

DATA SHEET

Form 10-306
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	North Carolina
COUNTY:	Swain
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 2 1976

1. NAME

COMMON:

Smokemont Baptist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC: (Smokemont)

Oconaluftee Baptist Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

6 miles ~~south~~ ^N of Cherokee, NC on US 441 in Great Smoky Mts NP

CITY OR TOWN:

Cherokee vic.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

11 North Carolina

STATE:

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY:

Swain

CODE

173

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☐ Occupied
☒ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) _____
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☒ Religious _____
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific _____

4. AGENCY

National Park Service, Department of Interior

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Southeast Regional Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

3401 Whipple

CITY OR TOWN:

Atlanta

STATE:

Georgia

CODE

13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Swain County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Bryson City

STATE:

North Carolina

CODE

37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

None

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal

☐ State

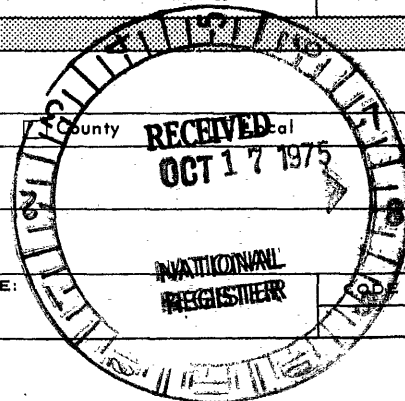
☐ County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



STATE:	North Carolina
COUNTY:	Swain
ENTRY NUMBER	976
DATE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Smokemont (Luftee) Baptist Church

Building #276

Lat. 35° 33' 12"

Long. 83° 18' 20.05"

Recommended level of Treatment: Preservation

Cost Estimate N/A

This is a rectangular building with a single, extended steeple on the front. It is one story with attic. It is a frame structure with weather-board walls, painted white. The roof is gabled, and covered with sheet metal. The upper portion of the steeple extends approximately 10' above the roof, and is roofed in sheet metal, topped by a lightning rod. The top four feet of the steeple is louvered to form a belfry.

Overall size of the main room is 50'X30', and the entryway formed by the extended tower is 8'X8'.

Basic Interior Plan: Basic interior is an auditorium with foyer. The bell is still in place in the belfry, and attic and belfry may be reached by ladder through a trap door. There are no stairs.

Religious and homecoming services are held occasionally, so the building is still furnished with pews, a pot-bellied stove, and a pulpit. There are no modern utilities.

Floors: The floor is 1"x8" board, unfinished.

Ceilings: The ceiling is 1"x8" pine, unfinished.

Windows: There are a total of seven windows in the building. All are rectangular, single hung. There is a 9 over 9 in the end of the extended steeple, and the steeple is flanked by 4 over 4 windows. There are two 4 over 4's on the east and west sides of the main room. All components of the windows are manufactured. There are several broken lights.

Doors: There are a total of three doors. There is one on the south, or back of the building, and two opening into the extended steeple. All doors are standard size, rectangular. They are four panel, wooden, with modern hardware.

Heat for the building is provided by a wood burning pot-bellied stove and there is a central, single, brick chimney.

General Location: The building is oriented north and south, and sits on a hill overlooking Smokemont Campground. It is located on the east side of Oconaluftee River, off U. S. Highway 441, in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☒ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☒ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Smokemont Baptist Church, historically known as Oconaluftee Baptist.
Order of significance: 3rd

The present church building was erected in 1912. However, the church was organized at a much earlier date. The church was constituted June 6, 1836. The constituting presbytery was made up of Adam Corn and David Elder. Robert Collins and Ephraim Minges were elected deacons, and the charter membership totaled 21.

Rules of decorum were established, by-laws were promulgated, and the church as an organization was a reality.

Records of the church were kept until 1895.

In the isolated communities of the Great Smoky Mountains, the church was a center of social, as well as spiritual life. The records of the Oconaluftee Baptist contain records of deaths, marriages, baptisms, and the joining and leaving of the fellowship by members. There are also records of members being called before the church and being charged with such offenses as swearing, lying, and slander. In many cases the accused was found guilty and excluded from membership in the church. In others, the charges were proven unfounded, and the cases dropped.

The name of the community and church were changed in the early 1900's from Oconaluftee to Smokemont. This came about when logging and lumbering operations began in the mountains, and a lumber company established its headquarters on the Oconaluftee River and called the camp Smokemont.

It cannot be determined why no church records were kept following 1895. The church continued as a body until 1935, some 40 years later. At that time, the Smokemont area was included in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records, 1836-1894, Oconaluftee Baptist Church

Hall, Joseph H. Smoky Mountain Folks and Their Lore.
Cataloochee Press, Asheville, 1960.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	35°	33'	12"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	UTM Reference		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	17/290730	17/3936780 ⁶⁸⁰	
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paul Gordon, Historian		DATE: 7-27-73
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Great Smoky Mountains National Park		
STREET AND NUMBER:		PHONE: (615) 436-5615
CITY OR TOWN: Gatlinburg	STATE: Tennessee	CODE: 47

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☒ None

[Signature]
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 ☒ Local

[Signature] **OCT 15 1973**
Federal Representative Signature
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Title

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

Acting

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **11/1/96**

ATTEST:

Date **12/31/75**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

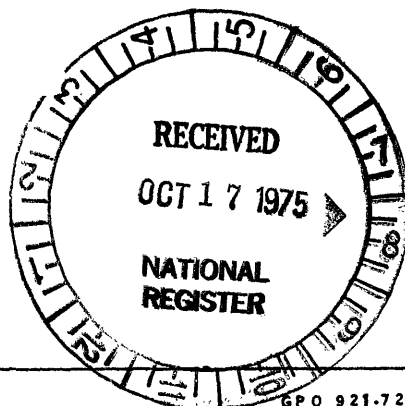
STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Swain	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 1 1976	

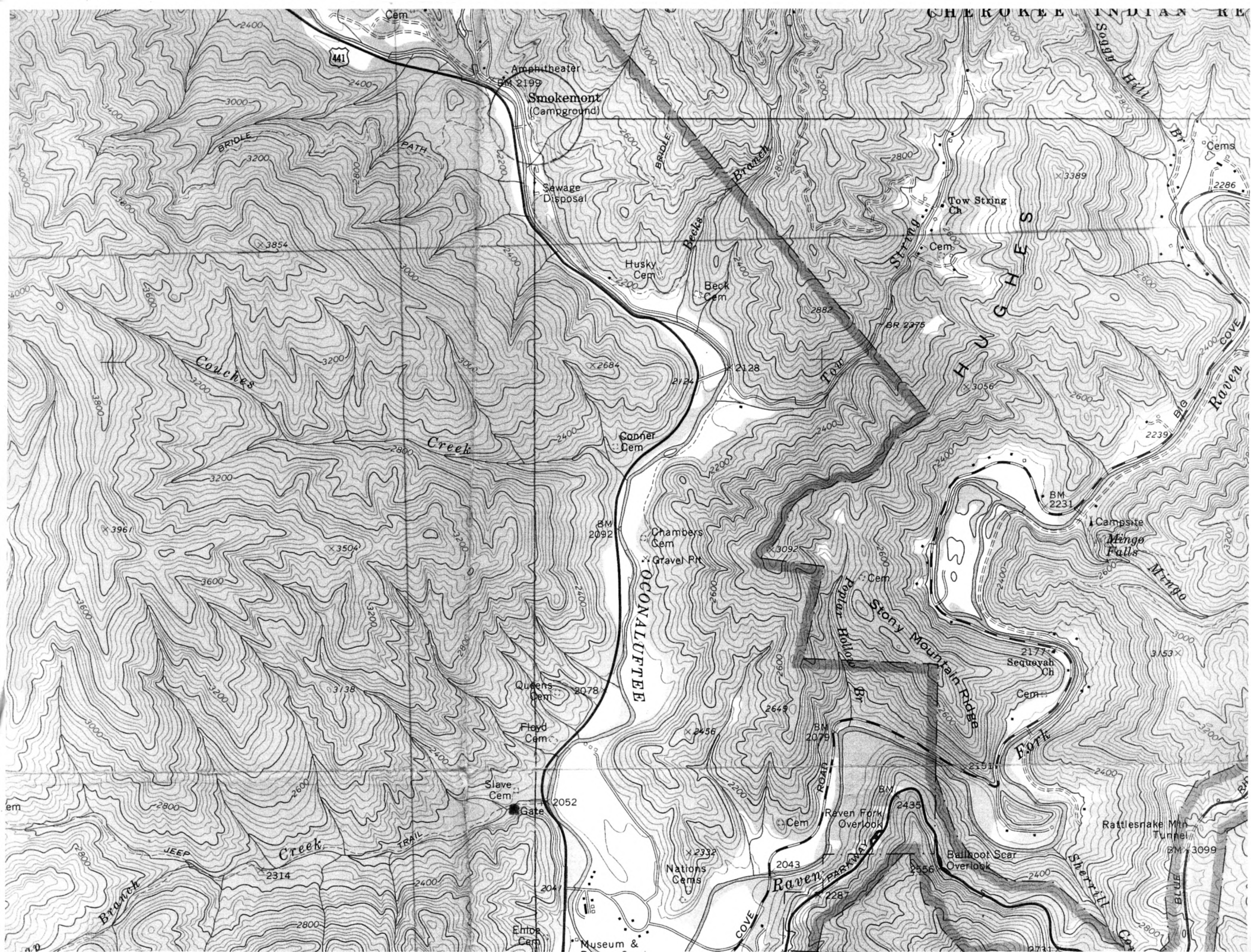
(Number all entries) Item #8 cont'd (1)

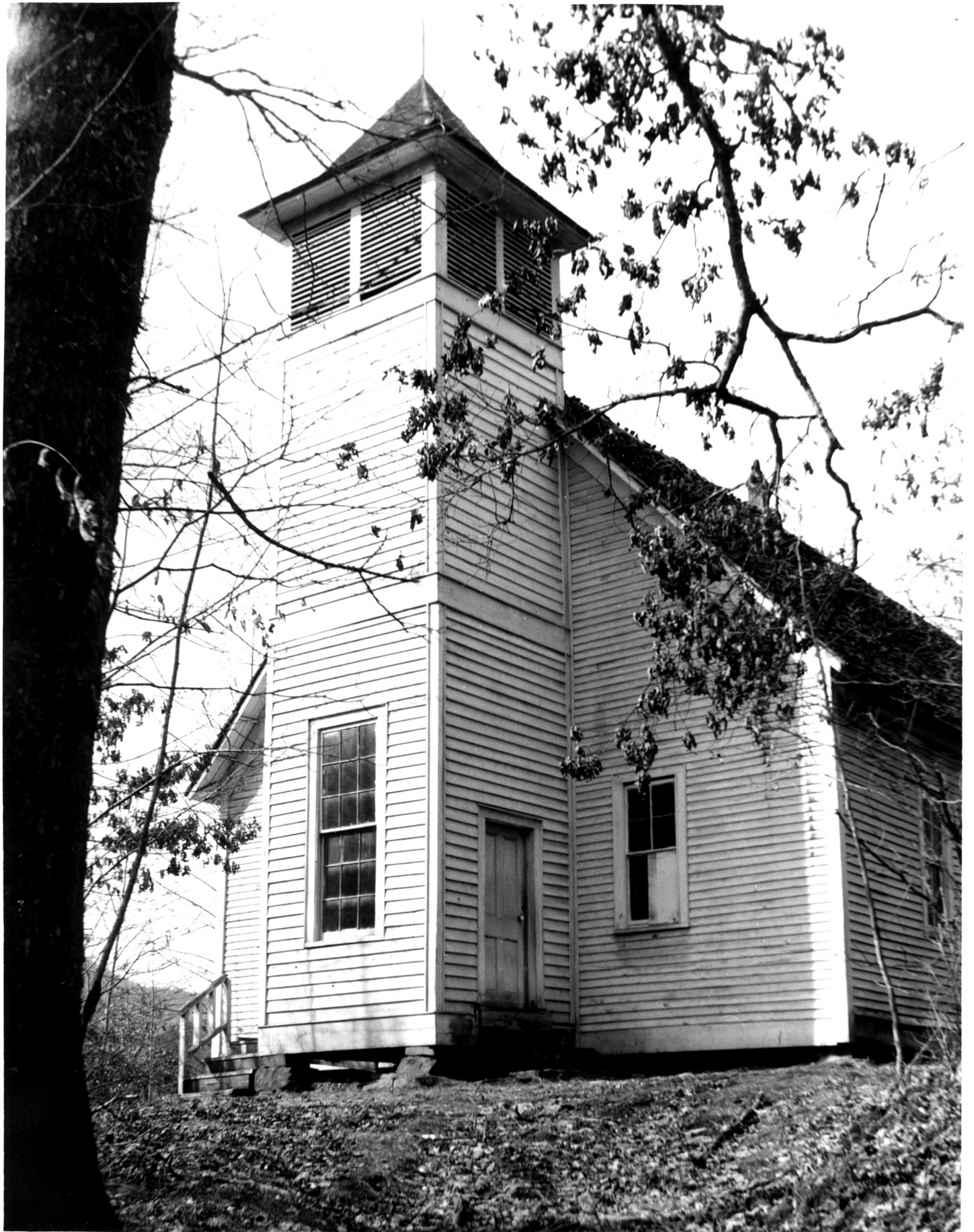
The church is still used on occasion, chiefly as a homecoming site for descendants of Oconaluftee area pioneers.

The church has been rehabilitated and repaired by the persons using it in the years since 1935. Unfortunately, care has not always been taken to maintain the original integrity of the building.

However, the association of a distinctive culture, and the documentation provided by the records make it a valuable part of the pioneer story. Generally, documented history is non-existent in the mountains.







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON Smokemont Baptist Church	AND/OR HISTORIC Oconaluftee Church	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) JAN 1 1976
2. LOCATION		
STATE North Carolina	COUNTY Swain	TOWN Cherokee
STREET AND NUMBER		

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT National Park Service	DATE July, 1973	NEGATIVE FILED AT Great Smoky Mts. N.P.

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of church, north and front.

