
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
1998



John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

Table of Contents

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

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

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

Scope of the CLI

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

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

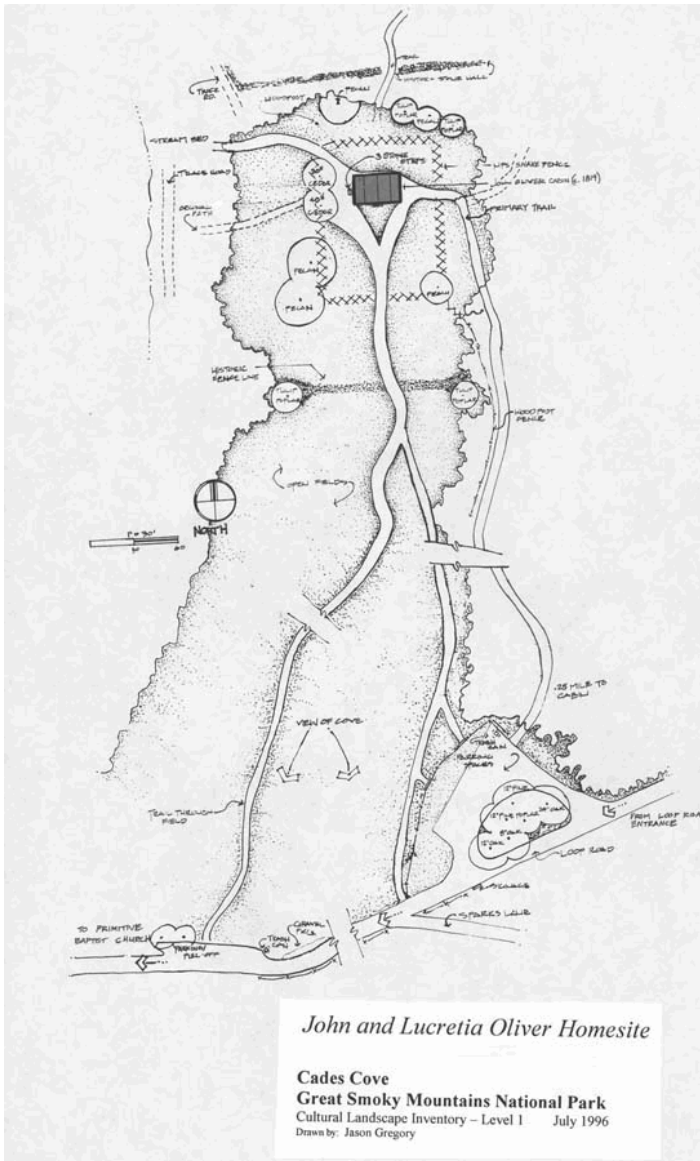
The John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead is a 1.5-acre component landscape located just north of the intersection of Sparks Lane and the Cades Cove Loop Road in Blount County, Tennessee. Access to the site is by two nonhistoric footpaths, one "official" trail through the woods to the east of the cabin and one "volunteer" trail straight through the center of the field from the visitor's overflow parking lot. The homestead contains features typical of a Cades Cove farm, including a log house, fields and other biotic remnants, fencelines, a stone wall, and road traces.

The period of significance for the site begins in 1818, when John Oliver first settled here. The period of significance extends to 1942, to include the Park Development Era improvements. The existing landscape character primarily depicts the Park Development Era 1938 master plan and its interpretation of the cove "pioneer" settlement.

The NPS decided to make the John Oliver Homestead a "field exhibit of mountain culture," and the site was included in early (1942) Park Development Era maps of the sites to be "restored". Consequently, the current condition of the landscape has been substantially altered from the historic period. Another log house that stood just a few feet away from the John Oliver cabin was removed, along with two outbuildings (Wilburn, Grossman, and Stupka 1938, 27). The vegetable garden enclosed by a paling fence located south of the house was removed, and an undocumented split-rail fence was erected around the homestead. The historic approach (from the northwest) to the homestead was changed to accommodate visitor traffic.

An open fescue field is maintained in front of the cabin. The wooded area surrounding the homestead consists of a cove hardwood type forest of tulip poplar, hemlock, and Virginia Pine. It is likely that some of the area in the immediate vicinity of the cabin was cleared at one time.

Site Plan



John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead Site Plan

Property Level and CLI Numbers

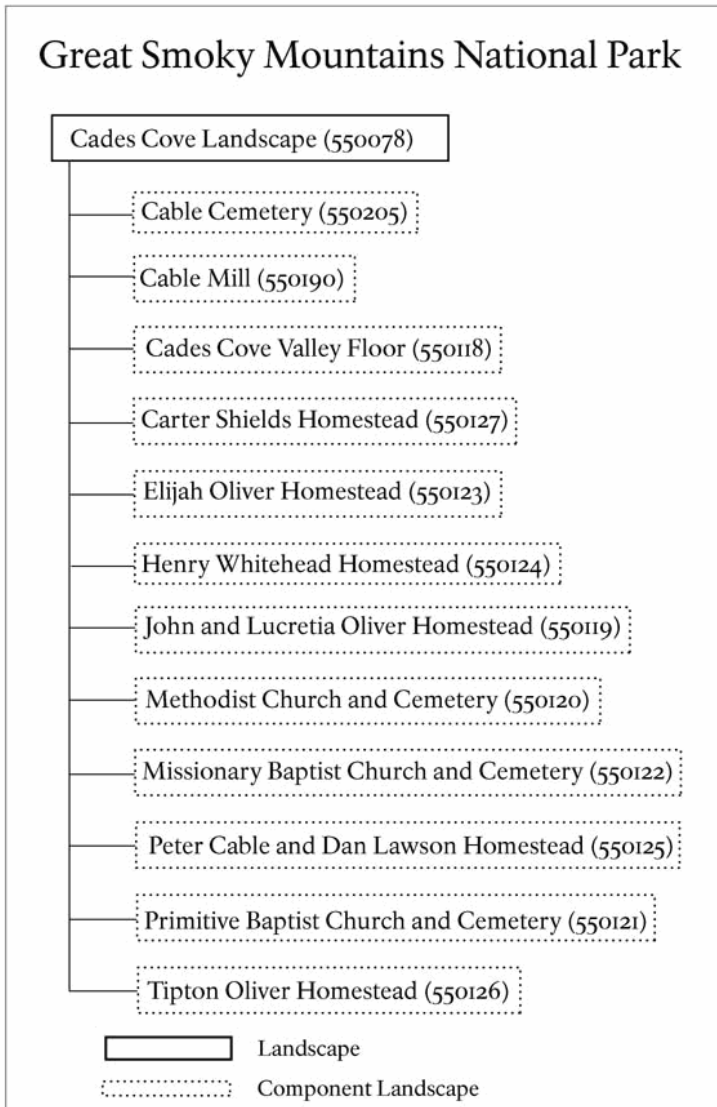
| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Inventory Unit Name: | John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead |
| Property Level: | Component Landscape |
| CLI Identification Number: | 550119 |
| Parent Landscape: | 550078 |

Park Information

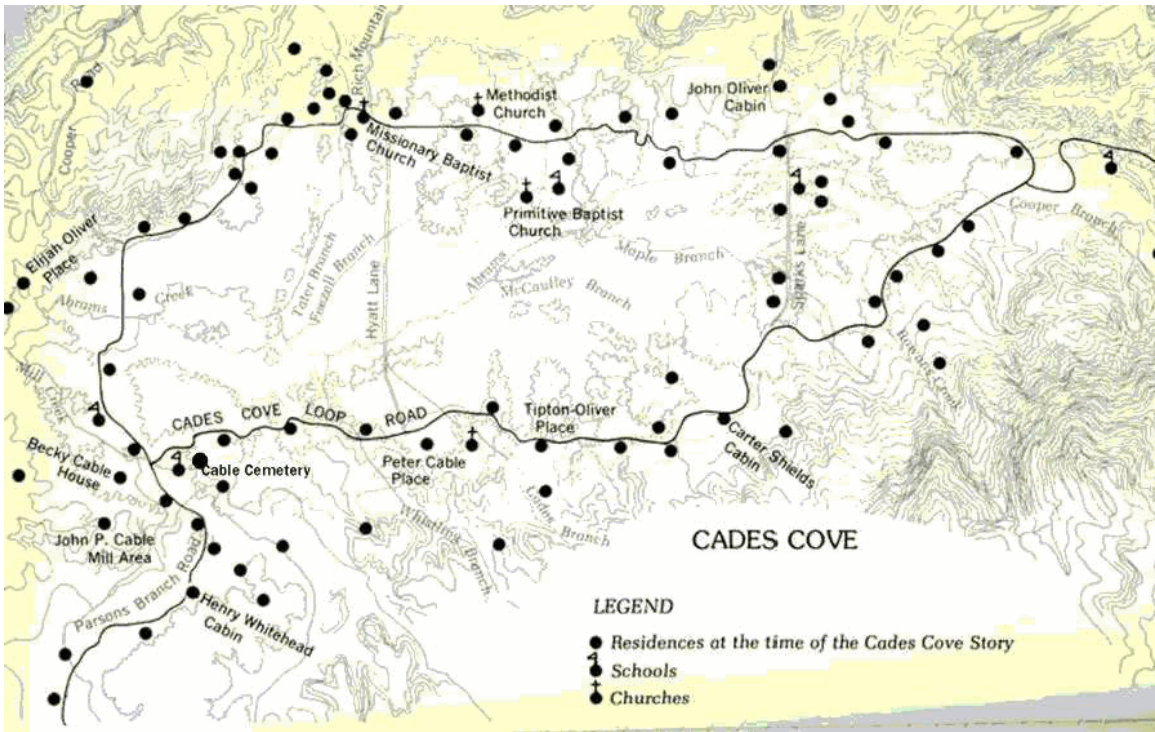
| | |
|--|---|
| Park Name and Alpha Code: | Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict -GRSM |
| Park Organization Code: | 5470 |
| Subunit/District Name Alpha Code: | Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict - GRSM |
| Park Administrative Unit: | Great Smoky Mountains National Park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

CLI Hierarchy Description

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



John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict



Cades Cove Cultural Landscape

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

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

Concurrence Status:

| | |
|---|--|
| Park Superintendent Concurrence: | Yes |
| Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: | 09/22/2006 |
| National Register Concurrence: | Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination |
| Date of Concurrence Determination: | 08/25/2006 |

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

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

Concurrence Graphic Information:

John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict



United States Department of the Interior


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



H22(SERO-CRD)

25 June 2004

Memorandum

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

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

Enclosures



Letter to the Superintendent

John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead
 Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

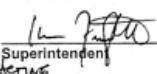
**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
 CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET - 8 August 2006**

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

Cultural Landscape Condition

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

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

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

Superintendent Signature of Concurrence

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

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



Tennessee Historical Commission Representative

8/25/06

Date

Signature from SHPO

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

Park Information

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


Cultural Landscape Condition

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

Cultural Landscape Management Category

Should Be Preserved and Maintained 27 August 2012

Park Superintendent Concurrence

| | |
|---|--|
| Concur <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Do Not Concur <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | 9/18/12 |
| Superintendent | Date |

Condition reassessment signature from superintendent.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The component landscape boundary encompasses 1.5 acres, which is part of tract 05-109 (78.5 acres). The present landscape boundaries reflect what was mapped during the CLI site visit in July 1996 and do not reflect historic boundaries. Further investigation is needed to determine if the component landscape boundary needs to be enlarged.

State and County:

State: TN

County: Blount County

Size (Acres): 1.50

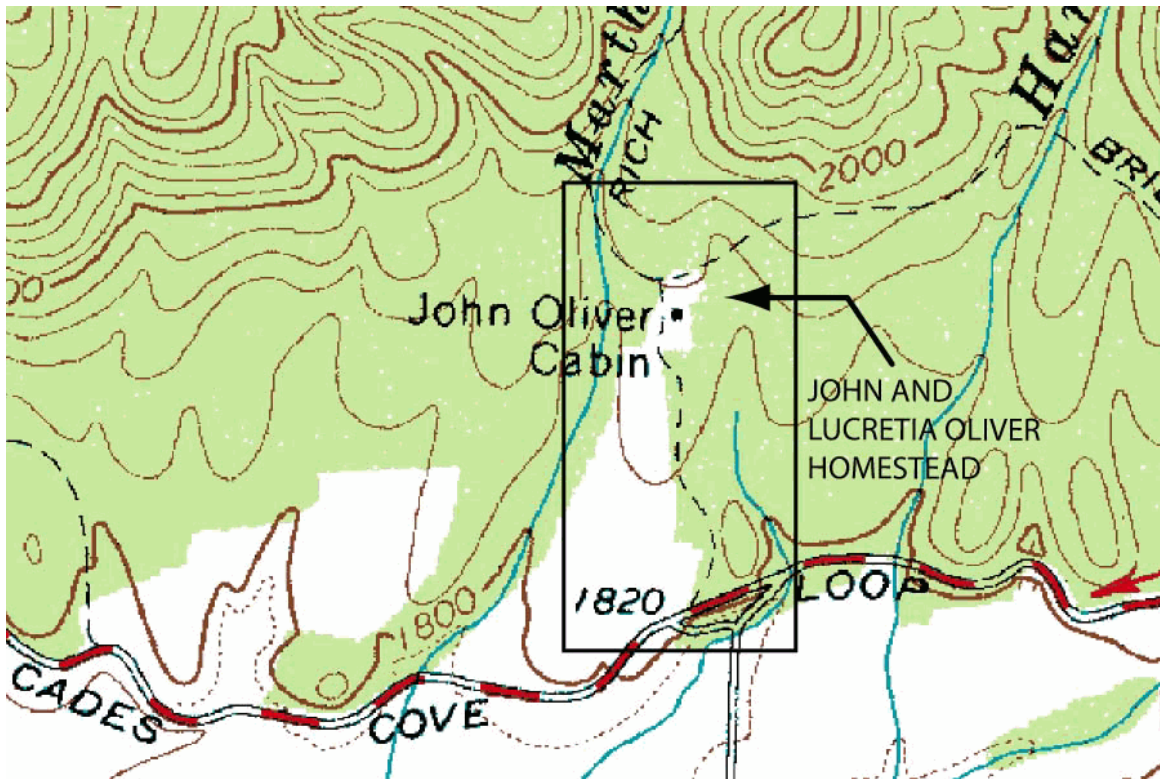
Boundary UTMS:

UTM Zone: 17

UTM Easting: 246,738

UTM Northing: 3,944,144

Location Map:



John and Lucretia Oliver homestead location map

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

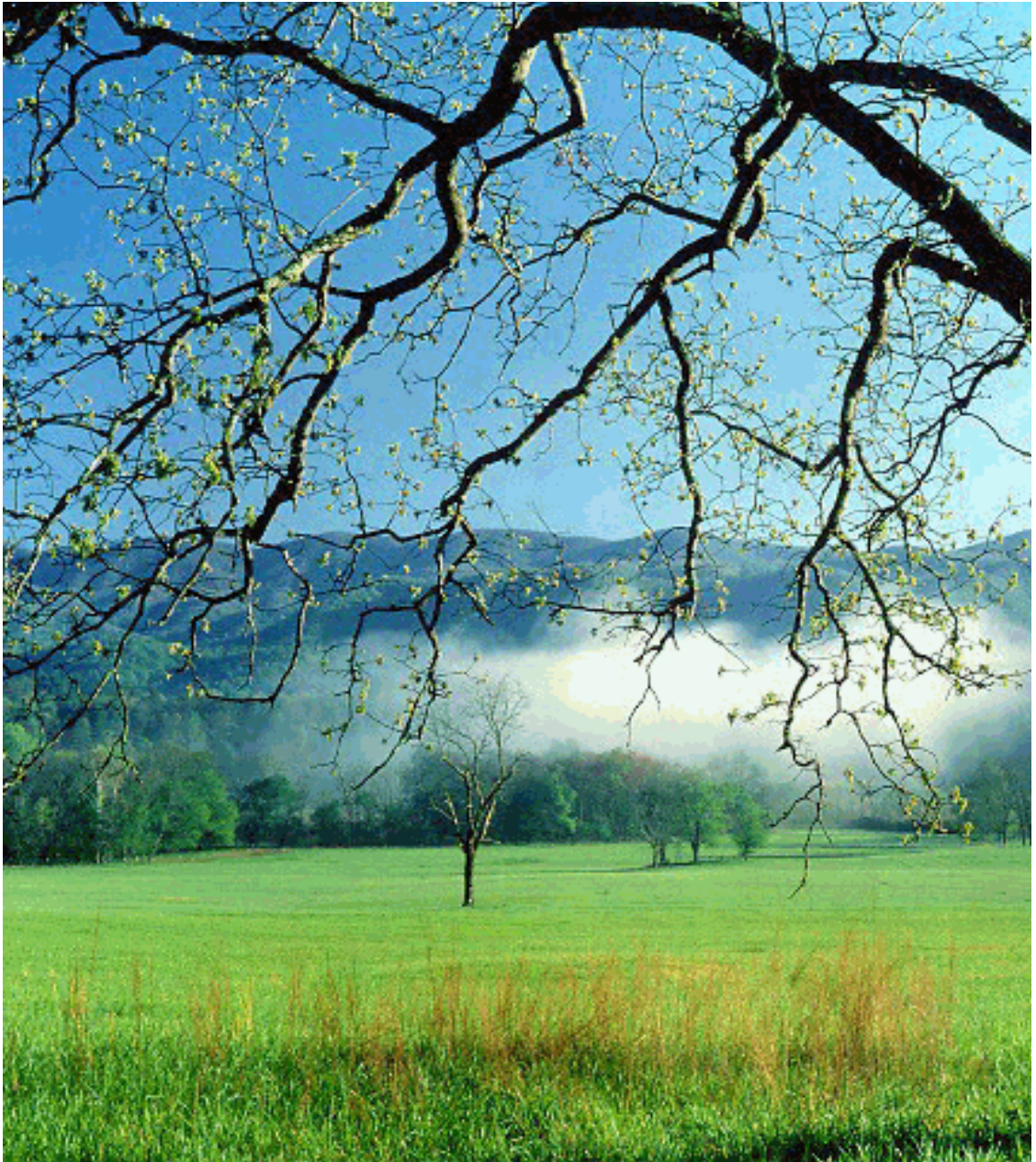
Description:

Local tradition and family documentation credit John Oliver as being one of the first permanent settlers in Cades Cove, arriving in 1818 and returning a year later with his family. Oliver, a veteran of the War of 1812, built his first cabin near the site of the present structure. The present cabin served as a residence for Oliver and his descendants until the state of Tennessee took the land by condemnation in the early 1930s.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

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



View across the open valley floor

Type of Context: Political

Description:

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

Management Unit: Cades Cove Subdistrict
Tract Numbers: 05-109

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/01/2006

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: With Permission

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

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



Adjacent lands above the 2,000' contour elevation

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The July 1977 National Register documentation focuses entirely on historic structures with no reference to the landscape. The Cades Cove Historic District boundary follows the 2,000' contour level. This boundary is ambiguous for it does not include the balds used by the settlers for grazing animals, nor three major roads that provided access to the cove historically. The nomination was amended in November 1977, adding eleven prehistoric archaeological sites to the original documentation. The nomination should be amended to include the cultural landscape features addressed in this CLI.

Existing NRIS Information:

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

National Register Eligibility

| | |
|--|--|
| National Register Concurrence: | Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination |
| Contributing/Individual: | Contributing |
| National Register Classification: | District |
| Significance Level: | State |
| Significance Criteria: | A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history |
| Significance Criteria: | C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values |
| Significance Criteria: | D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history |

Period of Significance:

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

Area of Significance:

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Area of Significance Category: | Agriculture |
| Area of Significance Subcategory: | None |
| Area of Significance Category: | Archeology |
| Area of Significance Subcategory: | Prehistoric |
| Area of Significance Category: | Entertainment - Recreation |
| Area of Significance Subcategory: | None |
| Area of Significance Category: | Exploration - Settlement |
| Area of Significance Subcategory: | None |

Statement of Significance:

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

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

In 1818, John and Lucretia Oliver moved to Cades Cove from Carter County, in northeast Tennessee. Prior to their arrival, there were no permanent white settlements in the area, and the homestead

exemplifies the delayed settlement patterns that occurred in more mountainous areas of the Appalachian chain. John Oliver acquired title to his property in 1826, and, at some point prior to this, is believed to have built a log house on the property. The remains of this original house stand approximately 1/4 mile north of the current house. The present structure, also built in the 1820s, is one of the earliest surviving log cabins in Cades Cove. It is an excellent example of a single-pen Smokies log cabin and was listed as a contributing resource in the 1977 National Register nomination. John Oliver died in 1863, and his two sons, William and Lazarus, continued to operate the farm in partnership until 1879, when the farm was split between the two sons. William Oliver received the eastern portion of the property that included the present John Oliver cabin. Oliver family descendants continued to live there until the property was acquired by the NPS.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park was authorized in 1926, and established for development in 1934, to protect the woodlands, headwaters, and various forms of natural resources in the southern Appalachians. Land for the park, including Cades Cove, was acquired via condemnation proceedings between 1928-1936. At this time, a policy to preserve and interpret the mountain culture resources gradually developed, with the idea of establishing an outdoor folk museum in the cove. It was determined that the "pioneer" stage of settlement would be the focus of preservation, with the emphasis on the best examples of notched log construction. The John Oliver Homestead, featuring one of the oldest surviving log cabins in Cades Cove and a location just off the loop road, was proposed as part of the trail and roadside field exhibits of mountain culture.

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

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Cultural Landscape Type: | Vernacular |
| Current and Historic Use/Function: | |
| Primary Historic Function: | Agricultural Field |
| Primary Current Use: | Automobile |

John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

Other Use/Function

Leisure-Passive (Park)

Natural Area-Other

Single Family House

Other Type of Use or Function

Current

Current

Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

John and Lurena Oliver Homestead

Type of Name

Current

Chronology:

| Year | Event | Annotation |
|----------------|------------------|---|
| AD 1818 | Settled | In 1818, John Oliver moved to Cades Cove from Carter County, in northeast Tennessee. |
| AD 1819 - 1926 | Farmed/Harvested | John Oliver built the present cabin on his property c. 1819. Oliver family members continued to farm here until the park was established in 1926. |
| AD 1926 - 1936 | Land Transfer | In 1926, legislation authorizing the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was passed by Congress. The state of Tennessee began acquiring farms in Cades cove in 1928. |
| AD 1937 - 2006 | Preserved | The NPS decided to make Cades Cove an "Outdoor Museum of Mountain Culture," focusing on the "pioneer" stage of settlement. A policy to preserve and interpret the mountain culture resources begins and gradually develops during NPS tenure. |
| AD 1968 | Rehabilitated | In 1968, the John Oliver House was rehabilitated. The undocumented split-rail fencing was added sometime prior to 1963. |
| AD 2004 | Rehabilitated | Ground stabilization efforts take place along the west and north side of the homestead. |

Physical History:

(1818-1926) Early Settlement and Later Development

Prior to permanent white settlement in the area, the Cherokees were the dominant tribe in the central and southern Appalachians. The entire Smoky Mountain region, including Cades Cove, was within Cherokee territory. The rugged geography of the area, combined with the Cherokee presence, delayed white settlement of the Smokies until the second quarter of the nineteenth century. There were no permanent white settlements in Cades Cove until 1818, when John Oliver moved there from Carter County, in northeast Tennessee. He acquired legal title to his land in 1826, and, at some point prior to this, is believed to have built a log house on the property. The remains of this original house stand approximately 1/4 mile north of the current house on the east side of the trail that leads to Rich Mountain. The present structure, also built in the 1820s, is an excellent example of a single-pen Smokies log cabin. John Oliver died in 1863, and two of his sons, William and Lazarus, continued to operate the farm in partnership until it was split between the two in 1879. William Oliver received the eastern portion of the property that included the present John Oliver cabin. William Oliver died in 1901, and his wife, Martha, lived there until 1912, at which time the property was deeded to James R. Oliver. James Oliver never lived at the John Oliver Homestead, but other family members continued to live there until the property was acquired by the NPS.

Historic photographs from the 1930s show a paling fence surrounding a kitchen garden located south of the house, with cabbages and corn growing in N/S rows and hollyhocks growing along the outside edges. The photos also show an unidentified outbuilding located north of the house. The view from the west shows another outbuilding located west of the house (Figures 1-3). According to David Chapman, historian for GRSM, the barn was located somewhere in the open area between the house and the loop road. Archaeological studies would be needed to determine the exact location of the outbuildings.



Figure 1. 1930s view of the John Oliver Homestead (from the west)



Figure 2. 1930s view of the John Oliver Homestead (from the south)



Figure 3. 1920s view of the John Oliver kitchen garden

(1926-present) Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The impetus for a national park in the Eastern United States at a similar scale to the large western national parks began between 1910-1920 by local groups in both North Carolina and Tennessee. Through numerous regenerations of federal legislation, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was established in 1926 to protect the woodlands, headwaters, and various forms of natural resources in the southern Appalachians. In 1927, the Tennessee General Assembly appropriated \$1.5 million for buying park lands and gave the newly created Park Commission the power to seize farms within the proposed park boundaries by right of eminent domain. Land for the park, including Cades Cove, was acquired between 1928-1936. At this time, a policy to preserve and interpret the mountain culture resources gradually developed, with the idea of establishing an outdoor folk museum in the cove (Lix 1958, 82). The John Oliver Homestead, with its location .3 miles from the loop road, was proposed as part of the trail and roadside field exhibits of mountain culture.

As part of the Park Development Era master plan, several changes have taken place at the John Oliver Homestead. Although the historic photographs from the 1930s show a paling fence surrounding a kitchen garden located south of the house, these features were removed (Figures 2-4). In the 1960s, an undocumented split-rail fence was erected around the cabin and part of the fescue field. The north and west edges of the garden can be documented, but archaeology would be needed to locate the south and east edges (Dyer 1988, 138). The historic approach to

John and Lucretia Oliver Homestead
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

the homestead (from the west) was changed (date unknown) when a woodland trail from the parking area was made the primary access to the homestead. A volunteer path from the overflow parking area has been created by visitors taking the straightest route to the cabin. This double-tracked trail has become increasingly eroded in recent years due to increased visitation at this homesite.

The wooded area surrounding the John Oliver Homestead consists of a cove hardwood type forest, dominated by tulip poplar, hemlock, and Virginia pine. It is likely that some of the area in the immediate vicinity of the cabin was cleared in the past and has been allowed to reforest.



Figure 4. 1992 view of the John Oliver Homestead, looking east (compare to Figures 2-3)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

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

Landscape Characteristic:

Buildings And Structures

The John Oliver House is one of the earliest log cabins in the cove and is a contributing feature of the historic landscape.

Character-defining Features:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Feature: | John Oliver House |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99926 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |
| IDLCS Number: | 13042 |
| LCS Structure Name: | John Oliver Cabin |
| LCS Structure Number: | MMS-186 |

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The John Oliver House (LCS 1992)

Circulation

Vehicular and pedestrian access to the John Oliver Homestead was historically from the west side, and traces of this original path are still visible at the site. The road trace from Rich Mountain that descends from the north into the site is also historic, since it is known that early access into the cove was over Rich Mountain Road from Tuckaleechee Cove. There are presently two approaches to the site from the loop road, one "official" trail through the woods to the east of the cabin, and a second, "volunteer" path created by visitors, straight through the center of the field back to the overflow parking lot. It is not known when the approach was changed, as NPS master plan maps from the 1950s and 60s show the approach leading to the west side of the cabin (NP-GSM 3148-B and NP-GSM 2557). 1972 Development Concept Plan map NP-GSM 40002A shows the approach changed, skirting along the east side of the site and arriving at the south side of the cabin. The double-tracked volunteer path has become increasingly eroded in recent years due to increased visitation at this homesite. All road traces and trails from the historic period, as well as any Park Development Era roads, are considered contributing elements of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Primary access trail to the John Oliver Homestead (2000).



Eroded volunteer path, looking north (2000).



Informal pathway leading to the John Oliver Cabin. Note the level of erosion (July 2006).



Informal pathway leading to the John Oliver Cabin, taken from near the overflow parking area. Note the level of erosion (2006).

Small Scale Features

A stone wall remnant is located in the woods to the north of the cabin and is a contributing feature of the historic landscape. The split-rail fence that encloses the site is a 1960s undocumented reconstruction (the fence was later moved behind the cedar trees because of erosion at the site).

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Stone wall remnant located north of site (2000).

Topography

The settlement patterns at this site were strongly influenced by the topography of the cove, featuring farmsteads close to the surrounding hillsides, leaving the interior for cultivation. The resulting pattern of forested ascending slopes and open fields on the valley floor is typical of the farmsteads in Cades Cove.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Topographic patterns at the John Oliver Homestead - note volunteer path (2000).

Vegetation

Although some of the vegetation patterns historically associated with the John Oliver Homestead are no longer intact (rowcrops, kitchen garden), the hillsides have retained their original or successional vegetation, and the valley floor has retained the open feeling it had during the historic period. Additionally, two large cedar trees located west of the cabin are remnants from the 1930s. Erosion at the site has increased with heavier visitation. The vegetation of the John Oliver Homestead is a contributing feature of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Remnant cedar trees at John Oliver Homestead (2000).

Views And Vistas

Views from homesteads out across the valley floor were part of the historic scene. The 1938 Master Plan developed and maintained these views. Although successional vegetation on the valley floor has encroached upon some of these views, the broader pattern has been maintained over time. The views and vistas are considered contributing features of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View across the valley floor (2000).

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Condition Assessment: | Good |
| Assessment Date: | 09/30/1999 |
| Condition Assessment: | Fair |
| Assessment Date: | 08/01/2006 |
| Condition Assessment: | Fair |
| Assessment Date: | 09/18/2012 |

Impacts

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Type of Impact: | Vandalism/Theft/Arson |
| External or Internal: | Internal |
| Impact Description: | Graffiti |

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Type of Impact: | Release To Succession |
| External or Internal: | Internal |
| Impact Description: | Release to succession has reduced the size of the open space in the immediate vicinity of the cabin, allowing reforestation of the hillsides. |

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Type of Impact: | Visitation |
| External or Internal: | Internal |
| Impact Description: | Visitors using the overflow parking area at this homestead have created a volunteer path in the field. The pathway impacts views towards the cabin from the parking area, and toward the valley floor from the cabin. |

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Type of Impact: | Erosion |
| External or Internal: | Internal |
| Impact Description: | Visitors using the volunteer path from the overflow parking to the cabin are causing erosion within the historic field remnant. |

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

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

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Citation Title: | 'The John Oliver Cabin,' Great Smoky Mountains National Park, N.C.- |
| Source Name: | CRBIB |
| Citation Number: | 002590 |
| Citation Title: | N/A |
| Source Name: | Other |
| Citation Number: | N/A |
| Citation Type: | Narrative |
| Citation Location: | See Cades Cove Cultural Landscape Bibliography for a complete list of references. |

Supplemental Information

Title: Cades Cove Developed Area

Description: TIC map number NP-GSM 3148-B, dated 1964.

Title: Cades Cove part of the Master Plan for Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Description: TIC map number NP-GSM 2163-A, dated 1946.

Title: Cades Cove, Tenn. USGS map

Description: 1930-1931 USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map

Title: Cultural Exhibits, Cades Cove Area

Description: TIC map number NP-GSM 2163, dated 1942.

Title: S. & M.C. Map for Cades Cove, part of the Master Plan for Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Description: TIC map NP-GSM 2498, dated 1951