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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
1998



Methodist Church and Cemetery  
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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## **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:**

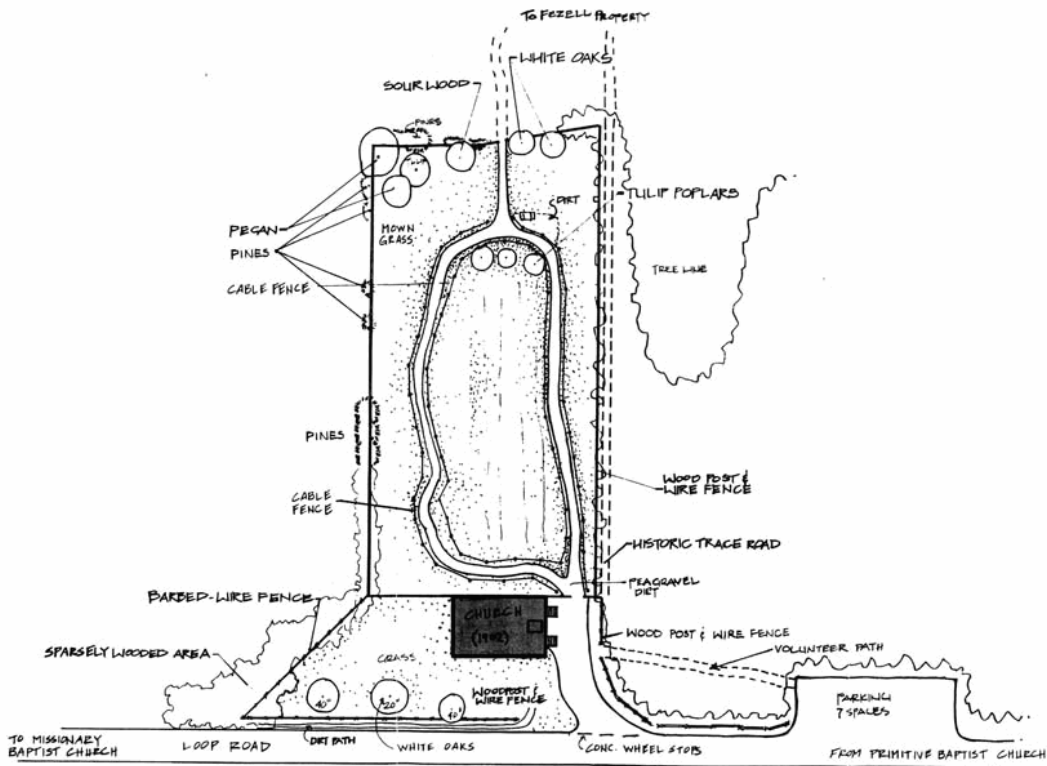
The Methodist Church and Cemetery is a .5-acre component landscape located north of the Cades Cove Loop Road in Blount County, Tennessee. Access to the property, sited on the crest of a hill, is by a pea gravel dirt path adjacent to the Cades Cove Loop Road. The site features a church and cemetery bounded by a post-and-wire fence; cable-wire fencing encloses the cemetery. The path that provides access to the site also provides pedestrian circulation around the cemetery and connects with a secondary trail that historically led to the Feezell property.

The period of significance for the site begins in 1840 when a log meeting house was constructed (Dunn 1988, 119). The period of significance extends to 1942, to include the Park Development Era improvements.

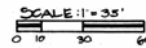
The NPS decided to make Cades Cove an "Outdoor Museum of Mountain Culture," focusing on the "pioneer" stage of development. Since the churches located in the cove were of frame construction, they were scheduled for removal, but the congregations agreed to maintain them at their own expense. A Special Use Permit for the Methodist Church was in effect until 1971, at which time the park assumed maintenance and preservation responsibilities. It is not known what changes to the historic landscape occurred prior to 1971. The circulation system around the cemetery was rehabilitated in 1991 to correct erosion problems and to keep visitors off the graves and does not reflect any historic configuration (Trout 1991, 1-4). It is not known if the fencing at the site reflects what was there during the historic period.

The area surrounding the church and cemetery is an open fescue field. The ascending slopes north of the site include a forest of Virginia and white pine, hemlock, maple, and tulip poplar.

Site Plan



*Methodist Church and Cemetery*  
 Cades Cove  
 Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
 Cultural Landscape Inventory – Level I July 1996  
 Drawn by: Chauncer McLaughlin



*Methodist Church and Cemetery Site Plan (1996; updated 2006)*

### Property Level and CLI Numbers

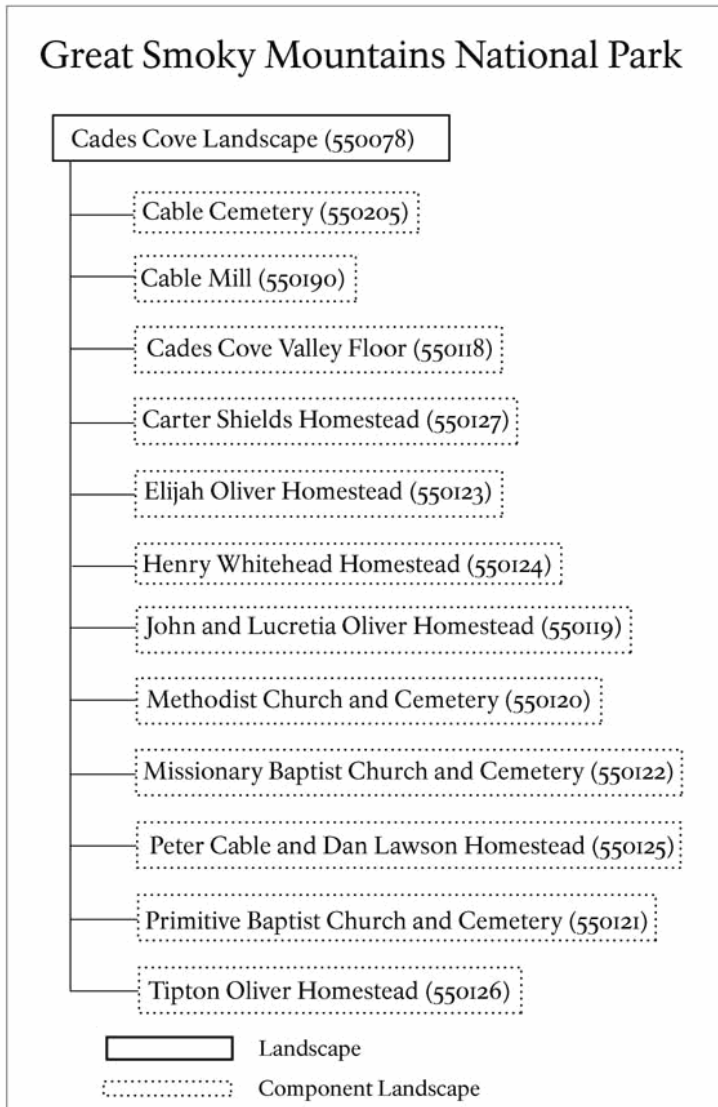
<b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>	Methodist Church and Cemetery
<b>Property Level:</b>	Component Landscape
<b>CLI Identification Number:</b>	550120
<b>Parent Landscape:</b>	550078

### Park Information

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

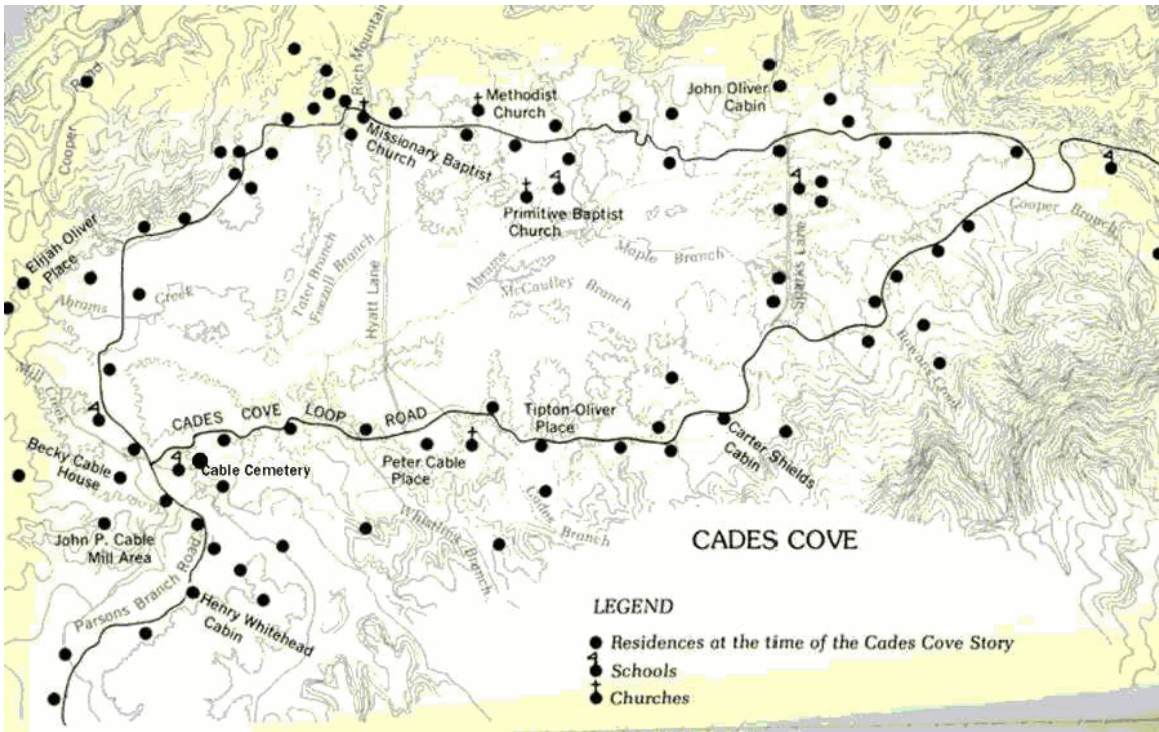
### CLI Hierarchy Description

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



Methodist Church and Cemetery  
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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*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:

<b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>	Yes
<b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b>	09/15/2006
<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Date of Concurrence Determination:</b>	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:

Methodist Church and Cemetery  
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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United States Department of the Interior

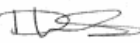
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
1924 Building  
100 Alabama St., S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



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 Superintendent*

Methodist Church and Cemetery  
 Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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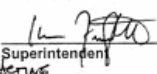
**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY  
 CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – 8 August 2006**

**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**

<b>Inventory Name</b>	<b>CLI Id #</b>	<b>Condition ('06)</b>	<b>Condition ('12)</b>
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 approximately .5 acres. The present landscape boundaries reflect what was mapped during the CLI site visit in July 1996 and may not reflect historic boundaries. Further investigation is needed to determine if the component landscape boundary needs to be changed.

### State and County:

**State:** TN

**County:** Blount County

**Size (Acres):** 0.50

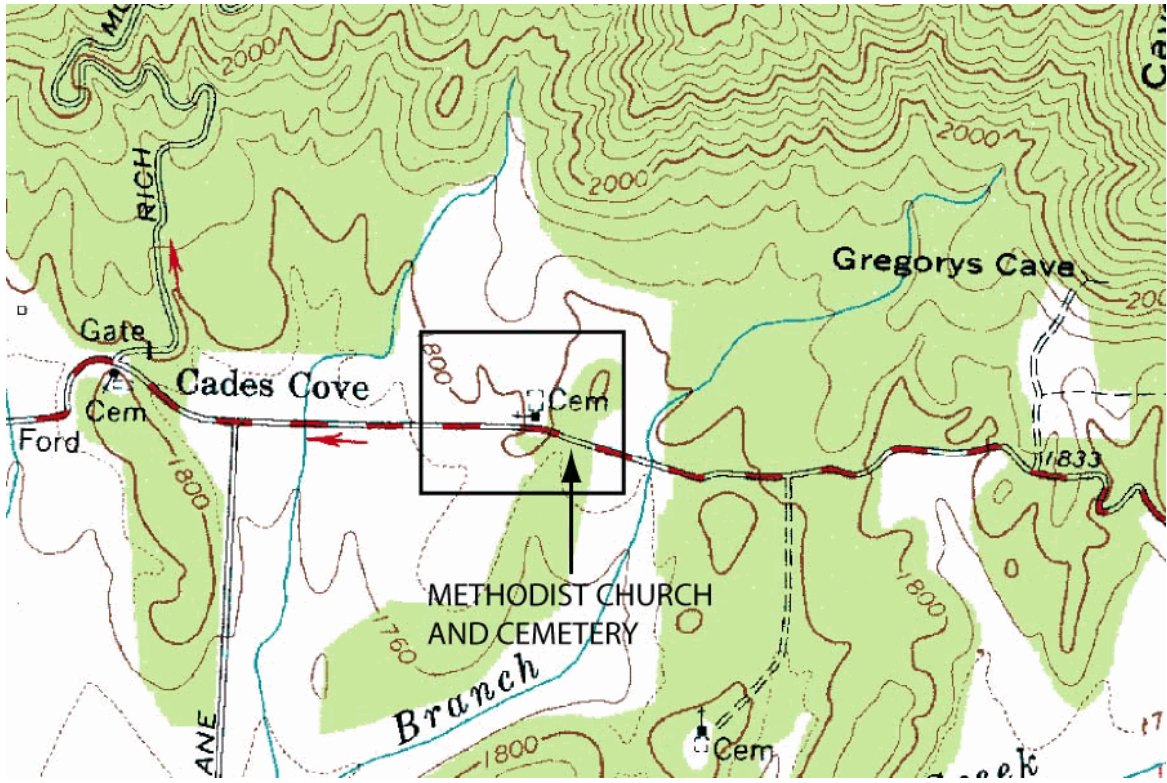
### Boundary UTMS:

**UTM Zone:** 17

**UTM Easting:** 244,770

**UTM Northing:** 3,943,868

**Location Map:**



*Methodist Church and cemetery location map*

**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

One of the earliest symbols of community in a typical cove settlement was the establishment of churches. Community social life revolved around church services, Sunday school, annual week-long revival meetings, grave decoration, church suppers, weddings, and funerals. In the Smokies, the Baptist and Methodist denominations predominated. Given the small congregations and the emphasis on preaching and singing, simple one-room buildings were the norm. The main exterior embellishment was a belfry or steeple. The ringing of the church bell summoned the neighborhood to services and also tolled upon the death of a neighbor.

**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:** 05-110

## 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*

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

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

#### Existing NRIS Information:

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

### National Register Eligibility

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

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

**Period of Significance:**

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

**Area of Significance:**

<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Agriculture
<b>Area of Significance Subcategory:</b>	None
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Archeology
<b>Area of Significance Subcategory:</b>	Prehistoric
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Entertainment - Recreation
<b>Area of Significance Subcategory:</b>	None
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Exploration - Settlement
<b>Area of Significance Subcategory:</b>	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.

One of the earliest symbols of community in a typical cove settlement was the establishment of churches. Community social life revolved around church services, Sunday school, annual week-long

revival meetings, grave decoration, church suppers, weddings, and funerals. In the Smokies, the Baptist and Methodist denominations predominated. Given the small congregations and the emphasis on preaching and singing, simple one-room buildings were the norm. The main exterior embellishment was a belfry or steeple. The ringing of the church bell summoned the neighborhood to services and also tolled upon the death of a neighbor.

The Cades Cove Methodists may have organized as early as 1824, and Cades Cove is on the list of churches on the Little River Circuit in 1830. In 1840, a log meeting house was built, but there are very few records of the Methodists from 1840-1878. In 1880, a small group broke off and formed the Hopewell Methodist Church on the south side of the cove. In 1902, the Cades Cove Methodist Church constructed the present frame building, and in 1910, the property was deeded to the church by William A. Feezell. The Methodist Church Cemetery is probably the second oldest church burial plot. Early settlers buried there include the Tiptons, Feezells, and Sparkses.

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. 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. 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. The state of Tennessee acquired land for the park, including Cades Cove, from 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.

Although, as a frame structure, the Methodist Church and Cemetery was not included in early (1942) Park Development Era maps of the cultural exhibits, it was added later as one of the three remaining churches located in Cades Cove. Until the park took over management responsibilities in the 1970s, the church received continued maintenance through a grassroots effort by descendent communities. The present church, constructed in 1902, is a front gable frame building with a pyramidal bell turret and flared spire. It was listed as a contributing building in the 1977 National Register nomination. Historical landscape features still in place at the site include the cemetery and cemetery headstones, road traces, and biotic remnants.

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 Methodist Church and Cemetery reflects an evolution of NPS design philosophy started during the New Deal, when architects, landscape architects, historians, and engineers created a unified aesthetic conception (the master plan) of the site to preserve cultural as well as natural resources.

## **Chronology & Physical History**

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Vernacular

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Religious Structure (church)

**Primary Current Use:** Recreation/Culture-Other

<b>Other Use/Function</b>	<b>Other Type of Use or Function</b>
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Cemetery	Both Current And Historic
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Religion-Other	Both Current And Historic
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**Current and Historic Names:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Name</b>
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Methodist Church	Current
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Methodist Episcopal Church	Historic
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Methodist Episcopal Church, South	Historic
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**Chronology:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Annotation</b>
AD 1840	Built	In 1840, the Methodists built a log meeting house in Cades Cove after being deeded the property by James Deaver.
AD 1902	Built	The present frame structure was built in 1902.
AD 1926 - 1936	Land Transfer	In 1926, legislation authorizing the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was passed by Congress. The land for the park, including Cades Cove, was acquired between 1928-1936.
AD 1937 - 1971	Maintained	The Cades Cove Methodist Church obtained a Special Use Permit to maintain the building and grounds.
AD 1971 - 2006	Preserved	In 1971, NPS assumed maintenance and preservation responsibilities.
AD 1990 - 1991	Rehabilitated	The building and cemetery were rehabilitated from 1990-1991.



Methodist Church and Cemetery  
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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AD 1996 - 2006

Altered

To reduce wear and erosion, metal post and cable fencing is added to the cemetery, restricting visitor access to a prescribed pathway.

**Physical History:**

(1840-1926) Early Settlement and Later Development

The Cades Cove Methodists may have organized as early as 1824, and Cades Cove is on the list of churches on the Little River Circuit in 1830 (Shields 1977, 39). In 1840, James Deaver deeded 3 acres to the Methodist Church Trustees, and a log meeting house was built (Trout 1991, 5). There are very few records of the Methodists from 1840-1878. In 1880, a small group broke off and formed the Hopewell Methodist Church on the south side of the cove (later known as Lawson's Church, the building is no longer standing). In 1902, the Cades Cove Methodist Church constructed the present frame building. The Methodist Church Cemetery is the second oldest church burial plot. Early settlers buried there include the Tiptons, Feezells, and Sparkses (Shields 1977, 40).

(1927-present) Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The impetus for a national park in the Eastern United States at similar scale to the large western national parks began between 1910-1920 by local groups in both North Carolina and Tennessee. Through numerous regenerations of federal legislation, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was established in 1926 to protect the woodlands, headwaters, and various forms of natural resources in the southern Appalachians. In 1927, the Tennessee General Assembly appropriated \$1.5 million for buying park lands and gave the newly created Park Commission the power to seize farms within the proposed park boundaries by right of eminent domain. Land for the park, including Cades Cove, was acquired via condemnation proceedings between 1928-1937. 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 Methodist Church and Cemetery was not included in early (1942) Park Development Era maps of the sites to be included in the cultural exhibits. The church buildings in the cove were of frame construction and were scheduled for removal unless the congregations agreed to maintain them at their own expense. The Cades Cove Methodist Church agreed to do so under a Special Use Permit that was in effect until 1971, at which time NPS assumed maintenance and preservation responsibility for the site. There is no record of changes made to the site while being maintained by the congregation. In 1990, the building was rehabilitated. In 1991, the cemetery circulation system was rehabilitated to improve erosion and to keep visitors off the graves (Trout 1991, 4). One major loop trail was established (not based on any historic configuration). A portion of the cable-wire fencing was added at this time, with more added in subsequent years. It is not known when the seven pull-off parking spaces were added.

It is not known if the post-and-wire fencing at the site is an accurate representation of what was there during the historic period. No historic photographs have been found for comparison. A Special Use Permit can be issued for religious services in the church, and burials are still allowed for holders of plots within the enclosed area of the cemetery.

The area around the church and cemetery is an open fescue field. The ascending slopes north

of the site include a forest of Virginia and white pine, hemlock, maple, and tulip poplar. White pines growing along the western fence line are encroaching upon views into the cove, as well as views of the church from Rich Mountain Road.



*Figure 1. 1953 view of Cades Cove Methodist Church*



*Figure 2. Cades Cove Methodist Church (LCS 1968)*

## 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.

#### Small Scale Features

#### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Pea gravel pathway with fencing. Note erosion around headstone (2006).*



*Pea gravel pathway with fencing. Note erosion around headstone (2006).*

### **Views and Vistas**

The Methodist Church and Cemetery has notable views into the adjacent fields, as well as a view from Rich Mountain Road down to the church. These views are being impacted by a succession of white pines along the back fencerow.

### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*View of church from Rich Mountain Road overlook. Note the young pines beginning to block views of the church (2006).*

### **Buildings and Structures**

The Methodist Church and Cemetery features a rectangular, front-gable frame building with a pyramidal bell turret and flared spire. The cemetery, located north of the church, is the burial place of many of the early Cades Cove families, such as the Tiptons, Feezells, and Sparkses.

### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Cades Cove Methodist Church

Feature Identification Number: 100505

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 13039

LCS Structure Name: Methodist Church

LCS Structure Number: MMS-220

Feature: Cades Cove Methodist Church Cemetery Headstones

Feature Identification Number: 100700

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Methodist Church and Cemetery  
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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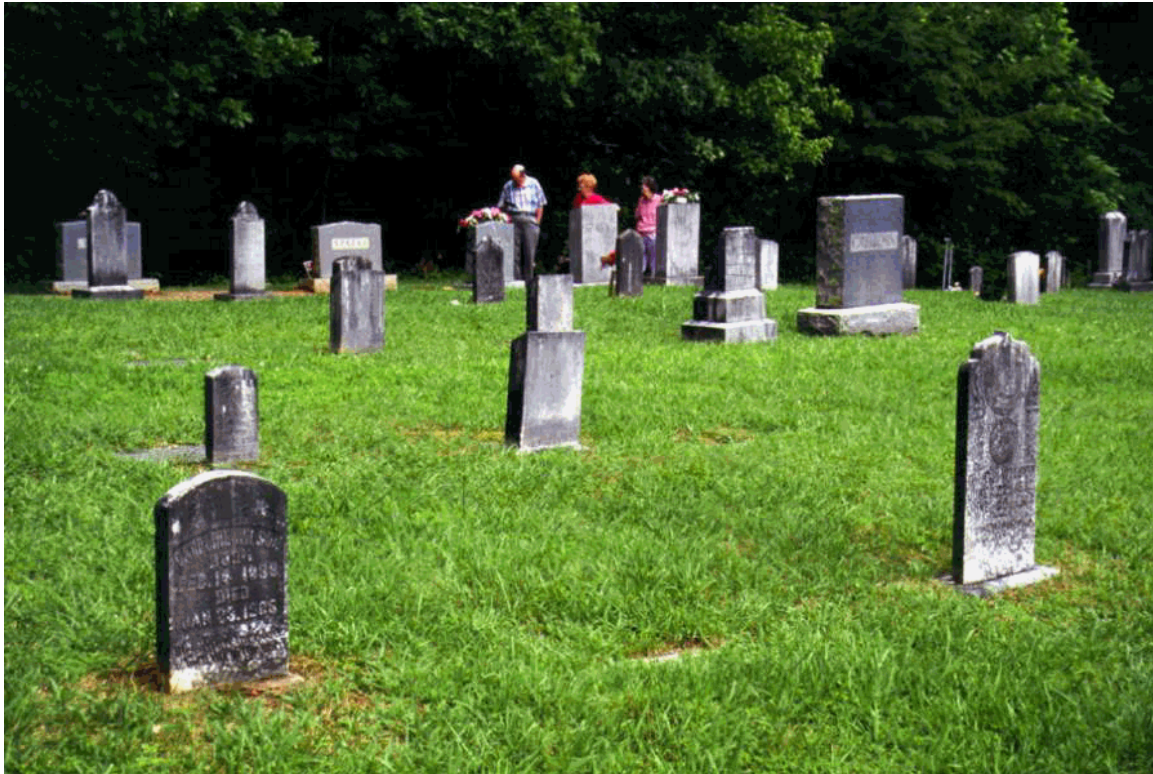
IDLCS Number: 10201  
LCS Structure Name: Methodist Church Cemetery Headstones (Cades Cove)  
LCS Structure Number: C008

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Cades Cove Methodist Church (LCS 1992)*



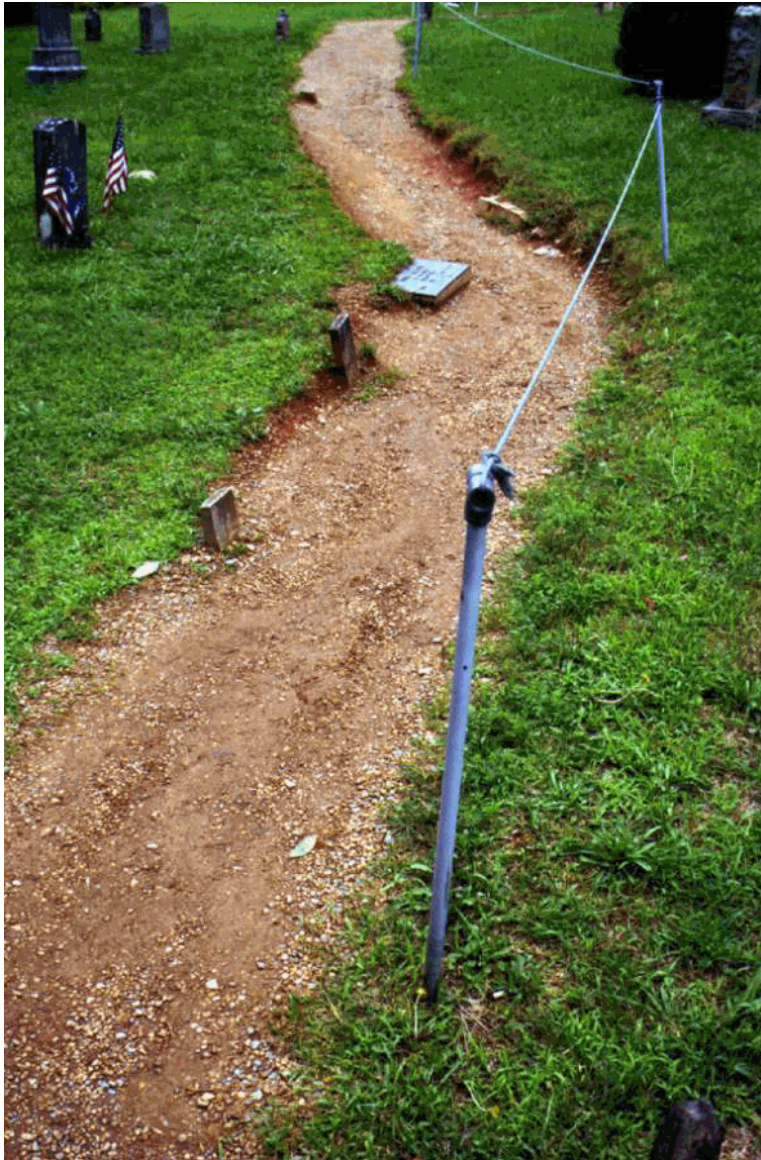


*Methodist Church and Cemetery Headstones*

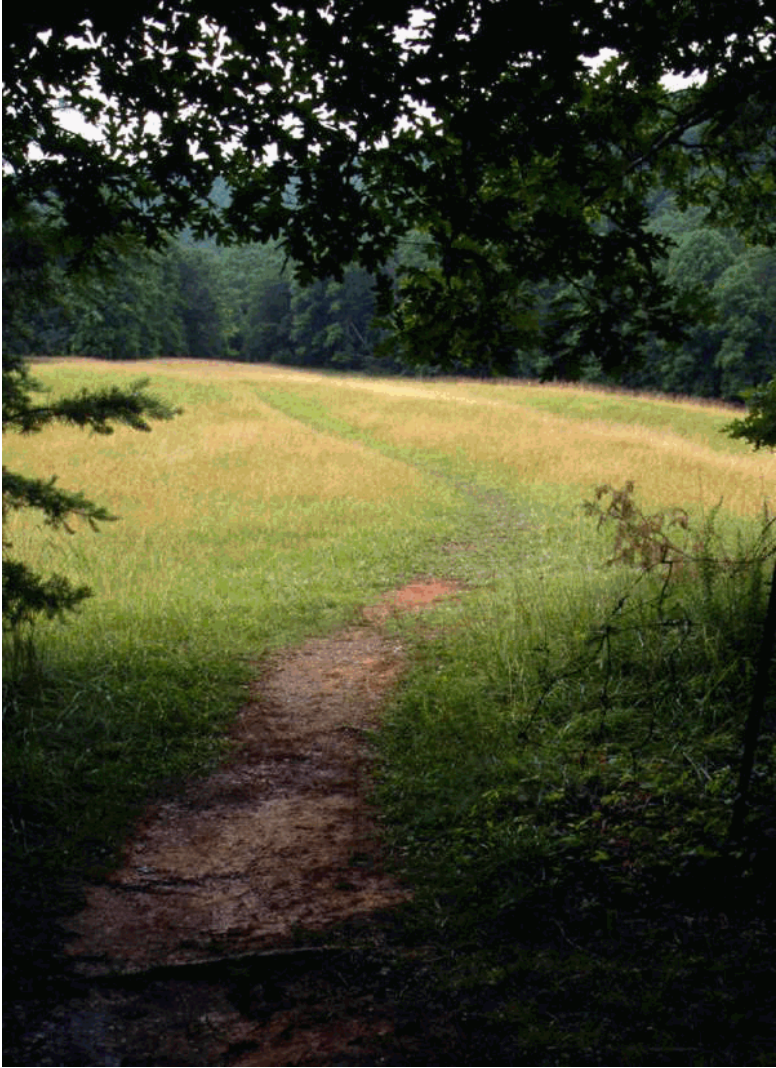
### **Circulation**

Presently, visitors are brought to the site by a dirt path stabilized with pea gravel adjacent to the loop road. As the visitor pull-off parking area is located approximately 40 feet down the loop road, visitors are creating a volunteer path from the parking area leading more directly to the cemetery. The official path continues around the cemetery and connects with a trail south of the property that historically led to the Feezell property. The circulation system around the cemetery was rehabilitated in 1991 to stabilize it from erosion and to keep visitors off the graves and bears no resemblance to any historic configuration. A historic road trace, located east of the post-and-wire fence that encloses the site, historically led to the Feezell property.

### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Circulation system within the cemetery. Note erosion (2000).*



*Secondary path across open field*



*Historic road trace*



*Volunteer pathway from parking lot to church. Note the significant level of erosion and exposed roots (2006).*

### **Topography**

The settlement patterns at this site were strongly influenced by the topography of the cove, featuring farmsteads and churches close to the surrounding hillsides, leaving the interior for cultivation. The siting of churches on hilltops is typical of the Cades Cove landscape.

### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Topographic patterns at the Methodist Church and Cemetery (2006).*

### **Vegetation**

It is unknown how specific vegetation patterns at the site compare with those of the historic period, as there are no historic photographs for comparison. The broader pattern of forested ascending slopes surrounding the open space of the church and cemetery has been retained and would be considered a contributing feature of the historic landscape.

### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Vegetation patterns at the Methodist Church and Cemetery (2000).*

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

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

#### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Over the past 7 years, erosion has continued to impact the volunteer pathway through the wooded area near the parking lot. To a lesser extent, erosion is impacting the headstones closest to the NPS pathway through the cemetery. Views to and from the church are starting to be obstructed by fast-growing white pines along the eastern fenceline.

**Condition Assessment:** Fair  
**Assessment Date:** 09/18/2012

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Release To Succession  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** Release to succession has increased the amount of forest on the valley floor and hillsides, resulting in less extensive views across the cove. Additionally, fast-growing white pines along the eastern fenceline are beginning to obstruct views from the church into the surrounding cove, and from Rich Mountain Road to the church.

**Type of Impact:** Visitation  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** In 1991, the circulation system was rehabilitated to keep visitors off the graves and reduce erosion at the site. The cable-wire fencing around the gravesites was added at this time. More fencing was added along the pathway between 2000 and 2006. The presence of this pathway and fencing negatively impacts the setting of the church. They do prevent some erosion, but it still continues, just at a lesser rate - especially near headstones closest to the NPS pathway.

**Type of Impact:** Erosion



<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Vistors walk up the wooded hillside rather than along the official path from the parking lot to the church. The result is a heavily eroded hillside, impacting both the setting and the tree roots. Erosion continues, to a lesser extent, along the pathway in the cemetery, including next to some of the headstones.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Vandalism/Theft/Arson
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Graffiti

## Treatment

### Treatment

#### Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

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

## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

### Bibliography

<b>Citation Title:</b>	Draft "Historic Structure Report, Cades Cove Historic District (Churches)"
<b>Source Name:</b>	Other
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Narrative
<b>Citation Location:</b>	LCS file
<b>Citation Title:</b>	N/A
<b>Source Name:</b>	Other
<b>Citation Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Citation Location:</b>	See Cades Cove Cultural Landscape Bibliography for a complete list of references.

**Supplemental Information**

**Title:** NA

**Description:** See Cades Cove Cultural Landscape for a complete list of maps.