

Creekmore Cabin
Elkmont Historic District
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Historic Structure Report



September 2014

for

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Southeast Region, National Park Service

by

JOSEPH K. OPPERMAN-ARCHITECT, P.A.
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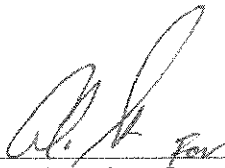
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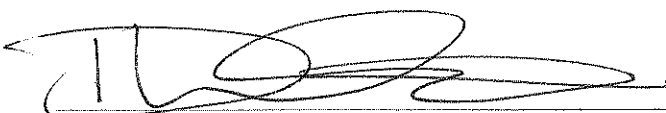
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Creekmore Cabin
LCS#: 264273

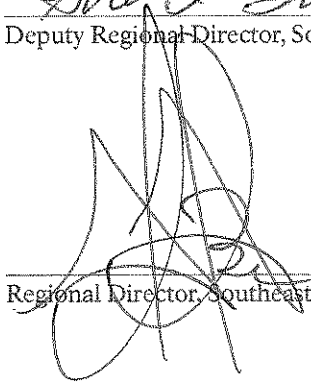
The historic structure report presented here exists in two formats. A traditional, printed version is available for study at the park, the Southeastern Regional Office of the NPS (SERO), and at a variety of other repositories. For more widespread access, the historic structure report also exists in a web-based format through ParkNet, the website of the National Park Service. Please visit www.nps.gov for more information.

Creekmore Cabin
Elkmont Historic District
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Historic Structure Report
2014

Approved by:  1-15-15
Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park Date

Recommended by:  1/22/15
Chief, Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Region Date

Recommended by:  1-27-15
Deputy Regional Director, Southeast Region Date

Approved by:  1-27-15
Regional Director, Southeast Region Date
ACTING

Foreword

We are pleased to make available this Historic Structure Report, part of our ongoing effort to provide comprehensive documentation for the historic structures and landscapes of National Park Service units in the Southeast Region. A number of individuals contributed to the successful completion of this work, but we would particularly like to thank the Project Team who authored the report.

The authors would like to thank the staff at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park who assisted with the project, especially Dianne Flaugh, cultural resource manager, who provided copies of relevant documents from park files, logistical assistance and general editorial review. Tommy H. Jones, cultural resource specialist, and Danita Brown, AIA, architect, both of the National Park Service's Southeast Regional Office, provided helpful comments as part of their technical review and project oversight. We hope that this study will prove valuable to park management in ongoing efforts to preserve the building and to everyone in understanding and interpreting these unique resources.

Dan Scheidt, Chief
Cultural Resources Division
Southeast Regional Office
2014

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Executive Summary

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this report is to document the development, use, and current condition of the Smith Cabin in the Elkmont Historic District of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The National Park Service will use this report to inform and guide the stewardship of this historic structure.

The scope of work prescribed by SERO for this HSR specifies “limited” historical research as defined by *Director’s Order #28: Cultural Resources Management Guidelines*. However, because of the limited amount of historical documentation available, a more wide-ranging search for historic document was executed and oral history interviews were conducted. All information learned about the physical evolution of the Smith Cabin is based on building archaeology.

The report, which focuses on the Smith Cabin, also includes context and background information about nineteenth-century settlement in the region, the advent of the railroad, the growth of the timber industry, the development of Elkmont from a lumber camp to a resort community, and the transfer to the National Park Service.

The report is divided into two major segments, *Part I: Developmental History and Part II: Treatment & Use*. Part I is organized into three sections that address in sequence the historical background and context of the locale, a chronology of development and use of the Smith Cabin specifically, and a physical description of the exterior and interior on a room-by-room basis. This last section also includes an assessment of condition and a listing of character-defining features. Part II evaluates treatment options and concludes with an “ultimate recommended treatment.” A bibliography precedes the Appendix, which contains scaled drawings including an as-found floor plan and selected architectural details.

Historical Overview

Although Native Americans settled along the Little River for centuries, the first permanent Euro-American occupation began with a 1785 treaty under which the Cherokees ceded their lands to the United States. White settlers began to farm the mountain valleys and coves, though the rugged mountain terrain inhibited extensive settlement and travel. In the late nineteenth century, small companies began to haul timber out of the mountains, followed by larger companies attracted to the Great Smokies when northern and Midwestern timberlands were depleted.

In 1900, the Little River Lumber Company began buying land in Sevier County, setting up headquarters and building a large band mill in Tuckaleechee Cove, which they named Townsend. To reach the upper elevations, the company created the Little River Railroad Company in 1901. The railroad connected to the Knoxville & Augusta Railroad and later was extended to Townsend. By 1908, tracks were built to the Little River Valley where a lumber camp was established. A community of workers and their families soon took root there and called it Elkmont.

The linking of the railroad to isolated mountainous regions unexpectedly created a tourist destination. Although constructed for timbering, the railroad allowed Knoxville sportsmen to reach hunting and fishing locations in the backcountry, which benefited the company. Before long, an observation car was taking travelers from Knoxville to Elkmont every Sunday, then several days a week, and by 1909, daily.

The Lumber Company began to promote the area for development and in 1910, deeded 50 acres to the Appalachian Club while retaining timber and mineral rights. The sportsmen’s club, composed primarily of Knoxville businessmen, became more social over time and a clubhouse was built south of Elkmont. As individual cabins were built nearby, .

the area quickly developed into its own community. Club and cabin architecture reflected traditional folk design and the rustic and Craftsman styles popular at the time, with bark-peeled posts and railings on some cabins.

In 1911, the Little River Lumber Company sold additional acreage just north of the Elkmont where the Wonderland Park Hotel was built in 1912. The Wonderland Club was similar to the Appalachian Club with members' cabins clustered near the hotel.

Meanwhile, the little lumber company community of Elkmont became a sizable town as the Little River Lumber Company increased its operations. Inhabited mostly by workers and their families, the town had a character distinct from its neighbors at the Appalachian and Wonderland clubs. At its peak, Elkmont could boast of several dozen dwellings, a few utilitarian commercial buildings, a school, and two churches. The workers' town declined when the Little River Company moved its lumber operations in 1923 and discontinued the railroad in 1925. The loss of its primary employer and subsequent designation as part of a national park signaled Elkmont's end. By 1942, most buildings were gone, many dismantled for their lumber.

Fortunately for club members, the loss of the rail line coincided with the rise of the automobile. The rail tracks were replaced by a gravel road, and new roads were built as part of the nationwide trend. More people came to the Elkmont clubs. Visitors stayed in rustic, yet comfortable cabins, enjoyed meals and dances at the clubs, and focused on outdoor activities. The clubs met the new demand with boardwalks, swimming holes, and new amenities. Construction included new cabins and numerous outbuildings such as guest cottages, servants' quarters, woodsheds, garages and privies. Construction continued at both clubs through the 1920s.

The establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park brought the demise of the club communities. Unlike previous parks, with land donated or already in Federal domain, property was purchased by the states of North Carolina and Tennessee for transfer to the Federal government. Property holders were reluctant to sell. An agreement was reached with Elkmont's summer

residents in 1932 whereby landowners would receive lifetime leases in return for sale of their property at half the appraised value.

In 1952, club members gave up their lifetime leases for a fixed 20-year lease in exchange for commercial power service. The leases were extended for another twenty years in 1972 with the majority expiring in 1992. The last of the leases finally expired in 2001; all properties are now owned by the National Park Service.

Statement of Significance

In 1994, the properties associated with the Appalachian Club and Wonderland Club were listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Elkmont Historic District. The importance of the district rests not only in its architectural integrity, but also in its association with the development of summer resort communities during the early twentieth century. These communities were the products of a renewed interest in nature and outdoor recreation, and their rustic architecture, landscaping, and planning reflect this admiration for a "back-to-nature" lifestyle.

Cultural Resources and Natural Resources

The park's 1982 General Management Plan (GMP) states in part, "...leases for approximately 50 structures ...will expire in 1992, and four remaining leases will expire in 2001. None of these leases will be extended, and the structures are proposed for removal on termination of the leases. Building sites will be returned to a natural state."

Subsequent to the preparation of the GMP, the Elkmont Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the proscribed GMP actions for this district were determined by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to constitute an adverse effect. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) revised the demolition proposal, and in 2008 a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was prepared by representatives of the Advisory Council, the National Park Service, the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office and other parties. The EIS was made part of the MOA. The Agreement includes stipulations for documentation and treatment and states in

part, “. . .eighteen contributing and one non-contributing building will be retained. . . .A total of 30 contributing buildings will be removed. . . . The exterior of the sixteen buildings in Daisy Town will be restored and their interiors rehabilitated.” In 2009, NPS amended the park’s GMP and prepared the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Elkmont Historic District. The FEIS outlines the strategy to restore the exteriors of 19 buildings “to a point within the period of significance” (1913–1941 as per the current National Register Nomination) . . . “when adequate documentation is available” and to preserve the interiors.

Methodology

The objectives of this Historic Structure Report (HSR), which complies with the guidelines at NPS-28, are to research and prepare a comprehensive and scholarly assessment of the building’s history and fabric and its existing physical conditions, and to recommend treatment for preservation. The findings and recommendations made in this report rely on the combined research of primary and secondary resources, early photographs, oral histories, and the investigation of extant building fabric.

The NPS Scope of Work for this HSR places the level of background research for this report as “limited investigation,” as defined in NPS-28. However, because of the scarcity of written documentation, additional research was deemed necessary for an adequate understanding of the context and history of this particular cabin.

The physical investigations of the building to determine its evolutionary history were a large component of the research. This involved a close look at features in the building and at details such as the framing materials and methods, the relationship of finish treatments, at the variety of siding, ghostmarks, and nail types. Each research effort, both documentary and physical, was designed to create a dual, coordinated approach to determining how the building was used and adapted over the progression of Elkmont’s history.

The firm of Joseph K. Oppermann – Architect, P.A., prepared this HSR. The team for this cabin included Joseph K. Oppermann, FAIA, historical architect and principal-in-charge, Rebecca L.

McCormick, AIA, assisting architect, and Langdon E. Oppermann, architectural historian. The team researched, investigated and documented the cabin and authored this HSR. This interdisciplinary approach improves understanding of history and conditions, which aids the development of appropriate treatment recommendations.

An initial multi-day visit to the site was made in November of 2011. During these first days, measurements were compiled using manual measuring tape, carpenter ruler, digital camera, and digital recorder, a Leica Disto laser distance meter. Overall photography was completed for both exterior and interiors. Detailed field drawings were made. Upon return to the office, these field drawings were used to create digitized AutoCAD drawings of floor plan and selected architectural elements. The digitized floor plan became the base document on which final recordations and assessed conditions were made during the subsequent return trip.

This second multi-day inspection was made in January of 2012 to focus on details of each building feature and the specific components of each interior space. A standard assessment methodology was used for the condition survey of each exterior feature and each interior room, itemizing features and elements. Detail photography was conducted. Visual observation of surface conditions supplemented with a 20-power magnification loop and Protimeter BLD 2000 moisture meter were the method and instruments of assessing the physical condition of building materials. In accordance with the NPS scope of work, no building system components were tested. No invasive methods of investigation were employed. Tape measure and digital cameras were used to record the size, design and location of components and conditions.

A final site visit was conducted in March 2014 to confirm findings.

Findings

Although it began as a compact three-room cabin, Creekmore Cabin has had a long history of expansion and reorganization of spaces. Porches were added, expanded, reconfigured, and enclosed. Interior walls and new rooms were added and expanded.

The addition of a kitchen appears to have occurred well after initial construction, as is typical with other cabins of Elkmont. The families of the community typically took their meals with their friends at the Appalachian Club and therefore had little need for a kitchen.

The modifications and expansions of the Creekmore Cabin continued quite late in the leasing period. One of the last construction efforts was the enclosure of a wraparound porch into a large living room at the southeast corner.

The vernacular nature of the cabin's construction together with the frequency of changes, the use of similar building materials in different construction campaigns, and the tendency to use salvaged building elements, make the dating of the changes especially challenging. In addition, much of the wood for construction probably came from nearby mill operations; the actual sizes of the lumber vary significantly. Nonetheless, the lumber used for each change tends to have common characteristics (saw marks, dimensions, coloration, and other visual qualities) that set that change apart from other construction phases.

As with all the buildings, the exterior envelope is critical to their well-being. Towards the goal of ensuring a sound exterior, park crews have recently completed repairs to original wood window sash.

The most serious threat to Creekmore Cabin is the failed roofing and rainwater collection/dispersal system. Numerous active roof leaks allow moisture to gain access to the vulnerable interior. At grade, the lack of gutters creates splash onto low wood house elements. Pooling of rainwater due to improper site drainage is causing the ground to stay wet and wood elements such as piers and foundation lattice to deteriorate more rapidly than normal.

The weathering of the protective exterior paint coating is likewise well advanced, leaving the wood architectural elements susceptible to moisture in all its forms.

And, sadly, as often happens when buildings become rundown and appear uncared for, vandalism increases. Door rim locks and other small hardware items seem to be favorites in

Daisy Town. Because it is usually the lock and not the keep that is taken, the thefts may be the work of souvenir seekers as opposed to someone hoping to sell or reuse a lock set. Recently, larger architectural elements seem threatened as well, like the decorative glass window stolen from the south elevation.

Recommended Treatment

The Creekmore Cabin is a good example of the small vernacular summer residence once typical of Elkmont that evolved beyond its functional and social dependence on the nearby club. That evolution is clearly visible in the physical changes to the cabin as the club's prominence waned and eventually ended with the closing of the club: a kitchen was added as were dining and living rooms for social gatherings.

Because of this clearly visible record of building evolution coupled with the urgency to stave off serious threats of water intrusion, preservation of both the exterior and interior of the building as currently exist, are the recommended treatments. Once this and the other retained buildings of Elkmont are stabilized, made weather tight, and protected, consideration may be directed to the possibility of removing or reversing late additions and modifications. The decisions of what to remove and what to retain at each building should be made keeping in mind the bigger story of the collective group of buildings that made up this community of summer residences.

Additional Recommendations

As more buildings of Elkmont are researched and investigated, patterns of shared construction features and typical color palettes are becoming apparent. Paint and finish analyses of the exteriors and interiors of Elkmont's cabins would help document those characteristics that made Elkmont distinctive. Such analyses, coupled with selective demolition to expose unseen building features, also could be invaluable in determining when building changes occurred.

The residents of Elkmont had a special appreciation for the outdoors. Their cabins and yards reflect this interest, with generous porches and richly developed yards. The close social relationships are expressed in the proximity of

cabins. A Cultural Landscape Report for the community will be especially important for stewardship.

As stated above, the level of research and investigations of the HSRs prepared thus far have been “limited” in scope. The research has been limited to park records, a few well known publications, and occasionally oral histories. The building investigations have been limited to visual observations of physical conditions. A good deal has been learned about the sequence of changes to the buildings and current condition.

But information about the people associated with the individual cabins, the people who built them and remodeled them, and the families who lived there, remains sparse. Visual representations at different epochs of the buildings, such as photographs, drawings, plans and other contemporary images, are likewise scarce. The people who knew the community first hand, or who remember stories from those who did, are becoming elderly. The opportunities to tap into these sources of information are diminishing. An oral history project to record these stories before they are lost should be a high priority. The stories could greatly elucidate life in Elkmont when it was an active resort. These contacts could also be springboards to locating the documentary records of Elkmont, especially photographs, that are so lacking.

Visual documentation will be critically important to the decision-making process of determining the feasibility of removing additions and rebuilding missing features; traditional below-grade archaeology and building archaeology with selective demolition may also be necessary.

The MOA also stipulates a reconsideration of the National Register Nomination once the buildings

to be retained are stabilized and the others are removed. This is an important endeavor that likely will result in revision of the boundaries of the current nomination as well as expansion in the period of significance.

An important consideration is the process for developing a cohesive plan for interpretation and stewardship of the retained buildings and sites of Elkmont. The best opportunity will be after they are documented with individual HSRs and paint-&-finish studies, as well as with an overall CLR and a revised National Register nomination. In other words, the most effective timing for developing a community-wide plan will be after Elkmont is better understood and documented as a community.

In the meantime, it is desirable to stay the course to make the buildings watertight, to stabilize and maintain the buildings and site, and to avoid the temptation to remove or disrupt features of building and site until the bigger context of community is more comprehensively studied.

Additional protection is desirable. Some possible actions are securing the doors and windows of the building to prevent entry to the interiors where much of the vandalism is occurring, and installing discretely placed cameras to monitor activities. During our site visits we have frequently found visitors to have the false impression that all the buildings are being removed. Interpretive panels scheduled for installation in the area may help correct this misunderstanding. Other existing means of communication such as the park’s website and visitor newspaper may be augmented to inform visitors and enlist their help in preventing vandalism and protecting these buildings. Another possible action is to recruit and train volunteers to spend time in Elkmont answering questions and providing an official presence.

Administrative Data

Locational Data

Building Name: Creekmore Cabin

Location: Elkmont Historic District
Great Smoky Mountains National Park

County: Sevier County

State: Tennessee

Related NPS Studies

“Future Management of the Elkmont Historic District.” Briefing Statement by National Park Service, January 27, 2010.

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior. *Elkmont Historic District. Final Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan Amendment*. Vols. 1 and II. Gatlinburg, TN: National Park Service, 2006.

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Thomason, Phillip and Dr. Michael Ann Williams, revised by Len Brown. National Register of Historic Places nomination; Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 1994.

TRC Garrow Associates, Inc. *Archaeological Investigations in the Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sevier County, Tennessee*, 2005.

_____. *Cultural Resources of the Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sevier County, Tennessee*, 2004.

Real Property Information

Acquisition Date: June 14, 1933

Numbering Information

LCS ID: 264273

Size Information

Creekmore Cabin

Total Floor Area: 1,035 square feet ±

Roof Area: 1,535 square feet ±

Number of Stories: 1

Number of Rooms: 9

Number of Bathrooms: 1

Cultural Resource Data

National Register Status: Listed March 22, 1994; Contributing Structure
Reference # 94000166
Name: Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Proposed Treatment

Preservation of the exterior and interior spaces in their current appearances but in good repair.

I.A Historical Background and Context

The town of Elkmont was developed in the early twentieth century as a summer community, deep in the woods of the Great Smoky Mountains in Sevier County, Tennessee. Elkmont was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994 as the Elkmont Historic District. The district consists mainly of early twentieth-century rustic summer cabins, a social clubhouse, and several outbuildings constructed primarily between 1910 and 1930 and organized around two clubs, the Appalachian Club and the Wonderland Club. While the district's contributing structures maintain much of their historic integrity, most have been vacant since 1992 and are in various states of disrepair.

Elkmont is important not only for its architecture, but also for its association with the development of summer resort communities in the early twentieth century. These communities were the products of a renewed interest in nature and outdoor recreation, and their architecture, landscaping and planning sought earnestly to express this “back-to-nature” approach.

This summation of Elkmont's historical background and context is based primarily on the following sources unless otherwise noted: 1. Thomason and Associates' 1993 report for the National Park Service (NPS), *The History and Architecture of the Elkmont Community*; 2. Thomason and Associates' 1994 National Register Nomination for “Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park”; 3. TRC Garrow Associates, Inc.'s 2004 report, *Cultural Resources of the Elkmont Historic District*; 4. TRC Garrow Associates, Inc.'s 2005 report, *Archaeological Investigations in the Elkmont Historic District*; and 5. NPS's 2006 *Elkmont Historic District - Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan Amendment*. Because numerous

studies, reports and books document Elkmont's history, and at the request of the National Park Service, this Historic Structure Report focuses on physical investigation of the building rather than additional archival research on the community.



Figure 1. Jakes Creek cascade.

Environment

Nestled in the Little River valley of the Tennessee portion of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Elkmont community is ideally situated for a mountain getaway. The valley sits about 2,000 feet above sea level and is enclosed by steeply sloped forested mountains, a biologically rich environment with a wide diversity of plants, animals and invertebrates. Temperate weather and high levels of rainfall have promoted both human settlement and plant growth. The Little River and its tributary, Jakes Creek, form the main spines through the valley, fed by tributaries flowing from the upper elevations of the surrounding mountains. The valley is narrow. Its level areas along the waterways have been the areas of settlement through several centuries and changing cultures.

Figure 2-1: Existing Condition
 Elkmont Historic District
 Great Smoky Mountains National Park

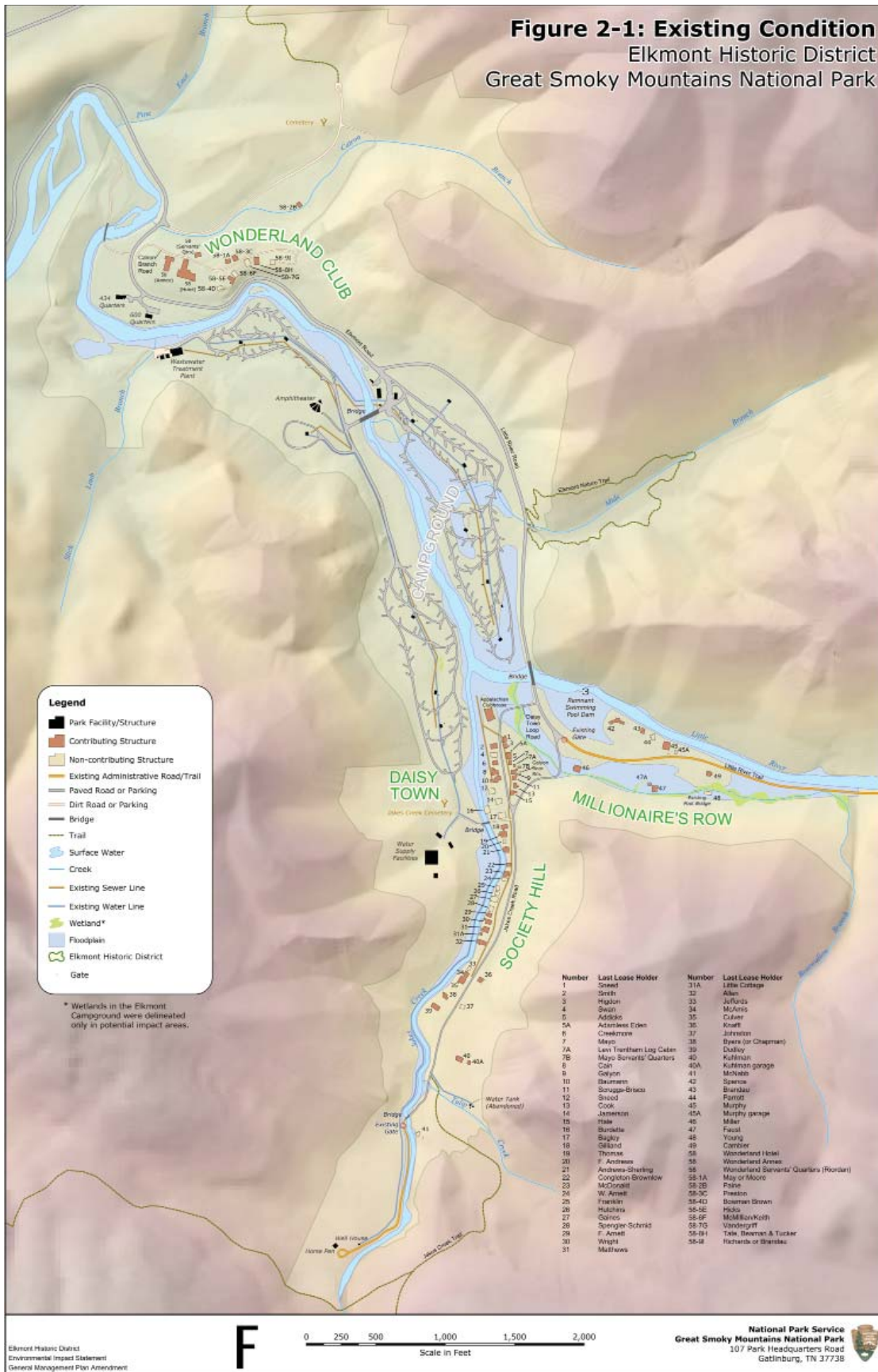


Figure 2. Map of Elkmont Historic District showing its communities bordering Jakes Creek and the Little River. (National Park Service)

Early Euro-American Settlement

Although Native Americans settled in the Little River valley centuries earlier, the first permanent Euro-American occupation occurred after the 1785 Treaty of Dumplin Creek, when the Cherokees ceded their lands to the United States. The new settlers began to farm the mountain valleys and coves. Two families, Ownby and Trentham, came to own much of the land along Jakes Creek where they constructed single- and double-pen log dwellings, farm buildings and mills.



Figure 3. Avent Cabin, Elkmont, built by the Ownby family in 1845.

The heavily forested and rugged mountain terrain initially inhibited extensive settlement and travel through the area. However, by the latter part of the nineteenth century, family-owned companies, especially the J.L. English Company and Swaggert & Eubanks, began to cut and laboriously haul timber out of the mountains. Larger timber companies soon saw opportunity in the Great Smokies, especially as timberlands in the Northeast and Great Lakes area became depleted. These companies had a substantial impact on the surrounding environment in only a short time. With their greater capital came more efficient methods of extracting timber and the corresponding destruction of mountain habitat.

Little River Lumber Company

A group of Pennsylvania investors, Col. Wilson B. Townsend, J. W. Wrigley, and F. H. McCormick, selected this area of the Smokies after investigating its lumber potential. In 1900, they bought 86,000 acres of virgin forest along the Little River, and the following year chartered the Little River Lumber Company. The company set up its headquarters and built a large band mill in Tuckaleechee Cove.

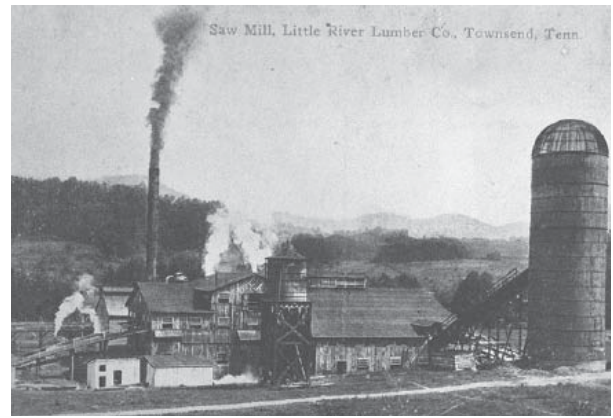


Figure 4. Undated postcard, "Saw Mill, Little River Lumber Company, Townsend, Tenn."

The community of workers that grew around the sawmill was named Townsend in honor of the company's founder and general manager.

Later in 1901, the Little River Railroad Company was created to bring in the valuable hardwoods from upper elevations. The railroad connected to the Knoxville & Augusta Railroad and later would be extended to link the company headquarters at Townsend to additional mountainous areas, reaching Elkmont in 1908.

During construction of the Little River Railroad, simple temporary structures known as "set-off" houses were built for railroad employees and their families. These structures were assembled at company headquarters and moved by train as railroad construction progressed. Often, several set-off houses were placed in a row to create what was known as a stringtown.



Figure 5. Little River Railroad Company set-off houses. (Little River Railroad and Lumber Company Museum)



Figure 6. A log loader lifts a log onto a flatbed rail car. (NPS, "Logging," www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?id=BF35F887-1DD8-B71C-0793D04A3C9075AF)



Figure 7. Logging train with workers. (NPS, "Logging," www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?id=BF35F887-1DD8-B71C-0793D04A3C9075AF)

That rail line was built from 1906 to 1908. At its terminus, a lumber camp was established as a base of operations, and a community of workers and their families soon took root. This was Elkmont. Company headquarters remained in Townsend, and as the businesses prospered, Col. Townsend and his investors hired the much younger Joseph P. Murphy as superintendent.

Although the purpose of the rail line was timbering, access to the isolated mountains changed the region. Knoxville sportsmen were soon asking to use the railroad to reach hunting and fishing locations in the backcountry. A long-time Elkmont summer resident recalled the role the train played in transforming Elkmont from a logging camp to a vacation community. "At first, these Knoxville residents rode the 'dog car' or cabooses, got off at Elkmont and the train continued up to

Jakes Creek to the logging camps. This weekend trip became so popular that the wives became curious. So in 1907 the wives and husbands hunted and fished together in Elkmont."¹

The lumber company recognized the potential of a passenger business and encouraged the sportsmen and their families. Before long, an observation car was added to take travelers from Knoxville to Elkmont each Sunday. As these excursions quickly grew in popularity, they came to be offered several days a week and, by 1909, tourists traveled daily from Knoxville's Southern Station to Elkmont.

Certain engines began to be used predominantly to pull the passenger cars. In 1911, superintendent Murphy bought a new, modern locomotive, designed to navigate the line's steep grades and tight curves. This engine was assigned not to the logging operation, but to the ever growing passenger schedules, handling the daily trains and special weekend excursions.

Appalachian Club

As land was cleared, the lumber company presented an area for development and in 1910, deeded 50 acres to the Appalachian Club while retaining timber and mineral rights. A clubhouse for members was built south of the railroad workers' town of Elkmont. The club was a Knoxville-based sportsmen's club composed primarily of businessmen who sought the hunting and fishing opportunities of the mountains. The Appalachian Club was said to be the most exclusive in East Tennessee. Its new clubhouse spurred construction of rustic cabins for families, and a community of summer residents developed. In 1910, Colonel Townsend built his own cabin south of the clubhouse. The area became known as Daisy Town.²

The Appalachian Clubhouse served as both clubhouse and hotel. Ten rooms were initially constructed, but an annex was soon added to provide accommodations for the growing membership.

1. Ivah C. Murphy, interviewed in 1965, Willard Yarbrough, "Early Days Recalled: Elkmont, Rooted in Smoky Park History, Is Proud of Tradition," *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, August 29, 1965, p. F. genealogytrails.com/tenn/sevier/commElkmont.html

2. Joseph K. Oppermann, *Appalachian Clubhouse Historic Structure Report*.



Figure 8. Little River Railroad Company observation car on wood trestle, undated photograph. (Little River Railroad and Lumber Company Museum)

Early photographs show the original clubhouse designed in the rustic style prevalent throughout the district. The dominant feature of the simple two-story wood frame structure was a wide porch stretching the length of the building. Two masonry chimneys can be seen in an early photograph rising at the front elevation. The fireplaces for these two chimneys likely served a spacious room used for dining, dancing, and other social events. To protect the club members from dirt and mud as they traveled to and from the clubhouse, a boardwalk was built connecting the clubhouse to the cottages.



Figure 9. The original Appalachian Clubhouse, circa 1910, (later destroyed by fire). (Steve Cotham, *Images of America: The Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, Arcadia Publishing, 2006)

Members brought with them many of their social standards and formality, as well as domestic servants who lived in small buildings behind the cabins. Meals were served by waiters in the clubhouse, nurses watched over the children, and members arrived well-attired to performances and formal costume parties.³ Societal manners and customs were enjoyed, but daily activities were geared to enjoyment of the rustic and rugged environment of the mountains.



Figure 10. Socializing on the original Appalachian Clubhouse porch, undated photograph. (Cotham, *Images of America*)

3. Thomason and Associates, *The History and Architecture of the Elkmont Community* (Atlanta, GA: National Park Service Southeast Regional Office, 1993), p. 17.

The Appalachian Club was promoted in brochures distributed by the Little River Railroad and the Knoxville & Augusta Railroad. The natural surroundings, cozy cottages, and modern amenities were advertised to entice newcomers. A 1914 brochure, “The Appalachian Club,” was distributed to a select audience and announced that the Club “has made extensive improvement on its club house and annex since last year, and is now in position to serve its members better than ever before.”⁴ Some of the changes touted in the brochure included a complete water and sewerage system and electric lighting. A water tank was constructed near the Hommel Orchard. Prior to this time, water was provided from a spring near the bank of Jakes Creek.

The electric system for the clubhouse and cabins was provided by a water-powered generator. This system provided electricity for two hours a day. The system failed several years later when members began adding electric stoves, refrigerators, and heaters to their cabins. Later, diesel-powered generators were installed at the northern end of the Elkmont community where a dam on the Little River was created. With this system, lights were turned off promptly at 10:00 PM each night. It was not until 1952 that commercial electric service was brought to the Elkmont community by the Sevier County Electric Company.⁵



Figure 11. Wonderland Hotel, undated photograph. (NPS-GRSM Collection)

4. *Ibid.*, p. 11.

5. Gail L. Guymon, *Daisy Town Historic District*, draft National Register Nomination, 2010.

Wonderland Park Company (Club)

In 1911, the Little River Lumber Company made another deed of land, selling acreage just north of the Elkmont community to Charles B. Carter. Carter and his brother founded the Wonderland Park Company and constructed the Wonderland Park Hotel on their new acreage in 1912. Like the Appalachian Club, the Wonderland Hotel catered to those seeking relaxation and recreation in a mountain landscape, and was conveniently reached by the daily passenger train from Knoxville, the Elkmont Special. The Wonderland Hotel was also advertised by the two rail lines in brochures promising an array of outdoor activities, such as fishing, horseback riding and mountain climbing, as well as social events and formal dances.

Only a year later, the Carter brothers’ activities were drawing less pleasant attention. The brothers were selling land aggressively and suspected of deceitful sales tactics. A legal dispute in 1913 disrupted any plans they may have had for the property, and the land was sold instead to a group of Knoxville residents who established the Wonderland Club. The Wonderland Club community was similar to the Appalachian Club with its members’ cabins clustered near the hotel.

The Town of Elkmont

The little community that began as a lumber camp in 1908 soon became a sizable town as the Little River Lumber Company increased its operations in the valley. Elkmont was situated in a relatively flat area where Jakes Creek joined the Little River. The workers’ town had a character distinct from its later neighbors at the Appalachian and Wonderland clubs. At its peak, Elkmont town could boast several dozen dwellings, a few commercial buildings, a school and two churches. The buildings were generally stark and utilitarian, reflecting the town’s impermanence and working population. The decline of this early lumber town coincided with the relocation of the Little River Company’s operations from Elkmont in 1923, and the discontinuation of the rail company in 1925. The loss of the primary employer and the area’s designation as a national park signaled Elkmont’s end as a year-round community. Between 1934 and 1942, the majority of the town was removed with many frame buildings dismantled for their lumber.



Figure 12. Undated photograph of log train passing through Elkmont. (Little River Railroad and Lumber Company Museum)



Figure 13. ca. 1912 photograph showing the community of logging company employees. (GRSM collection 3-I-4206)

In the late 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps chose the site of the former town of Elkmont for their camp which, in 1952, was redeveloped by the National Park Service into a campground.

Retreat of the Lumber Company and Rise in Tourism

The relocation of the Little River Lumber Company and the abandoned railroad damaged the original Elkmont community, but the loss of transportation also initiated changes for the wealthy club members. Fortunately, the departure of the rail line coincided with the rising popularity of the automobile. The Little River Railroad tracks were replaced by a gravel road for automobile traffic. New and improved roads were soon built elsewhere in the region as part of the nationwide trend of rebuilding, which became a profitable enterprise during the 1920s and reflected the

demand for efficiency and enjoyment of auto travel. Road improvements were spurred on by businessmen and organizations that sought to increase automobile travel to bring potential business to their communities.

The new roads and new automobiles brought more people to the Elkmont clubs. Visitors spent their time in the rustic, comfortable cabins and enjoyed their club meals and dances. Outdoor activities continued to be popular, including swimming, hiking, picnicking, and games such as badminton. The increased membership necessitated an increase in infrastructure. Additional cabins were built, boardwalks added, swimming holes created, and amenities extended. Construction continued at both clubs throughout the 1920s, but as the region transformed during the early- to mid-1930s into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, new development was halted.

The “Back-to-Nature” Movement and Craftsman Architecture

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the exploitation of natural resources was destroying the American rural landscape and indirectly leading to unsightly urban sprawl. In response, Americans took a renewed interest in nature. Cities were increasingly seen as crowded, polluted, immoral places that had lost touch with the simplicity and purity of the country. In contrast, suburban or country living was viewed as wholesome; outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and canoeing became steadily more popular. This renewed interest in the outdoors led to the formation of national conservation and awareness organizations, including the Sierra Club (1892), National Audubon Society (1905), Boy Scouts (1910), and the Campfire Girls (1912). These nature-oriented movements sparked enthusiasm for the national park system and the numerous outdoor lodges and summer resorts that sprung up around the country.

Popular at this time was the Craftsman style of architecture, which caught on in cities as an offspring of the American Arts and Crafts Movement. The Craftsman style sought a return to architectural simplicity, truthfulness in construction, use of natural materials, and



Figure 14. Craftsman style houses, Hunt & Eager, Architects. (*The Craftsman*, November 1908)

harmony with the natural surroundings. It shared many of the values of the back-to-nature movement and, beginning about 1905, was particularly popular for small suburban or country houses.

Due to the propensity of bungalow house designs, the Craftsman style is often referred to as the Bungalow style. The style appealed to the public and was spread in numerous trade and architectural journals and magazines. Mail-order catalogs featured countless variations of Craftsman-style houses. With its use of natural materials and harmonious design with nature, the style became an especially fitting choice for summer houses and mountain retreats.

The architectural precepts of the Craftsman style include a reliance on locally available natural materials, low-pitched roofs, and large porches. River stone was an important element in Craftsman buildings found in chimneys and foundations, as well as retaining walls and other landscape features.

Architecture in the Elkmont Development

As membership in the two Elkmont club communities grew, so did construction activity. The majority of the buildings, mostly summer cabins, were built between 1910 and 1930. Also built during this period were hotels, other clubhouses, and numerous outbuildings such as guest cottages, servants' quarters, woodsheds, privies and garages.

Most of Elkmont's buildings from this period have a simple rustic appearance often described as



Figure 15. The 1934 Appalachian Clubhouse showing uses of natural materials and simple geometric forms.

“folk” or “vernacular.” How vernacular they are is hard to tell, especially due to the popularity of the Craftsman style. Architects may have evoked local architecture rather than simply followed local tradition.

Whether based on traditional folk designs, the Craftsman style, or a commingling of the two, common features are found in the architecture of Elkmont. The original Appalachian Clubhouse burned in the early 1930s and was replaced by a new clubhouse in 1934. Both presented the rustic style.

Most buildings in the club are balloon frame construction covered with board-and-batten, weatherboard, or drop siding, and originally had galvanized steel roofs, many later replaced with asphalt shingles. Some had bark-peeled porch posts and railings. Stone, bricks, and concrete were the typical materials for chimneys, foundations, and retaining walls, while outdoor living spaces were created with the large porches found on most Elkmont buildings. Wood paneled doors and variations on the casement window are other common features found in the buildings of both club communities. The rustic elements of the exterior are continued on the interior and are evident in the predominance of exposed wood ceilings, walls, and floors.

Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was approximately seventeen years in the making, from 1923 to 1940, and brought



A group of hikers are seen in this photograph taking a brief rest on a hike up newly named Mount Chapman. They are Harvey Broome (left), honoree David Chapman (front), and Knoxville photographer Jim Thompson (right). These men were leaders of the Tennesseans promoting the creation of the park. Both Chapman Highway (Highway 441) and this peak in the Smokies were named for David Chapman. (Thompson Collection, Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection.)

Figure 16. Colonel David C. Chapman (front) one of the founders of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and member of the Appalachian Club. (Cotham, *Images of America*)

about the demise of the club communities. The idea to create a national park in the Great Smoky Mountains was initially proposed by Willis and Anne Davis, who were inspired by the national parks in the west and wondered whether the same could be created here. The Davis family, wealthy and influential Knoxville residents, were able to generate interest in the idea among politicians, businessmen, and naturalists.

As the park idea gained momentum, a group of Knoxville businessmen, many of whom were members of the Appalachian Club, created the Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association in 1923 to promote the creation of a national park. One of its members was Colonel David C. Chapman, a successful Knoxville wholesale druggist, who quickly became a driving force behind the movement. Successful lobbying campaigns, first from citizen groups and then the states of Tennessee and North Carolina, eventually convinced the U.S. government to authorize in 1926 purchase of the land for the park.

Although the movement faced many obstacles, primarily from those who feared the park would interfere with their business or property interests, it continued to gain adherents. Perhaps the most

powerful was John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who made a \$5 million donation with the stipulation that it would be matched.⁶ With contributions in hand, organizers began the arduous task of convincing landowners to sell.

Unlike previous national parks, with land donated or already in Federal domain, property had to be purchased by the states of North Carolina and Tennessee for transfer to the Federal government. Property holders were reluctant to sell. An agreement was eventually reached with Elkmont residents in 1932 whereby landowners would receive lifetime leases in return for sale of their property at half the appraised value. Appraisals began in 1932.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park was officially established in 1934, but it was not until 1940 that the park was formally dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The establishment of the park effectively ended both new development and the sale of lots in the Elkmont communities. Although the restrictions were detrimental to expansion of both clubs, they nevertheless contributed to the overall preservation of the community plan, landscape features, and most of the buildings.

Available records do not address changes in the two clubs during the 1930s and 40s. However, in 1952, the lease terms were reconstituted as members of both clubs gave up their lifetime leases for a fixed 20-year lease in exchange for commercial electric service.⁷ The non-profit Elkmont Preservation Committee obtained an additional twenty-year extension in 1972 with the majority expiring in 1992. Three families refused to accept the terms and procured extensions to December 31, 2001. In 1994, the properties associated with the two clubs were listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Elkmont Historic District, and in 2001, the last of the leases finally expired. All properties are now under National Park Service ownership.

6. "History of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park," www.gsmnp.com.

7. "Elkmont Historic District. Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan Amendment" (National Park Service, January 2006).

I.B Chronology of Development and Use

The Creekmore Cabin is an unassuming one-story frame dwelling in the Appalachian Club complex. At the northern end of the community known as Daisy Town, it is one of the cabins closest to the Club building. The name Creekmore Cabin reflects the family name of the last lease holder. Unlike many Elkmont cabins, in this case the family of the original purchasers retained the house for generations.⁸ The cabin is also referred to as Appalachian Club Cabin No. 6 in previous reports, in concert with its street house number.

Documented history of the cabin is limited. It was built in about 1910 while under ownership of the Appalachian Club, the sportsman's club that acquired 50 acres that year.⁹ The cabin had a rustic style porch of bark-peeled posts, railing, and decorative brackets, all later removed.

Walter and Ellen Van Gilder

The earliest residents are believed to be the Van Gilder family. Walter Van Gilder bought the cabin in 1919 when the Club sold many lots and cabins to private owners, though it is unclear whether the lumber company built the cabin or the Van Gilders built it before the deeded purchase.¹⁰

Walter Atkin Van Gilder (1870-1943) was a prominent Knoxville businessman who owned the Van Gilder Glass Company, which made mirrors, stained and clear leaded glass, windows and porch lights.¹¹

His granddaughter recalled, "My grandfather Walter Van Gilder owned the Van Gilder Glass

Company but didn't like business much (Fig. 17). At the end of the day after the Dutch workmen (his family was Dutch) left he would go down and make stained glass windows.... He gave many away to churches in the area. One of his windows in clear glass is in our former cabin in Elkmont."¹²

His wife was Ellen Rachel Bolli Van Gilder, an accomplished woman who in the 1890s went to the University of Chicago to study art. "She majored in carpentry and furniture design, a strange choice for



Figure 17. Example of a label of the Van Gilder Glass Company, this one for its mirrors. (http://httpwww.antiquesnavigator.com/images/appraisals/2246_antique_appraisal_007.jpg ma)

8. List of last lease holders on map labeled "Appalachian Club Cabins Overall," in Garrow, *Cultural Resources*, Appendix III.

9. Deed book 16/343; Thomason and Associates, *History and Architecture*, p. 10. Herb Handy interview.

10. Deed trace; Thomason and Associates, *History and Architecture*, p. 187.

11. http://httpwww.antiquesnavigator.com/images/appraisals/2246_antique_appraisal_007.jpg ma

12. "An Interview with Eleanor Dickinson, 2005," <http://eleanordickinson.wordpress.com/an-interview/>

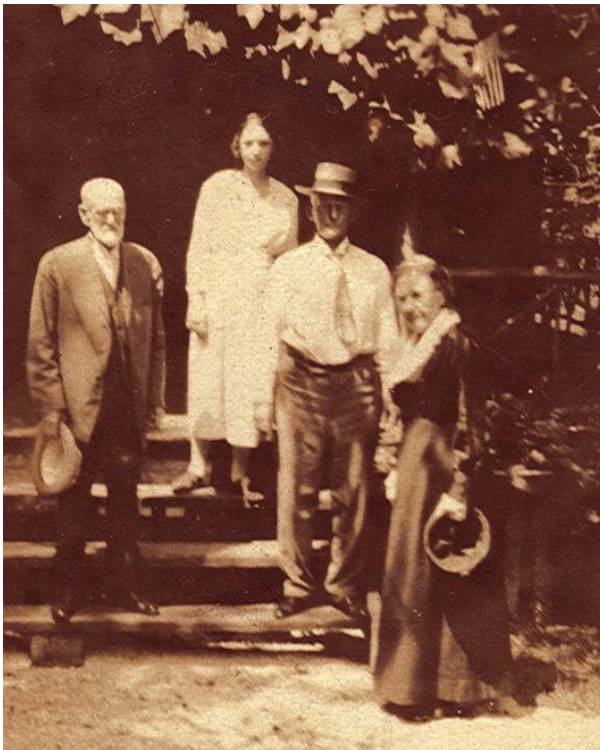


Figure 18. Walter and Ellen Van Gilder, ca. 1915. (ancestry.com)

a Southern lady. Many of her pieces of carved furniture were in the house: they were all black. She built and carved them in white oak wood and then ‘fumed’ the pieces which turned them black.”¹³

She was president of the Knoxville Art League in 1910 when the Elkmont cabin was built. It is not known whether any of her furniture was in the cabin.

The Van Gilders lived in an imposing house in Knoxville. During the Depression their daughter Evelyn and family moved in with them. Many years later their granddaughter recalled the house, “The Queen Anne Victorian house had 30 rooms, two towers, three porches and a porte cochere to a teardrop shaped driveway that arched one side of the house. There on an acre of land was a smaller house in the back yard with three rooms for servants, which was converted to garages as the family got more cars (Fig. 19).”¹⁴

The Van Gilders chose the simple cabin in Elkmont as their place to relax with their similarly-minded and similarly well-heeled friends.

13. Ibid.

14. Ibid.



Figure 19. Van Gilder House on Circle Park in Knoxville, demolished in the 1960s for an expansion of the University of Tennessee campus. (Family collection)

Government Purchase and Lease

It appears that Van Gilder owned the Elkmont property in full until 1932 when he and his wife Ellen R. Van Gilder, called Ella, sold a one-third interest to their daughter Evelyn Louise Creekmore.¹⁵ The same year, those three and R. E. Creekmore sold the cabin to the State of Tennessee when the process of transfer to the National Park Service began.¹⁶ Like many cabin owners at Elkmont, the family continued to use, and to expand, the cabin under the park’s leasing program until the program ended.

Evelyn and R.E. Creekmore

The Van Gilders’ daughter Evelyn Louise Van Gilder (1905-1990) married Robert Elmond Creekmore in 1929, a few years before her parents transferred the one-third interest in Elkmont to her, which subsequently was sold to the state.

15. Deed book 66/230. Both Ellen R. Van Gilder and Walter Van Gilder’s names are on the 1932 deed, though only Walter’s is on the 1919 purchase deed.

16. Deed book 59/385. R. E. Creekmore was Evelyn Louise Creekmore’s husband. His name was not on the earlier 1932 deed.



Figure 20. Evelyn Van Gilder in 1924, daughter of Walter and Ellen Van Gilder. (ancestry.com)

They lived in Knoxville where Creekmore was an attorney with the firm of Hodges and Creekmore.¹⁷ During the hard years of the Depression they moved in with her parents, Walter and Ellen Van Gilder, in the large Knoxville house. The Creekmore's daughter Eleanor spent her early years there.

The Creekmores vacationed at the leased cabin at Elkmont. Both they and her parents, the Van Gilders, added rooms to the cabin to accommodate the extended family.

Eleanor and Wade Dickinson

The Creekmores' daughter Eleanor Vaughn Creekmore (1931-) became a successful nationally-exhibited artist. Her papers are in Special Collections of the University of Tennessee Libraries.¹⁸ She married Wade Oakes Dickinson III

17. Knox County Birth Certificate, Marriage Certificate; *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, February 1929.

18. "An Interview with Eleanor Dickinson, 2005;" http://dlc.lib.utk.edu/spc/view?docId=ead/0012_000587_000000_0000/0012_000587_000000_0000.xml



Figure 21. Evelyn (daughter of the Van Gilders) with her husband R.E. Creekmore, photographed in 1951. They were the parents of Eleanor Creekmore Dickinson. (ancestry.com)

(1926-2011) of Sharon, Pennsylvania in 1952. At that time she was a senior at the University of Tennessee; he was a graduate of West Point and an engineer and physicist working first with nuclear aircraft. Although the couple moved to California, Eleanor returned frequently to Knoxville and Elkmont, where her children continued the family's enjoyment of the community.¹⁹

In the 1990s she was one of the strong proponents of nominating the Elkmont Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. In 2006 she published a book on the history of Elkmont.

Cabin Modifications

The single-story, board-and-batten cabin has clearly discernible additions and modifications made over time. The phases of construction modification can be identified by the characteristics of the construction materials: the size of the millwork, tool marks, spacing, and general quality of the materials. At least four phases of design changes are apparent. Although little documentation has been found to identify the

19. Undated unidentified newspaper, ca. 1952, and *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, Sun February 24, 1952, p. D1.



Figure 22. The living room, showing the vacated house with remnant furniture in 2001. (HABS-250-G-12)

dates of these changes, and the rustic and simple character of the cabin makes dating most changes difficult, an investigation of building fabric has helped determine their sequence.

As the family grew and the lifestyle of the club changed, the Creekmore Cabin evolved from a three-room to a nine-room cabin. The original cabin structure, which will be referred to as the main block, consisted of three rooms, two

bedrooms on the north side and a living room on the south. A full-front porch provided entrance to the living room and to the east bedroom. Because club members took all their meals at the clubhouse, cabins were typically built without kitchens (Fig. 23).

The first expansion was the addition of a porch on the back of the cabin, built at the same width as the main block and with a shed roof (Fig. 24).

The second expansion was extensive, predominantly to add service rooms to the cabin. The back porch, or a portion of it, was enclosed to create two rooms, a dining room at the south, and a smaller room at the north, perhaps for storage. The rooms appear to have been created at the same time, yet the small room is sheathed on the exterior with board-and-batten, while the dining room is clad with weatherboards. Perhaps the dining room began with the west view towards Jakes Creek screened, and only later enclosed with a different cladding. It is also possible that the low horizontal windows suggested horizontal sheathing below.

South of the dining room, creating a new southwest back corner of the house, two rooms were added,

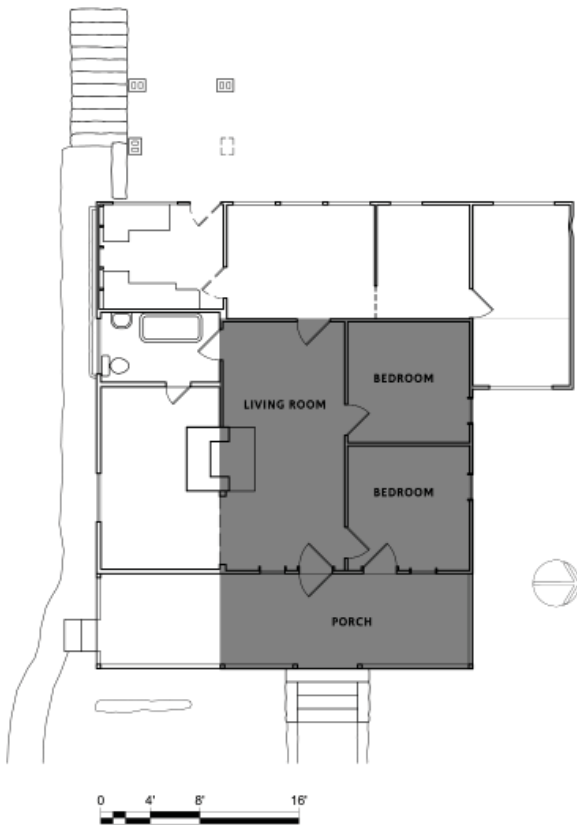


Figure 23. Floor plan showing the original main block in dark grey.



Figure 24. Floor plan showing the first phase of alterations in dark grey, the addition of a back porch the width of the building.



Figure 25. Raised deck at kitchen door seen in 2001, when the tall CMU piers are near collapse. (HABS-250-G-8)



Figure 26a. Leaded glass window of clear patterned glass made for the cabin by owner Walter Van Gilder in the factory of his Van Gilder Glass Company. (Family collection)



Figure 26b. A clear sheet of replacement glass was installed after the Van Gilder leaded window was stolen from the cabin in 2014. Interior features of the bathroom are visible through the glass in this image. (Oppermann, June 2014)

a kitchen and bathroom beneath a south-sloping shed roof. The new kitchen extended south from the dining room with access to both the dining room and the exterior. At one time an open deck extended from the kitchen's back steps, high above the steep slope towards Jake's Creek (*Fig. 25*).

The bathroom was built immediately east of the kitchen, on the south side of the main block of the house adjoining the living room. An unusual feature of the house was installed in this small room. A long ribbon of leaded glass panes in textured patterns was made for the bathroom by Walter Van Gilder, who bought the cabin in 1919 and whose family used it for generations.

In 2014 this window was stolen from the cabin, and replaced by NPS with a clear glass pane (*Figs. 26*).²⁰

20. Dianne Flaugh, GRSM, personal communication.

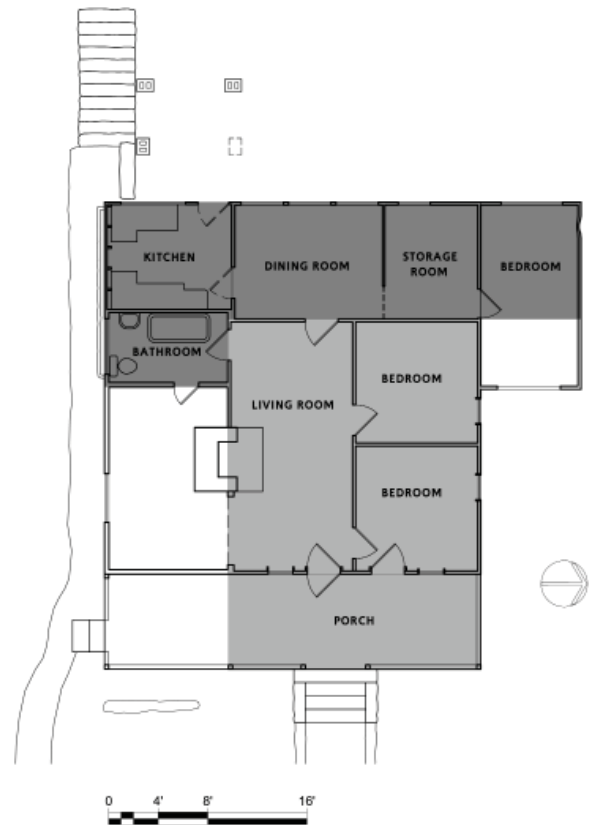


Figure 27. Floor plan showing the second phase of alterations in dark grey, the enclosure of the back porch and addition of three flanking rooms.

At the northern end of the former back porch was added a small bedroom with flooring and floor framing that match the kitchen and bathroom. Like the kitchen, the new bedroom created a new back corner of the house, this one at the northwest. The room was accessed only through the room next to the dining room and was likely a servant's room, added with the kitchen and dining room when Club meals were winding down. Many Elkmont cabins had outbuildings for servants' sleeping quarters, others had none, and still others added a small room to the house (*Fig. 27*).²¹

The next period of alteration changed the exterior appearance of the house significantly and added outside living space, an exterior room. The front porch was extended south and then along the south side of the house to create a wraparound porch. A sketch made in 1979 shows the porch in this configuration, wrapping to the south beyond the exposed end chimney. The east wall of the bathroom is in shadow (*Fig. 32*).

21. Herb Handy interview.



Figure 28. Sketch signed and dated 1979 by Eleanor Creekmore Dickinson, showing the porch wrapping to the south, with its distinctive rustic-style porch elements seen in the photographs below. (Family collection)

Drawn by the Van Gilders' granddaughter Eleanor Creekside Dickinson, the sketch also shows significant features of the porch. Two photographs from the late 1960s and early 1970s show details of these features. The porch roof is supported by rustic-style porch posts with railings and decorative diagonal brackets. Posts are bark-peeled logs, handrails are smaller peeled logs, and the x-frame braces and decorative diagonal trim are yet smaller peeled branches. These features add charm to a simple mountain cabin and might indicate that other Elkmont cabins were built with similar features.

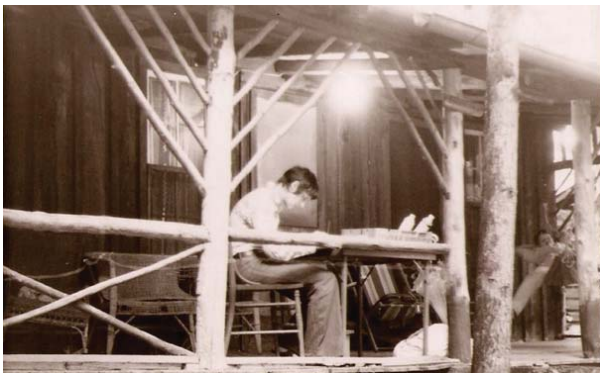


Figure 29. Porch in 1967 shows the bark-peeled porch posts, railings, x-bracing, and decorative diagonal brackets. A bulb in the ceiling socket provides light. (Family collection)

Though the porch today is strikingly different, the trees at the front and south sides confirm that this is the Creekmore Cabin, sketched by the Creekmore daughter (*Figs. 28-31*).

The river stone chimney is a significant feature of the cabin, but was not part of the original construction, as evidenced by interruption of the living room wainscot. No documentation has been found of its date of installation, and it is possible that the stone covers the exposed faces of an earlier



Figure 30. The porch looking east. Note the sign hanging over the steps. (Family collection)



Figure 31. The house and trees today, seen from a similar angle as the 1979 sketch.

chimney. It sits on a modern CMU foundation. It may have been built or altered when the south wraparound porch was created.

The side porch ceased its outdoor use when it was enclosed to create an interior room immediately south of the living room. The floor, because it was built as a porch floor, is considerably lower than the floors of the rest of the house. The enclosed room appears to have served as an extended living room; the five feet of wall east of the chimney was removed to provide a generous opening between the new room and the living room (*Fig. 33*).

A comparatively small change was made when the servant's bedroom on the northeast back corner was lengthened by about five feet, extending east along the north side of the house. The addition is readily apparent; the flooring of the extension differs from the earlier flooring, and a seam in the floor delineates the change. On the exterior, the two sections are sheathed with different types of board-and-batten (*Fig. 33*).

These were the last additions to the building, the eighth and ninth rooms of the three-room cabin built in 1910.

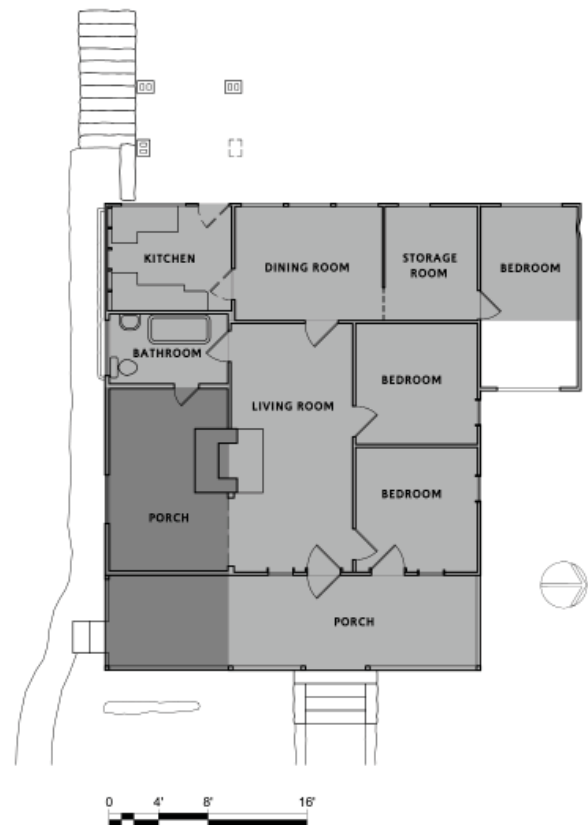


Figure 32. Floor plan showing the third phase of alterations in dark grey, the addition of a south side porch to create a wraparound porch.



Figure 33. Character-defining rustic elements were removed and replaced in the 1980s when the house was still in use. Wet towels hung on the railings and a pile of innertubes point to a day at the river. (Family collection)

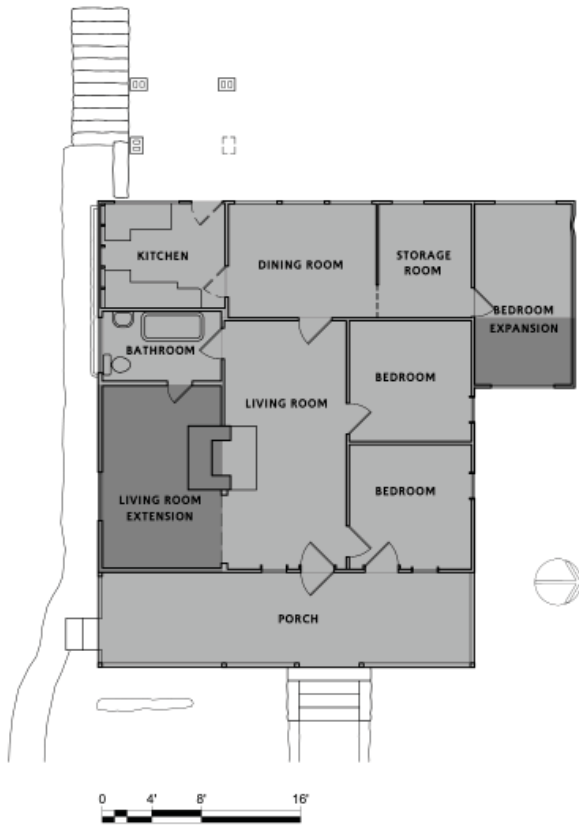


Figure 34. Floor plan showing the fourth phase of alterations in dark grey, the enclosure of the south porch and expansion of the small back bedroom.



Figure 35. Gutter above entrance bay of front porch. Note the house number 6 above the entrance, and another on the north post of that bay. (HABS-250-G-11)

A major design change was made to the front of the cabin in the 1980s, perhaps when the south porch was enclosed. The front porch was rebuilt. Deck boards were replaced and the character-defining rustic elements were removed: the bark-peeled posts, railings, and diagonal branches. New posts and railings replaced them. The new porch did not attempt to replicate the old; posts are standard 4x4s, the railings and x-braces 2x4s (*Fig. 34*).

Other observable changes are more recent and indicative of a vacant building lacking maintenance.

Documentary photographs taken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 2001 show gutters in four places at that time. They have since fallen or been removed. On the porch, gutters were in place above the entrance bay and along the roof's south sloping edge. This south gutter ran the length of the south side of the house (*Fig. 35*).

National Park Service

The cabin's current name reflects the Creekmore family as the last lessee before the leasing program ended, though it is not known how long the family continued to spend time in Elkmont. Creekmore Cabin is included as a contributing structure in the National Register historic district.

The leases on all cabins within the Appalachian Club complex, with the exception of an unidentified three, expired in 1992; all leases expired by 2001.²² The date of the Creekmore Cabin's lease expiration is not known.

The park's General Management Plan (GMP) prescribed in 1982 that all structures within Elkmont be torn down at the termination of their leases and their sites returned to a natural state. This contributed to the general lack of maintenance of the cabins.

Subsequent to the preparation of the GMP, the Elkmont Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the GMP provisions

were determined to constitute an adverse effect. Efforts towards preservation of the cabins were successful. A 2006 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) reversed the demolition proposal, and in 2008 a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was prepared by representatives of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office and other parties. The EIS was made part of the MOA. The Agreement states in part, "...eighteen contributing and one non-contributing building will be retained. ...A total of 30 contributing buildings will be removed. ... The exterior of the sixteen buildings in Daisy Town will be restored and their interiors rehabilitated." The MOA includes stipulations for documentation and treatment.

In 2009 the National Park Service amended the General Management Plan and prepared the Elkmont Historic District Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which outlines the current strategy to retain nineteen buildings in the Elkmont National Register Historic District. Of that number, eighteen are contributing features of the National Register district; "where adequate documentation is available," their exteriors are to be restored "to a point within the period of significance" (1913-1941 as per current National Register nomination) and their interiors preserved. One of the nineteen is a non-contributing building; its exterior is to be returned to its historic configuration and its interior preserved. The Creekmore Cabin is one of the eighteen contributing structures of the district.

As required in the MOA, an HSR shall be prepared for each historic building retained, a Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) shall be prepared, and the National Register nomination shall be revised to evaluate "whether there remains a new historic district resulting from implementation of the undertaking." The revised National Register nomination likely will result in an expanded period of significance for the historic properties. As also stipulated in the MOA, "Implementation... shall be subject to availability of appropriated funds."

22. National Park Service, "Future Management of Elkmont Historic District."

I.C Physical Description

Unless otherwise indicated, photographs were taken by the author in 2011-2014.

General Description

The Creekmore Cabin is a one-story wood-frame vernacular summer residence that has evolved through several additions and modifications. The original three-room structure has expanded into a nine-room complex, approximately 30 feet wide by 30 feet deep. The cabin's main entrance faces due east, in a row of cabins fronting the narrow Daisy Town Road.

A low-pitched gable roof covers the original block of the cabin with several shed roofs extending over the front porch, south, and west wings. The cabin is predominantly clad in vertical board-and-batten siding, with horizontal weatherboard and modern paneling at some locations at the added wings. The original structure sits on unmilled posts, but CMUs (concrete masonry units) support the perimeter additions. There is a single river stone chimney centered in the south end of the original cabin block.



Figure 36. Southeast oblique toward Creekmore Cabin from Daisy Town Road with other cabins of the Appalachian Club Complex.

Site Features

The Creekmore Cabin is located at the north end of the Appalachian Club Complex of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Sevier County, Tennessee. The complex is situated on a wooded ridge above Bearwallow Branch and Jakes Creek. Jakes Creek Road, which becomes Daisy Town Road, is the main thoroughfare running north-south with cabins aligned on both sides. Cabin sites are dotted with large evergreen and deciduous trees and natural rock outcroppings, evoking the feeling of a mountain retreat. Low walls, narrow walkways and broad patios of unfinished stone criss-cross the complex, linking the buildings to the landscape and delineating individual plots of land while defining the community as a whole.

Main Entrance and Walkways

Retaining walls built of mortared stacks of local river stone run north-south along both sides of Jakes Creek Road through much of the northern end of the Appalachian Club Complex. The retaining wall in front of Creekmore Cabin has deteriorated in some locations. On the west side of Daisy Town Road, a few feet beyond the retaining wall and about two feet above the roadbed,



Figure 37. River stone retaining wall and gravel walkway in front of Creekmore Cabin.



Figure 38. Front walkway and steps to Creekmore Cabin.

a narrow gravel walkway runs parallel to the retaining wall. At Creekmore Cabin, a mortared flagstone walkway leads westward from the gravel walk to the front porch steps. The walkway is lined with small river stones. Four poured-in-place concrete steps, nearly five feet in width, lead up to the front porch; the steps are flanked by mortared river stone cheek walls.

A second path of mortared river stone runs westward from the gravel walk at the south side of the cabin (Fig. 39). The path is continuous along the south elevation and terminates at a set of mortared river stone steps in the back (west) yard.

South Steps

A secondary set of steps to the front (east) porch are at the south end (Fig. 39). The two poured-in-place concrete steps measure 2'-7" wide and are accessed from the river stone path running along the south elevation of the cabin.

West Steps

At the southwest corner of the cabin, eleven mortared river stone steps connect the south side yard to the backyard, where the grade drops off significantly (Fig. 40). The steps measure approximately 4'-6" wide.



Figure 39. River stone walkway along south elevation and south porch steps.



Figure 40. Southwest steps down to the backyard.

Exterior

The original one-story cabin has discernible additions and modifications made over time; some appear to be more makeshift and of poorer quality than others. The original main block is made up of the three northeast rooms (Rooms 102, 103, and 104), which likely had an original porch along the front, or east, elevation. Additions were progressively added to the west, south, and north sides of this main block, though the dates of installation are not known. The original main



Figure 41. Oblique view from the northeast.

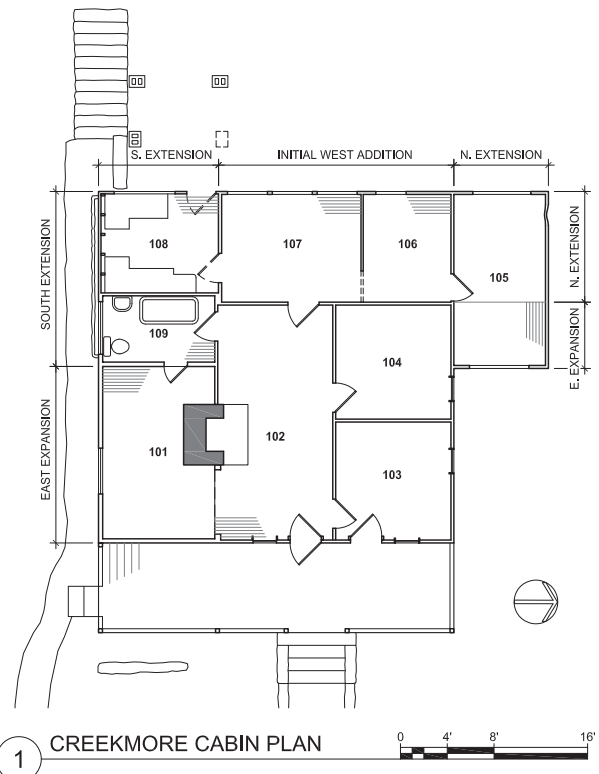


Figure 42. West elevation additions.

block is approximately square with a gable roof and is clad in board-and-batten siding. Shed roofs extend over the various additions. Unpainted galvanized 5-V metal roofing covers all the roofs.

It appears that the earliest addition was along the west side of the main block and likely began as a porch. The floor framing across the full width of the west elevation (Rooms 106 and 107) was constructed at one time and later enclosed. The added spaces are clad in two different materials. The north portion of this addition (Room 106) is clad in vertical board-and-batten siding, different from that of the main block, and the south portion (Room 107) is clad in horizontal weatherboard.

Small additions were subsequently constructed at the north and south ends of the west addition (west portion of Room 105 and Room 108/ 109 respectively), extending beyond the footprint of the original main block. The north addition was later extended to the east (east portion of Room 105), wrapping the northwest corner of the main block. This north addition (west portion of Room



1 CREEKMORE CABIN PLAN

Figure 43. Floor plan of Creekmore Cabin.

105) is clad in a third type of vertical board-and-batten siding while its later east extension (east portion of Room 105) is clad in a fourth type of board-and-batten siding. These north and south additions could have occurred concurrently or separately. The south addition (Rooms 108 and 109) was extended to the east as well, to create a porch that ran the remaining length of the south elevation of the main block to meet the front porch. This south addition was later enclosed (Room 101) and is clad in modern paneling that mimics board-and-batten siding. A seam in the front (east) elevation of the cabin, where the exterior cladding changes from paneling to board-



Figure 44. Seam in cladding of east elevation.

and-batten siding, clearly delineates the east expansion from the original main block.

The front porch, likely original to the main block, was extended to the south to align with the east expansion.

At the front elevation are two five-panel wood doors; the south doorway also has a two-panel screen door. The rear door is no longer in place on the west elevation (*Fig. 61*); the broken two-panel wood door sits inside the Kitchen (Room 108).

There are four original four-over-four-light double-hung wood sash windows of the main block. Two are on the front elevation, one at the north side of the north doorway (Room 103), and another on the south side of the south doorway (Room 102). The other two original windows are on the north elevation (Rooms 103 and 104).

The north extension of the west addition (Room 105) has two typical four-over-four-light double-hung sash windows set horizontally in tracks; one is on the east elevation and the other is on the west elevation. The west elevation of the south addition (Room 108) has another four-over-four-light double-hung sash window set horizontally in tracks. Also on the west elevation (Room 107) are three six-light awning windows. A single four-light sash window is set horizontally in tracks on the west elevation at Room 106. The south elevation has two windows. The east one, at Room 101, is a two-light aluminum sash window that slides horizontally. The west window, at Room 109, is a 36-light wood sash window with decorative glass set horizontally, made by the original cabin owner.

A river stone chimney is centrally located on the south end of the original main block, though the chimney is not original.

Interior Organization

(Refer to Section I.B: *Chronology of Development and Use* above for a more detailed description of the changes to the cabin over time.) The original main block was made up of three rooms, the living room on the south side, Room 102, and two bedrooms arranged east-west on the north side, Rooms 103 and 104. Today, after additions, the cabin consists of nine rooms (*Fig. 43*). The living room, which is now at the center of the

cabin, retains its original exterior door on its east elevation that is the principal public entry. A secondary entry to the north provides access to the northeast bedroom, Room 103.

The initial west elevation addition, Rooms 106 and 107, is accessed from the living room; the south room, Room 107, likely served as a dining room when the kitchen was added. Its doorway on the north wall provides access to another smaller room, Room 106, perhaps used for storage. The north extension, Room 105, likely a bedroom, can only be accessed through the small storage space. The south extension of the west addition contains a kitchen and bathroom, Rooms 108 and 109. The kitchen, Room 108, has an exterior doorway on its west elevation. The east expansion of a south porch now contains a large room (Room 101), likely enclosed for use as additional living space.

Construction Characteristics

Structural Systems

Foundations/Flooring Systems

The post-and-beam foundation of the original main block is constructed of unmilled locust posts that vary in size from 14" to 18" in diameter. The posts typically rest on a single stone set at grade. The additions and the front porch are supported on CMU piers. At the front porch, some of the CMU piers have a single top course of red brick. There is a single brick pier in the southwest corner below the kitchen addition. A square lattice grid, made up of ¾" by 1½" wood strips at 7" o. c., conceals the foundation along most of the north and east elevations of the cabin and at the south



Figure 45. Typical unmilled foundation post and modern CMU pier.



Figure 46. Lattice grid at foundation.

end of the front porch (Fig. 46). At the south elevation, only remnants of the vertical wood strips remain. The increasingly taller foundation supports of the west rooms are exposed as the grade slopes steeply to Jakes Creek to the south, and are easily accessed.

The wall sills that run around the perimeter of the original main block measure $3\frac{3}{4}$ " wide by 8" tall. A girder, made up of a pair of $2\frac{1}{4}$ " by $6\frac{1}{4}$ " boards, runs north-south below the center of the main block. The floor joists, which measure $2\frac{1}{4}$ " by $6\frac{1}{4}$ ", span east-west between the sill and the girder at approximately 30" on center (o. c.).

The initial addition on the west elevation has a 5" by 8" sill and 2" by $5\frac{3}{4}$ " joists running north-south at approximately 30" to 32" o. c. The north and south extensions that came later, extending the west addition beyond the original footprint of the cabin, both have $2\frac{1}{4}$ " by $6\frac{1}{4}$ " joists that run north-south at approximately 28" to 32" o. c. The later eastward expansion of the north extension has floor joist that measure $1\frac{7}{8}$ " by $6\frac{1}{8}$ " and are spaced approximately 20" o. c. The east expansion of the south addition, built first as a porch and later enclosed (Room 101), has a lower floor from the rest of the cabin, approximately 7" below that of the original main block. The $1\frac{1}{2}$ " by $5\frac{1}{2}$ " joists run east-west approximately 16" o. c.

The southward extension of the front porch, which was likely constructed with the east expansion, has $1\frac{1}{2}$ " by $5\frac{1}{4}$ " girders that run east-west. The joists, also measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ " by $5\frac{1}{4}$ ", run north-south at approximately 16" o. c.

Wall Framing

The walls of the main block measure 3" thick and are apparently stick framed. However, the size and

orientation of studs are unknown because this area is not accessible. The walls are sheathed on the exterior side with rough sawn board-and-batten siding. These boards vary in width from $9\frac{1}{2}$ " to 10" and are $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. The battens measure 1" by $2\frac{1}{4}$ " or $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".

The initial west addition, also stick framed, is sheathed in two different siding types. The north portion has board-and-batten siding similar to that of the main block. The boards measure $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $9\frac{1}{2}$ " and the battens measure 1" by $2\frac{3}{8}$ ". The south portion is sheathed in horizontal weatherboard that measures 1" by 12".

The north extension of the west addition, which was constructed and then later extended eastward, is stick framed and sheathed in two different types of board-and-batten siding. The earlier west portion has smooth sawn board and battens; the boards measure $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $8\frac{1}{2}$ " to $9\frac{3}{4}$ " and the battens measure $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $2\frac{3}{8}$ " to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". The newer east portion has boards that measure $\frac{3}{4}$ " by 9" to $10\frac{1}{2}$ " and battens that measure 1" by 3" to $3\frac{1}{2}$ ".

The south extension of the west addition is stick framed and the walls measure approximately $4\frac{1}{4}$ " thick. The walls are sheathed in 4 foot by 8 foot panels that are meant to look similar to vertical board-and-batten siding. The panels have boards that measure $10\frac{1}{2}$ " and recessed battens that



Figure 47. Front porch with overhanging roof rafters of the main block.

measure 1½". The paneling runs the length of the south elevation and wraps the southeast and southwest corners of the cabin.

Roof Framing

The roof rafters of the cabin's main block vary slightly in size from 1⅞" to 2" wide by 3¾" to 4" tall and are set approximately 30" o. c. The rafters are visible from the front porch where they extend beyond the east exterior wall of the main block (Fig. 47). The front porch roof rafters are set next to the main block rafters. They measure 2" by 3½" to 3¾" and are also spaced approximately 30" o. c. The porch roof decking appears to be new; the boards are ¾" thick and 5¼" wide.

The shed roof rafters of the south extension measure 1¾" to 1⅞" by 4" and are spaced 36" o. c. At the east expansion, the rafters measure 1½" by 3½" and are spaced 26" o. c.

Utility Systems

Heating & Cooling Systems

The heating and cooling of Creekmore Cabin is mainly through passive systems. Because the cabin is located in a wooded mountain region, the space remains relatively cool. Even during summer months, operable windows and a covered porch allow for fresh air and breezes.



Figure 48. Fireplace in the Living Room (Room 102) provided limited heating.



Figure 49. Typical ceramic lamp base mounted on ceiling.



Figure 50. Early fuse box with ceramic tubes in Living Room (Room 102).

Limited heating would have been provided in the living room by the wood burning fireplace, which was added to the cabin.

Electrical Systems

As mentioned in Section I.A, electrical power prior to the 1950s was supplied to the Appalachian Club from a water-powered generator and reportedly was unreliable. After 1952, more reliable electrical power was provided by the Sevier County Electrical Service.

Later commercial electrical service was brought to the cabin from an overhead drop from the road.

The earliest electrical distribution system for the Creekmore Cabin appears to have been knob-and-tube wiring. Developed in the 1880s and remaining in use until the 1940s, knob-and-tube wiring was made up of ceramic knobs mounted on wood surfaces, along with ceramic tubes drilled through framing and walls. The system separated the hot and neutral wires by 4" to 6", and insulates the

wires away from the wood structural members. Remnants of these porcelain tubes or sleeves can be seen in several places on the walls where wiring was routed through the original main block.

The present electrical distribution system is a mix of vintage mid-twentieth-century non-grounded, cloth-wrapped insulated cable together with late-twentieth-century vinyl-wrapped cable. Elsewhere is a mix of mid- and late-twentieth-century in-wall and surface-mounted receptacles and switches. Ceiling-mounted ceramic lamp bases are used in many rooms of the cabin (*Fig. 49*).

An early fuse box with two ceramic tubes remains intact on the east wall of the Living Room (Room 102) just south of the main entry door (*Fig. 50*). A more modern electrical panel with 120 volts and 70 amps is mounted to the east wall of the Kitchen (Room 108) at the rear of the cabin.

Plumbing Systems

According to interviews with owners of the cabins at the Appalachian Club Complex, water was provided by a natural spring. Today, the visible fresh water supply and waste lines are a mixture of copper, galvanized, and PVC piping. A steel supply line, which has been patched with PVC piping in some locations, runs along the west side of the cabin and is continuous to the neighboring cabins.

An inoperable electric hot water heater remains in the southeast corner of the Kitchen (Room 108) (*Fig. 52*).

There is one bathroom in the cabin (Room 109) and the plumbing fixtures include a ceramic-over-cast-iron toilet, a ceramic-over-cast-iron claw-foot



Figure 51. Water supply line that runs along the west elevation.



Figure 52. Inoperable hot water heater in the Kitchen (Room 108).



Figure 53. Plumbing fixtures of the Bathroom (Room 109).

tub, and a ceramic sink (*Fig. 53*). The sink measures 1'-8" wide by 1'-4" deep and has two chrome-plated faucets. The $\frac{3}{4}$ " water supply lines are galvanized pipes and the drain pipe is PVC.

There is another sink in the Kitchen (Room 108) with a galvanized iron basin.

Exterior Features

Front Porch

The front porch runs the full length of the east elevation and is approximately 7'-8" deep by 30'-5" wide. It is likely that the entire porch was rebuilt when the south side porch was enclosed to create

Room 101. The deck boards are new, measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $7\frac{1}{4}$ ". The floor and roof framing are described in the *Structural Systems* section.

The wood porch posts, installed after 1979, measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ " by $3\frac{1}{2}$ " as does the top railing. The x-frame railing, which runs from the porch deck to the underside of the top rail, is framed with $1\frac{1}{2}$ " by $3\frac{1}{2}$ " boards. Attached to the porch header, above the front steps, is the number six.

The porch has two $4\frac{1}{2}$ " ceiling-mounted ceramic lamp bases; each one is roughly centered over a doorway. They both have Romex wiring. In addition, there are two holes for ceramic knob-and-tube wiring in the east wall south of the south doorway, likely for wall sconces that are no longer extant. Hammock hooks are screwed into the walls and framing at the north and south end of the porch.

West Deck

Near the south end of the west elevation are partially collapsed CMU piers that once supported a wood deck. The deck is no longer intact, but



Figure 54. Front (east) elevation porch looking south.



Figure 55. Southwest corner of cabin, location of collapsed deck.



Figure 56. Front (east) elevation porch looking south.

photographs from 2001 (Refer to Section I.B: *Chronology of Development and Use*) show that one once extended from the Kitchen (Room 108).

A modern metal sconce is wall-mounted above the west elevation doorway.

Roof and Rainwater Collection/Dispersal

The main block of the cabin has a low-pitched gable roof with its ridge running north-south. The roofing material is galvanized 5-V metal panels that are unpainted and not back-primed. There is a break in the front gable, where a shed roof extends over the front porch and a similar break in the back gable at the center addition to the main block. The northwest addition has a low-pitched shed roof sloping south to north and the south addition has a low-pitched shed roof sloping north to south.

The roof currently has no gutters or downspouts, though gutters are visible in earlier photographs along the south and east elevations (Refer to Section I.B: *Chronology of Development and Use*).



Figure 57. Metal roof of main block and south extension.

Chimney

The river stone chimney centered on the south side of the gable roof is not the original chimney. The chimney has a folded tin cap and the ends are covered in bailing wire (Fig. 58).

Exterior Doors

Three exterior doorways provide access to the cabin. Two doorways are on the front, or east, elevation; one door is on the rear, or west, elevation. The north doorway on the east elevation has a five-panel wood door that measures 2'-8½" wide by 6'-8" tall by 1¼" thick. The door hardware



Figure 58. River stone chimney with tin cap.



Figure 59. North door of front elevation.



Figure 60. South doors of front elevation.



Figure 61. Back door stored in the Kitchen (Room 108).

includes two 3½" by 3½" iron five-knuckle hinges and a Corbin deadbolt that measures 2" by 3". The knobs and a rimlock are missing.

The south doorway on the east elevation also has a five-panel wood door that measures 2'-8½" wide by 6'-8" tall by 1¼" thick. The door hardware includes two 3½" by 3½" iron five-knuckle hinges, a 2½" by 3¾" Yale deadbolt, a 2½" painted iron handle, a 7" modern chrome hasp and staple, and a modern 2" hook and eye. There are ghost marks for a 3" wide by 5" tall rimlock on the interior side of the door and the knobs are missing. Outside the door is a two-panel with screen door that measures

2'-8½" wide by 6'-8" tall by 1" thick. There is a dog guard grille over the bottom portion of the screened panel. The door hardware includes two 3" by 3" self-closing hinges, a 3" chrome handle, and an eye for a spring.

The exterior door casing for the two front (east) doors is made of wood plank boards. The jamb boards measure ⅞" by 2½" and the header boards measure ⅞" by 4"; they are lintel cut without ears. The word "CREEKMORE" is visible on the header over the south doorway that leads to Room 102.

The west elevation doorway does not have a door installed. Its 1920s-era two-panel door, which measures 2'-5" wide by 6'-3" tall by 1⅜" thick, is damaged with a missing bottom rail and sits in the Kitchen (Room 108). The door hardware includes two 3½" by 3½" brass-plated five-knuckle hinges and modern brass knobs.

The exterior door casing for the back (west) door is made of wood plank boards that measure ¾" by 3¾" and are lintel cut without ears.

Windows

The front (east) elevation has two original four-over-four-light double-hung wood sash windows. Each window opening measures 2'-2" wide by 5'-2" tall. Each window has a fixed upper sash and an operable bottom sash with screen. There are two



Figure 62. Typical original window on the east elevation.



Figure 63. Typical window set horizontally in tracks.



Figure 64. Modern aluminum window on the south elevation.



Figure 65. 36-light window on the south elevation, now missing.

additional original four-over-four-light double-hung sash windows at the east end of the north elevation, also 2'-2" wide by 5'-2" tall. The sash of the west window are installed backwards, with the interior sides facing out and weather glazing facing inward. All four original windows have wood plank board casing; the boards measure ⅞" by 2½", wrap the windows on all four sides, and are square cut at the tops and bottoms.

There is a typical four-over-four-light double-hung sash window set horizontally in tracks at the east

elevation of Room 105, the north extension of the west addition. The window measures 5'-2" wide by 2'-2" tall. There is a screen on the exterior side of the window, but no casing.

There are six windows of various types on the west elevation. The northernmost and southernmost windows are both typical four-over-four-light double-hung sash windows set horizontally in tracks. The openings measure 5'-2" wide by 2'-2" tall. The exterior casing is made up of wood plank boards measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $2\frac{3}{4}$ " that are lintel cut without ears. Three six-light awning windows are north of the southernmost window. The window sash measure 3'-4" wide by 3'-0" tall and have screens on the exterior side. A typical four-light sash is set horizontally north of the awning windows. The window is set in tracks to slide horizontally and has a screen on the exterior side. The three awning windows and fixed-sash window all have casing on the exterior side that is made up of miscellaneous scrap lumber used to hold the screens in place.

The two windows on the south elevation are unique to the cabin. The east one is a modern two-light aluminum sash window that slides horizontally (*Fig. 64*). It measures 4'-0" wide by 3'-0" tall and has a $\frac{3}{4}$ " by 4" plank board casing on the exterior that is lintel cut. The sill is part of a 2" by 4" wood board and below the sill is a $\frac{3}{4}$ " by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " plank board. The west window on the south elevation is a 36-light fixed wood sash with decorative leaded glass panes, made by the original cabin owner (*Fig. 65*). The window opening measures 4'-6" wide by 1'-4" tall and has plank board casing that wraps all four side of the exterior. The casing measures $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $2\frac{3}{4}$ " and is lintel cut. Unfortunately, after documentation of the cabin by JKOA, this 36-light window was stolen in early 2014.

Description by Room

Rooms 101 – Living Room Extension

This room, which is not original, was one of the more recent alterations to Creekmore Cabin. The room was created when the east expansion porch was enclosed, probably as an extension of the Living Room (Room 102). It measures about 9'-7" by 14'-9". The back of the river stone fireplace in the Living Room (Room 102) is exposed on the



Figure 66. Living Room Extension (Room 101) looking south.



Figure 67. Living Room Extension (Room 101) looking northwest.

north wall. The floor of this room, the former porch floor, sits below the level of the rest of the cabin; there is a step at both entryways. Modern shoring has been added in recent years around the back of the fireplace to help support the roof framing.

Flooring

The tongue-and-groove wood floor boards measure $\frac{3}{4}$ " in width and are laid north-south. There is a 2'-0" by 2'-7" patch in the boards at the north end of the room near the base of the back of the fireplace. The flooring is not continuous to the adjacent rooms; at the opening in the north wall there is a 7" tall step up into the Living Room (Room 102) and at the doorway to the Bathroom (Room 109) on the west wall there is an 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " step up.

Baseboards

Modern 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall clamshell trim is used as a baseboard on the east, south, and west walls.

Walls

The east, south, and west walls are finished in modern wood-grained veneer paneling measuring

4' by 8' by 1/8" thick. The north wall, which was part of the exterior of the main block, retains its original board-and-batten siding on the west side of the fireplace. The boards vary in width from 9 1/2" to 10" and are 3/4" thick and the battens measure 1" by 2 1/4" or 2 1/2". The east side of the north wall is largely open to the Living Room (Room 102) and is clad in vertical boards that measure 3/4" by 3 1/4".

Doorways

A doorway on the west wall provides access to the Bathroom (Room 109). The five-horizontal-panel door measures 2'-0" wide by 6'-1/2" tall by 1 3/8" thick. It retains the following hardware: two 3 1/2" by 3 1/2" iron five-knuckle hinges, two 2 1/4" by 7" beveled escutcheon plates, and both 2 1/4" diameter iron knobs. The plank board casing on Room 101 side of the door measures 3/4" by 4" and wraps all four sides of the doorway; it is lintel cut at the top and bottom. At the threshold is an 8 1/2" step up into the Bathroom (Room 109). The north wall has a cased opening to the Living Room (Room 102) that measures 5'-6" wide. It is cased on Room 101 side with 3/4" by 3 1/4" modern wood boards with rounded edges. At the threshold is a 7" step up into the adjacent Living Room (Room 102).

Windows

There is one two-light aluminum sliding-sash window on the south wall. On the interior side it is cased with 3/4" by 4" plank boards that wrap all four sides of the window. The plank boards are wrapped in sections of edge molding forming a picture frame.

Crown Molding

There is no crown molding in this room.

Ceiling

There is no finish material on the ceiling of this room; the rafters and deck boards are exposed. The rafters measure 1 1/2" by 3 1/2" and are spaced 26" o. c. and the deck boards are random widths. The rafters slope down from north to south; the floor to decking height at the north end of the room measures 8'-3" and at the south end of the room measures 6'-8".

Finishes

The wood floors, vertical board wall, and trim are varnished and the veneer paneled walls have a factory-applied finish. The exposed roof rafters and deck boards are unfinished.



Figure 68. Living Room Extension (Room 101) looking northeast.



Figure 69. Shelf and hanging rod in northwest corner.

Electrical Systems

A 4 1/2" ceramic lamp base with ring detail is surface-mounted on the underside of the exposed roof decking. The switch is flush-mounted in the east wall and has a metal cover plate. A duplex outlet is flush-mounted in the east wall; it is missing its cover plate. An addition duplex outlet is flush-mounted in the south wall and has a white molded plastic cover plate.

Other Features

The back of the river stone fireplace in the adjacent Living Room (Room 102) is exposed on the north wall of this room. It measures 5'-4" wide and extends from the wall 2'-8". The fireplace is not original to the cabin, but the date of installation is unknown.

A wood shelf and hanging rod are mounted on the north wall west of the river stone back of the fireplace (Fig. 69).

Room 102 – Living Room

This room is the original living room of the main cabin block measuring 9'-10" by 20'-1". With the



Figure 70. Southwest oblique of Living Room (Room 102).



Figure 71. Northeast oblique of Living Room (Room 102).

additions, it now sits centrally in the floor plan and provides access to most rooms; the door on the east wall is the primary entrance to the cabin. A large river stone fireplace was added at an unknown date to the south wall.

Flooring

The tongue-and-groove wood floor boards measure 3¼" in width and are laid north-south; they are not continuous to other rooms.

Baseboards

The baseboards in this room are integrated into the board-and-batten wainscoting on the walls. The baseboards are wood plank boards measuring 1" by 7¾".

Walls

The walls have a wood board-and-batten wainscoting that is 4'-11" tall and typical of the original rooms of the main block. The battens measure 1" by 2½" and the boards vary from 9½" to 10" wide. The top rail is a 1" by 3½" plank board set vertically. Above the wainscoting, the walls are finished in ¼" thick fiberboard. The seams

are covered with wood strips that measure ¼" by 2". The south wall, east of the fireplace, has been modified. It has a large opening to the Living Room Extension (Room 101) and is clad in 3¼" vertical wood boards.

Doorways

There are six doorways in this room. The exterior doorway on the east wall has a five-panel wood door that is described in the above section *Exterior Features*. The interior side of the doorway is cased with wood plank boards that measure 7⁄8" by 5¾" and are lintel cut. The north wall doorways with access to the two original bedrooms both have the same five-horizontal-panel wood doors that measure 2'-6" wide by 6'-5" tall by 1¼" thick. Both doors retain two 2½" by 2½" three-knuckle hinges.



Figure 72. Living Room (Room 102) looking northwest.



Figure 73. Hardware on the east exterior door.

The east door has its 3" by 4" rimlock intact, but it is missing from the west door (Fig. 73). The east door also has a 4" barrel bolt. The west doorway provides access to the Dining Room (Room 107) and has a board-and-batten door that measures 2'-8" wide by 6'-5" tall by ¾" thick. The boards and battens are made up of ¾" by 5¼" beaded boards that have a 3/16" bead. There are two 4" barrel hinges, a 3¼" by 3¾" rimlock, and a 4" barrel bolt intact on the door. There is another five-horizontal-panel wood door at the west end of the south wall that provides access to the Bathroom (Room 109). The door matches the ones on the north wall, measuring 2'-6" wide by 6'-5" tall by 1¼" thick, and has two 2½" by 2½" three-knuckle hinges. The rimlock is missing. The north, west, and south doors are cased on Room 102 side with wood plank boards that measure 7/8" by 5¾" and are lintel cut. The cased opening to the Living Room Extension (Room 101) at the east end of the south wall measures 5'-6" wide and has no door. It is cased on Room 102 side of the doorway with ¾" by 5½" plank boards.

Windows

The window on the east wall is an original four-over-four-light double-hung wood sash window. There is no casing on the interior side of the window, the framing is exposed.

Crown Molding

The crown molding is made up of the same wood pieces used on the walls. It is a 1" by 3½" plank board with a ¼" by 2" wood strip layered above it. Quarter-round trim pieces cover the seams at the ceiling.

Ceiling

The ceiling is approximately 7'-3½" above finished floor in this room and is clad in ¾" beaded board that runs north-south.

Finishes

The floor, wainscoting, doors, and trim are varnished with a dark brown stain. The ceiling and vertical board wall have a natural wood color varnish. The fiberboard walls are painted a light yellow color.

Electrical Systems

A 4½" ceramic lamp base with ring detail is surface-mounted on the center of the ceiling. A double switch is mounted on the east wall between

the window and doorway; it is wired with cloth-wrapped conduit and has a white molded plastic cover plate. A duplex outlet is mounted on the north wall; it is wired with cloth-wrapped conduit and has a metal cover plate. An early fuse box with two ceramic tubes remains intact on the east wall above the double switch.

Other Features

A river stone fireplace and its exposed chimney are roughly centered on the south wall. The fireplace is not original to the main block of the cabin, though the date of installation is unknown. The firebox is made out of pale yellow pressed fire brick and measures 2'-9" wide by 1'-4" deep by 2'-3" tall. The fireplace is 5'-4" wide and extends from the south wall about 6". The poured concrete hearth is 5'-4" wide and 2'-1" deep and has a ¾" by 3¼" wooden edge.

Room 103 – Northeast Bedroom

This room is one of two original bedrooms of the main cabin block and measures 9'-10" by 10'-1". It likely served as the primary bedroom with an exterior entrance door on the east elevation.



Figure 74. Northeast oblique of Northeast Bedroom (Room 103).



Figure 75. Southwest oblique of Northeast Bedroom (Room 103).



Figure 76. Southeast oblique of Northeast Bedroom (Room 103).

Flooring

The tongue-and-groove wood floor boards measure $3\frac{1}{4}$ " in width and are laid north-south.

Baseboards

The baseboards in this room are integrated into the board-and-batten wainscoting on the walls. The baseboards are wood plank boards measuring 1" by 8".

Walls

The walls have a wood board-and-batten wainscoting that is 4'-11" tall. The battens measure 1" by $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and the boards vary from $9\frac{1}{2}$ " to 10" wide. The top rail is a 1" by $3\frac{1}{2}$ " plank board set vertically. Above the wainscoting, the walls are finished in $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick fiberboard. The seams are covered with wood strips that measure $\frac{1}{4}$ " by 2".

Doorways

The exterior doorway on the east wall has a five-panel wood door that is described in the above section *Exterior Features*. The interior side of the doorway is cased with wood plank boards that measure $\frac{7}{8}$ " by $5\frac{3}{4}$ " and are lintel cut. The south doorway to the Living Room (Room 102) has a five-horizontal-panel door that is described in the above section. The wood plank boards on the jambs of Room 103 side of the doorway run from floor to ceiling; they measure $\frac{7}{8}$ " by $5\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Windows

There are two original four-over-four-light double-hung wood sash windows, one on the north wall and the other on the east wall. There is no casing on the interior side of the windows, the framing is exposed.



Figure 77. Wood shelves in the northwest corner of the Northeast Bedroom (Room 103).

Crown Molding

The crown molding is made up of 1" by $3\frac{1}{2}$ " plank boards. The boards are no longer intact on the west and south walls.

Ceiling

The ceiling is approximately 7'- $3\frac{1}{2}$ " above finished floor in this room and is clad in $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick fiberboard. The seams are covered with wood strips that measure $\frac{1}{4}$ " by 2".

Finishes

The floor, wainscoting, doors, and trim are varnished with a dark brown stain. The fiberboard walls and ceiling are painted a light yellow color.

Electrical Systems

A $4\frac{1}{2}$ " ceramic lamp base with ring detail is surface-mounted on the center of the ceiling. The switch is mounted on the south wall east of the doorway. A duplex outlet is mounted on the west wall; both switch and outlet are wired with cloth-wrapped conduit and have metal cover plates.

Other Features

There are two wood shelves in the northwest corner of the room. The bottom shelf sits just above the baseboard and the upper shelf sits about mid-height of the wainscoting (*Fig. 77*).

Room 104 – Middle Bedroom

This room is the second of two original bedrooms of the main cabin block. It is accessed from the Living Room (Room 102) and measures 9'-10" by 9'-9".

Flooring

The tongue-and-groove wood floor boards measure 3¼" in width and are laid north-south.

Baseboards

The baseboards in this room are integrated into the board-and-batten wainscoting on the walls. The baseboards are wood plank boards measuring 1" by 8".



Figure 78. Southeast oblique of Middle Bedroom (Room 104).



Figure 79. Northwest oblique of Middle Bedroom (Room 104).

Walls

The walls have a wood board-and-batten wainscoting that is 4'-11" tall. The battens measure 1" by 2½" and the boards vary from 9½" to 10" wide. The top rail is a 1" by 3½" plank board set vertically. Above the wainscoting, the walls are finished in ¼" thick fiberboard. The seams are covered with wood strips that measure ¼" by 2".

Doorways

The south doorway to the Living Room (Room 102) has a five-horizontal-panel door that is described in the above section. The doorway is cased on Room 104 side with wood plank boards that measure 7/8" by 5¾" and are lintel cut.

Windows

The north wall has an original four-over-four-light double-hung wood sash window. The window has been recently repaired and reinstalled backward; the interior sides of the sash is facing out. There is no casing on the interior side of the window, the framing is exposed.

Crown Molding

The crown molding is made up of 1" by 3½" plank boards.

Ceiling

The ceiling is approximately 7'-3½" above finished floor in this room and is clad in ¼" thick fiberboard. The seams are covered with wood strips that measure ¼" by 2".

Finishes

The floor, wainscoting, doors, and trim are varnished with a dark brown stain. The fiberboard walls and ceiling are painted a light yellow color.

Electrical Systems

A 4½" ceramic lamp base with ring detail is surface-mounted on the center of the ceiling. The light switch and a duplex outlet are mounted on the south wall and wired with cloth-wrapped conduit. The switch and outlet both have metal cover plates.

Other Features

There is a painted wood shelf in the northwest corner of the room. It sits about 5'-0" above floor level and each side measures about 2'-8" long.

Room 105 – Northwest Bedroom

This room is an extension of the west addition that was subsequently expanded eastward to its current size of 7'-10" by 14'-8", though the dates of the addition and expansion are unknown. It can only be accessed through the Storage Room (Room 106) and likely served as a bedroom, possibly for a servant. Modern shoring has been added in recent years along the center of the room to help support the roof framing.

Flooring

The wood flooring runs east-west in this room. There is a north-south seam in the flooring approximately 5'-5" from the east end of the room where it was expanded. On the east side of the seam, tongue-and-groove wood floor boards measure 3¼" in width; on the west side of the seam, plank boards measure 5½" in width.

Baseboards

Modern 2½" tall clamshell trim is used as a baseboard on all walls in this room.



Figure 80. Southwest oblique of Northwest Bedroom (Room 105).



Figure 81. Northeast oblique of Northwest Bedroom (Room 105).

Walls

The walls are finished in modern wood-grained veneer paneling measuring 4' by 8' by 1/8" thick. The paneling is in poor condition and is delaminating from the wall surfaces exposing the earlier board-and-batten siding beneath.

Doorways

The doorway on the south wall provides access from the Storage Room (Room 106); it has a board-and-batten door measuring 2'-4" wide by 6'-2" tall by 3/4" thick. The boards are 5¼" tongue-and-groove beaded board and the two horizontal battens are 7/8" by 4¾" plank boards. The door has



Figure 82. Paneling delaminating from wall of Northwest Bedroom (Room 105).



Figure 83. Poor condition of ceiling in Northwest Bedroom (Room 105).

two 4" barn hinges, three wire hooks attached to the top batten on the Room 105 side of the door, and multiple holes. The casing on Room 105 side of the doorway is made up of plank boards measuring $\frac{7}{8}$ " by $4\frac{3}{4}$ " that are lintel cut. Modern pieces of quarter-round trim have been added to the outer edge of the casing.

Windows

The east and west walls each have a typical four-over-four-light double-hung sash window set horizontally in wood tracks; the windows slide sideways. There is no casing on the interior side of the windows.

Crown Molding

Quarter-round trim pieces are used to cover the gap between wall and ceiling in this room; however, it is no longer intact along most of the walls.

Ceiling

The ceiling in this room slopes down from south to north; at the south wall the ceiling height measures approximately 7'-3½" and at the north wall it measures approximately 6'-6". The ceiling is clad in $3\frac{1}{4}$ " beaded board that runs east-west. The boards are in poor condition and in some locations the roof rafters and decking are exposed, particularly in the northwest corner of the room. Modern shoring has been installed in recent years, presumably to help support the roof.

Finishes

The wood floors are varnished and the veneer paneled walls have a factory-applied finish. The ceiling is painted white and the door and window tracks are painted a dark brown color.

Electrical Systems

A 4½" ceramic lamp base with ring detail is surface-mounted on the east end of the south wall. The switch is also mounted on the south wall and wired with cloth-wrapped conduit. There are two duplex outlets, also wired with cloth-wrapped conduit; one is surface-mounted on the south wall and the other is surface-mounted on the north wall. The switch and both outlets have metal cover plates.

Room 106 – Storage Room

Though the purpose of this room is unclear, it is unlikely that it was used as a bedroom due to its size and location. Part of an early addition to the



Figure 84. Northwest oblique of Storage Room (Room 106).



Figure 85. Southwest oblique of Storage Room (Room 106).

main cabin block, the room measures 7'-6" by 9'-3". It provides the only point of access to the Northwest Bedroom (Room 106) from the rest of the cabin and probably became a space for storage.

Flooring

The tongue-and-groove wood floor boards measure $3\frac{1}{4}$ " in width and are laid north-south. The flooring is continuous from the Dining Room (Room 107) to the south.

Baseboards

There are no baseboards in this room.

Walls

The north and west walls are finished in modern wood-grained veneer paneling measuring 4' by 8' by $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick. In various locations the paneling is pulling away from the wall surfaces and $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick fiberboard is exposed beneath. The south wall, which divides this room from the Dining Room (Room 107), is made up of random-width vertical plank boards that are 1" thick. The boards measure 8", 10", 11" and $11\frac{1}{2}$ " and in some locations are



Figure 86. West elevation of Storage Room (Room 106).

covered with $\frac{1}{4}$ " fiberboard. The east wall was part of the exterior of the main block and retains its original board-and-batten siding. The boards vary in width from $9\frac{1}{2}$ " to 10" and are $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick and the battens measure 1" by $2\frac{1}{4}$ " or $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Doorways

The north doorway provides access to the Northwest Bedroom (Room 105) and has a board-and-batten door. The door and its hardware are described in the above section. The casing on Room 106 side of the doorway is made up of various pieces of scrap wood; the header is a $\frac{7}{8}$ " by $5\frac{1}{2}$ " plank board, the west jamb is a $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $3\frac{1}{4}$ " tongue-and-groove board, and the east jamb is a 2" by 4" board. The doorway in the south wall provides access to the Dining Room (Room 107) and does not have a door; the opening is 2'-8" wide. The casing on Room 106 side of the doorway is made up of scrap wood boards; the east side is not trimmed out.

Windows

The west wall has a typical four-light wood sash window set horizontally in wood tracks. There is no casing on the interior side of the window.

Crown Molding

One-inch quarter-round trim pieces are used to cover the gap between walls and ceiling in most sections of this room. Along the north wall, a salvaged tapered trim board approximately 3" wide covers the gap along the west section of the wall.

Ceiling

The ceiling in this room slopes down from east to west; at the east wall the ceiling height measures approximately 7'- $3\frac{1}{2}$ " and at the west wall it

measures 5'-0". The ceiling is clad in $3\frac{1}{4}$ " beaded board that runs north-south. The boards appear to have a good deal of water damage.

Finishes

The wood floors are varnished and the veneer paneled walls have a factory-applied finish. The ceiling is painted white, as is the original east wall. The west wall is painted a mint green color, and the south wall has a combination of white and mint green paint.

Electrical Systems

A $4\frac{1}{2}$ " ceramic lamp base with ring detail is surface-mounted on the east wall. The switch is also mounted on the east wall and wired with cloth-wrapped conduit. There are two duplex outlets, also wired with cloth-wrapped conduit; one is surface-mounted on the east wall and the other is surface-mounted on the south wall. The switch and both outlets have metal cover plates, but the switch and outlet plate on the east wall are painted white.

Room 107 – Dining Room

This room is not original to the cabin but was an early addition probably constructed at the same time as the Storage Room (Room 106). With direct access from the Living Room (Room 102) and the Kitchen (Room 108), it likely served as a dining room. It measures 11'-11" by 9'-3".

Flooring

The tongue-and-groove wood floor boards measure $3\frac{1}{4}$ " in width and are laid north-south. The flooring is continuous into the Storage Room (Room 106) to the north.



Figure 87. Dining Room (Room 107) looking north.



Figure 88. Dining Room (Room 107) looking south.



Figure 89. West elevation of Dining Room (Room 107).

Baseboards

There are no baseboards in this room.

Walls

The east wall, which is continuous from the Storage Room (Room 106), was part of the exterior of the main block and retains its original board-and-batten siding. The boards vary in width from 9½” to 10” and are ¾” thick and the battens measure 1” by 2¼” or 2½”. The north wall is finished in ¼” fiberboard with ¼” by 2” wood strips covering the seams. Over the doorway at the east end of the north wall, are ¾” tongue-and-groove boards set vertically. The south and west walls are finished in ¾” beaded board that runs horizontally.

Doorways

The north doorway provides access to the Storage Room (Room 106) and does not have a door. The opening is trimmed on the west and top sides with the same ¼” by 2” wood strips used to cover the seams in the fiberboard walls. The south doorway provides access to the Kitchen (Room 108), but the door is missing. The opening measures 2’-6” wide



Figure 90. Cabinet in southeast corner of Dining Room (Room 107).

and is cased on Room 107 side with ⅞” by 5” wood plank boards. The east doorway from the Living Room (Room 102) has a board-and-batten door that is described in that section above. The Room 107 side of the doorway does not have any casing.

Windows

There are three six-light awning windows set side-by-side in the west wall. Each window has two three-knuckle ball-pin hinges. Three wire hooks are mounted to the ceiling to hold the awning windows open. The surround on the interior side of the windows is made up wood plank boards that sit flush with the sash.

Crown Molding

Various pieces of scrap wood are used to cover the gap between wall and ceiling in this room.

Ceiling

The ceiling in this room slopes down from east to west; at the east wall the ceiling height measures approximately 7’-3½” and at the west wall it measures 5’-0”. The ceiling is clad in ¾” beaded board that runs north-south.

Finishes

The wood floors and ceiling are varnished. The original east wall is painted a pale green color. The other walls of the room are painted light yellow.

Electrical Systems

A 4½” ceramic lamp base is surface-mounted on the ceiling. The switch is mounted on the east wall south of the doorway and wired with cloth-wrapped conduit. A duplex outlet, also wired with cloth-wrapped conduit, is surface-mounted on the north wall. The switch and outlet both have metal cover plates.

Other Features

A wood cabinet is built into the southeast corner of the room. It is painted the same pale green color as the east wall and has a hand-painted floral motif. The cabinet stands approximately 6’-0” tall by 3’-0” wide by 10” deep. The upper section has two board-and-batten doors.

Room 108 – Kitchen

This room is not original to the cabin and is accessed through the Dining Room (Room 107). It appears that this room was added at the same time as the west portion of the Northwest Bedroom (Room 105) as the flooring and floor framing are the same, though the date is unknown. The Kitchen is rectangular in plan measuring 8’-6” by 10’-1”.

Flooring

The wood flooring in this room is made of plank boards that measure ¾” by 5½” and are laid north-south. In the northwest corner of the room, near the exterior doorway, floorboards have been replaced using 9¼” wood plank boards.

Baseboards

There are no baseboards in this room.



Figure 91. Southwest oblique of Kitchen (Room 108).



Figure 92. Northeast oblique of Kitchen (Room 108).



Figure 93. Northwest oblique of Kitchen (Room 108).

Walls

The north wall is clad in wood weatherboard that measures 1” by 12”. At the top of the wall, above the roofline of the Dining Room (Room 107), the boards are set vertically. The east wall is clad in vertical wood plank boards that vary in width from 6”, 9½”, to 12”. Wood stud framing is exposed on the south wall with the back of the exterior siding visible beyond. The studs measure 1½” by 3½”. The west wall is clad in board-and-batten siding; the battens measure ¾” by 2¼” and the boards are 10½” wide.

Doorways

The exterior doorway in the west wall does not have its two-panel wood door intact. The door is stored inside the Kitchen (Room 108) and is described in the *Exterior Features* section above (Fig. 61). On the interior, the door surround is made up of various pieces of scrap wood. The north wall doorway provides access to the Dining Room (Room 107) and has a missing door.

However, two 6” barn hinges remain intact on the west side of the doorway. There is no casing on the Room 108 side, the door framing is exposed.

Windows

The west wall has a typical four-over-four-light double-hung sash window set horizontally in wood tracks; the window slides sideways. There is no casing on the interior side of the window.

Crown Molding

There is no crown molding in this room.

Ceiling

The ceiling in this room slopes down from north to south; at the north wall the ceiling height measures



Figure 94. Ceramic tubes for early knob-and-tube wiring.



Figure 95. Electrical panel on the east wall of the Kitchen (Room 108).

approximately 7’-3” and at the south wall it measures approximately 5’-4”. The ceiling is clad in 3¼” beaded board that runs east-west.

Finishes

The wood floors are varnished and the ceiling is painted white with areas of yellow. The walls have a mixture of white and light yellow paint with the exception of the south wall, which has unfinished exposed studs.

Electrical Systems

Two ceramic tubes for early knob-and-tube wiring are still intact in the north wall. A 4½” ceramic lamp base with ring detail is surface-mounted on the south wall. The switch is mounted on the north wall east of the doorway and wired with cloth-wrapped conduit. A duplex outlet, also wired with cloth-wrapped conduit, is surface-mounted on the north wall. The switch and outlet both have metal cover plates, but the switch plate is painted. A 240 volt outlet is mounted low on the south wall. It has Romex cable and a plastic cover plate. A 120 volt/70 amp electrical panel is mounted to the east wall (Fig. 95).

Plumbing

An inoperable electric hot water heater is stored beneath the countertop in the southeast corner of the room. A galvanized kitchen sink is mounted in the countertop north of the hot water heater.

Other Features

Wood veneer base cabinets with laminate countertops and backsplash wrap the southeast and southwest corner of the room and wood veneer wall cabinets are mounted on the east wall.

Room 109 – Bathroom

The Bathroom is not part of the original main block of the cabin and was probably added at the same time as the Kitchen (Room 108). It is accessed from the Living Room (Room 102) and the Living Room Extension (Room 101). Rectilinear in plan the Bathroom measures about 9’-7” by 5’-8”.

Flooring

The tongue-and-groove wood floor boards measure 3¼” in width and are laid north-south, with the exception of three floor boards at the east end of the room. They measure 4½” in width.



Figure 96. Bathroom (Room 109) looking south.



Figure 98. Patch in northwest corner of the ceiling.



Figure 97. Northeast oblique of Bathroom (Room 109).



Figure 99. Clawfoot tub in Bathroom (Room 109).

Baseboards

The baseboard, which only remains intact on the east wall, is a wood plank board that measures $\frac{7}{8}$ " by 5".

Walls

The walls are finished in modern wood-grained veneer paneling measuring 4' by 8' by $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick. The paneling has fallen off of the east section of the north wall and the north section of the east wall exposing a burlap wainscoting and sheet vinyl below.

Doorways

The north wall doorway provides access to the Living Room (Room 102) and has a five-horizontal-panel door. The door and its hardware are described in that section above. The east wall doorway provides access to the Living Room Extension (Room 101) and has another five-horizontal-panel door. The door and its hardware are described in that section above. Both doorways are cased on Room 109 side with wood plank boards that measure $\frac{7}{8}$ " by $5\frac{3}{4}$ " and are lintel cut.

Windows

The unique 36-light wood sash window in the south wall has decorative leaded glass panes made by the original cabin owner. The interior casing wraps all four sides of the window, measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $2\frac{3}{4}$ ", and is lintel cut. Unfortunately, after documentation of the cabin by JKOA, this window was stolen and is no longer in place.

Crown Molding

Modern wood clamshell molding that measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ " tall is used as crown molding in this room.

Ceiling

The ceiling in this room slopes down from north to south; at the north wall the ceiling height measures approximately 7'-1" and at the south wall it measures approximately 6'-5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The ceiling is clad in $3\frac{1}{4}$ " beaded board that runs east-west. The boards appear to have some water damage; in the northwest corner of the room some boards have been cut off in order to patch the underside of the roof.

Finishes

The wood ceiling, doors, and trim are painted white and the wood floor is painted a grey color. The veneer wall paneling has a factory-applied finish that looks like whitewash.

Electrical Systems

A 4½” ceramic lamp base with ring detail is mounted on the west wall above the sink. The switch is mounted on the north wall east of the doorway and wired with cloth-wrapped conduit. A duplex outlet, also wired with cloth-wrapped conduit, is flush-mounted in the south wall. The switch and outlet both have metal cover plates.

Plumbing

The plumbing fixtures in this room include a ceramic-over-cast-iron toilet, a ceramic-over-cast-iron tub, and a ceramic sink. The top of the toilet tank is not stamped with a date, as is typical; the date of installation is unknown. The sink measures 1’-8” wide by 1’-4” deep and has two chrome-plated faucets. The ¾” water supply lines are galvanized pipes and the drain pipe is PVC. The claw-foot tub measures 5’-0” in length and has chrome-plated faucets to match the sink.

Other Features

Two 1’-6” long chrome towel holders with clear glass rods are mounted to the east wall, and two painted wire hooks are mounted to the casing of the east doorway.

Character Defining Features

Important character defining features include:

- The adjacency of the cabin to the other summer houses within the Appalachian Club Complex.
- The shared stone retaining walls on Daisy Town Road and the similar stone walkways and steps.
- The densely wooded site at the top of the ridge.
- The open front porch.
- The metal-covered gable roof over the main house structure with shed additions on the northwest, west, and south sides.
- The unmilled foundation posts.
- The four versions of board-and-batten siding.
- The river stone fireplace and chimney.

- The two five-panel front doors at the east elevation.
- The two-panel screen door at the south doorway on the east elevation.
- The five-horizontal-panel typical interior doors used throughout most of the cabin.
- The two-panel door at the west elevation.
- The early door hardware throughout the cabin.
- The four-over-four-light double-hung wood sash windows.
- The ¾” tongue-and-groove wood flooring throughout most of the cabin.
- Ceramic lamp bases in each room of the cabin.
- Ceramic tubes from the early knob-and-tube electrical system.
- The plumbing fixtures of the Bathroom (Room 109).
- The board-and-batten wainscoting in the rooms of the original main block (Rooms 102, 103, and 104).

Summary of Physical Conditions

In general, the Creekmore Cabin is in fair physical condition. It appears to be basically sound. A number of window sash have been recently repaired to help improve the protective exterior building envelope. However, the window sash in the Middle Bedroom (Room 104) window were reinstalled backward, with the inside facing out, which could eventually lead to water damage. The rear (west) elevation door is in poor condition and is no longer intact on its hinges.

The roof remains a serious threat. The unpainted, galvanized 5-V metal roofing has leaks in various locations and has caused visible damage on the interior of the rooms, particularly the ceilings. The low roof pitch and shallow overhangs at the edges exacerbates the problem of water infiltration. In addition to water damage, there are some concerns about the structural integrity of some roof additions, particularly in the Northwest Bedroom (Room 105). Modern shoring has been installed in this room and in the Living Room Extension (Room 101) to help support the shed roofs. The top plates of the front (east) porch that support the roof rafters appear to be sagging and may benefit from additional support.

A related concern is the rainwater collection and dispersal. No gutters or downspouts are currently

in place. Splash from roof runoff is damaging wooden elements close to grade. Absence of positive drainage away from the building in some locations creates an environment that supports plants and insects that attack wood structures. Abundance of leaf buildup at grade further enhances that environment.

The chimney appears to be leaning slightly to the south.

An additional concern that has become more apparent recently is vandalism/theft. Several

rimlocks and other door hardware appear to be missing, as is the unique 36-light window from the Bathroom (Room 109).

The proximity of some large trees very close to the cabin may pose a threat from falling limbs from the overhead canopies. Root systems may also threaten cabin piers and manmade site features. A tree, on the north side of the cabin, touches against the building, and another on the east side leans against the roof.

II.A Ultimate Treatment & Use

Recommended Ultimate Treatment

In 2009 the National Park Service amended the 1982 General Management Plan (GMP) for the Elkmont Historic District based on the 2008 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (*refer to Section I.B for further discussion*). The document, known as the Elkmont Historic District Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), calls for the preservation of eighteen contributing cabins in the Elkmont Historic District. Sixteen of which, including the Creekmore Cabin, are in the core Daisy Town portion of the district.

The MOA specifies the appropriate treatment for the Creekmore Cabin and the other fifteen designated Daisy Town properties. It states “the exterior of the sixteen buildings in Daisy Town will be restored and their interiors rehabilitated.” In addition, “contributing cultural landscape features will be preserved (i.e. stone walls and paths). . . .”

The period of significance is an important determinant in restoring the exterior of the cabins to a particular time, yet there is still a lot to be learned about the fifteen contributing cabins in Daisy Town. Keeping in mind the stipulations for treatment, while recognizing the importance of modifications over time that reflect the changing values of Americans at leisure, coupled with the general scarcity of collected iconographic images, documentary information, and oral traditions which can clarify the building’s evolution, it is recommended that the exterior and interior of the Creekmore Cabin be preserved as it currently exists. Thus, the accumulated building fabric is retained and is available for later reassessment of treatment options as missing gaps of information become known through additional research.

Once this and the other fifteen Daisy Town cabins are stabilized and protected, consideration may be directed to the possibility of removing or reversing late additions and modifications.

The MOA also stipulates a reconsideration of the National Register nomination once the buildings to be retained are stabilized and the others are removed. This important endeavor will likely result in revision to the period of significance, thus informing the direction of future work.

In addition to the preservation of the existing structure, stabilization of deteriorated building fabric is important for the safety of visitors. At Creekmore Cabin, the structural integrity of some roof additions, particularly in the Northwest Bedroom (Room 105) is cause for concern.

Accordingly, the Recommended Ultimate Treatment includes the preservation of the exterior and interior spaces in their current appearances but in good repair. It is also recommended that contributing cultural landscape features of stone retaining walls, garden walls, stairs, culvert, patio, walks and associated features be stabilized or repaired and preserved. It is further recommended that the current mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems remain disconnected but retained in place for interpretive purposes. It is further recommended that interior use of the Creekmore Cabin by the public be limited to daytime visitation only, if at all.

This approach would have the following advantages:

- Enhances public benefit by retaining and preserving a contributing property of a National Register historic district.
- Enhances public education of an important epoch of park history by presenting the building itself as an important cultural resource.
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- Broadens the public’s educational experience by retaining character-defining architectural features spanning the building’s history.
- Allows the flexibility of closing off from public access entire rooms, groups of rooms or the entire house interior in accordance with park administrative capabilities.
- Improves the safety of visitors by stabilizing or repairing site features.
- Improves the safety of visitors by removing unsafe construction and rebuilding with sound materials erected to safe building standards.
- Retains flexibility for future park decisions regarding treatment and interpretation to coincide with the results of additional research and investigation.
- Constitutes cost-effective treatments of the exterior and the interior.

This approach would have the following disadvantage:

- Restrictions to access interior spaces limit the capacity of the public to fully experience the cabin’s architectural character.

Other Recommendations

In an effort to stem vandalism, consideration should be given to securing the windows and doors to prevent entry to the interiors. Creation of a volunteer program to help interpret and monitor Daisy Town is recommended. Interpretive plaques to explain the importance of the buildings and installation of discreetly placed security cameras to monitor visitor activities are also recommended.

II.B Requirements for Treatment

As stated in Section II.A, in 2009 the National Park Service amended the 1982 General Management Plan (GMP) for the Elkmont Historic District based on the 2008 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (*refer to Section I.B for further discussion*). The document, known as the Elkmont Historic District Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), calls for the preservation of eighteen contributing cabins in the Elkmont Historic District. Sixteen of which, including the Creekmore Cabin, are in the core Daisy Town portion of the district.

The MOA specifies the appropriate treatment for the Creekmore Cabin and the other fifteen

designated Daisy Town properties. It states “the exterior of the sixteen buildings in Daisy Town will be restored and their interiors rehabilitated.”

Treatment of the building and site are to be guided by *The Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Historic Preservation Projects*, the Americans with Disability Act, and the International Building Code.

Threats to public life, safety and welfare are to be addressed; however, because this is an historic building, alternatives to full legislative and code compliance are recommended where compliance would needlessly compromise the integrity of the historic building.

II.C Alternatives for Treatment

In addition to the Recommended Ultimate Treatment discussed in Section I.A above, an alternative treatment is discussed below.

Alternative #1: Restore the exterior of the cabin to its roughly mid-twentieth-century appearance by removing the most recent additions and reconstructing the decorative peeled-park wraparound front porch. This includes converting the Living Room Extension (Room 101) back to a porch and removing the east expansion of the Northwest Bedroom (Room 105); restore the exterior accordingly and preserve the interior but in a state of good repair. It is further recommended that interior use of the Creekmore Cabin by the public be limited to daytime visitation only, if at all.

This approach would have the following advantages:

- Enhances public benefit by retaining and preserving a contributing property of a National Register historic district.
- Enhances the public's experience by presenting the building itself as an important cultural resource.
- Expands the public's educational experience by focusing on a particular epoch in the district's history.
- Allows the flexibility of closing off from public access entire rooms, groups of rooms or the entire house interior in accordance with park administrative capabilities.
- Improves the safety of visitors by stabilizing or repairing site features.
- Improves the safety of visitors by removing unsafe construction and rebuilding with sound materials erected to safe building standards.

This approach would have the following disadvantages:

- Incurs the cost of designing, installing and maintaining interpretive plaques and security cameras.
- Incurs the costs of creating and coordinating a volunteer program.
- Restrictions to access interior spaces limit the capacity of the public to fully experience the cabin's architectural character.
- In the absence of significant documentary evidence, and with the benefit of only minimal building archaeology, requires extensive investigation of the building fabric to determine the cabin's evolutionary process.
- The apparently short time spans between remodelings and the similarity among building materials in each remodeling, makes investigation difficult and likely will require some speculation.
- Requires the removal of major components which are part of the recent past.
- Diminishes the public's educational experience by limiting the character-defining architectural features to those of the mid-twentieth-century period of use as a family vacation cabin.
- Requires a significant outlay of funds to pursue the investigations according to professional standards.

Other Recommendations

In an effort to stem vandalism, consideration should be given to securing the windows and doors to prevent entry to the interiors. Creation of a volunteer program to help interpret and monitor Daisy Town is recommended. Interpretive plaques to explain the importance of the buildings and installation of discreetly placed security cameras to monitor visitor activities are also recommended.

II.D Recommendations

The Recommended Ultimate Treatment for the Creekmore Cabin includes the preservation of the exterior and interior spaces in their current appearances but in good repair.

This treatment was chosen because it retains the building fabric and changes that have occurred since original construction on this site, thus providing a broad picture of the evolution of the property. Given the probability that the period of significance for the Elkmont Historic District may be expanded in the National Register nomination, the building fabric will remain intact for additional investigation and study.

For the purpose of providing maximum flexibility for future treatment and interpretation, it is further recommended that a very conservative approach be taken in retaining in place and preserving even the small and apparently minor character-defining features. This approach applies to not just the historic building, but also the rich cultural landscape of the site.

Actions to Achieve Recommended Ultimate Treatment

To achieve the Recommended Ultimate Treatment, the following actions should be taken:

The Site

- Perform archaeological clearance of areas whenever impacted by site activities.
- Record to Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) standards whenever portions of the site are to be dismantled as part of the repair process.
- Establish positive drainage away from the Creekmore Cabin site in conjunction with site drainage for adjoining properties.
- Salvage displaced elements of the garden walks, garden edging, etc. and reuse in same site features whenever origin of element can be determined.
- Monitor site for hazard trees and remove those that threaten structures or visitor safety. NPS's upcoming Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) should identify and provide direction for management and selective replanting of key vegetation.
- When site feature is not restored or reconstructed, stabilize in current state and make weathertight.
- Trim tree branches of large nearby trees.

Creekmore Cabin

- Remove accumulated site debris around building perimeter. Investigate condition and stabilize/reconstruct any damaged portions of the foundation posts and piers. Provide positive drainage away from the building.
- Make the exterior siding weathertight. Tighten elements to remove gaps between individual elements, caulk and repaint to enhance durability.
- Make exterior door and window units weathertight. Make tight the trim, caulk seams, reglaze windows and repaint.
- Provide functional locking mechanism at exterior doorways in order to secure building as needed.
- Repair in-kind and repaint the front porch.
- If the interior is open to the public, provide for accessibility by the handicapped to the first floor rooms.
- Stabilize chimney; it appears to be leaning slightly to the south.
- Stabilize roof structure of additions, particularly the Northwest Bedroom (Room 105) and in the Living Room Extension (Room 101).

- Replace in-kind the 5-V roofing giving special care for flashing at chimney. Install gutters and downspouts.
- Disconnect, label and retain in place, for safety and interpretive purposes, unused elements and remnants of the cabin's previous electrical and plumbing systems. Place interpretive signage identifying remnants. Identify non-functioning fixtures.
- Coordinate with the other sites the preparation of a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Incorporate results into park maintenance and interpretive programs.
- Periodically review visitation and use policy in light of benefits to the public, risk to the resource and capacity of the park to administer.
- To minimize vandalism, install a discreet security camera in a nearby location to focus on points of entry.
- Recruit and train volunteers to spend time in Elkmont answering questions and providing an official presence..

General

- Coordinate with the other building analyses of exterior and interior paint and finishes for reference in developing park interpretive programs.

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Appendix A: Documentation Drawings

Sheet A-1: As-Found Plan & Details