
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
1998



Cable Mill
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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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:

The Cable Mill is a .9-acre component landscape located west of the Cades Cove Loop Road in Blount County, Tennessee. Access to the site is by a nonhistoric paved walkway adjacent to the visitor parking area. The Cable Mill is a complex of buildings, which, with the exception of the mill itself, have been moved to the site from other homesteads in the cove. The complex contains features typical of an overshot mill, including the mill building, race, flume, waterwheel, dam, and channeled stream. Additionally, the Becky Cable House and a number of outbuildings (corn crib, smokehouse, two barns, blacksmith shop) are sited around the mill. Other historic landscape features include road traces, a sorghum mill, and remnant fields.

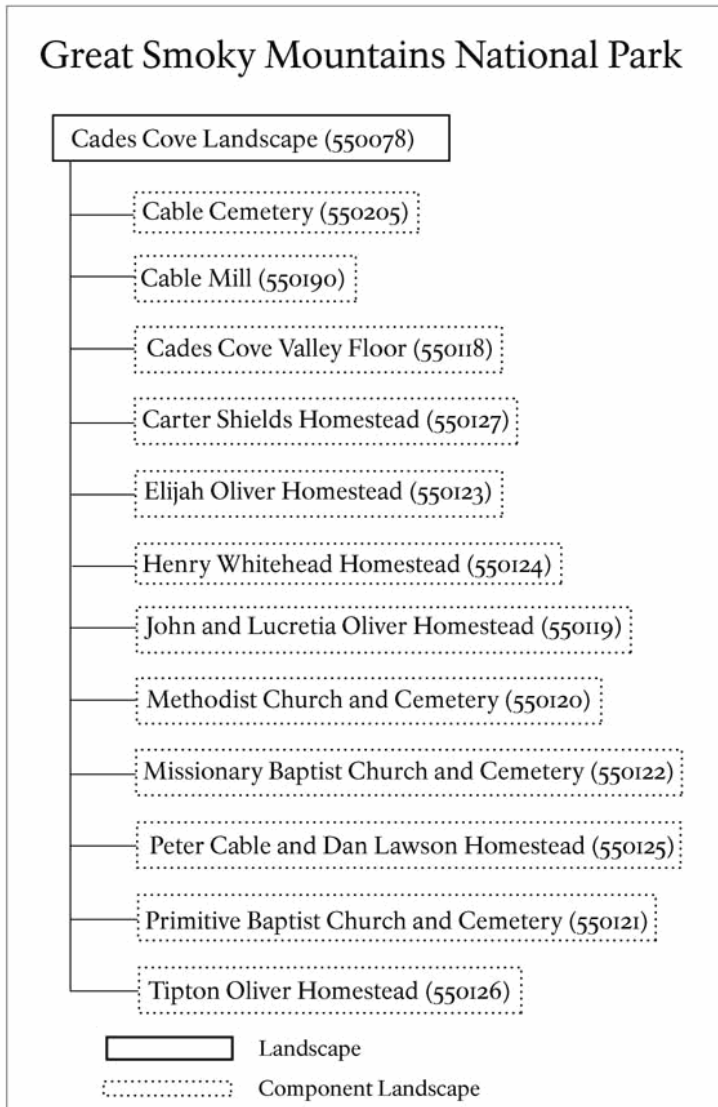
The period of significance for the site begins in 1868 when John P. Cable purchased the property. The period of significance extends to 1942, to include the Park Development Era improvements. The existing landscape character primarily depicts the Park Development Era 1938 master plan and its interpretation of the cove "pioneer" settlement.

The Cable Mill was envisioned in the 1938 Proposed Mountain Culture Program as a "domestic and industrial field exhibit" area consisting of reconstructed and reorganized groups of buildings (Wilburn, Grossman, and Stupka 1938, 20). As part of the Park Development Era, the current condition of the landscape has been substantially altered from the historic landscape. Most of the original mill had to be taken down and rebuilt from salvaged materials, supplemented by newly cut lumber (Trout, Draft HSR John Cable Mill, 10-12). The original mill was much larger and covered twice the area. There were two other elements of the mill complex that no longer remained, a wheat mill located in a building a few feet distant from the extant mill and a sash sawmill powered by a second waterwheel (Wilburn, Grossman, and Stupka 1938, 21; Draft HRS, 47). The Becky Cable House was moved to the site in 1956 without its kitchen ell, back porch, and outbuildings. The outbuildings that are located around the Becky Cable House were also moved to the site from other cove farmsteads. The fencing is a 1950s undocumented reconstruction. As part of the 1972 Comprehensive Design for Cable Mill (133/41029A), the parking area was expanded and a paved pedestrian walkway, comfort station, and visitor center were added. An open fescue field is maintained around the site. The area south of the Cable Mill is a typical cove hardwood forest of buckeye, maple, hemlock, rhododendron, white pine, tulip poplar, and sycamore.

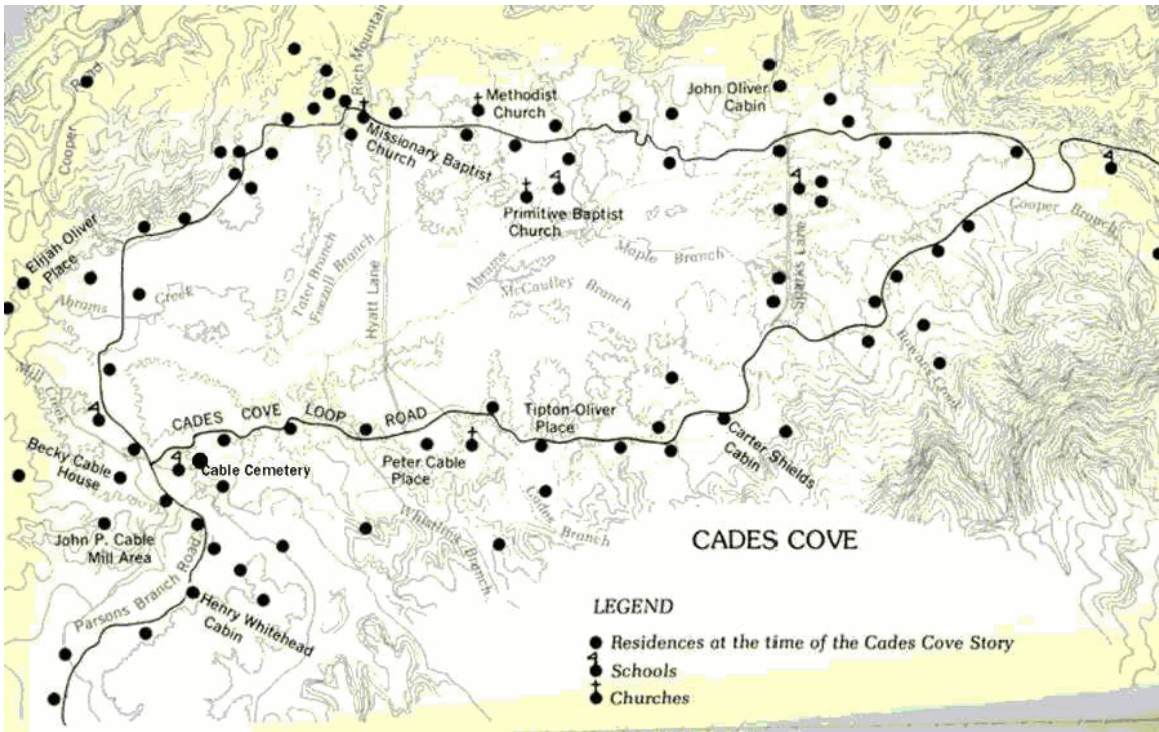
Cable Mill

Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

The Cable Mill lies within the Cades Cove Cultural Landscape, which encompasses 6,800 acres in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) of eastern Tennessee. Twelve sites have been identified as component landscapes within GRSM: Cades Cove Valley Floor, John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead, Methodist Church and Cemetery, Primitive Baptist Church and Cemetery, Missionary Baptist Church, Elijah Oliver Homestead, Cable Mill, Cable Cemetery, Henry Whitehead Homestead, Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead, Tipton-Oliver Homestead, and the Carter Shields Homestead. The Cable Mill is located west of the Cades Cove Loop Road.



Hierarchy Map



Cades Cove Cultural Landscape

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Lucy Lawliss, Cari Goetcheus and several interns conducted CLI fieldwork at Cades Cove during the summer of 1996. In 2000, the information was submitted to the park. In 2006, David Hasty, Beth Wheeler and Sara Fogelquist visited Cades Cove, updated the CLI data and submitted the inventories to the park and TN SHPO. With park and SHPO approval, the data will become certified in the on-line CLI database, and in PMDS under goals 1a7 and 1b2B. 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:

Claudette Stager, of TN-SHPO, concurred on the potential eligibility of features addressed in the Cades Cove CLIs, with a couple of comments regarding post-1942 features and Mission 66. For the full text please see the Cades Cove Landscape CLI.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Cable Mill
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict



United States Department of the Interior

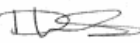
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



H22(SERO-CRD)

25 June 2004

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM)
From: Chief, Cultural Resource Division, Southeast Region 
Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventory
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Voorheis Estate
Reply Due: 30 July 2004

We are pleased to transmit to GRSM the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Voorheis Estate property. All prior park comments and suggestions have been included in this final document. The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) or contribute to an existing historic property. In order for the CLI to be certified and counted under goals 1a7 and 1b2B in PMDS, the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (TN-SHPO) needs to concur on the eligibility of the property for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and the Park Superintendent needs to concur on the condition assessment and management category provided within the inventory. Through prior communication, there is consensus with TN-SHPO on the eligibility of the Voorheis Estate for listing on the NR. For Park Superintendent approval, a signature page has been sent along with this CLI. It needs to be signed by the Superintendent and returned to the Regional Office for the final certification. If the condition assessment and management category are agreed upon, please sign the attached approval form and return to our office to the attention of David Hasty.

Enclosures



Letter to the Superintendent

Cable Mill
 Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

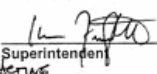
**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
 CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET - 8 August 2006**

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

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

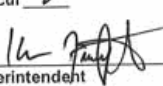
Signature from SHPO

**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, 2012.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The component landscape boundary encompasses .9 acres, a portion of tract 05-111. The present landscape boundaries reflect what was mapped during the CLI site visit in July 1996 and do not reflect historic boundaries. Further investigation is needed to determine if the component landscape boundary needs to be enlarged.

State and County:

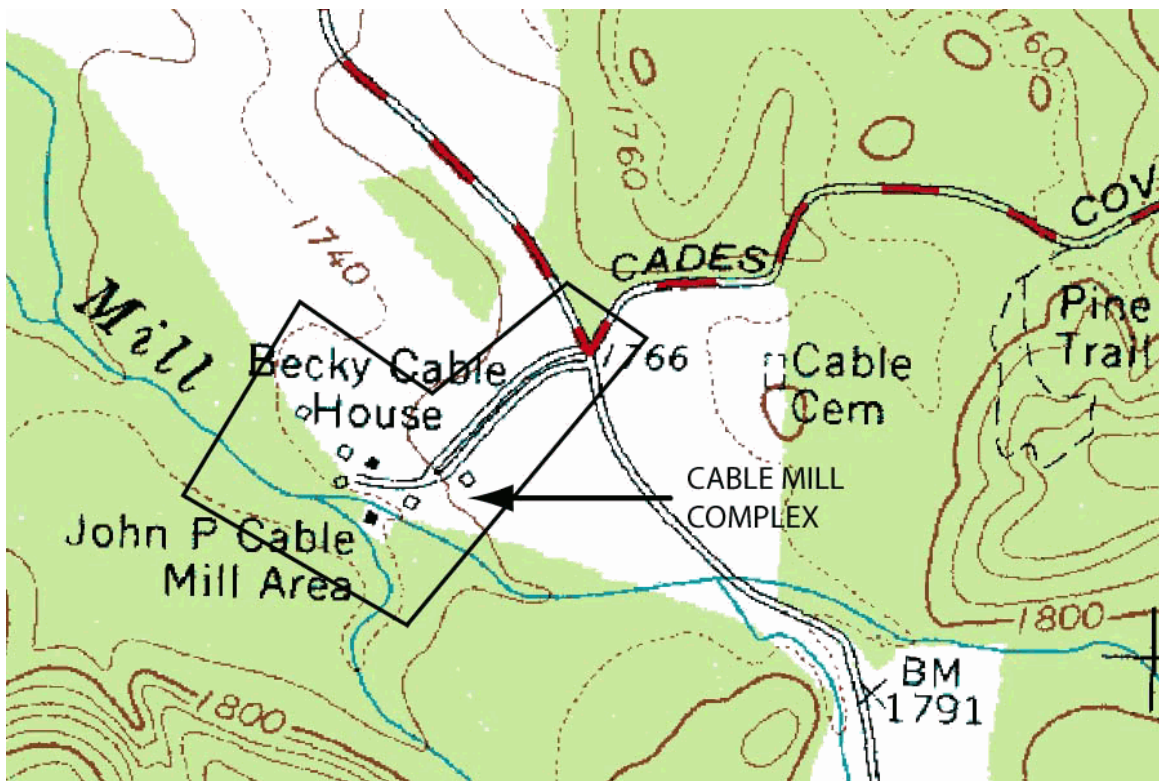
State: TN
County: Blount County

Size (Acres): 0.90

Boundary UTMS:

UTM Zone: 17
UTM Easting: 242,240
UTM Northing: 3,941,460

Location Map:



Cable Mill location map

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

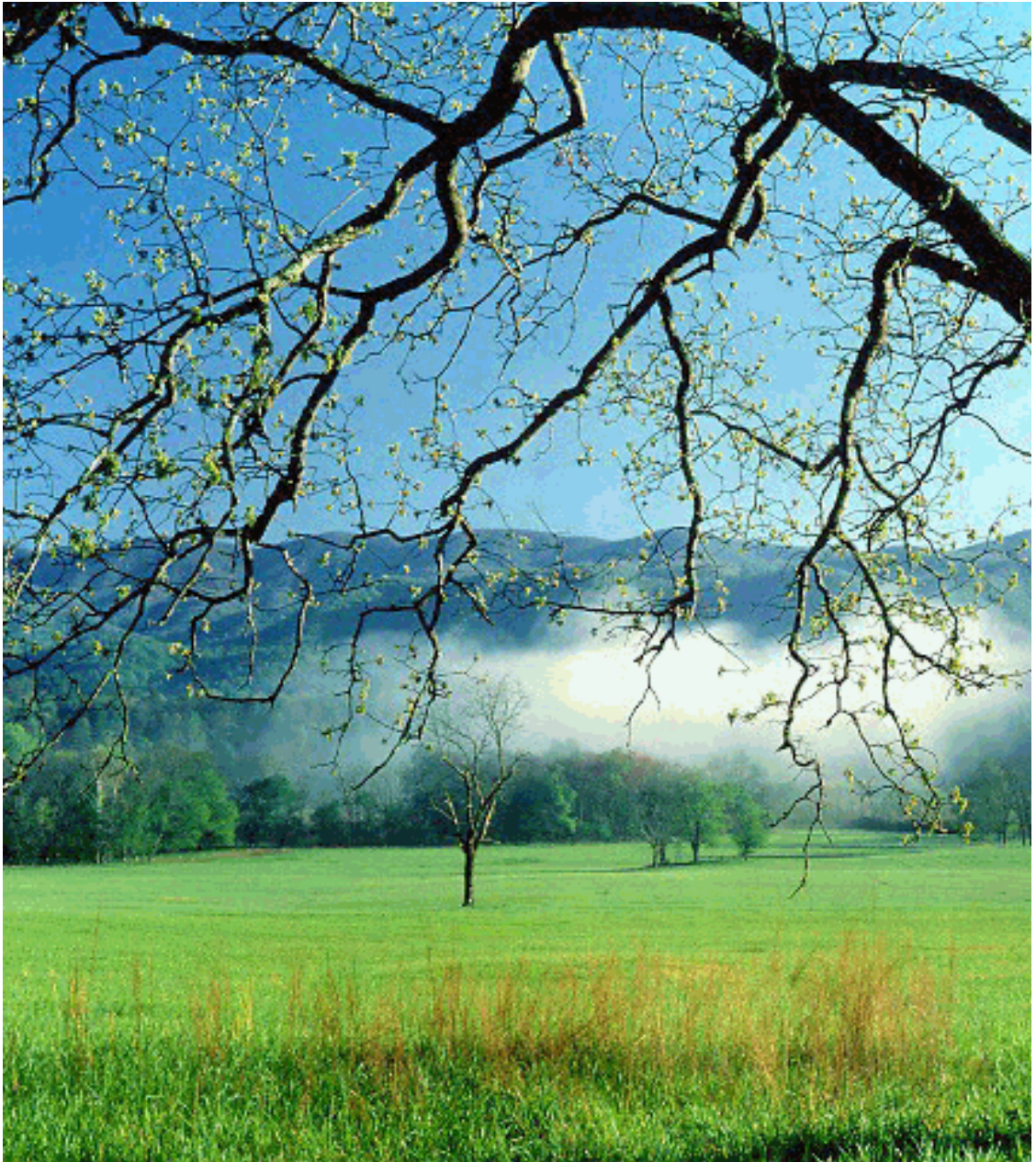
Description:

John P. Cable's first recorded land purchases in Blount County date to 1868, and he steadily expanded his land holdings. The water-powered saw and grist mills that he operated on his property in time rendered the Cable farm a focal point of the community. His daughter, Rebecca (Becky), is the best-remembered of the family. She managed a store, kept boarders, farmed her land, and cared for the orphaned children of her brother Dan.

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:

The site lies within the 2nd Congressional district of Tennessee.

Management Unit: Cades Cove Subdistrict
Tract Numbers: 05-111

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: 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.

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 agricultural valley. Additionally, Parsons Branch, Cooper Road, and Rich Mountain Road (all of which extend beyond the 2,000' contour elevation and the park boundaries) were transportation routes integral to the livelihood of Cades Cove.



Adjacent lands

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 level. This boundary is ambiguous for it does not include the balds used by settlers for grazing animals, nor three major roads that provided access to the cove historically. 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:	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

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:	Entertainment - Recreation
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Exploration - Settlement
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 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 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.

In 1867, John P. Cable moved to Cades Cove from Carter County, Tennessee. He purchased land in the lower end of the cove near the junction of Forge and Mill Creeks from G. W. Feezel in 1868, and

Cable Mill

Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

built a water-powered sash sawmill and an overshot wheel-powered gristmill, making the Cable farm a focal point of the community. Mills were one of the most important industries throughout the nineteenth century, as everyone needed to have grains ground to make bread. Custom mills had adjustable mill stones so meal could be ground as coarse or fine to order. The mill was powered by vertical waterwheels attached to the mill building and required a fairly large volume of water. Millers often built dams to form mill ponds to ensure an adequate supply of water, and millraces and wooden flumes then brought the water to the wheel. The steep terrain of the Smokies allowed the use of the overshot type waterwheel, where the water flow strikes the wheel near its top.

In 1876, Leason Gregg and James Beals bought 1 3/4 acres of land from John P. Cable, built a two-story frame house, most likely from lumber sawed at Cable Mill, and opened a general store. This is thought to be the first frame house built in the cove and is essentially the same one displayed as the Becky Cable House at Cable Mill. The store and house were located upstream from the present site, on Forge Creek Road leading to the Henry Whitehead Homestead. The Gregg family lived on the second floor and used the first floor for the store. In 1880, Gregg and Beals acquired 5 additional acres from John P. Cable. In 1887, Rebecca Cable and her brother, Dan, bought out Gregg and Beals. Dan Cable operated the store until 1896, when he sold its contents to J. M. Saults, who built his own store nearby. Dan was eventually committed to a state hospital, and his wife died of tuberculosis, leaving Becky Cable to care for the family. She kept boarders, farmed her small acreage, grazed cattle on her father's mountain property, and cared for her brother's children. Although the property was acquired by the NPS in 1931, Becky Cable had a life lease and lived on the property until 1940 .

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. Land for the park, including Cades Cove, was acquired via condemnation proceedings between 1928-1936. 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. It was determined that the "pioneer" stage of settlement would be the focus of preservation, with the emphasis on the best examples of notched log construction. The Becky Cable House is a rare surviving example of frame construction and was probably built with lumber sawn at the Cable Mill. It was listed as a contributing building in the 1977 National Register nomination, along with the mill, two barns, smokehouse, and corn crib.

As part of the Park Development Era, park planners manipulated the historic scene in order to showcase preserved "pioneer" agricultural landscapes and vernacular architecture. The Cable Mill exemplifies NPS design philosophy during the New Deal, when architects, landscape architects, historians, and engineers created a unified aesthetic conception (the master plan) of the site to preserve cultural as well as natural resources.

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

Leisure-Passive (Park)

Current

Single Family House

Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Type of Name

Cable Mill

Both Current And Historic

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1868 - 1926	Farmed/Harvested	In 1868, John P. Cable purchased the property from G. W. Feezell and established a farm at the lower end of the cove.
AD 1870 - 1875	Built	In the 1870s, John P. Cable built the overshot grist mill and sash saw mill. Following his death in 1891, the grist mill passed jointly to James, Daniel, and Rebecca Cable. James Cable also inherited most of the farm and the sash saw mill.
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 in Cades Cove, which began in 1928.
AD 1934 - 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 was outlined in the 1934 master plan, which was approved in 1935.
AD 1935 - 1936	Restored	The John P. Cable Overshot Mill was restored by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor.

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AD 1937 - 1938	Moved	A corn crib and barn were moved to the Cable Mill complex and restored by the CCC..
AD 1955 - 1958	Moved	Between 1955-1958, outbuildings from other farmsteads in the cove were moved to the Cable Mill complex and rehabilitated. At this time, the blacksmith shop was reconstructed and the nonhistoric fencing was added.
AD 1956 - 1966	Rehabilitated	As part of Mission 66 improvements to Cades Cove, a comfort station was added to the Cable Mill complex. In 1962-63, the John P. Cable Mill was rehabilitated, and the access and circulation walkways were completely rebuilt to correct erosion damage.
AD 1972	Designed	The 1972 Development Concept Plan included a comprehensive design for Cable Mill, including changes in pedestrian and vehicular circulation, an expanded parking area with new plantings, and a new comfort station.
AD 1979	Rehabilitated	The John P. Cable Mill was rehabilitated in 1979.
AD 1986	Rehabilitated	The Becky Cable House was rehabilitated in 1986.
AD 1999	Altered	The wheel and axle of the mill are replaced.

Physical History:

(1868-1926) Early Settlement and Later Development

In 1867, John P. Cable moved to Cades Cove from Carter County, Tennessee. He established a farm in the lower end of the cove near the junction of Forge and Mill Creeks on land he purchased from G. W. Feezel in 1868. In the 1870s, he built a water-powered sash sawmill and an overshot wheel-powered grist mill, making the Cable farm a focal point of the community. The steep terrain of the Smokies allowed the use of the overshot type waterwheel, where the water flow strikes the wheel near its top. In order to ensure a sufficient supply of water, John P. Cable cut a channel from Forge Creek into Mill Creek, and built a low dam across Mill Creek to impound water for the mill. Water reached the waterwheel by means of a millrace and wooden flume. The Cable Mill waterwheel also powered a separate wheat mill in a building a few feet from the extant mill, and a second waterwheel powered the sash saw mill, the remains of which were located near the grist mill (Wilburn, Grossman, and Stupka 1938, 21). At his death in 1891, the grist mill passed jointly to sons James and Daniel and daughter Rebecca Cable. James also inherited most of the farm and sash saw mill. Rebecca Cable eventually acquired additional portions of the property from James (7 acres in 1896, 6 acres in 1905, and 7 acres in 1923/27).

In 1876, Leason Gregg and James Beals bought 1 3/4 acres of land from John P. Cable, built a two-story frame house, most likely from lumber sawed at Cable Mill, and opened a general store. This is thought to be the first frame house built in the cove and is essentially the same one displayed as the Becky Cable House at Cable Mill. The store and house were located upstream from the present site, on Forge Creek Road leading to the Henry Whitehead Homestead. The Gregg family used room on the first floor for the store. In 1880, Gregg and Beals acquired 5 additional acres from John P. Cable. In 1887, Rebecca (Becky) Cable and her brother, Dan, bought out Gregg and Beals. Dan Cable operated the store until 1896, when he sold the store merchandise to J. M. Saults, who built a store near the present day entrance to the Cable Mill complex. Dan was eventually committed to a state hospital, and his wife died of tuberculosis, leaving Becky Cable to care for the family. She kept boarders, farmed her small acreage, grazed cattle on her father's mountain property (acquired in 1885 from N. H. Sparks), and cared for her brother's children. Although the property was acquired by the NPS in 1931, Becky Cable had a life lease and lived on the property until 1940 (Shields 1977, 75). A historic photograph of the house taken while Becky Cable lived there shows an unpainted horizontal board fence enclosing a small front yard, and the front porch covered with various vines and potted flowers (Figure 1).



Figure 1. 1915 view of the Becky Cable House

(1927-present) Great Smoky Mountains National Park

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. Land for the park, including Cades Cove, was acquired via condemnation proceedings between 1928-1936. 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). The Cable Mill was envisioned in the 1938 Proposed Mountain Culture Program as a "domestic and industrial field exhibit" area consisting of reconstructed and reorganized groups of buildings (Wilburn, Grossman, and Stupka 1938, 20).

As part of the Park Development Era, significant changes have taken place at the Cable Mill. All buildings except the overshot mill were taken down or moved. The mill was restored by CCC labor in 1935-36. When the NPS received Cable Mill in the 1930s, it was in serious disrepair, as much of the Cable family was aging and in decline. Most of the original mill had to be taken down and rebuilt from salvaged materials, supplemented by newly cut lumber. Only original methods of construction were used to restore the mill (Trout 1991, 10-12). There were

Cable Mill

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two other elements of the mill complex that no longer remained, a wheat mill located in a building a few feet distant from the extant mill and a sash sawmill powered by a second waterwheel (Trout 1991, 4,12).

Outbuildings from other locations were moved to the site to form a "typical" 19th-century cove farmstead. In 1937, a cantilever barn and corn crib were moved to the site and restored. The barn was moved from the upper end of the cove and restored in the exact location of the original barn. This barn was chosen for restoration because it was thought to be very close in size and construction to the original barn. The corn crib was moved from the Townsend Garland place (Wilburn, Grossman, and Stupka 1938, 21). In 1956, the Becky Cable House was moved to the site, without its kitchen ell, back porch, and outbuildings. At this time the blacksmith shop was reconstructed, and the fencing at the site (all nonhistoric) was added. Although Becky Cable was known for her interest in flower gardening, none of these historic landscape features are presently being interpreted, even though Charles Grossman noted in 1964 that he was preparing a list of plants (flowers and trees) for Ross Bender (Chief of Interpretation and Natural Resources from 1963-71), who was proposing to plant a flower garden here (Dyer 1988, 153). Flowering vines are presently discouraged under maintenance guidelines.

As part of Mission 66 improvements for Cades Cove, a comfort station was added to Cable Mill. The design of the comfort station came from a national seashore plan and is not compatible with the surrounding landscape. Sometime between 1964 and 1972, a country store was added (the present Natural History Association bookstore). The log construction of the country store is often confusing for visitors who think it may have been an original cabin.

In conjunction with the 1972 Development Concept Plan for Cades Cove, a comprehensive design for Cable Mill (133/41029A) included changes in pedestrian and vehicular circulation, expanded parking with new plantings, and a new comfort station. Open fescue fields of a nonhistoric configuration are maintained at Cable Mill. The ascending slopes south of the mill feature a typical cove hardwood forest of buckeye, maple, hemlock, rhododendron, white pine, tulip poplar, and sycamore.



Figure 2. John P. Cable Overshot Mill following restoration (c.1937)



Figure 3. 1937 view of John P. Cable Corn Crib



Figure 4. 1937 view of John P. Cable Barn from the south

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

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

Landscape Characteristic:

Buildings And Structures

The Cable Mill complex features an overshot mill, a frame house, two barns, a corn crib, a smokehouse, and a blacksmith shop. All buildings but the mill were moved to the site from other farmsteads in the cove; the blacksmith shop is a 1956 reconstruction. The mill was restored in 1935-36 by CCC labor and rehabilitated in 1962 and 1979. The corn crib and cantilever barn were restored in 1937. The smokehouse and drive-through barn were restored in 1957. The Becky Cable House was rehabilitated in 1986. The Natural History Association bookstore was added sometime prior to 1972, and the present comfort station was constructed in 1972.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Becky Cable House
Feature Identification Number:	95900
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	13046
LCS Structure Name:	John P. & Becky Cable House
LCS Structure Number:	MMS-172
Feature:	Comfort station
Feature Identification Number:	95901
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non-Contributing
Feature:	John P. Cable Barn (drive-in barn)
Feature Identification Number:	95902
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	13066
LCS Structure Name:	John P. Cable Barn
LCS Structure Number:	MMS-174H

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Feature: John P. Cable Blacksmith Shop
Feature Identification Number: 95903
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 13049
LCS Structure Name: John P. Cable Blacksmith Shop
LCS Structure Number: MMS-459

Feature: John P. Cable Corn Crib
Feature Identification Number: 95904
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 13045
LCS Structure Name: John P. Cable Corn Crib
LCS Structure Number: MMS-175

Feature: John P. Cable Drive-Through Barn
Feature Identification Number: 95905
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 13050
LCS Structure Name: John P. Cable Drive-Through Barn
LCS Structure Number: MMS-460

Feature: John P. Cable Overshot Mill
Feature Identification Number: 95906
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 13048
LCS Structure Name: John P. Cable Overshot Mill
LCS Structure Number: MMS-173

Feature: John P. Cable Smokehouse
Feature Identification Number: 95907
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 13047
LCS Structure Name: John P. Cable Smokehouse
LCS Structure Number: MMS-461

Feature: Natural History Association Bookstore

Feature Identification Number: 95908

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Becky Cable House



John P. Cable Barn



John P. Cable Corn Crib (LCS 1992)



John P. Cable Drive-Through Barn (LCS 1992)



John P. Cable Overshot Mill (LCS 1992)



John P. Cable Smokehouse (LCS 1992)



John P. Cable Blacksmith Shop (foreground) and Natural History Association Bookstore (background)

Circulation

Vehicular and pedestrian access to the Cable Mill complex has been impacted by Park Development Era, Mission 66, and 1972 DCP improvements. The circulation system was developed as part of the Park Development Era master plan to connect the relocated buildings at the site. In 1962, the access and circulation walkways were completely rebuilt. Drainage water from the parking area and road ditches had eroded the walkways and grassy areas over the years (Trout 1991, 15). 1972 DCP improvements included an enlarged parking area with new plantings, paved visitor walkways (asphalt), and a comfort station. Historic road traces are still present at the site and would be considered contributing features of the historic landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Identification Number:	95909
Type of Feature Contribution:	Undetermined

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Paved walkway at Cable Mill, note mill raceway (2000).



Circulation at the Becky Cable House (2000).



Slight erosion along pathway to barn behind the Becky Cable House (2006).



Hillside erosion and collapse of the fence line behind the drive-in barn (2006).

Constructed Water Features

The John P. Cable Overshot Mill used the base of the old forge dam to impound Forge Creek and direct the water by a canal to the impoundment on Mill Creek, thereby ensuring a sufficient supply of water. Water reaches the waterwheel by means of a millrace and an open-topped wooden flume. All of the constructed water features are contributing features of the historic landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Identification Number: 95910
Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



John P. Cable Overshot Mill (2000)

Natural Systems And Features

John P. Cable's farm was located near the junction of Forge and Mill Creeks, an important site-determining feature for the location of a mill.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Point where water is diverted from Forge Creek to Mill Creek (2000)

Topography

The settlement patterns at this site were strongly influenced by the topography of the cove, featuring farmsteads close to the surrounding hillsides, leaving the interior for cultivation. Additionally, the steep terrain of the Smokies allowed the use of the overshot type waterwheel at custom mills such as the John P. Cable Mill, where the water flow strikes the wheel near its top.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Topographic patterns at the Cable Mill complex (2000).

Vegetation

As a reconstructed site, the specific vegetation patterns historically associated with the Cable Mill complex have been lost. The broader pattern of forested ascending slopes and open fields on the valley floor has been retained and would be considered a contributing feature of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Vegetation patterns at Cable Mill (2000).



The amount of flowering vines and annuals has increased in front of the Becky Cable House (2006).

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:

Condition improves with an increase in flowering vines and annuals at the Becky Cable House, but a new negative impact is the erosion found near the stream behind the drive-in barn.

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 increased the amount of forest on the valley floor and hillsides.
Type of Impact:	Inappropriate Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Flowering vines are presently discouraged under maintenance guidelines, even though historic photographs reflect their presence growing on the porch of the Becky Cable House (2000). More flowers and vines are found in front of the house in 2006, reducing this negative impact.
Type of Impact:	Erosion
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Heavy visitor use has caused erosion along the fenceline between the drive-in barn and the stream.
Type of Impact:	Structural Deterioration
External or Internal:	Internal

Impact Description:	The fence behind the drive-in barn has collapsed in places, due in part to visitor use and erosion.
Type of Impact:	Vandalism/Theft/Arson
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Graffiti

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

Bibliography

Citation Title:	N/A
Source Name:	Other
Citation Number:	N/A
Citation Location:	See Cades Cove Cultural Landscape Bibliography for a complete list of references.
Citation Title:	Draft "Historic Structure Report, John Cable Mill."
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	LCS file
Citation Title:	Development Concept Plan, Great Smoky Mountains, Cades Cove
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	GrSM, SERO

Supplemental Information

- Title:** Cades Cove
Description: TIC map NP-GSM 2163-A, dated 1946
- Title:** Cades Cove Developed Areas
Description: TIC map NP-GSM 3148-B, dated 1964
- Title:** Cades Cove Developed Areas
Description: TIC map NP-GSM 3148A, dated 1958
- Title:** Comprehensive Design, Cable Mill, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Description: TIC map 133/41029A and B, dated 1972
- Title:** Cultural Exhibit Cades Cove Area
Description: TIC map NP-GSM 2163, dated 1942