# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
## INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
### FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

**1. NAME**
- **COMMON:** Hiking Club Barn
- **AND/OR HISTORIC:** Messer Barn

**2. LOCATION**
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** SE of Bath Creek in Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park
- **STATE:** Tennessee
- **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 1st of Tennessee

**3. CLASSIFICATION**
- **CATEGORY (Check One):**
  - District
  - Site
  - Object
- **OWNERSHIP:**
  - Public
  - Private
  - Both
- **PUBLIC ACQUISITION:**
  - In Process
  - Being Considered
- **STATUS:**
  - Occupied
  - Unoccupied
  - Restricted
- **ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:**
  - Yes
  - No

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

**4. AGENCY**
- National Park Service, Department of Interior
- REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: Southeast Regional Office
- CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta
- STATE: Georgia

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
- **COUNTY COURT HOUSE:** Sevier County Courthouse
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Sevierville
- **STATE:** Tennessee

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
- TITLE OF SURVEY:
  - None
- **DATE OF SURVEY:**
  - County:
- **REQUENCY:**
  - Federal
  - State
- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
- **CITY OR TOWN:**
- **STATE:**
Messer Barn
Building #467
Recommended Level of Treatment: Preservation
Cost Estimate: N/A
Lat. 35° 41' 14"
Long. 83° 23' 40"

This is a large, rectangular, one story barn with loft. The roof is gabled and shingled. The walls are random width board on the ends. The two sides are open, providing access to the two interior cribs or pens.

The foundation is dry stone, and since the barn is built on a hillside, the foundation is about 4 feet high on the front to make the structure level.

The roof has considerable overhang to create shed space for livestock. The roof is supported by poles set along the outer edge.

The interior of the barn consists of two pens with a drive through between. Each pen is divided into two stalls. These pens are built of hewn logs. Beams are laid over the pens to support the hayloft. The loft is built of poles laid over beams set on two-foot centers.

Doors and Windows:
There are no windows in the building. The doorways into the pens are four in number, two into each pen. All openings are rectangular, and all doors are missing.

Floors:
The ground floor is earth, and the hayloft is pole set on two foot centers.

General Location:
The barn is generally oriented north and south, and is 300 yards west of the Greenbrier Jeep Trail.

This barn has just undergone extensive rehabilitation. All work was done under the direction of an historical architect and the work was done by a carpenter skilled in this type of rehabilitation. Original material was used as far as feasible.
Messer Barn: order of significance 3rd

A stout barn was an absolute necessity to any successful Smoky Mountain farm. The barns provided storage for the vast amounts of hay needed to feed the animals through the winters. Livestock raising was a major economic activity in the mountains, therefore barns were common. Today, there are but a handful of the structures left, and one of the outstanding is the Messer barn.

The barn is the last surviving original structure in what was Greenbrier community. Prior to the development of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Greenbrier was a populous area. With the National Park movement in the 1920's and 1930's the land was purchased and the people moved away.

Prior to that time Greenbrier had been a fairly populous farming community. It had also been a center of political power in the area.

Greenbrier was one of the first areas of settlement on the northern side of the Great Smoky Mountains. Starting in the 1850's, settlers pushed into the coves and valleys of the area, and communities were established. Although relatively isolated, Greenbrier was aware of outside events more so than certain other areas of the mountains.

The farms produced corn, vegetables, and grain along with cattle and hogs. Quantities of moonshine whiskey were distilled and drunk, and there was a certain amount of social stagnation that took place, but not to the same extent as in other areas of the mountains.

Today the only reminder of the people of Greenbrier and their way of life in this section of Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the Messer barn.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Mountain Culture Museum Program.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35° 41' 14&quot;</td>
<td>83° 23' 40&quot;</td>
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</table>

UTM References
17/282960 17/3951670

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paul R. Gordon, Historian

BUSINESS ADDRESS:
Great Smoky Mountains National Park

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is ☐ National ☐ State.

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Acting

Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/26

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date 12/26

SEE INSTRUCTIONS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
<th>2. LOCATION</th>
<th>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</th>
<th>4. IDENTIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMON: Hiking Club Barn</td>
<td>STATE: Tennessee</td>
<td>PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service</td>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND/OR HISTORIC: Messer Barn</td>
<td>COUNTY: Sevier</td>
<td>DATE: July 1972</td>
<td>Front of building from east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)</td>
<td>TOWN: Great Smoky Mt. Nat. Park</td>
<td>NEGATIVE FILED AT: Great Smoky Mt. Nat. Park</td>
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Front of building from east