
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

1998



Cades Cove Valley Floor
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 Cades Cove Valley Floor is a 2,383 acre component landscape located in the Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee. This acreage is an approximation based on NPS maps of the 1940s. Completely surrounded by mountains, access to the valley floor is from the northeast via a winding road that parallels Laurel Creek.

The site is characterized by an open, grassy valley floor enclosed by steep, wooded mountains, and is drained by Abrams Creek and its two main branches. A loop road, which connects several historic homesteads, churches, and a mill, encircles the valley floor.

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

The historic condition of the valley was a subsistence agricultural community with links to the outside world via three roads that traversed the northwestern, western, and southwestern mountains. The cleared valley floor was divided into small and large agricultural fields and pastureland for grazing animals. The lower slopes of the mountains were cleared for crops and working wood lots.

Because the emphasis of the original GRSM legislation (1926) was protection of natural resources, the current condition of the landscape has been substantially altered from the historic landscape. Since the park's establishment, park natural resource specialists have made a concerted effort to "restore" the valley to its natural state. Aside from removing a majority of the structures, forest succession has substantially decreased the amount of open space, resulting in less extensive views out across the valley floor. Since 1977, a natural resource special project has been underway to remove some of the early drainage structures in order to restore the meadows and swampy areas within the valley floor with native vegetation. Test plots of native grasses have also been planted to explore the possibility of eliminating fescue grass from the cove floor.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

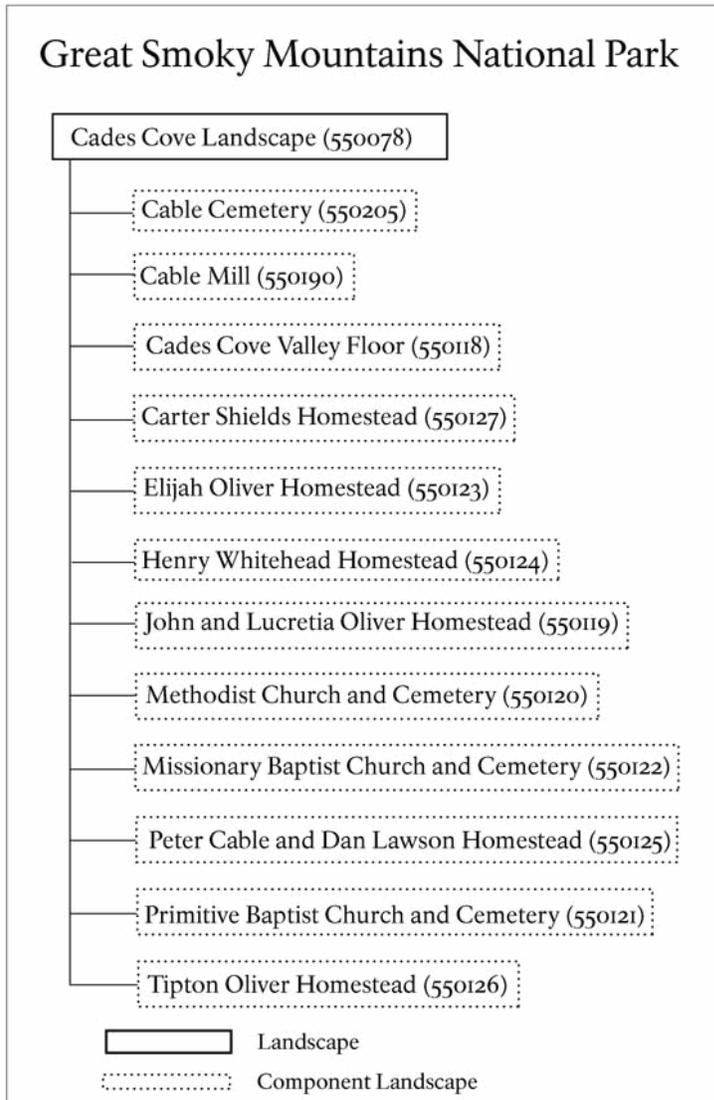
Inventory Unit Name:	Cades Cove Valley Floor
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	550118
Parent Landscape:	550078

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

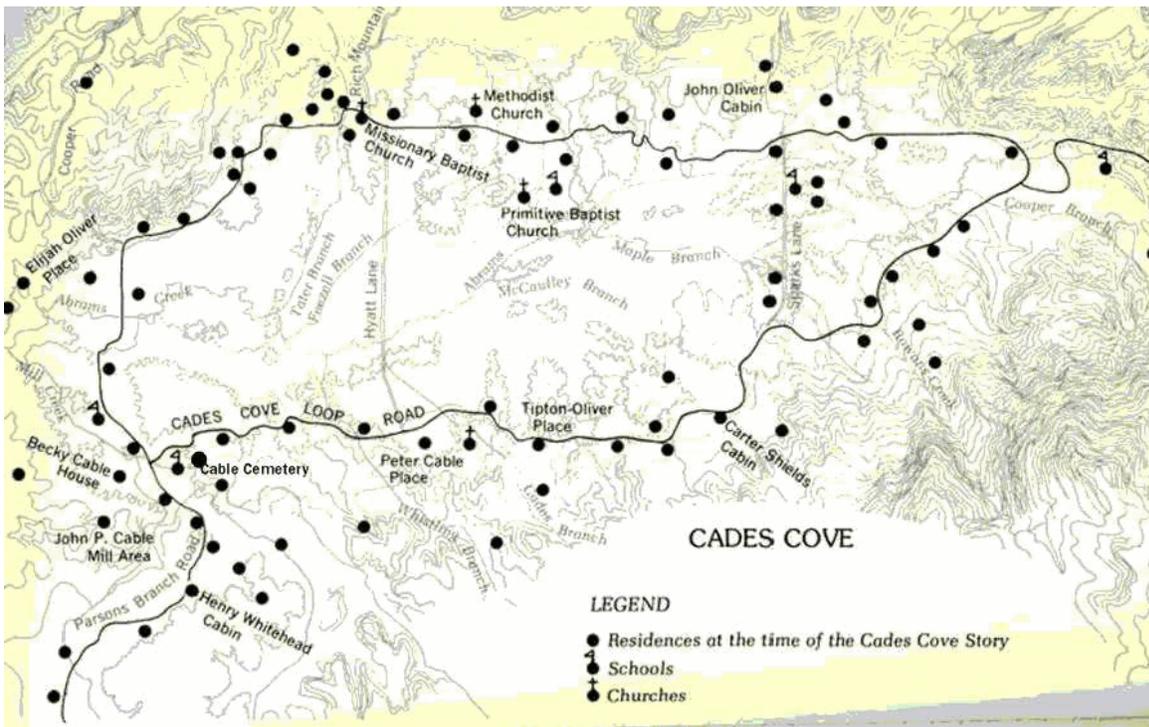
CLI Hierarchy Description

The Cades Cove Valley Floor lies within the Cades Cove Cultural Landscape that encompasses approximately 6,800 acres of 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.



Hierarchy Map

Cades Cove Valley Floor
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. The park contacts are: Kent Cave, acting Historian, and Nancy Finley, Resource Management and Science Division Chief.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/15/2006
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	08/25/2006

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

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

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Cades Cove Valley Floor
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

Cades Cove Valley Floor
 Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

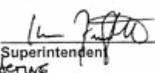
**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
 CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET - 8 August 2006**

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

Cultural Landscape Condition

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

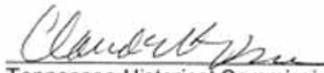
Cultural Landscape Management Category
 Should Be Preserved and Maintained 1 August 2006

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

Superintendent Signature of Concurrence

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

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



Tennessee Historical Commission Representative

8/15/06

Date

Signature from SHPO

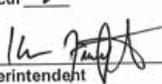
Cades Cove Valley Floor
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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

<u>Park Information</u>	
Park:	Great Smoky Mountains National Park
District:	Cades Cove Subdistrict
State:	Tennessee
Counties:	Blount

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

<u>Cultural Landscape Management Category</u>	
Should Be Preserved and Maintained	27 August 2012

<u>Park Superintendent Concurrence</u>	
Concur <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Concur <input type="checkbox"/>
	9/18/12
Superintendent	Date

Superintendent reassessment signature, 2012.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The component landscape boundary encompasses the entire 2,383 acres of the valley floor that is encircled by the park loop road. This boundary is an approximation, based on NPS maps of the 1940s.

Cades Cove Valley Floor
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

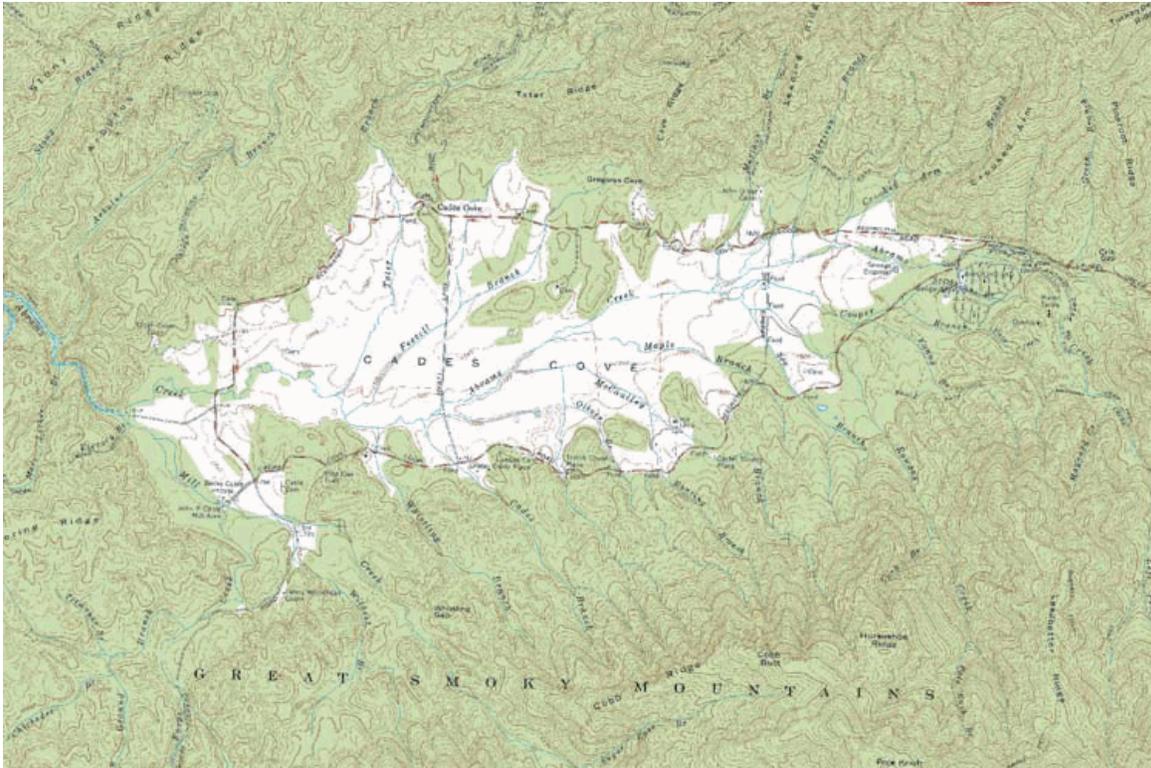
State and County:

State: TN

County: Blount County

Size (Acres): 2,383.00

Location Map:



Cades Cove Valley Floor location map

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The early settlers of Cades Cove were predominately European-American occupants of East Tennessee and the Carolinas, an area that had been settled in the second half of the eighteenth century. Numerically dominating the migration to the Upland South in general were individuals of Celtic ancestry--Scotch-Irish, Scots, and Welsh--and Englishmen from the "Celtic frontier," those areas of England bordering Scotland and Wales. Settlers of northern or central European ethnicity were not uncommon--Swedes, Finns, French, Dutch, and Germans. The typical early settlement in the Southern Appalachians was the kinship-based dispersed hamlet, a cluster defined by geographic features (e.g., a valley, cove, or gap). In the Great Smokies, hollow and cove settlements were by far the most numerous. Settlers in Cades Cove practiced stock-raising and diversified small-scale agriculture, supplemented by extensive hunting and fishing. The self-sufficient, owner-occupied family farm was the basic economic unit, and a relatively open and egalitarian social structure emerged. Self-reliance and mutual assistance in times of need characterized community life, and a strong attachment to the land and the homeplace was evident.

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: All or portions of 05-105, 05-107 to 05-112 inclusive, 07-101, 08-101 and 08-102

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained
Management Category Date: 08/01/2006

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Other Agreement
Other Agreement: Concession Contract
Expiration Date: 12/31/2006

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Hugh Meyers uses 100 acres on the east end of the cove for a horse riding concession, hay production and pasturing his horses.

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit
Expiration Date: 12/31/2007

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Hugh Meyers, horse concessionaire, has an additional 110 acres on the west end of the cove for pasturing his horses.

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:

Cades Cove Valley Floor

Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

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 integral transportation routes into 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 line. The nomination was amended in November 1977, adding eleven prehistoric archaeological sites to the original documentation. The nomination should be amended to include the cultural landscape features addressed in this CLI.

Existing NRIS Information:

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

National Register Eligibility

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

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:

The Cades Cove Valley Floor 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.

The Cades Cove Valley Floor 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.

Cades Cove was one of the earliest settlements in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park,

Cades Cove Valley Floor

Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

attracting settlers as early as 1818 because of its broad, fertile valley floor and abundant springs and creeks. These pioneers moved into Cades Cove for three decades, producing a population of 671 by 1850. Diversified, small-scale agriculture and stock-raising were the basis of the cove's economy. Land was cleared in the middle of the cove for pasture and crops, and the surrounding hillside forests provided the settlers with building materials, game, mast for grazing livestock, and medicinal herbs and roots. Nearby balds, open expanses of meadow on mountain tops, also provided good pasturage. With significant tillable acreage in the broad valley floor, the access routes in place pre-Civil War, and the nearby communities of Maryville and Knoxville, Cades Cove was a market-oriented mountain community. Farmers regularly made the two-day trip by wagon to Knoxville or a shorter trip to Maryville to sell crops and buy store-bought goods.

The characteristic nineteenth-century farm in Cades Cove, as elsewhere in the Upland South, was the dispersed farmstead. Cove settlements featured narrow parcels that included a portion of arable land on the valley floor, with property lines typically running to the tops of ridges. Farmsteads were generally sited on the lower slopes of the hills on the valley sides forming a circle, roughly along the line of the present loop road. Settlers built separate, freestanding farm buildings in a cluster arrangement, often near a stream. Around the dwelling house were usually a smokehouse, barn, corn crib, and springhouse. A hog pen, chicken coop, and root cellar might also be present. Also near the house a vegetable garden and orchard would be sited. Various types of fencing enclosed the house-garden-orchard complex to keep out free-ranging livestock. Throughout the nineteenth century, settlers used notched-log construction for houses, barns, and outbuildings. Beginning in the 1890s, more prosperous farmers began to sheath their log houses with milled lumber, and most new houses from this period on were of milled lumber. Logs remained a common material for outbuildings up until the time of the park's creation. The log buildings represent a continuum of vernacular architecture from the early settlement of Cades Cove to its continuing evolution as an agricultural community into the twentieth century. Although several of the buildings have been reconstructed or moved, care has been taken to preserve the architectural form, materials, and appearance.

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. The land for the park, including Cades Cove, was acquired via condemnation proceedings between 1928-1936. By 1940, many people had moved out of the cove. 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 Cades Cove. As it was determined that the "pioneer" or early stage of settlement would be the focus of preservation, and because emphasis was on the best examples of notched log construction, the NPS destroyed most frame structures, as well as many other farm buildings. A landscape derived from a 1930s interpretation of the "pioneer" culture resulted.

This stretch was redesigned by the NPS to control the visitor's aesthetic experience of the park's natural scenery. GRSM roads planned, surveyed, and completed in whole or in large part before 1941 reflected the NPS approach to naturalistic park design. This design philosophy called for unobtrusively following the topography of river valleys and ridge sides, providing access to trailheads, scenic overlooks, campgrounds, administrative and visitor contact areas, and offering striking views of

mountain and river valleys to the traveling motorist. As part of one of the first national parks to be created east of the Mississippi River, Cades Cove exemplifies the principles of naturalistic design by NPS architects, planners, landscape architects, and engineers. The contemporary visitor's experience of Cades Cove is, in large measure, shaped by the development work carried out between 1933 and 1942, which has attained significance in its own right.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Vernacular

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function:	Agricultural Field
Primary Current Use:	Automobile
Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Cemetery	Both Current And Historic
Leisure-Passive (Park)	Current
Livestock	Current
Natural Area-Other	Current
Recreation/Culture-Other	Current
Religion-Other	Both Current And Historic
Single Family House	Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Cades Cove Valley Floor	Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1818	Settled	The first permanent white settlement in Cades Cove occurred in 1818, when John Oliver moved there from Carter County, in northeast Tennessee.

Cades Cove Valley Floor

Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

AD 1819 - 1926	Farmed/Harvested	The pattern of farming in Cades Cove was characteristic of that found in many mountainous areas of the world, with farmsteads close to the surrounding hillsides, clearing the valley floor for cultivation of row crops.
AD 1926 - 1936	Land Transfer	In 1926, legislation authorizing the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was passed by Congress. In 1927, the state of Tennessee appropriated \$1.5 million for land acquisition, which began in 1928 and continued through 1936.
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 gradually developed.

Physical History:

(1818-1926) - Early Settlement and Later Development

Some records indicate that land grants were issued and homestead efforts begun as early as the 1790s, but there were no permanent white settlements in Cades Cove until 1818, when John Oliver moved there from Carter County, in northeast Tennessee. In 1821, William Tipton began buying up much of the cove's land and reselling it to other settlers. Cove settlements featured narrow parcels that included a portion of arable land on the valley floor, with property lines typically running to the tops of ridges. Farmsteads were generally sited on the lower slopes of the hills on the valley sides forming a circle, roughly along the line of the present loop road (Westmacott 1998, 1:8). They were laid out in a cluster arrangement of outbuildings around the dwelling house. A vegetable garden and a small orchard would be sited near the house. Split-rail or paling fences enclosed the house-garden-orchard complex to keep out free-ranging livestock. During the early settlement period (1830s), much of the valley floor was cleared of vegetation and used for pasture and row crops (Draft HRS 1998, 16-28). The principal crops grown were corn, wheat, and oats. Historically, field sizes were around ten acres, much smaller than the fields of 50-60 acres found today (Trout 1988, 11, 19).

During the 1840s, Cades Cove experienced an influx of settlers into the area, resulting in an all-time population peak of 132 families in 1850. This increased population resulted in a decreased field size and smaller land holdings. The valley floor continued to be used for row crops, almost every farm having 5-10 acres of corn, wheat, oats, hay, peas, and beans (Trout 1988, 10). In the early 1850s, local cattle owners began to bring their cattle into the valley to graze during the summer, suggesting some kind of crop rotation (Westmacott 1998, 1:16).

Farming remained the primary occupation for most Cades Cove inhabitants until the time of acquisition by the NPS in 1927. During the first quarter of the twentieth century, logging became an important industry in the Smokies, profoundly changing the physical environment and traditional ways of life. Cades Cove, however, saw little cutting beyond that normal in clearing for the maintenance of farms. It was never economically feasible for the Morton Butler Lumber Company, the largest owner of timber land in Cades Cove, to extend a railroad into the cove (Lambert 1958, 52; Dunn 1988, 226).



Figure 1. 1925 aerial photo of the valley floor

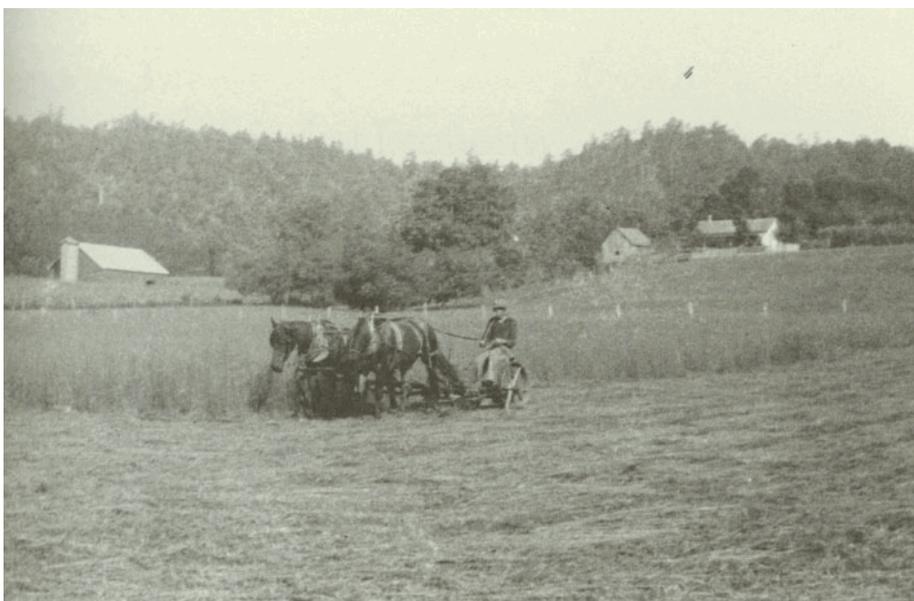


Figure 2. 1920s photograph of haying on the valley floor



Figure 3. Hoeing corn on the valley floor during the historic period

(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 (GRSM) 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. By the end of 1929, the Park Commission had purchased 52 farms in Cades Cove, about half the total number. By 1936, the remaining land (105 parcels) had been acquired (Dyer 1988, 33; Shields 1977, 9). Although a few farmers stayed, most eventually moved out. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the number of agricultural permittees averaged five to seven (Trout 1988, 43). 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 proposed purpose of these field exhibits was to preserve authentic patterns of mountain culture, and to show how the degree of isolation, topography, and other natural features influenced this culture (Wilburn, Grossman, and Stupka 1938, 15). As the "pioneer" stage of settlement was the focus of preservation, and because emphasis was on the best examples of notched log construction, the NPS destroyed frame structures, as well as many other farm buildings. At this time, many fields were allowed to revert to forest succession.

Implementation of the 1938 master plan primarily involved improving the alignment and quality of the old Laurel Creek Road and establishing the field exhibits of mountain culture. Although historically the property lines extended across the loop road to include land on the valley floor,

most of the farmsteads included in the field exhibits were interpreted as much smaller sites, with the focus on the dwelling house. Although the valley floor itself was not part of the field exhibits, vistas out into the valley floor were part of the "scene" that was created during the Park Development Era. During the Mission 66 period, a campground, day use area, and horse concession were constructed on the valley floor at the east end of the cove, necessitating the realignment of the easternmost portion of the loop road.

Early NPS land management in the cove (1935-1945) was based on soil conservation practices and aesthetic principles, with concern of historic authenticity taking a secondary role. Resident landscape architect Frank Mattson favored keeping the valley floor open through special use permits that would limit grazing to the level portion of the valley floor. He also objected to the patchwork appearance of the scene, as historically the cove was subdivided into hundreds of small fields, woodlots, pastures, and orchards. These small parcels were consolidated into larger units, removing all fences regardless of type when they existed in open meadows. Mattson stated that he was not opposed to the "preservation of old rail and stone fences, but where they accented the rectangular plots was not the place to preserve them." Also at this time, many of the native grasses and forbs were destroyed when the large fields were graded, leveled and seeded with exotic grasses and legume mixtures (Trout 1988, 22, 35-40).

The use of grazing as a stop-gap method of keeping the rural landscape open was common practice by the 1940s, but there were no guidelines for the special use permit system until 1943, when a program for the permittees was outlined by the Chief Ranger. These guidelines called for crop rotation, establishment of more meadowland, eventual elimination of row crops, and increasing the number of beef cattle. These practices actually improved the land beyond its historic condition, as well as eliminating historic row crops and leveling natural contours (Trout 1988, 38).

Beginning in the mid-1950s, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) became directly involved in the permit management, creating conservation plans for each special use permit. For the first time, permittees were being monitored to ensure conformance with the conservation plan and NPS policy. In 1967, a new park management plan was developed for Cades Cove. The primary purpose of the program was to preserve the open, pastoral appearance of the landscape without attempting to reproduce the characteristic agricultural features. The goal of preventing reforestation was to maintain the scenic views of the valley floor and mountain panoramas and to provide a foreground for interpretation of the historic structures and features of the culture that existed prior to the establishment of the park (Trout 1988, 5). The supervision of the permittees shifted back to the park, and cattle grazing and haying were the preferred land uses. Plowing activities ceased in 1970.

The 1969 Cades Cove Study Report stated that the haying/grazing permit system was the best method for maintaining the open landscape, and concluded that a limitation was not needed on the total number of livestock. In 1973, there was a major fencing initiative to keep cattle out of Abrams Creek and its tributaries. The number of cattle had grown to 1200-1500 on the valley floor, giving visitors the impression that pioneers were ranchers. Kermit Caughron, the only remaining life tenant grazing cattle in the cove (about 500 head) died in April 1999, and, in

Cades Cove Valley Floor
Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict

accordance with an agreement reached with the family, the rights to graze cattle in Cades Cove expire at his death. Hugh Meyers has a special use permit to pasture his horses (used in the horse concession) on the valley floor at the west end of the cove. Both permittees have historic barns located on the valley floor.

Since acquisition by the NPS, the landscape of the valley floor has been transformed from that of the 1930s. Open fields, unbroken by the fencelines and woodlots of the past, dominate the valley floor, which has become more enclosed by the encroaching forest. The greater frequency and stature of trees along field boundaries is beginning to block some of the views of the valley floor, an important character-defining feature of the historic scene.

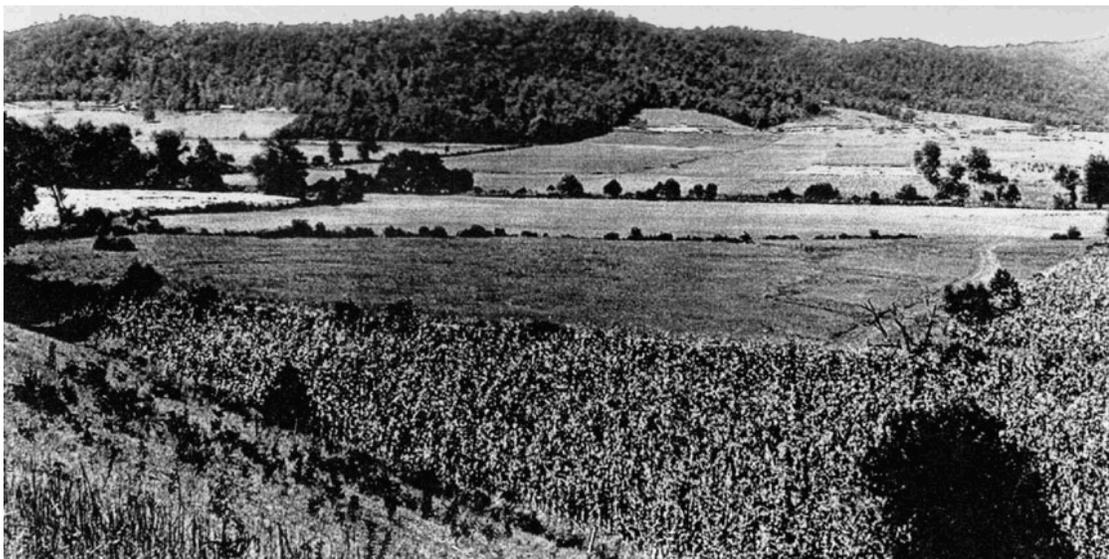


Figure 4. 1936 view of the valley floor showing fields in cultivation



Figure 5. Same landscape from a slightly lower viewpoint in 1993



Figure 6. Haying by an agricultural permittee on the valley floor



Figure 7. Grazing on the valley floor (1996)

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

Several historic barns (Sparks Lane and Kermit Caughron) are located throughout the valley floor. These buildings are contributing features of the historic landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Kermit Caughron Barn
Feature Identification Number:	99925
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	90237
LCS Structure Name:	Caughron Barn
LCS Structure Number:	MMS-392

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Kermit Caughron Barn



Sparks Lane Barn

Circulation

The eleven mile loop road encircling the valley floor follows portions of the original alignment. The most intact sections are the northern, western, and portions of the southern road network. The two historic cross connections through the valley, Hyatt and Sparks Lane, are in their original alignment, while a third road that passed the Primitive Baptist Church has been lost. The southeasternmost section of the road was realigned in the 1950s to accommodate new visitor facilities. The loop road is considered a contributing feature of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Cades Cove Loop Road



Hyatt Lane looking south

Cultural Traditions

The last remaining life tenant, Kermit Caughron, died in April 1999. Mr. Caughron had a Special Use Permit to graze cattle in the cove, which expired at his death. Hugh Meyers has a Special Use Permit for a horse concession. Burials are still allowed in some of the various cemeteries located on the valley floor.

Natural Systems And Features

The general configuration of the cove, a wide valley floor drained by three creeks surrounded by mountains, still exists. Although the early settlers did manipulate the valley floor to accommodate agriculture, recent restorations are slowly returning the valley floor to a wetland. The mountains and water courses are considered contributing features of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Spatial Organization

As part of the Park Development Era, all fences regardless of type were removed when they existed in open meadows on the valley floor.

Topography

Broad expanses of level ground surrounded by ridges characterizes the topography of the Cades Cove Valley Floor. Although not as open as it was during the historic period, the valley floor has retained the overall topographic pattern that made it prime agricultural land for settlers coming into Cades Cove.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Topographic patterns of the valley floor

Vegetation

Although the vegetation composition has changed on the valley floor over the past twenty years, the floor retains the open feeling it had during its historic period. Since 1977, a natural resource special project has been underway to remove some of the early drainage structures in order to restore the meadows and swampy areas within the valley floor with native vegetation. The park is also studying the possibility of restoring some of the native grasses that were eliminated when fescue grass was planted on the valley floor in the 1950s and 60s. Hence, the vegetation of the valley floor is a contributing feature of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

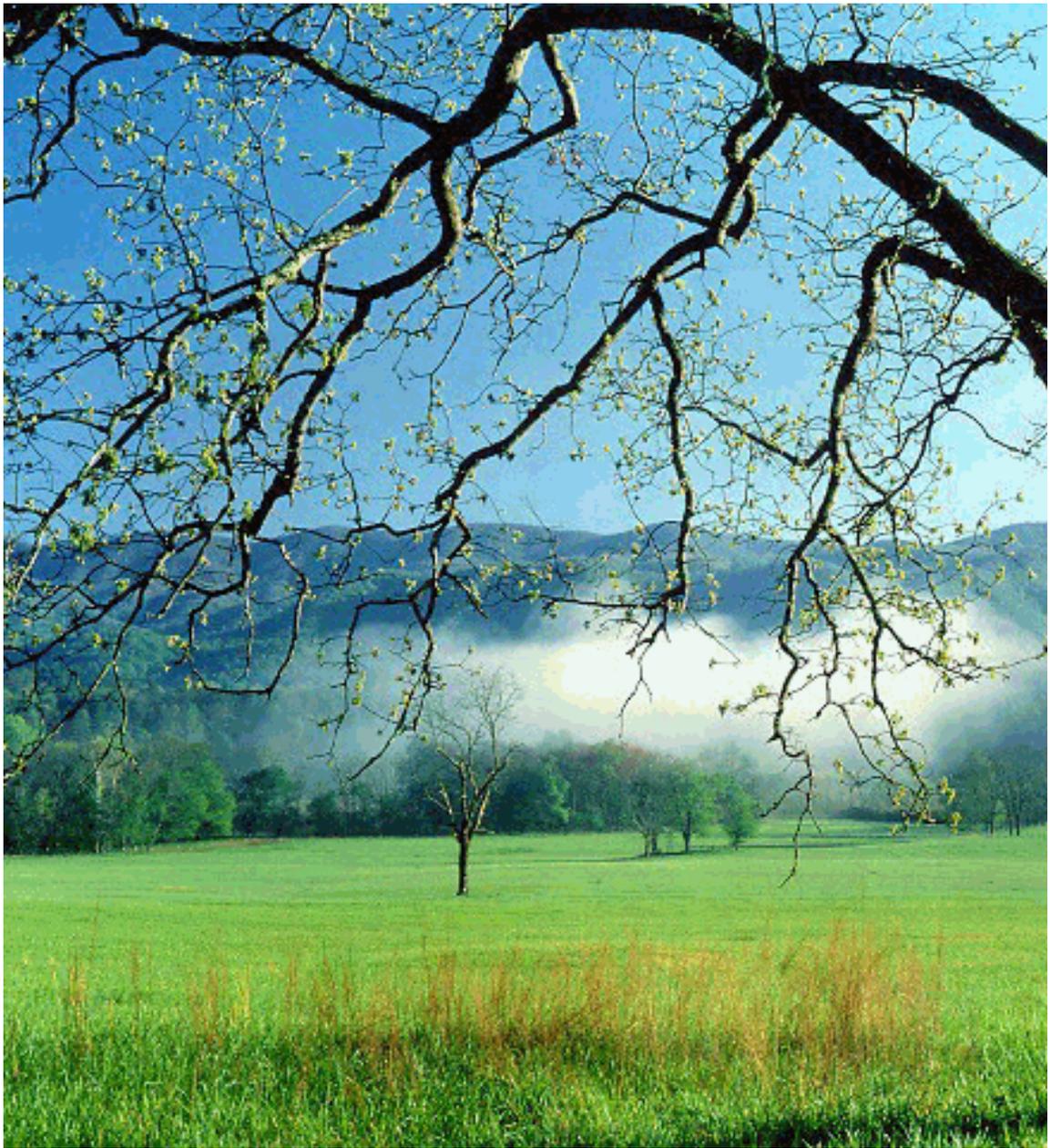


Vegetation patterns on the valley floor

Views And Vistas

As part of the 1938 master plan, views from the loop road across the valley floor were developed and maintained. Although successional vegetation on the valley floor has encroached upon some of these views, the majority have been maintained over time. The views and vistas are considered contributing features of the historic landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Vista across the open valley floor



View showing vegetation patterns of the valley floor (2006).

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment:	Fair
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: Release To Succession
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Release to succession has negatively impacted the size and shape of the valley openings. Views that were historically open across the cove are no longer apparent.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal: Both Internal and External
Impact Description: Several historic barns on the valley floor have not been maintained properly by either park staff or the agricultural lessees.

Type of Impact: Removal/Replacement
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Fencelines and their associated vegetation were removed in portions of the valley floor, negatively impacting spatial characteristics.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Fescue was introduced to the valley floor in the 1940s, and Lespedeza has colonized many areas. Both are invasive non-native species.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

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

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Title:	N/A
Source Name:	Other
Citation Number:	N/A
Citation Location:	See Cades Cove Cultural Landscape Bibliography for a complete list of references
Citation Title:	Draft Land Management Plan, Cades Cove Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	SESO, GRSM
Citation Title:	Managing Culturally Significant Agricultural Landscapes in the National Park Service
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	SESO

Supplemental Information

Title:	Cades Cove, looking east photograph
Description:	C. 1925 low flying oblique photograph from western end of Cove looking east
Title:	NA
Description:	See Cades Cove Cultural Landscape for a complete list of maps.