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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

1998



Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead  
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:**

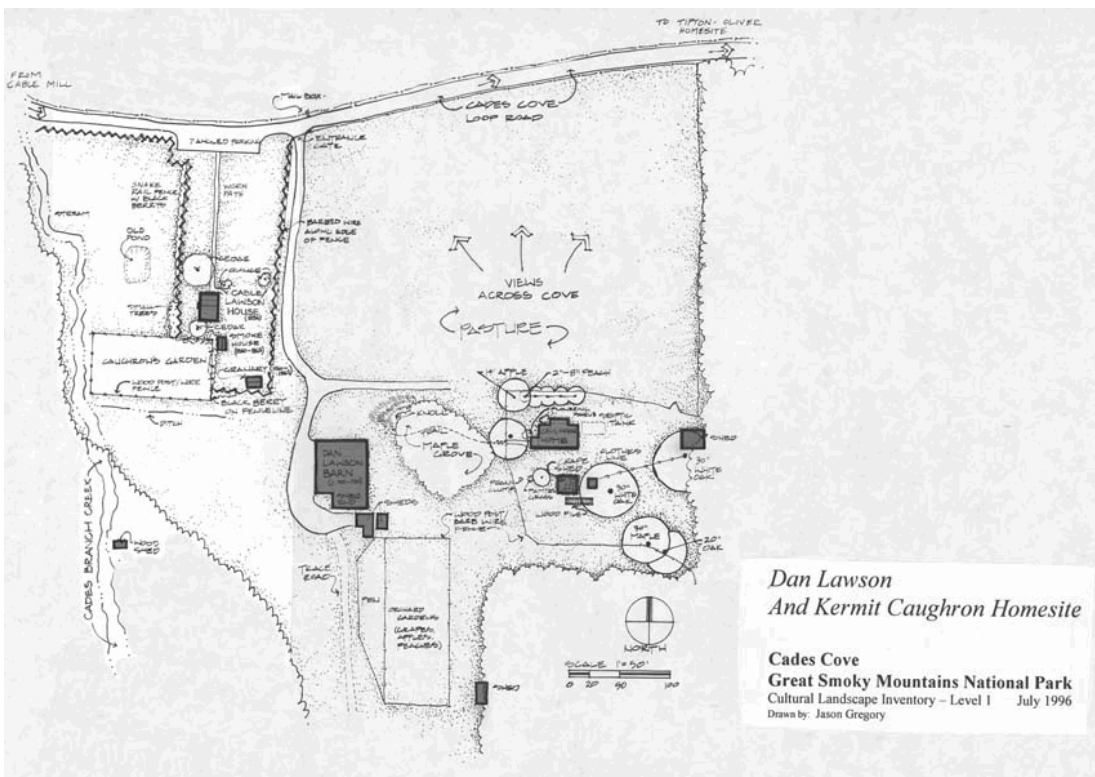
The Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead is a 3.2-acre component landscape located south of the Cades Cove Loop Road in Blount County, Tennessee. Access to the site is by a nonhistoric footpath adjacent to visitor pull-off parking south of the loop road. The homestead contains features typical of a Cades Cove farmstead, including a log cabin, smokehouse, granary, remnant fields, and road traces. In addition to these, three major topographical remnants remain from the pre-Park period: earthen mounds that outline most of the old vegetable garden, earthworks that once channeled and contained water flowing from the spring into the yard and out again, and a shallow depression that marks the location of the cellar (partially filled in) underneath the existing Lawson cabin (Dyer 1988, 147). East of the Dan Lawson cabin was the residence and farm of Kermit Caughron, the agricultural leasee who lived here with his wife for more than thirty years before his death in April 1999. The Dan Lawson Barn (early twentieth-century) is located on this part of the site. The Caughron Home and associated outbuildings and features were removed after his death.

The period of significance for the site begins in 1825 when Peter Cable purchased the property from Jabez Thurman. 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.

Because the NPS decided to make Cades Cove an "Outdoor Museum of Mountain Culture," the current condition of the landscape has been substantially altered from the historic landscape. An ell-shaped frame house stood next to the existing log house from the early 1900s until the late 1930s but was taken down by the NPS, and the cellar beneath the existing Lawson cabin was filled in. The system that brought water from the spring into the yard where it was used for domestic needs has been covered over. The vegetable garden enclosed by a paling fence located north of the house was removed, and an undocumented split-rail fence was erected around the homestead. The historic approach from the driveway that bounds the site on the east was changed to accommodate visitor traffic.

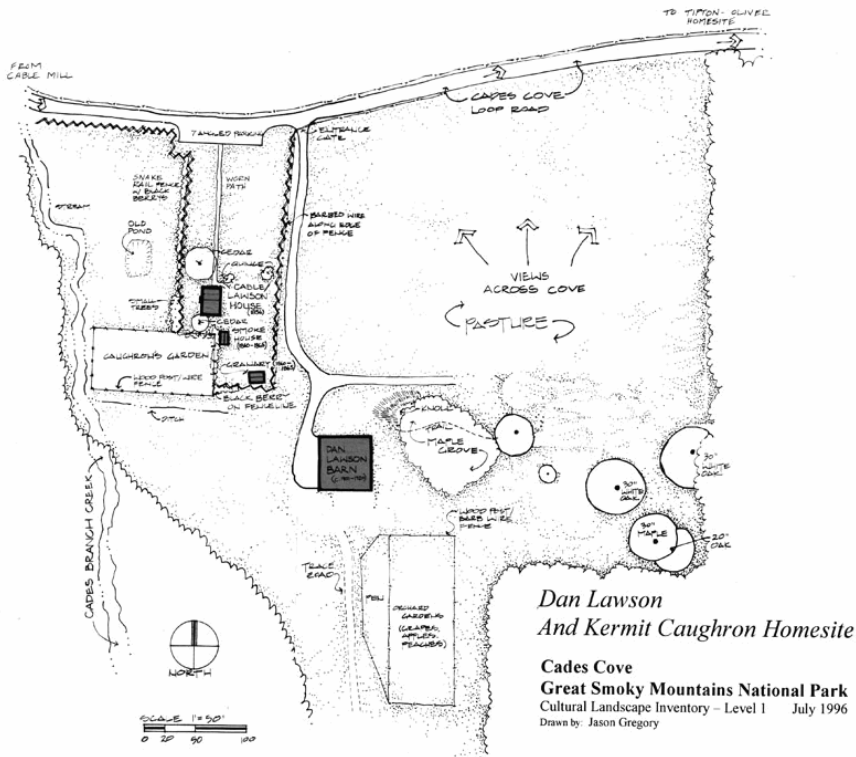
An open fescue field is maintained around the site. The area behind the homestead is a forest of mixed pine, red maple, and tulip poplar. In the drainage, hemlock and rhododendron comprise the understory. Out of the drainage, the understory is white pine and vaccinium.

Site Plan



*Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead (1996)*

Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead  
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict



*Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead (2006: note removal of Kermit Caughron features)*

**Property Level and CLI Numbers**

<b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>	Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead
<b>Property Level:</b>	Component Landscape
<b>CLI Identification Number:</b>	550125
<b>Parent Landscape:</b>	550078

**Park Information**

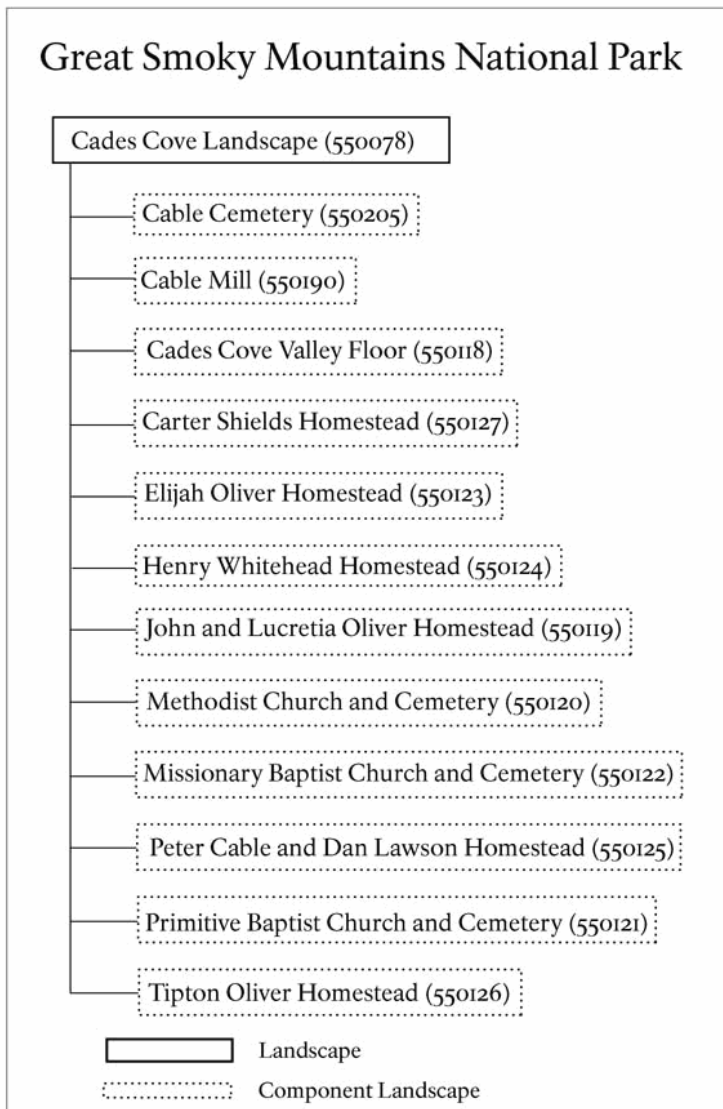
<b>Park Name and Alpha Code:</b>	Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict -GRSM
<b>Park Organization Code:</b>	5470
<b>Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:</b>	Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict - GRSM
<b>Park Administrative Unit:</b>	Great Smoky Mountains National Park

**CLI Hierarchy Description**

Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead  
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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The Peter Cable and Dan Lawson 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, Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery, Elijah Oliver Homestead, Cable Mill, Cable Cemetery, Henry Whitehead Homestead, Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead, Tipton-Oliver Homestead, and the Carter Shields Homestead. The Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead is located south of the Cades Cove Loop Road.

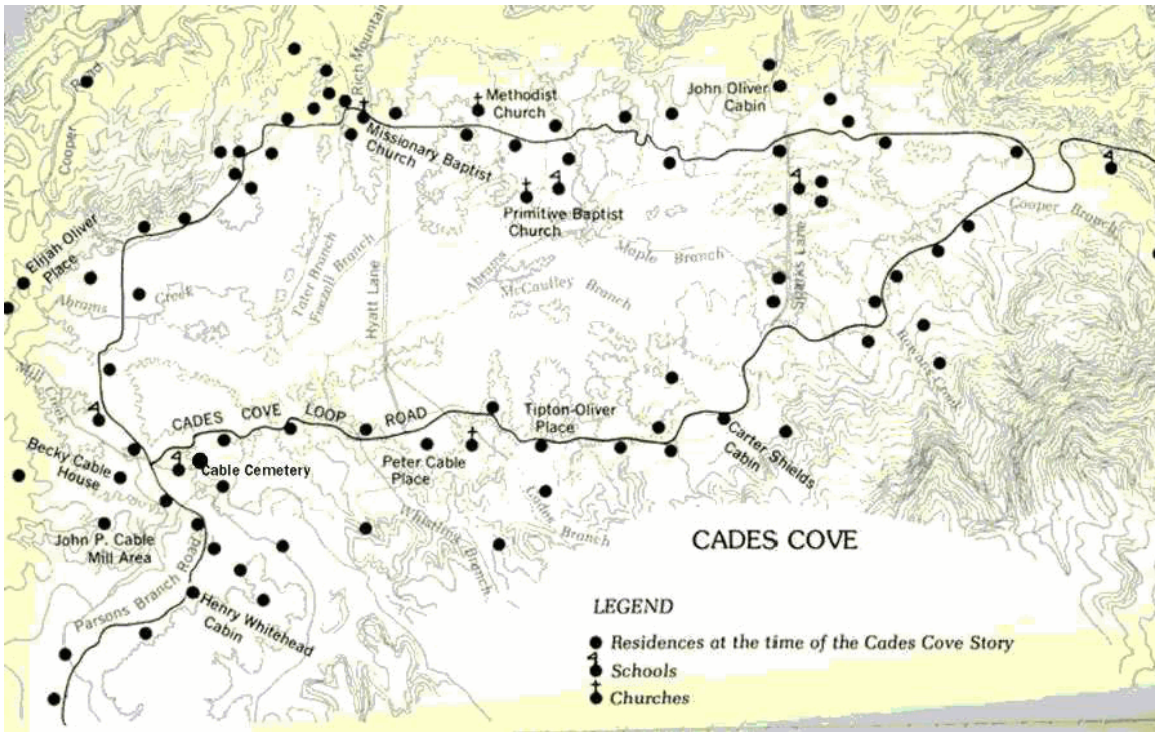


*Hierarchy Map*



Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead  
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. The park contacts are: Kent Cave, acting Historian, and Nancy Finley, Resource Management and Science Division Chief.

### 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:

Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead  
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 the Superintendent*

Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead  
 Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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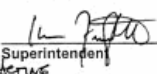
**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY  
 CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET - 8 August 2006**

**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 3.2 acres (including the Kermit Caughron farmstead), which is part of tract 05-111. The present landscape boundaries reflect what was mapped during the CLI site visit in July 1996 and do not reflect historic boundaries. Further investigation is needed to determine if the component landscape boundary needs to be enlarged.

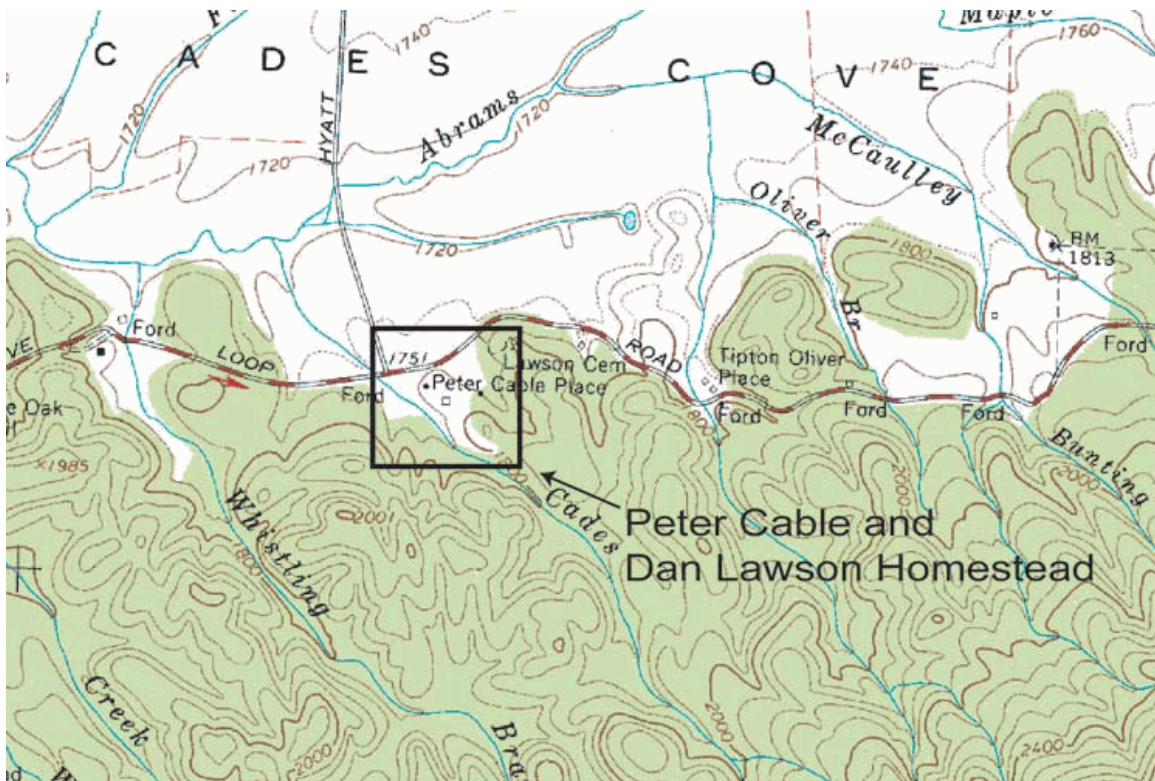
### State and County:

**State:** TN

**County:** Blount County

**Size (Acres):** 3.20

**Location Map:**



*Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead Location Map*



**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

Daniel B. Lawson was the largest landowner in the cove after the Civil War. After acquiring the Peter Cable farm from his father-in-law, Lawson expanded his holdings to include a strip of land stretching one-half mile south to north across the center of the cove.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

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



*View across the open valley floor*

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

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

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

## Management Information

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Should be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 08/01/2006

### NPS Legal Interest:

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

### Public Access:

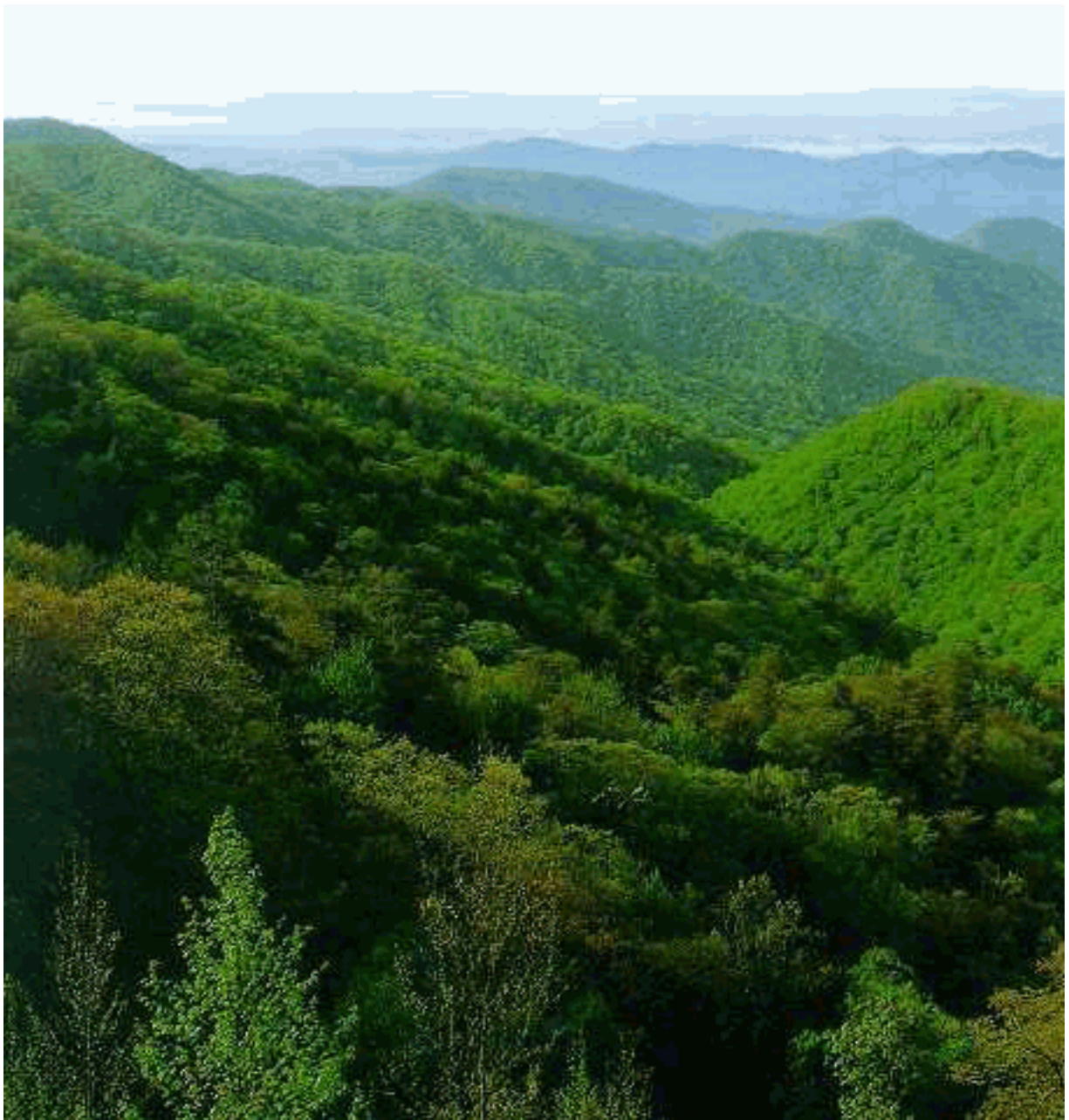
**Type of Access:** With Permission

### 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 addressed 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

**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.

In 1825, Peter Cable, of Carter County, Tennessee, purchased a tract of land from Jabez Thurman. He built a cabin (no longer standing) west of the present Dan Lawson house, on the other side of the

## Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead

### Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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spring. In 1850, Daniel B. Lawson married Peter Cable's daughter, Mary Jane. In 1856, he acquired the property from his father-in-law and, shortly thereafter, built the present log cabin. He took over the operation of the farm in 1866 when Peter Cable died. Lawson expanded his original purchase into one of the largest land holdings in the cove, running south to north across the center of the cove, from the state line to the crest of Cades Cove Mountain. He had a general store and operated the post office for many years. When he died in 1905, he left the bulk of his estate to his two single daughters, Mary Catherine (Kate) and Leanah. In 1907, Leanah married and relinquished her portion of the Lawson farm to her sister, Kate, who lived there until her death in 1932. In 1909, Rhoda Lawson Abbott, a younger sister, moved to the farm with her family. Kate deeded 2/3 of the property to Rhoda and her husband, on condition that she be cared for during her later years. Rhoda, her son, and his wife lived in the house until 1936, when all residents were required to vacate their properties by the NPS.

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.

The Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead was proposed as part of the cultural exhibits on early Park Development Era planning maps. The Dan Lawson House is a good example of log construction with front and rear shed additions. It was listed as a contributing building in the 1977 National Register nomination, along with the smokehouse and granary. A number of historical landscape features still exist at the site, including remnant fields, road traces, and topographical remnants of the garden, cellar, and pond.

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 Peter Cable and Dan Lawson 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 cultural as well as natural resources.

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Vernacular

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Agricultural Field



Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead  
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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<b>Primary Current Use:</b>	Automobile
<b>Other Use/Function</b>	<b>Other Type of Use or Function</b>
Leisure-Passive (Park)	Current
Single Family House	Historic

**Current and Historic Names:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Name</b>
Dan Lawson Place	Both Current And Historic
Kate Lawson Place	Historic
Peter Cable Place	Both Current And Historic

**Chronology:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Annotation</b>
AD 1825 - 1926	Farmed/Harvested	In 1825, Peter Cable purchased the property from Jabez Thurman. He built a cabin west of the present Dan Lawson House and established a farm.
AD 1856	Purchased/Sold	In 1856, Peter Cable sold the property to his son-in-law, Dan Lawson.
AD 1856 - 1865	Built	Dan Lawson built the present log cabin, smokehouse, and granary between 1856-1865.
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 - 1942	Removed	During house and chimney rehabilitation in 1937, the cellar entrance was taken down and the cellar partially filled in. Sometime between 1937-1942, the frame house that stood next to the log cabin was taken down.
AD 1937 - 2006	Preserved	The NPS decided to make Cades Cove an "Outdoor Museum of Mountain Culture," focusing on the "pioneer" stage of development. A policy to preserve and interpret the mountain culture resources gradually developed.
AD 1957	Reconstructed	The split-rail fence is a 1957 undocumented reconstruction.

Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead  
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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AD 2000	Removed	After Kermit Caughron's death, his home and associated outbuilding and features are removed (c. 2000)
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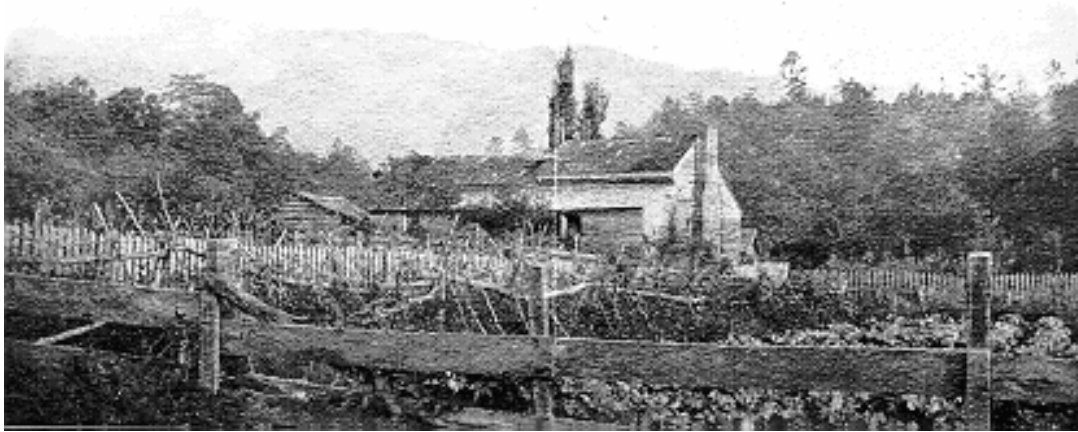
**Physical History:**

(1825-1926) Early Settlement and Later Development

In 1825, Peter Cable, of Carter County, Tennessee, purchased a tract of land from Jabez Thurman. He built a cabin (no longer standing) west of the present Dan Lawson house, on the other side of the spring. In 1850, Daniel B. Lawson married Peter Cable's daughter, Mary Jane. In 1856, he acquired the property from his father-in-law and, shortly thereafter, built the present log cabin. He took over the operation of the farm in 1866 when Peter Cable died. Lawson expanded his original purchase into one of the largest land holdings in the cove, running south to north across the center of the cove, from the state line to the crest of Cades Cove Mountain (Shields 1977, 76). He had a general store and operated the post office for many years. When he died in 1905, he left the bulk of his estate to his two single daughters, Mary Catherine (Kate) and Leanah. In 1907, Leanah married and relinquished her portion of the Lawson farm to her sister, Kate, who lived there until her death in 1932. In 1909, Rhoda Lawson Abbott, a younger sister, moved to the farm with her family. Kate deeded 2/3 of the property to Rhoda and her husband, on condition that she be cared for during her later years. Rhoda, her son, and his wife lived in the house until 1936, when all Cades Cove residents were required to vacate their property.

Historic photographs of the site taken c. 1915 show a paling fence enclosing the large vegetable garden, located between the loop road and the two side-by-side houses, that was tended by the last pre-Park residents of the site (Kate Lawson, Rhoda Lawson Abbott, and John Abbott). The photograph also demonstrates a hierarchy of fencing, with a board fence outside the paling fence (Figure 1). A photograph from this same time period shows Kate Lawson standing beside her cabin next to the entrance to the cellar (Figure 2). Photographs taken by NPS architect Charles Grossman c. 1936 show Rhoda Abbott with her spinning wheel in the enclosed yard (Figure 3).

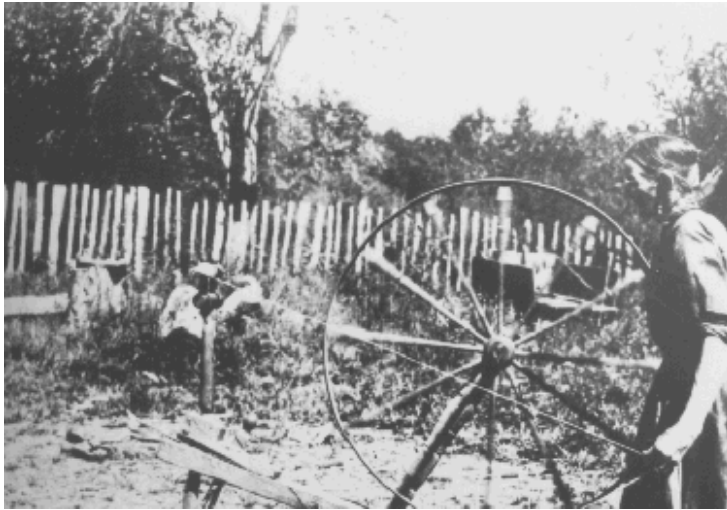
During the historic period, water from the spring, flowing a few hundred yards south of the log cabin, was channeled continuously through a shallow trench into the yard where it was used for domestic needs. The family's wash place was located where the water flowed into the yard. The excess supply angled to the west by way of another trench into a holding pond where fish were kept. The overflow then ran back into the spring branch.



*Figure 1. C. 1915 view to the west of the Peter Cable/Dan Lawson Homestead (note historic fencing)*



*Figure 2. Kate Lawson beside the cellar entrance c. 1915*



*Figure 3. Rhoda Abbott in the yard with her spinning wheel (note paling fence in background)*

(1927-present) Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The impetus for a national park in the Eastern United States at a similar scale to the large western national parks began between 1910-1920 by local groups in both North Carolina and Tennessee. Through numerous regenerations of federal legislation, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was established in 1926 to protect the woodlands, headwaters, and various forms of natural resources in the southern Appalachians. In 1927, the Tennessee General Assembly appropriated \$1.5 million for buying park lands and gave the newly created Park Commission the power to seize farms within the proposed park boundaries by right of eminent domain. Land for the park, including Cades Cove, was acquired via condemnation proceedings between 1928-1936. At this time, a policy to preserve and interpret the mountain culture resources gradually developed, with the idea of establishing an outdoor folk museum in the cove (Lix 1958, 82). The Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead was included in early (1942) Park Development Era maps of the homesteads to be included in the cultural exhibits.

As part of the Park Development Era, several changes have taken place at the Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead. An ell-shaped frame house stood next to the existing log house from the early 1900s to the mid-1930s, but was taken down by the NPS sometime after 1937. It is documented in 1937 photographs of the site (Figure 5). Some of the rock corner foundations are still in place, partially showing the configuration of the house. The entrance to the cellar was taken down during house and chimney rehabilitation in 1937, and the cellar was partially filled in (Dyer 1988, 150). The smokehouse and granary were left in their historic configuration, but a corn crib and springhouse are no longer standing. The waterworks system was not retained, even though the family wash place and other domestic chore areas are evident in historic photographs (Figures 3 and 5). Until recently, Kermit Caughron's garden was planted over part of the waterworks trench and cattle grazed elsewhere among the earthworks (Dyer 1988, 149).

All that remains of the vegetable garden are topographical remnants caused from years of plowing along the same perimeter, discernable within the confines of the present yard. Archaeological investigation would be needed to define the exact configuration of the paling fence (Figure 7) that once enclosed the garden (Dyer 1988, 148). The current split-rail fencing is an undocumented reconstruction installed in 1957. The historic approach to the house was by the driveway that bounds the homestead on the east and now leads only to the adjoining property (Dyer 1988, 147). It is unknown when the circulation pattern was changed.

Until his death in 1999, Kermit Caughron (a descendant of Frederick Shields) was the last agricultural permittee grazing cattle in the cove. A life-time resident of Cades Cove, Caughron and his wife Lois lived directly east of the Peter Cable and Dan Lawson farmstead, continuing a lifestyle long since removed from the cultural exhibits in the cove (see site plan). According to Kermit, their residence was constructed (date unknown) with various materials assembled from other structures taken down in the cove. Kermit's father George had farmed here before the land was acquired for the park.

Other landscape features recalled by Inez Adams, whose mother was reared here, and Kermit and Lois Caughron include beehives west of the smokehouse, apple trees scattered about the yard, goats, chickens, and cows in the yard, flowers all around the paling fence and perennial herbs inside the garden fence, grapes growing beside the cabin and the garden fence, rambling roses growing near the porch, and an orchard of peaches and apples on the east side of the driveway. The Caughron House and all the outbuildings have since been removed.

A large fescue field is maintained around the homestead. The forested ascending slopes behind the homestead contain mixed pine, red maple, and tulip poplar.



*Figure 5. 1937 view showing relationship of two houses*



*Figure 6. 1936 view showing cellar entrance still intact*



*Figure 7. 1937 view showing location of garden fence posts*



*Figure 8. 1937 view of smokehouse*



*Figure 4. Peter Cable/Dan Lawson Homestead (compare to c. 1915 view)*



## 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.

#### Views and Vistas

#### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*View from former site of Caughron House across the Cades Cove Valley (2006).*

#### Buildings and Structures

The Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead features a log cabin and two log outbuildings, as well as a twentieth-century frame barn. The Dan Lawson House was rehabilitated in 1937, 1956, and 1961, and the smokehouse and granary were rehabilitated in 1937 and restored in 1949. The Kermit Caughron farmstead includes a frame house and three wood frame outbuildings.

#### Character-defining Features:

Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead  
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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Feature: Dan Lawson Barn  
Feature Identification Number: 100715  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 90240  
LCS Structure Name: Dan Lawson Barn  
LCS Structure Number: MMS90240

Feature: Dan Lawson Granary  
Feature Identification Number: 100716  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 13059  
LCS Structure Name: Peter Cable Granary  
LCS Structure Number: MSS180

Feature: Dan Lawson House  
Feature Identification Number: 100717  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 13051  
LCS Structure Name: Peter Cable House  
LCS Structure Number: MMS-178

Feature: Dan Lawson Smokehouse  
Feature Identification Number: 100718  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 13060  
LCS Structure Name: Peter Cable Smokehouse  
LCS Structure Number: MMS-179

Feature: Kermit Caughron House  
Feature Identification Number: 100719  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Kermit Caughron Outbuildings  
Feature Identification Number: 100720

Type of Feature Contribution:           Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Peter Cable/Dan Lawson Granary (LCS 1992)*



*Peter Cable/Dan Lawson House (LCS 1992)*



*Peter Cable/Dan Lawson Smokehouse (LCS 1992)*



*Peter Cable/Dan Lawson Barn*



*Kermit Caughron Residence (non-extant)*



*Kermit Caughron Outbuildings (non-extant)*

**Circulation**

Vehicular and pedestrian access to the Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead was historically from the road that bounds the homestead on the east and now leads to the Caughron farm. A road trace is located south of the historic approach, indicating that this road may have been maintained beyond its present terminus at one time. Presently, visitors are brought to the site by a nonhistoric footpath adjacent to the pull-off parking. The historic approach and the road trace are considered contributing features of the historic landscape.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Circulation and vegetation patterns at the Peter Cable/Dan Lawson Homestead (2000).*



*Pathway leading to Cable/Lawson House from parking area, with moderate erosion (2006).*

### **Cluster Arrangement**

The Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead has a clustered building arrangement characteristic of the dispersed farmstead of the Upland South. The surviving outbuildings have maintained their original location and associated spaces. This complex is a contributing feature of the historic landscape.

### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Cluster arrangement at the Peter Cable/Dan Lawson Homestead, also note historic approach road in foreground (2000).*

#### **Natural Systems and Features**

The spring, flowing a few hundred yards south of the homestead, was an important feature in site selection. Water was channeled into the yard where it was used for domestic needs. Until Kermit Caughron's death in April 1999, the Caughrons still obtained their drinking water from the springhouse.

#### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**





*Stream at the Cable/Lawson Homestead (2000).*

### **Small Scale Features**

Some of the rock corner foundations of the frame house that stood next to the log cabin are still in place and are a contributing feature of the historic landscape. The split-rail fence is an undocumented reconstruction.

### **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. Additionally, three topographical remnants remain from the pre-Park period: earthen mounds that outline most of the old kitchen garden, earthworks that once channeled and contained water flowing from the spring into the yard and out again, and a

depression marking the location of the cellar beneath the existing Lawson cabin. The earthen mounds, caused from years of plowing along the same perimeter, can be discerned within the confines of the present yard, but are more clearly seen on the west side, outside the split rail fence that presently encloses the yard. Kermit Caughron's garden presently overlays part of the trench running from the spring to the yard, and cattle graze elsewhere along the earthworks.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*View looking west*

**Vegetation**

Although some of the vegetation patterns historically associated with the homestead are no longer intact (rowcrops, kitchen garden, herbaceous material, orchard), the broader pattern of forested ascending slopes and open fields on the valley floor has been retained. Thus, the vegetation of the Peter Cable and Dan Lawson Homestead is a contributing feature of the historic landscape.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Vegetation patterns at the site looking northwest (2000).*



*Overgrown garden site (2006).*

## 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:

Erosion continues to be a problem along the circulation paths at the property. Garden plots are more overgrown. The Caughron buildings have been removed.

**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.

**Type of Impact:** Visitation  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** Due to the volume of visitors at the site, erosion of the paths between the outbuildings has increased in recent years.

**Type of Impact:** Vegetation/Invasive Plants  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** The garden areas are becoming obscured by an overgrowth of trees and other woody vegetation.

**Type of Impact:** Removal/Replacement  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** After Kermit Caughron's death, his house and outbuildings were removed.

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

## Treatment

### Treatment

#### Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

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

## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

### Bibliography

**Citation Title:** N/A  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Number:** N/A  
**Citation Location:** See Cades Cove Cultural Landscape Bibliography for a complete list of references.

### Supplemental Information

**Title:** Cades Cove  
**Description:** TIC map NP-GSM 2163-A, dated 1946

**Title:** Cades Cove Developed Areas  
**Description:** TIC map NP-GSM 3148-B, dated 1964

**Title:** Cultural Exhibit Cades Cove Area  
**Description:** TIC map NP-GSM 2163, dated 1942

**Title:** S. & M.C. Map for Cades Cove  
**Description:** TIC map NP-GSM 2498, dated 1951