery	550121	Fair
Methodist Church and Cemetery	550120	Fair
Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery	550122	Fair
Elijah Oliver Homestead	550123	Good
Cable Mill	550190	Good
Henry Whitehead Homestead	550124	Fair
Cable Cemetery	550205	Good
Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead	550125	Fair
Tipton Oliver Homestead	550126	Good
Carter Shields Homestead	550127	Good

Cultural Landscape Management Category
 Should Be Preserved and Maintained 1 August 2006

Park Superintendent Concurrence
 Concur Do Not Concur
 9/2/06
 Superintendent Date

Superintendent Signature of Concurrence

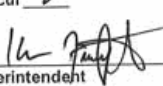
Cades Cove Landscape
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE – 8 August 2006 (updated 27 August 2012)**

<u>Park Information</u>	
Park:	Great Smoky Mountains National Park
District:	Cades Cove Subdistrict
State:	Tennessee
Counties:	Blount

<u>Cultural Landscape Condition</u>				
Inventory Name	CLI Id #	Condition ('06)		Condition ('12)
Cades Cove Landscape	550078	Good		Good
Cades Cove Valley Floor	550118	Fair		Fair
John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead	550119	Fair		Fair
Primitive Baptist Church and Cemetery	550121	Fair		Fair
Methodist Church and Cemetery	550120	Fair		Fair
Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery	550122	Fair		Fair
Elijah Oliver Homestead	550123	Good		Good
Cable Mill	550190	Good		Good
Henry Whitehead Homestead	550124	Fair		Fair
Cable Cemetery	550205	Good		Good
Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead	550125	Fair		Fair
Tipton Oliver Homestead	550126	Good		Good
Carter Shields Homestead	550127	Good		Good

<u>Cultural Landscape Management Category</u>	
Should Be Preserved and Maintained	27 August 2012

<u>Park Superintendent Concurrence</u>	
Concur <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Concur <input type="checkbox"/>
	9/18/12
Superintendent	Date

Superintendent reassessment signature

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Landscape boundaries for Cades Cove are currently based on the 2,000' contour elevation as defined by the National Register nomination form. The cultural landscape boundary has been expanded to include Gregory Bald, Cooper Road to Wedge Ridge, Rich Mountain Road to the park boundary, and Parsons Branch Road to the intersection of Bunker Hill Road. The UTMs listed include only up to the 2,000' contour elevation.

State and County:

State: TN

County: Blount County

Size (Acres): 6,853.00

Boundary UTMS:

UTM Zone:	17
UTM Easting:	240,630
UTM Northing:	3,944,930
UTM Zone:	17
UTM Easting:	249,355
UTM Northing:	3,938,290
UTM Zone:	17
UTM Easting:	240,440
UTM Northing:	3,938,530
UTM Zone:	17
UTM Easting:	249,560
UTM Northing:	3,944,670

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

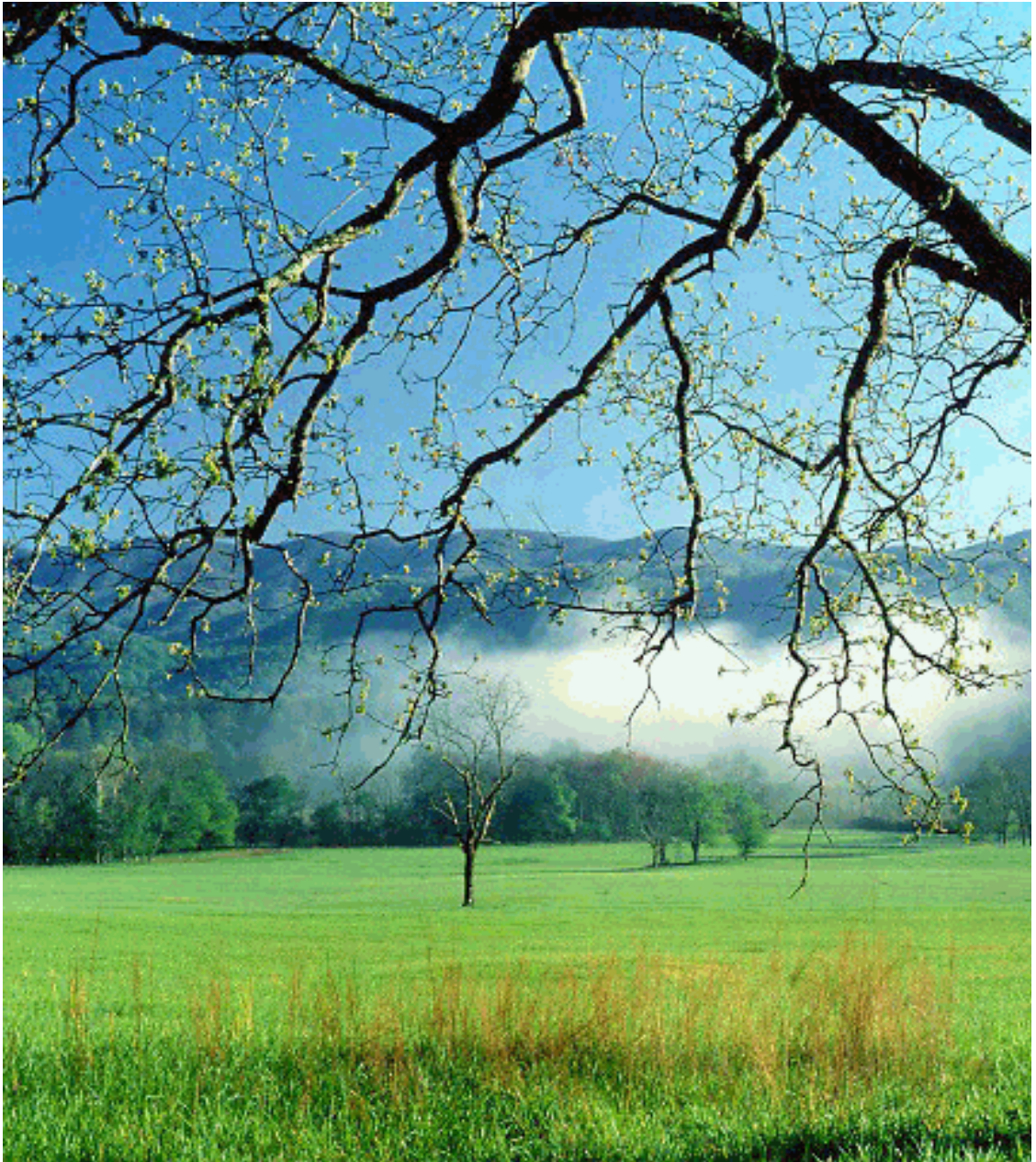
Description:

The early white settlers of Cades Cove were predominately European-American occupants of East Tennessee and the Carolinas, an area that had been settled in the second half of the eighteenth century. Numerically dominating the migration to the Upland South in general were individuals of Celtic ancestry--Scotch-Irish, Scots, and Welsh--and Englishmen from the "Celtic frontier," those areas of England bordering Scotland and Wales. Settlers of northern or central European ethnicity were not uncommon--Swedes, Finns, French, Dutch, and Germans. The typical early settlement in the Southern Appalachians was the kinship-based dispersed hamlet, a cluster defined by geographic features (e.g. valley, cove, or gap). In the Great Smokies, hollow and cove settlements were by far the most numerous. Settlers in Cades Cove practiced stock-raising and diversified small-scale agriculture, supplemented by extensive hunting and fishing. The self-sufficient, owner-occupied family farm was the basic economic unit, and a relatively open and egalitarian social structure emerged. Self-reliance and mutual assistance in times of need characterized community life, and a strong attachment to the land and the homeplace was evident.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The site lies in the Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee within the Blue Ridge physiographic province. The present physiography of the Smokies is a result of several periods of faulting and uplift more than 200 million years ago, followed by weathering and erosion. The Smokies today are characterized by steep, forested ridges, rounded peaks, and deep valleys. Broader valleys are located in isolated pockets, known locally as coves. In the case of Cades Cove, older, overthrust Precambrian rocks have eroded to expose a "window" of limestone, creating an expanse of reasonably level ground surrounded by ridges.



View across the open valley floor

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Cades Cove lies within the 2nd Congressional district of Tennessee.

Management Unit: Cades Cove Subdistrict
Tract Numbers: All or portions of 05-105, 05-107 to 05-112 inclusive, 07-101, 08-101, 08-102.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/01/2006

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Concession Contract/Permit

Expiration Date: 11/14/2007

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Campground General Store

Type of Agreement: Other Agreement

Other Agreement: Concesssion Contract

Expiration Date: 12/31/2006

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Hugh Myers uses 100 acres on the east end of cove for a horse riding concession, hay production and pasturing his horses.

Type of Agreement: Other Agreement

Other Agreement: Special Use Permit

Expiration Date: 12/31/1998

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Kermit Caughron, the last remaining resident of Cades Cove who had a special use permit to graze cattle, died in April 1999. In accordance with an agreement reached with the family, grazing cattle in the cove ended with his death.

Type of Agreement: Other Agreement

Other Agreement: Use of Structure

Expiration Date: 12/31/2009

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The Great Smoky Mountains Association uses a building at Cable Mill for their bookstore.

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Expiration Date: 12/31/2007

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Hugh Myers, horse concessionaire, has an additional 110 acres on the west end of the cove for pasturing his horses.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: With Permission

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

The adjacent lands above the 2,000' contour elevation (the surrounding mountains) enclose the cove, contributing to the isolated feeling of the rural pastoral agricultural valley. Additionally Parsons Branch Road, Cooper Road and Rich Mountain Road (all of which extend beyond the 2000' contour elevation and the park boundaries) were transportation routes integral to the livelihood of Cades Cove.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The July 1977 National Register documentation focuses entirely on historic structures with no reference to the landscape. The Cades Cove Historic District boundary follows the 2,000' contour line. The nomination was amended in November 1977, adding eleven prehistoric archaeological sites to the original documentation. The nomination should be amended to include the cultural landscape features addressed in this CLI.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Cades Cove Historic District
NRIS Number:	77000111
Other Names:	40Btv15;40Btv16;40Btv17;40Btv18;40Btv21;40Btv22;40Btv29;40Btv30;40Btv31;40Btv32;40Btv34
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	07/13/1977
Other Certifications and Date:	Additional Documentation - 11/30/1977

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	State
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Significance Criteria:	D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history
Criteria Considerations:	A -- A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance B -- A building or structure removed from its original location but

which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event

D -- A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events

E -- A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1818 - 1900
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Ways of Life
Facet:	Farming Communities
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1900 - 1933
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Conservation of Natural Resources
Facet:	The Conservation Movement Matures 1908-1941
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Agriculture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Archeology
Area of Significance Subcategory:	Prehistoric
Area of Significance Category:	Conservation
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Exploration - Settlement
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Entertainment - Recreation
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

Cades Cove is significant under Criterion A as a resource related to the early settlement and ongoing evolution of a southern Appalachian farming community, and as a resource related to early conservation efforts east of the Mississippi River. It is significant under Criterion C as an example of the vernacular architecture of farm buildings of the Upland South and for the NPS Park Development Era interpretation of the Cades Cove "pioneer" culture. It is significant under Criterion D as a site likely to yield information important to the knowledge of the prehistory or history of the community. The period of significance is 1818-1942.

Cades Cove epitomizes the delayed settlement pattern that occurred in more mountainous areas of the

Cades Cove Landscape

Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

Appalachian chain and eastern seaboard. Two factors--geography and a large presence of native peoples--delayed white settlement of the Great Smoky Mountains until the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Prior to the coming of the Euro-American settler, the Cherokees were the dominant tribe in the central and southern Appalachians. Practicing subsistence agriculture and hunting, they maintained fields of corn, squash, and beans near their riverside villages in eastern Tennessee, north Georgia, and the western Carolinas. Three Cherokee sites have been located in Cades Cove. Through successive treaties, beginning in 1761, the Cherokees lost more and more of their territory, until the Calhoun Treaty of 1819 reset the boundary of East Tennessee, opening the area to white settlement.

Cades Cove was one of the earliest settlements in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM), attracting settlers as early as 1818 because of its broad, fertile valley floor and abundant springs and creeks. These pioneers moved into Cades Cove for three decades, producing a population of 671 by 1850. Diversified, small-scale agriculture and stock-raising were the basis of the cove's economy. Land was cleared in the middle of the cove for pasture and crops, and the surrounding hillside forests provided the settlers with building materials, game, mast for grazing livestock, and medicinal herbs and roots. Nearby balds, open expanses of meadow on mountain tops, also provided good pasturage. With significant tillable acreage in the broad valley floor, the access routes in place pre-Civil War, and the nearby communities of Maryville and Knoxville, Cades Cove was a market-oriented mountain community. Farmers regularly made the two-day trip by wagon to Knoxville or a shorter trip to Maryville to sell crops and buy store-bought goods.

The characteristic nineteenth-century farm in Cades Cove, as elsewhere in the Upland South, was the dispersed farmstead. Settlers built separate, freestanding farm buildings in a cluster arrangement, often near a stream. A smokehouse, barn, corn crib, and springhouse were usually located around the dwelling house. A hog pen, chicken coop, and root cellar might also be present. Also near the house a vegetable garden and orchard would be sited. Various types of fencing enclosed the house-garden-orchard complex to keep out free-ranging livestock. Throughout the nineteenth century, settlers used notched-log construction for houses, barns, and outbuildings. Beginning in the 1890s, more prosperous farmers began to sheath their log houses with milled lumber, and most new houses from this period forward were constructed of milled lumber. Logs remained a common material for outbuildings up until the time of the park's creation. The log buildings represent a continuum of vernacular architecture from the early settlement of Cades Cove to its continuing evolution as an agricultural community into the twentieth century. Although several of the buildings have been reconstructed or moved, care has been taken to preserve the architectural form, materials, and appearance.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park was authorized in 1926, and established for development in 1934, to protect the woodlands, headwaters, and various forms of natural resources in the southern Appalachians. The land for the park, including Cades Cove, was acquired via condemnation proceedings between 1928-1936. By 1940, many people had moved out of the cove. At this time, a policy to preserve and interpret the mountain culture resources gradually developed, with the idea of establishing an "outdoor folk museum" in Cades Cove. As it was determined that the "pioneer" or early stage of settlement would be the focus of preservation, and because emphasis was on the best

examples of notched log construction, the NPS destroyed frame structures, as well as many other farm buildings. A mythic landscape derived from a 1930s interpretation of the "pioneer" mountain culture resulted.

Implementation of the 1938 Master Plan improved the alignment and quality of the old Laurel Creek Road. This stretch was redesigned by NPS to control the visitor's aesthetic experience of the park's natural scenery. GRSM roads planned, surveyed, and completed in whole or in large part before 1941 reflected the NPS approach to naturalistic park design. This design philosophy called for unobtrusively following the topography of river valleys and ridge sides, providing access to trailheads, scenic overlooks, campgrounds, administrative and visitor contact areas, and offering striking views of mountain and river valleys to the traveling motorist. As part of one of the first national parks to be created east of the Mississippi River, Cades Cove exemplifies the principles of naturalistic design by NPS architects, planners, landscape architects, and engineers. The contemporary visitor's experience of Cades Cove is, in large measure, shaped by the development work carried out between 1933-1942, which has attained significance in its own right.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Vernacular

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function:	Agricultural Field
Primary Current Use:	Automobile
Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Cemetery	Both Current And Historic
Leisure-Passive (Park)	Current
Livestock	Current
Natural Area-Other	Current
Recreation/Culture-Other	Current
Religion-Other	Historic
Single Family House	Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Cades Cove	Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted
Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1000 - 1819	Altered	Prior to permanent white settlement, the Cherokees were the dominant tribe in the Southern Appalachians, practicing subsistence agriculture, supplemented by hunting, fishing, and gathering. The 1819 Calhoun Treaty opened the area to white settlement.
AD 1818	Settled	Cades Cove was settled in 1818 by John Oliver, who moved there from Carter County, in northeast Tennessee.
AD 1819 - 1926	Farmed/Harvested	Settlers in Cades Cove practiced stock-raising and diversified, small-scale agriculture, supplemented by hunting and fishing. During the 1890s, logging became an important secondary source of income for cove residents.
AD 1900 - 1930	Altered	Between 1900-1930, logging companies began to buy large tracts of land to harvest the virgin timber and built an elaborate system of logging railroads to access remote areas, eventually deforesting 85% of the land that became GRSM.
AD 1926 - 1936	Land Transfer	In 1926, legislation authorizing the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was passed by Congress. In 1927, the state of Tennessee appropriated \$1.5 million for land acquisition and began acquiring land in Cades Cove in 1928.
AD 1937 - 2006	Preserved	The NPS decided to make Cades Cove an "Outdoor Museum of Mountain Culture," focusing on the "pioneer " stage of settlement. A policy to preserve and interpret the mountain culture resources gradually developed.

Physical History:

(1000-1819) Pre-settlement

Prior to permanent white settlement in the area, the Cherokees were the dominant tribe in the central and southern Appalachians. Practicing subsistence agriculture and hunting, they maintained fields of corn, squash, and beans near their riverside villages in eastern Tennessee, north Georgia, and the western Carolinas. They developed several footpaths across the Smoky Mountains in order to link their principal trails, which ran parallel to each other on either side of the mountains. One of these, the Tuckaleechee and Southeastern Trail, ran from near present-day Sevierville, Tennessee, through Tuckaleechee Cove into Cades Cove, where it split into several separate branches crossing over the Smokies (Lambert 1957, 8). The entire Smoky Mountain region was within Cherokee territory. Seasonal habitation would have resulted in cleared areas for the camp and the gathering of firewood. In Cades Cove three sites have been identified (Jantz 1997, 12). Artifacts indicating food processing and hunting were recorded, suggesting a more extensive habitation in the cove compared to the rest of the mountains (Janz 1997, 12). The Cherokees practiced burning in the mountains, possibly to produce habitat for desirable species, such as blueberry and blackberry (Janz 1997, 15). It has also been proposed that the Cherokees may have been responsible for the clearing of some of the balds (Lindsay and Bratton 1979, 421).

Through successive treaties, beginning in 1761, the Cherokees lost more and more of their territory to encroaching white settlers. The Calhoun (Washington) Treaty of 1819 reset the boundary of East Tennessee, forcing the Cherokees to cede all territory north of the Little Tennessee River. This treaty opened the area to white settlement, and ultimately resulted in the removal of the Cherokees to Oklahoma in 1838, following the Treaty of New Echota that was signed in 1835, and ratified by the Senate in 1836 (Blythe 1998, 11).

(1818-1840) Early Settlement and Later Development

The rugged geography of the area, combined with the Cherokee presence, delayed white settlement of the Smokies until the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The roads into the cove at that time were Cherokee trails that had been used as access through Cades, Tuckaleechee, and Wear's coves into the settlements of the Holston Valley to the northeast. Settlers moving into the area from Virginia and North Carolina came by way of Holston Valley, following an Indian path south to the Pigeon River, then by way of Wear's Cove to Little River and Tuckaleechee Cove. The path continued across Rich Mountain and Cades Cove Mountain into the valley. From the south, access was directly across the mountains via an unnamed road (Shields 1977, 13). In addition to the initial Indian paths that were widened by the early settlers, new wagon roads were developed in the 1830s increasing access to the cove, as well as access to the markets beyond the mountains. Two turnpikes that influenced access into the cove were Parson's Turnpike, located west of the cove, and the Anderson Road (currently called Bote Mountain Road), which was to cross Bote Mountain into North Carolina at the Spence Field. Unfortunately, North Carolina failed to build its part, and the road was only completed to the state line.

Some records indicate that land grants were issued and homestead efforts begun as early as the 1790s, but there were no permanent white settlements in Cades Cove until 1818, when John Oliver moved there from Carter County, in northeast Tennessee. He acquired legal title to his land in 1826. The earliest land grant of record was that to William Tipton in 1821, covering 1,280 acres, much of which he resold to other settlers in the 1820s (Lambert, 40). Some of the earliest settlers included Joshua Jobe (1821), Peter Cable (1827), James Sparks (1835), Robert Shields (1837), John Anthony (1840), and Robert Burchfield (1834).

Hollow and cove settlements were by far the most numerous in the Smokies. Cove settlements featured farmsteads at the edge of the basin, close to the surrounding hillsides, leaving the interior for cultivation. Land was cleared in the middle of the cove for pasture and crops, and the surrounding hillside forests provided the settlers with building materials, game, mast for grazing livestock, and medicinal herbs and roots (Blythe 1998, 16-28).

Stock-raising and diversified small-scale agriculture, supplemented by extensive hunting and fishing, were the mainstays of the pioneer economy. Farms in the Smokies were usually no larger than 150 acres, with 20-40% of the total acreage cleared for crops and pastures. Farms in Cades Cove tended to be larger because of the broad valley floor (John Oliver farmstead, Peter Cable farmstead, Joshua Jobe farmstead, Robert Burchfield farmstead, James Sparks farmstead). Many farmers practiced patch farming, clearing fields for temporary use, then abandoning them and clearing new ones from their forest acreage when yields declined. Property lines typically ran to the tops of ridges, but hillsides were generally considered communal land where all could hunt and graze livestock. Instead of fencing the hillsides, farmers fenced their gardens and corn patches to keep livestock out. Most production was for home consumption, with cash income largely from the sale of livestock. Corn was the staple grain crop, but wheat, oats, rye, hay, sorghum, and potatoes were also grown. Kitchen gardens containing onions, lettuce, cabbages, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, sweet corn, tomatoes, and turnips were common, and many had a few fruit trees, a grape arbor, and beehives (Blythe 1998, 17). Forests were burned to improve the harvest of nuts and berries (Shields 1977, 26).

Early settlers occupied land in the northeastern section of Cades Cove, which was higher and better drained than the lower end around Abrams Creek, which was low and swampy. As more settlers moved into the cove, this swampy area was reclaimed. The silt from lands cleared in the upper end of the cove, carried down by floodwaters, was diverted to the low areas through an arrangement of dikes and log booms placed across the creeks. This system raised the level of the cove several feet in lower areas. By the time the Cades Cove Baptist Church was organized as a branch of the Wear's Cove Church in 1827, a community had formed, and by 1830 there were 44 households (Blythe 1998, 28; Dyer 1988, 21).

(1840-1890) Antebellum and Post-Civil War Development

During the early settlement period (1830s), much of the valley floor and the more gentle hillsides were cleared of vegetation and used for pasture and row crops. As corn and wheat were the most important grain crops, mills to prepare the grains were an early necessity. Robert Shields built the first overshot mill in the 1840s, and John P. Cable built a large overshot

wheel-powered mill at the west end of the cove in 1868.

The western end of the cove acted as the heart of the valley due to two major transportation routes located near the northwestern edge of the cove (Rich Mountain Road and Cooper Road). Rich Mountain Road, completed in 1840, was the primary access route into and out of the valley, for the majority of the historic period, as it led to the closest metropolitan areas of Tuckaleechee Cove, Maryville, and Knoxville. Early reports note that the winding road was considered a challenge and, in some instances, tortuous, although it was in use until Rich Gap Road was built in 1922. Cooper Road (1830-1834), in contrast, was much straighter than Rich Mountain Road and was used as the main commercial route to Maryville and Knoxville throughout the nineteenth century. Cades Cove farmers, who were probably more market-oriented than farmers in many mountain communities, regularly made the two-day trip to Knoxville or Maryville to sell crops and return with store-bought goods (Dunn 1988, 83; Shields 1977, 13).

At the northeast end of the cove, Laurel Creek Road, built in 1836, was the first road that crossed the Cades Cove Mountain. This was a route that remained extremely difficult for wagon passage, requiring an extra team of horses to pull any load over the mountain. Consequently, Laurel Creek Road was not used historically for extensive commercial traffic, but provided easy access to nearby communities. In 1838, the county court authorized a road leading from the Southwest corner of the cove to the Little Tennessee River to connect with Parson's Turnpike. The present Parsons Branch Road generally follows the same route (Shields 1977, 13; Blythe 1998, 52). It is unknown when a road encircling the valley was built, but it is assumed to date from the 1830s-1850s. The earliest USGS maps (1884) clearly depict a loop road.

The opening of Rich Mountain Road, Cooper Road, and Laurel Creek Road was probably responsible for the influx of families into Cades Cove during the 1840s, resulting in an all-time population peak in 1850 with 132 families. This increased population resulted in a decreased field size and smaller land holdings. The valley floor historically was used for row crops. Almost every farm had 5-10 acres of wheat, corn, oats, hay, peas, and beans (Trout 1988, 10). Cades Cove farmers grazed livestock during the summer months on nearby grassy balds, known locally as Gregory, Thunderhead, Parson, and Spence Field, enabling farmers to conserve the grass in meadows on the valley floor as hay for winter use (Westmacott 1998, 1:7). Although mentioned in Cherokee legends, historical research indicates that some balds were cleared by white settlers (Lindsay and Bratton 1979, 421). All the balds in the area were grazed, and stock densities were high. Each herder, with a territory centered on a bald but extending into the surrounding forest, looked after 200-500 cattle, a few hundred sheep, and a few horses, goats, and mules. The stock on a single bald belonged to a number of families and was grazed from around early May to mid-September (Lindsay and Bratton 1979, 422). In the fall, farmers rounded up the stock and drove them in large herds to markets in the Piedmont.

The greatest boost to the economy of Cades Cove was the grazing of outside cattle in the cove. From the late 1830s and early 1840s to the turn of the century, cattle owners outside the cove paid local farmers to graze their cattle on the cove's land in the summer. Although Cades Cove

farmers sold surplus crops in Knoxville, it was the cattle grazing that stimulated the overall market economy of Cades Cove (Dunn 1988, 63-84).

In the years following the Civil War, there were considerable changes in lifestyle in Cades Cove, which persisted into the early twentieth century. The war and Reconstruction disrupted market relationships and reduced livestock herds, which had to be slowly rebuilt. When the economy of the South finally began to recover, the meat packing industry in the Midwest provided strong competition for southern livestock producers. As a result, local farmers were unable to readily sell their herds for good prices (Blythe 1998, 19). Nothing, however, altered mountain life more drastically than the major logging activity that started late in the nineteenth century.



Figure 1. 1935 view of Spence Field



Figure 2. Sheep on Thunderhead c. 1908



Figure 3. 1936 view of cultivated fields on the valley floor

(1880-1930) Changing Economy - Logging and Early Tourism

Beginning around 1880, large national lumber and pulp companies began to exploit the timber

Cades Cove Landscape

Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

resources of the southern Appalachians, and logging became an important secondary source of income for residents of Cades Cove. During the early phase of logging (1880-1900), specimen trees were individually sold, cut, and delivered by property owners to the timber companies. Yellow poplars were removed from the forests along Anthony Creek between 1885 and 1895 (Lix 1958, 121).

Between 1900-1930, logging companies began to buy large tracts of land to harvest the old growth timber and built an elaborate system of logging railroads to access remote areas. The companies were able to deforest 85% of the land that became GRSM, profoundly changing the physical environment and traditional ways of life. By 1907, approximately 4,300 acres of forest had been cut by portable mills on Cutshaw, Carr, and Anthony Creeks. Between 1907-1909, 1,700 acres were logged at the head of Meadow Branch. Another 1,000 acres were logged between 1909-1920 at the Cane Creek drainage (Lix 1958, 121).

The clear cuts that devastated much of the Laurel Creek watershed never extended into Cades Cove, where only selective cutting occurred. There is little evidence of any cutting on the entire Abrams Creek watershed beyond that on the lower portion of the creek near the Little Tennessee River. It was never economically feasible for the Morton Butler Lumber Company, the largest owner of timber land in Cades Cove, to extend a railroad into the cove. When its holdings were acquired by the Park, the forest was composed of predominately old growth timber (Lambert 1957, 52).

Simultaneous to the large-scale logging operations was an increase in tourists visiting the Smoky Mountains. Rich Mountain Road, connecting Cades Cove and Tuckaleechee Cove, was paved in 1922, making access to the cove easier. The logging companies took advantage of this interest and transported tourists for a fee via their logging railcars. Increased tourist interest led several families to offer accommodations to travelers. Among these were establishments maintained by John Oliver and Walter Whitehead, neither of which still stand (Blythe 1998, 70).



Figure 4. 1937 photograph of Oliver's Lodge



Figure 5. 1934 view of hikers on Gregory Bald

(1926-present) National Park Service Administration
Early Park Development (1926-1942)

The impetus for a national park in the Eastern United States at a similar scale to the large western national parks began between 1910-1920 by local groups in both North Carolina and Tennessee. Through numerous regenerations of federal legislation, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was established in 1926 to protect the woodlands, headwaters, and various forms of natural resources in the southern Appalachians.

In 1927, the Tennessee General Assembly appropriated \$1.5 million for buying park lands and gave the newly created Park Commission the power to seize farms within the proposed park boundaries by right of eminent domain. By the end of 1929, the Park Commission had purchased 52 farms, about half the total number. By 1936, the remaining land (105 parcels) had been acquired (Dyer 1988, 33). Although a few farmers stayed, most eventually moved out. By 1940, many people had moved out of the cove, but a few agricultural permittees remained. At this time, a policy to preserve and interpret the mountain culture resources gradually developed, with the idea of establishing an "outdoor folk museum" in the cove (Lix 1958, 82). No period of significance was identified for these field exhibits, the Secretary of the Interior writing in 1939: "Attention has been given to the unique opportunity presented in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to preserve frontier conditions of a century ago, which have vanished elsewhere" (Lix 1958, 111). As it was determined that the "pioneer" or early stage of settlement would be the focus of preservation, and because emphasis was on the best examples of notched log construction, the NPS destroyed frame structures, as well as many other farm buildings. Three of the oldest church congregations were allowed to maintain their buildings and grounds by special use permit until the Park took over maintenance responsibilities. Many fields were allowed to revert to forest succession.

Implementation of the 1938 Master Plan substantially altered access to the cove, primarily by improving the alignment and quality of the old Laurel Creek Road. This stretch was redesigned by the NPS to control the visitor's aesthetic experience of the park's natural scenery. GRSM roads planned, surveyed, and completed in whole or in large part before 1941 reflected the NPS approach to naturalistic park design. This design philosophy called for unobtrusively following the topography of river valleys and ridge sides, providing access to trailheads, scenic overlooks, campgrounds, and administrative and visitor contact areas, and offering striking views of mountain and river valleys to the traveling motorist (Blythe 1998, 138). The final section of the road was begun in 1941, and was reported to be 92.5% complete before all construction was halted by WWII in 1942.

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor was used for most of this work, as well as for the repair and upkeep of pioneer structures in the cove. A number of structures were moved to the area surrounding Cable Mill in 1937/1938 to create a "typical" mountaineer farmstead. With the onset of WWII, the CCC program ended, and reduced NPS appropriations left leaseholders with the maintenance and repair of pioneer structures for the duration (Blythe 1998, 134).

Post WWII Park Development and Mission 66 (1942-1966)

In 1949, construction began on the final section of Laurel Creek Road that included five bridges

over Laurel Creek and the improvement of the loop road through Cades Cove, which was to include repairing small bridges, installing culverts and drainage, and grading the road and adjacent ditches. Upon completion in 1950, the new Laurel Creek Road became the primary access for visitors to Cades Cove.

A number of changes occurred to the loop road during the 1950s, when Mission 66 plans brought expansion and improvements to Cades Cove. The campground and adjacent picnic area were enlarged, and a horse concession was constructed at the east end of the cove. The easternmost portion of the loop road was realigned to accommodate the new facilities, with the final phase of the improvement completed in 1959.

Two bridges on Parsons Branch Road were rebuilt in 1963, one over Anthony Creek and the other over Forge Creek. In 1966, Rich Mountain Road and Parsons Branch Road were limited to outgoing traffic only. Because of these changes in access to the cove, Laurel Creek Road became the only road into the cove, dramatically changing the historic approach to the valley. With all the new visitor facilities located on the eastern edge of the cove, the tourist center of activity changed from the western end of the cove to the eastern end, completing the park-manipulated experience.

Post Mission 66 (1967-present)

In 1981, work began to rebuild thirteen bridges in Cades Cove, beginning with Hyatt Lane. A second bridge project was begun in 1982 that included the bridge over Abrams Creek on the west side of the loop road.

In 1994, Parsons Branch Road was severely damaged by a flood and had to be closed. It reopened in 1998. The road was closed again in 2003 from flood damage and remains closed. A contract was awarded in 2006 to repair the damage.

(1935-Present) Land Management Practices

Early NPS land management in the cove was based on soil conservation practices and aesthetic principles, with concerns of historic authenticity taking a secondary role. Resident landscape architect Frank Mattson favored removing as much hillside land as possible from cultivation and permitting these areas to reforest. Grazing would also be limited to the level portion of the valley floor. In general, the plan was to keep the valley floor open and revegetate the hillsides (Trout 1988, 34).

The use of grazing as a stop-gap method of keeping the rural landscape open was common practice by the 1940s, but there were no guidelines for the special use permit system until 1943, when a program for the permittees was outlined by the Chief Ranger. These guidelines called for crop rotation, establishment of more meadowland, eventual elimination of row crops, and increasing the number of beef cattle. These practices actually improved the land beyond its historic condition, as well as eliminated historic row crops and leveled natural contours (Trout 1988, 38).

In 1945, a Special Report addressed the problems of maintaining the cove as an open landscape. Although burning had been used very effectively by the early settlers, it was considered too destructive by NPS wildlife managers at the time (selective burning is currently being used to manage portions of the valley floor). Mowing was deemed the most efficient and least environmentally damaging alternative (Trout 1988, 42).

Beginning in the mid-1950s, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) became directly involved in the permit management, creating conservation plans for each special permit. For the first time, permittees were being monitored to ensure conformance with the conservation plan and NPS policy. In 1967, a new park management plan was developed for Cades Cove. The primary purpose of the program was to preserve the open, pastoral appearance of the landscape without attempting to reproduce the characteristic features of pioneer agriculture. The goal of preventing reforestation was to maintain the scenic views of the valley and mountain panoramas and to provide a foreground for interpretation of the historic structures and features of the pioneer culture that existed prior to the establishment of the park (Trout 1988, 5). The supervision of the permittees shifted back to the park, and cattle grazing and haying were the preferred land uses. Plowing activities ceased in 1970.

The 1969 Cades Cove Study Report, a land management evaluation, reported that the haying/grazing permit system was the best method for maintaining the open landscape, and concluded that a limitation was not needed on the total number of livestock. This report's status quo management recommendations were not well-received by the Regional Director, who had earlier received a report by the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife on the effects of Cades Cove management practices that attributed severe stream siltation to farming practices being used there (Trout 1988, 53).

Management practices from 1969-1985 resulted in a constant manipulation of the landscape by the NPS, the SCS, and the permittees, including timber cutting, check dam construction, major stream realignment, and marsh drainage. These decisions reflected current farming practices and management goals but disregarded historic conditions, as the flooding of Cades Cove bottoms is a well-documented part of the historic scene. In 1973, there was a major fencing initiative to keep cattle out of Abrams Creek and its tributaries. The number of cattle had grown to 1200-1500 in the cove, giving visitors the impression that pioneers were ranchers (Trout 1988, 55). Kermit Caughron, the only remaining life tenant grazing cattle in the cove (about 500 head) died in April 1999, and, according to an agreement worked out with the family, the rights to graze cattle in Cades Cove expired at his death. While periodic mowing is still the primary tool for maintaining the open character of the Cades Cove fields, the park has recently begun an experimental program to restore native grasses.

Summary

Since acquisition by the NPS, the landscape of Cades Cove has been transformed from that of the 1930s and 40s. The scene of the living community of Cades Cove has been replaced by a landscape created by permittees and park managers, derived from a 1930s interpretation of the

Cades Cove Landscape

Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

"pioneer" way of life. Open fields, unbroken by the fencelines and woodlots of the past, dominate the cove floor, and successional vegetation has been allowed to proceed on the hillsides. According to the GMP, only Andrews and Gregory balds will be managed to preserve their distinctive plant compositions and scenic values. Additionally, the open space of the valley floor has become more enclosed with the encroaching forest, partially blocking views that were part of the historic scene (compare Figures 10 and 11).



Figure 6. 1936 aerial photo of Cades Cove showing patchwork field patterns

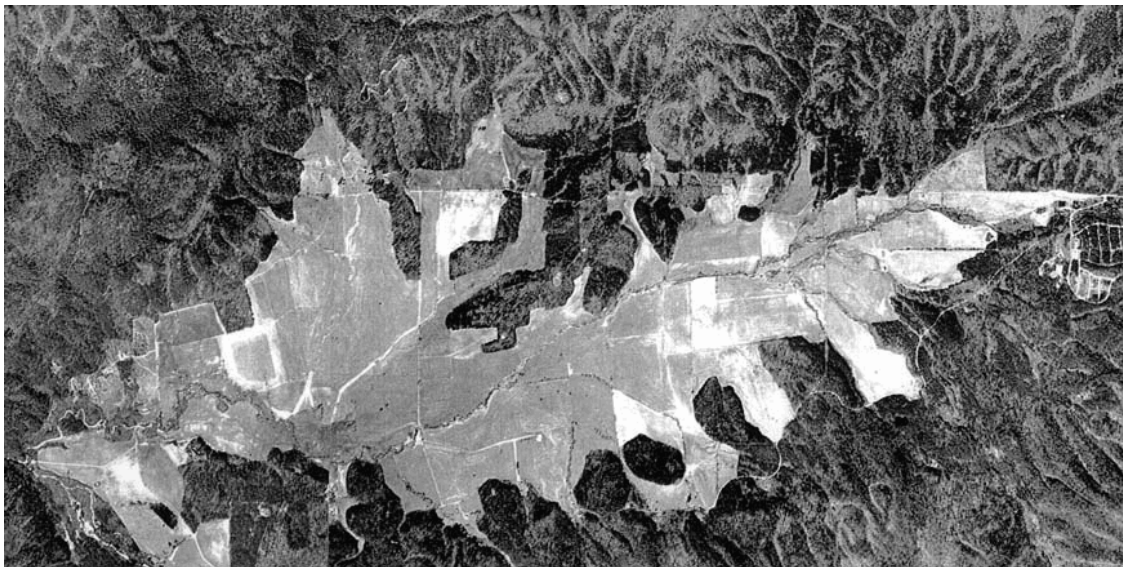


Figure 7. 1963 aerial view of Cades Cove showing unbroken, open fields

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The following is a list of landscape characteristics and features that have the potential to contribute to the cultural landscape. Further research is warranted.

Landscape Characteristic:

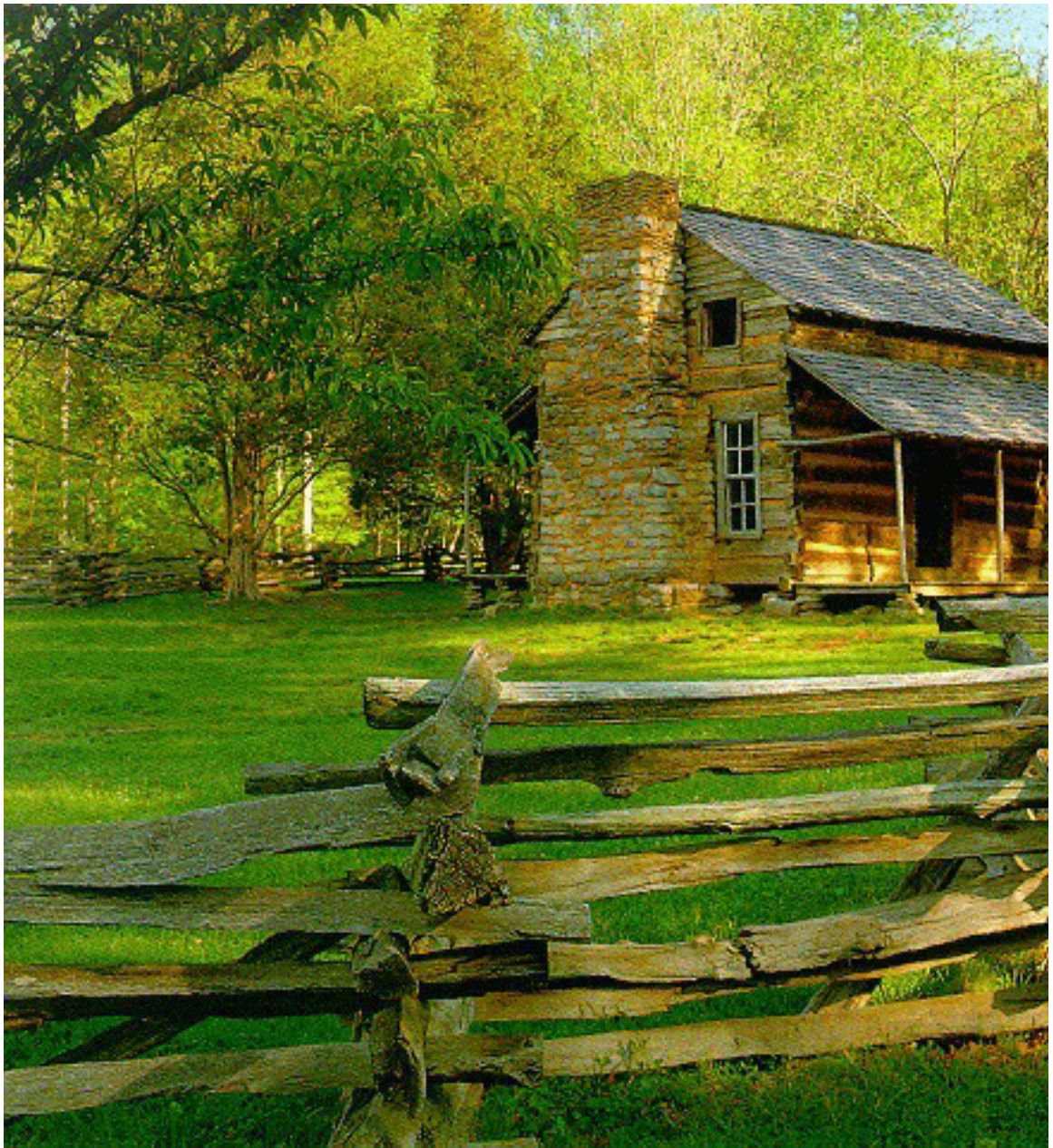
Archeological Sites

Eleven prehistoric archaeological sites are listed in the National Register nomination. These sites are contributing features of the historic landscape.

Buildings and Structures

Several original and reconstructed structures are located throughout Cades Cove, including homesteads, churches, cemeteries, and a mill complex. These buildings are contributing features of the historic landscape, and are described in more detail in their respective component landscape inventories.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The John Oliver House, one of the most visited structures in Cades Cove

Circulation

Implementation of the 1938 Master Plan primarily involved improving the quality and alignment of the old Laurel Creek Road. Upon completion in 1950, the new Laurel Creek Road became the primary access to Cades Cove for visitors to the park and has now gained significance in its own right as part of the Park Development Era planning process. The eleven mile loop road encircling the valley floor follows portions of the original alignment, the most intact sections being the northern, western, and portions of the southern road network. During the Mission 66

period, the southeasternmost section of the road was realigned to connect new tourist facilities at that end of the cove. Rich Mountain Road, Cooper Road and Parsons Branch Road can be dated to the early settlement period (1830s). All of the roads are considered contributing features of the historic landscape.

Character-defining Features:

- Feature: Rich Mountain Road
Feature Identification Number: 107755
IDLCS Number: 90239
- Feature: Old Cades Cove Road (trace)
Feature Identification Number: 107757
IDLCS Number: 90242

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Cades Cove Loop Road

Cluster Arrangement

Several of the homesteads in the cove have a clustered building arrangement characteristic of the dispersed farm of the Upland South. The sites are the Elijah Oliver Homestead, Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead, Henry Whitehead Homestead, and the Tipton-Oliver Homestead. Each of these complexes is a contributing feature of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Cluster arrangement at the Cable/Lawson Homestead

Cultural Traditions

Kermit Caughron, the last remaining life tenant with a lease to graze cattle in Cades Cove, died in April 1999. Hugh Myers has a special use permit to pasture his horses (used in the horse concession) at the west end of the valley floor and . Several barns located on the valley floor were used with the grazing and haying leases. Some burials still occur in the various cemeteries located throughout the cove.

Natural Systems and Features

The general configuration of the cove, a wide valley floor drained by three creeks surrounded by mountains, still exists. Although the early settlers did manipulate the valley floor to accommodate agriculture, recent restorations are slowly returning portions of the valley floor to a wetland. The mountains, valley floor and water courses are considered significant contributing features of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Stream at the Elijah Oliver Homestead

Small Scale Features

Most of the fencing in Cades Cove is an undocumented reconstruction and would not be considered contributing to the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Reconstructed fencing at the Cable Mill Complex

Topography

The topography of the Cades Cove Landscape is characterized by an open, grassy valley floor enclosed by steep, wooded mountains. This pattern is a contributing feature of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Topographic patterns of the Cades Cove Landscape

Vegetation

The majority of the mountain sides and balds have retained their original or successional vegetation and open spaces. Although the vegetation composition has changed on the valley floor over the past twenty years, the floor retains the open feeling it had during its historic period. Since 1997, a natural resource special project has been underway to remove some of the early drainage structures in order to restore the meadows and swampy areas within the valley floor with native vegetation. They have also been experimenting with test plots to explore the possibility of restoring some of the native grasses to the cove floor. Hence, the vegetation patterns of Cades Cove are a contributing feature of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Vegetation patterns of the Cades Cove Landscape

Views and Vistas

As part of the 1938 Master Plan, views from the loop road across the valley floor, as well as views from surrounding mountain-top balds into the cove, were developed and maintained as part of the historic scene. Although successional vegetation on the valley floor has encroached upon some of these views, the broader pattern has been maintained over time. The views and vistas are considered contributing features of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Vista across the Cades Cove Landscape

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good
Assessment Date: 09/30/1999
Condition Assessment: Good
Assessment Date: 08/01/2006

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

On a large-scale perspective, Cades Cove remains in good condition, with much of the historical fabric (circulation, vegetation patterns, topography, cluster arrangement) largely still in place. Several of the impacts listed below refer to specific features, and while the overall Cades Cove Landscape remains in good condition, their respective component landscapes will reflect these impacts to a greater degree.

Condition Assessment: Good
Assessment Date: 09/18/2012

Impacts

Type of Impact: Release To Succession
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Release to succession has negatively impacted the size and shape of the valley openings. Views that were historically open across the cove are no longer apparent. The park does, however, maintain 2000 acres of open field (by mowing, burning, and other means).

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal: Both Internal and External
Impact Description: When the Cades Cove CLIs were first written there several barns in the cove had not been maintained. Over the last few years, this condition has changed -- the park has stabilized several barns in the cove that are not associated with any particular homestead.

Type of Impact: Vandalism/Theft/Arson
External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Graffiti is found at many structures in Cades Cove, much of it done in recent years - both written and carved. While it is found throughout the property, some of the worst can be seen at the Henry Whitehead Homestead.

Type of Impact: Erosion

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Continued high visitor use has caused erosion of circulation routes near many of the churches and homesteads, including Henry Whitehead, and Methodist Church. Erosion issues at the Elijah Oliver Homestead have been successfully treated with the introduction of topsoil, matting and grass seed in 2006. The result at this particular homestead clearly improved the condition from fair to good.

Type of Impact: Visitation

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Continued high visitation, especially since condition assessments in 2000, has created volunteer pathways (John & Lucretia Oliver Homestead, Methodist Church), with erosion along these and other official pathways.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Invasive, exotic species, Lespedeza and fescue, continue to be a problem in the valley. Also, at the Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead, in particular, the historic gardens are invaded by woody vegetation

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Some buildings and small-scale features in the cove are suffering from deterioration, particularly the Henry Whitehead Cabin - due to a faulty gutter, and a fenceline at Cable Mill - undercut by erosion.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

GRSM contracted with John Milner and Associates to complete a Cultural Landscape Report for Cades Cove. A 100% draft was submitted in 2004, and it is expected to be completed and approved in FY 2007. The suggested treatment alternative is rehabilitation.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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- Citation Location:** SESO, GRSM
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- Citation Type:** Both Graphic And Narrative
- Citation Location:** GRSM, SERO
- Citation Title:** Agricultural Area Impacts Within a Natural Area: Cades Cove, a Case History.(Environmental Management, Vol. 4, No. 5, pp 433-448.)
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Both Graphic And Narrative
- Citation Location:** GRSM, SERO

- Citation Title:** Management of Grassy Balds in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Management Report No. 15
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Both Graphic And Narrative
- Citation Location:** GRSM
- Citation Title:** Brief Narrative Descriptions of the Vegetative Types in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Both Graphic And Narrative
- Citation Location:** GRSM
- Citation Title:** Development Concept Plan, Great Smoky Mountains, Cades Cove
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Both Graphic And Narrative
- Citation Location:** GRSM
- Citation Title:** Cades Cove: An Environmental History
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Narrative
- Citation Location:** SESO, GRSM
- Citation Title:** Cades Cove: The Life and Death of a Southern Appalachian Community, 1818-1937
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Both Graphic And Narrative
- Citation Location:** SERO
- Citation Title:** An Overview of the Probable Indian Culture History: Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Narrative
- Citation Location:** SESO, GRSM

- Citation Title:** Report on Early Log Cabins and Other Early Structures in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Narrative
- Citation Location:** SESO, GRSM
- Citation Title:** Draft Cades Cove Vegetation Study
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Both Graphic And Narrative
- Citation Location:** SESO, GRSM
- Citation Title:** Draft Historic Resources Study: Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Both Graphic And Narrative
- Citation Location:** SESO
- Citation Title:** A Preliminary Historical Map of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Conner Manuscript
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Narrative
- Citation Location:** SESO, GRSM
- Citation Title:** A Short History of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Narrative
- Citation Location:** SESO, GRSM
- Citation Title:** The Pioneer History of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park: A report to the Superintendent based upon documentary sources.
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Narrative
- Citation Location:** SESO, GRSM

Citation Title: The Farmsteads Yards of Cades Cove: Restoration and Management Alternatives for the Domestic Landscape of the Southern Appalachian Mountaineer

Source Name: Other

Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Location: University of Georgia School of Environmental Design, Hubert B. Owens Reading Room

Supplemental Information

- Title:** Abrams Creek Channel Improvement
Description: TIC map number NP-GSM 3254, dated 1969.
- Title:** Aerial Photography
Description: 1936, 1946, and 1963 Black and White aerial photographs of Cades Cove
- Title:** Agricultural Use Plan, Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Description: TIC map number NP-GSM 2475, dated 1949
- Title:** Anthony Creek Bridge, Cades Cove and Camp Site Roads - Section B & C.
Description: TIC map number NP-GSM 3001, dated 1954
- Title:** Cades Cove and Vicinity Property Boundaries
Description: Prepared by Claire Jantz 1997, based on 1935 U.S. Land Status and Blount County maps.
- Title:** Cades Cove Developed Area
Description: TIC map number NP-GSM 3148-B, dated 1964.
- Title:** Cades Cove part of the Master Plan for Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Description: TIC map Number NP-GSM 2163-A, dated 1946.
- Title:** Cades Cove, looking east photograph
Description: C. 1925 low flying oblique photograph from western end of Cove looking east.
- Title:** Cades Cove, Tenn. USGS map
Description: 1930-1931 USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map
- Title:** Cemeteries and Historic Buildings Base Map
Description: TIC map number NP-GSM 3233-A, dated 1960.
- Title:** Comprehensive Design, Cable Mill, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Description: TIC map 133/41029A, dated 1972.
- Title:** Cultural Exhibit, Cades Cove Area
Description: TIC map number NP-GSM 2163, dated 1942.
- Title:** Field Exhibit of Mountain Culture, part of the Master Plan for Great Smoky

Cades Cove Landscape
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

- Mountains National Park
- Description:** TIC map number NP-GSM 2164A, 2 sheets, dated 1941.
- Title:** Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Western Half USGS map
- Description:** Dated 1934, 1:62,500
- Title:** Grossman Maps
- Description:** Prepared by C.S. Grossman c. 1940. Grossman annotated 1930 USGS maps detailing the names and locations of extant historic structures.
- Title:** Infrared Photography
- Description:** Circa 1995 Infrared Photographs of Cades Cove
- Title:** Knoxville Quadrangle USGS map
- Description:** Dated 1901, 1:24,000
- Title:** Land Management Map, Cades Cove
- Description:** No TIC map number but based on NP-GSM 2163A, dated 1952.
- Title:** Map of Agricultural Leases, Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Description:** TIC map number NP-GSM 2439, dated 1946.
- Title:** Master Development Plan, Historic Building Survey Map
- Description:** TIC map number NP-GSM 3007, dated 1937.
- Title:** Plat of portion of Land in Cades Cove
- Description:** September 9, 1927 map prepared by A.K. Gregory. Map shows plat layout of southwestern end of Cades Cove.
- Title:** S. & M.C. Map for Cades Cove, part of the Master Plan for Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Description:** TIC Map NP-GSM 2498, no date
- Title:** Special and Developed Areas, part of the Master Plan for Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Description:** TIC map number NP-GSM 2153, dated 1941.
- Title:** Vegetative Types in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Description:** Tic No. GRSM-16582b. Prepared by Frank H. Miller, Assistant Forester, c. 1938.