

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Church of the Resurrection

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 302 High Ridge Road N/A not for publication

city or town Little Switzerland N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Mitchell/McDowell code 121/ zip code 28749  
111

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPD 1/20/99  
Signature of certifying official Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Table with columns for Contributing and Noncontributing resources, and rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: cruciform plan

foundation Stone

walls Wood

roof Fiberglass

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

~~Church of the Resurrection~~  
Name of Property

Mitchell/McDowell Counties  
County and State North Carolina

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1912-1913

Significant Dates

1912-1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Osborne, Adlai (Architect)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_



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Narrative Description

Built in 1912-1913, the simple, traditional cruciform shaped one-story building was constructed by native craftsmen of native materials according to a drawing by Charlotte architect, Adlai Osborne, one of the earliest summer residents of Little Switzerland.<sup>1</sup> Built in the center of the planned community on a lot donated by the Switzerland Company, funding was half by a donation by Mrs. McNeely DuBose, widow of an Episcopal minister, and half was raised by the Episcopal women of the community.<sup>2</sup> The first service was held in the partially completed sanctuary on June 13, 1913. The church, located in Mitchell County, faced northwest and sat in a grove of chestnut trees.

Here the church sat until the mid 1930s. A survey conducted during the planning phase for the Blue Ridge Parkway proposed that the roadway go through the church and the accompanying parish hall. In order to preserve the church, the chapel and parish hall were moved approximately one hundred yards uphill to the present site on a lot purchased by the National Park Service from H.J. Gregg.<sup>3</sup> The Parcel straddles the Mitchell/McDowell county line, but all the resources reside in Mitchell County.

The church sits beneath a canopy of large trees amid native vegetation on the crest of Grassy Mountain, with masses of rhododendron to the north, east, and south. A driveway leading in front of the church angles left from High Ridge Road on the north, continues around the church to the parking lot at the rear, and continues on to a lane on the southeast.

Contributing Building: Church of the Resurrection, 1912-1913; moved in 1939.

Moved intact, the current Church of the Resurrection, now T-shaped, is located on a 2.3 - acre tract of land in the heart of the mountain community of Little Switzerland, in Mitchell and McDowell counties, North Carolina. The one-story plan is composed of the traditional nave, transepts, chancel, sanctuary and the raised altar. This simple building follows the English parish church in plan with the nave and transepts creating the T-plan appearance. Two adjoining rooms added later, vestry and kitchen connect by cased openings. The vestry is located at the northeast rear and the kitchen at the southwest rear. Following the 1930s move, the church cornerstone was re-laid with dedication by Bishop Robert E. Gribbin in July of 1939.

Built of native woods, hemlock and chestnut, the church building is finished in board-and-batten on all four elevations. It is surmounted by a main front-gabled roof pierced on

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either side of the nave by front gables over the northeastern and southwestern transepts. Although the roof is devoid of steeple, the church bears many of the same center-oriented features as the center-steeple form: centered front steps, centered porch, centered double-doors, and symmetrical window placement at either side of the entrance. Roofs all feature overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends and are covered with fiberglass shingles. When the first church was built in 1912-1913, the roof was covered with wooden shingles. A white wooden cross in the Latin configuration is centered in the offset above the front double doors. Defining the front entrance is a pair of seven cross-panel doors, painted bright red.

All windows in the sanctuary are one-over-one with the lower portion a commercial figured glass, allowing light as well as privacy. The windows are symmetrically placed: one on either side of the front entrance, three along each side of the nave, one on each front facade of the transepts, and one on each side of the southwest transept double doors. The gable end face of the northeast transept is an exception; there is centered a group of three windows with the taller center having an additional clear pane of glass at the top. All door and window casements and sills are wooden. The church is stained a dark red with the window and door casings a brownish-red, and the entrance double doors a bright red. Early photographs depict window and door casings painted white.

The southern transept contains a seven cross-panel double-door entrance with a small concrete porch outside, which is mounted by a ramp built for the handicapped in 1990. Older stone steps may still be seen underneath the porch. The transept has several movable benches for parishioners, but is now used primarily as a fellowship area.

The original plan for the church called for a cloister or vestry to be built to the rear of the northeastern transept.<sup>4</sup> However, early interior photographs show a window in the northeastern chancel elevation and a door leading to the outside from the southwestern chancel elevation. Records show a vestry was built prior to the relocation.<sup>5</sup> The vestry, located in the eastern corner of the building, contains the pastor's study and a small half bath. From the vestry, there are single doors leading to the sanctuary, filling the space behind the southwestern transept and making one continuous wall on the southeastern elevation and an overall T-shaped form. New, insulated clear pane windows on the southeast and southwest and a half bath complete the kitchen. The new addition was dedicated by the Right Reverend Robert H. Johnson, Bishop of Western North Carolina, on September 30, 1990.

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The rear or southeastern elevation features a door on the right leading from the pastor's study, having a small stoop and stone steps. Centered in the southeastern elevation is the crowning glory of the Church of the Resurrection: the stained glass window given by Mrs. McNeely DuBose in memory of her husband. The window depicts an angel with right hand shading the eyes looking forward anticipating the arrival of the resurrected in heaven. In the left hand the angel holds a bejeweled golden crown. The window, though unsigned, is attributed to Louis Comfort Tiffany, as it uses all of the early signs of his work: heavy, wavy glass called drapery glass, and painting only for the head, hands, and feet.<sup>6</sup> With time, the window was in a weakened state due to age, weight and vandalism. In 1976, the Lorens Stained Glass Studios of Decatur, Georgia, examined the glass and the window was resoldered, recaulked, stiffened and made watertight and airtight. Lexan storm sheeting was placed over the exterior of the window for protection.

Interior

The interior of the church is accessed by double doors leading directly into a small vestibule area of the nave, giving at once a panoramic view of the original interior of transepts, chancel, sanctuary and altar. Tongue-and-groove natural finish, knotty pine beaded wainscoting or paneling covers the lower portion of the walls below the plaster in the chancel as well as in the transept and nave. A knotty pine baseboard finishes the wainscoting at floor level. The ceiling is plastered and the tallest section above the chancel forms the shape of a cross. The walls and ceiling of the sanctuary covered with Gothic-style wooden paneling. The original ceiling was constructed with exposed beams; however, in the late 1950s or early 1960s, the walls and ceiling were plastered. Lighting is provided by five wagon-wheel chandeliers each with five lights which are covered with frosted globes having tin reflector shades; three in the nave, and one hangs in each transept. Spotlights placed above the chancel are focused on the altar. Pews installed in St. Peter's church in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1842 were donated to the church in 1914. Until this time, parishioners sat upon wide boards on boxes or nail kegs. These pews, now one hundred and fifty-six years old, have scroll ends, flat reclining back and flat seat, with carved crest on the outer end. Pews and kneelers have cushions. Pews symmetrically line both sides of the center aisle.

The chancel area contains the clergy seat (or sedilla), a prayer-desk (or prie-dieu), and the pulpit on the right with the reader's bench, prie-dieu and reading lectern on the left. The church ledger lists all of this furniture as original, made of pine, and given by the maker,

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Mr. Brumby of Marietta, Georgia, and Dunedin, Florida, in memory of his wife and of the Rev. DuBose. The Bishop's chair or cathedra, also made by Mr. Brumby, is placed in the left corner. A similar smaller chair is placed in the right corner. A carved chestnut altar is centered under the stained glass window. The altar is surmounted by the retable and covered with altar cloths and frontal. Credence tables are mounted on the wall on either side of the altar. The choir cross is of oak. The walnut credence shelf, carved by St. John DuBose, holds two brass candlesticks. To the right of the Bishop's chair on the wall of the Vestry is the Aumbry, made of wormy chestnut by a member of the congregation. Above the Aumbry is the Sanctuary Lamp, which burns to indicate that the Sacrament is in the Aumbry. The hymn board was designed by Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson and handmade by Edwin Osborne Clarkson of Charlotte, North Carolina. The alms basins were ordered from Gorham of New York. <sup>7</sup> A natural finish wormy chestnut altar rail of rectangular design filled with small Latin crosses separates the chancel from the sanctuary. The baptismal font, as is usual, is at the back of the nave near the front entrance.

Integrity Statement

Though there have been several interior changes, the church's simple finish and overall plan remain intact. The vestry, added before the church was moved, and small 1989 kitchen addition occupy the building's rear and do not detract from the property's integrity.

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Church Bell and Tower, 1953 – Non-contributing Object

The bell, atop a native stone tower measuring about sixteen feet in height by six feet square, is located just to the outside rear of the southern transept seven panel double doors. The bell originally used on a steam locomotive was a gift to Judge Heriot Clarkson bought with money collected by the Sunday School children in the earliest days of the church.<sup>8</sup> A 1953 Charlotte Observer article states that "a fund is now being raised to erect a stone bell tower. The bell is now perched on a high wooden platform and will be installed where it will summon worshipers to services, but will also serve as a signal year round to summon help in case of fire".<sup>9</sup> The two bronze plaques on the church bell tower were moved when Kilmichael Memorial Tower honoring Judge Clarkson fell into disuse. The first memorial plaque honors the memory of Little Switzerland founder, Heriot Clarkson, 1863-1942, and other honors the fifty-five men and one woman from the Little Switzerland area who fought in World War II.

Geneva Hall, 1962 – Noncontributing building

Located on property owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, Geneva Hall faces south with the rear elevation along a line of trees separating the building from the church grounds. The thirty-foot-by-sixty-four-foot structure consists of a large room to the east in which are held church and other community activities and a kitchen and restrooms to the west. Clad in rough-sawn lumber with a gable end roof and overhang, the hall relates well to the church. The small gabled front porch with a GENEVA HALL sign centered over the porch steps faces south towards the Little Switzerland Inn. Large cased double doors at the front and a cased kitchen single door enter the building. Because the hall is not just a 'parish house' for the Church of the Resurrection, but plays a important role in the life of the community, it is leased to the Little Switzerland Community Association for \$1.00 a year. Completed in October of 1962, a debt free celebration was held in October 1966.

Memorial Garden, 1996 - Noncontributing Site

The garden, set aside and consecrated on September 29, 1996 to receive the ashes of cremation, is neither separated nor differentiated from the setting of the church. Just to the left of the church in a lovely, wooded area of trees, wildflowers and soft floor of mosses and lichens, a walkway enters the garden. A large wooden cross is set back midway around the small circular walk and on the southern side of the garden walk is placed a bench donated to the Church of the Resurrection Memorial Garden by Billy Graham and given from The Cove. In sight of the cross and the bench is a diminutive statue of St. Francis.

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Summary

The Church of the Resurrection (Episcopal) in Little Switzerland, Mitchell County, was built in 1912-1913 and moved one hundred yards in 1939 after it was found to be in the path of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The church history is closely associated with the founding of this resort community by the Switzerland Company under the leadership of Heriot Clarkson, a North Carolina Supreme Court Justice from Charlotte who sought to establish a healthful mountain retreat. Under his direction, the company attracted investors who purchased eleven hundred acres on the Mitchell/McDowell county border in 1909 and began development the following year. Clarkson set aside a parcel in the center of the community for the church and Charlotte architect Adlai Osborne was commissioned to draft the plans. Services began in 1913. The simple board-and-batten church built of native chestnut and hemlock is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the area of social history as an important institution directly associated with the founding of Little Switzerland, one of a small number of resort communities established in the mountains of North Carolina in the early twentieth century by investment groups. The church is not unlike others founded in mountain resorts around the turn of the century in North Carolina including the Church of the Incarnation (NR 1996) in Highlands and All Saints Episcopal Church in the Linville Historic District (NR 1979), two Episcopal churches established in conjunction with seasonal mountain communities. The Church of the Resurrection meets Criterion Consideration A as a religious institution which achieves primary significance for its social historical importance and Criterion Consideration B as a building moved a short distance from its original location, but which survives as the only historic religious property in Little Switzerland.

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Historical Background and Social History Context

The Church of the Resurrection is most significant in the local social history of Little Switzerland: it was a central part of the development of the community and its development occurred outside the usual mission efforts set forth by the Episcopal denomination in western North Carolina. This church was the product of the people who developed and settled the community and was built by local craftsmen with monies given and raised by the residents. The church held such an important role in this resort community as evidenced by start date of construction in 1912, just a year after the first cottages were built.

The founder of Little Switzerland Heriot Clarkson was born in South Carolina in August of 1863 and moved early in his life to Charlotte, North Carolina. After studying law at the University of North Carolina, he practiced for a time in Charlotte before being appointed in 1921 by Governor Morrison as a Supreme Court Justice of North Carolina. He had a dream of finding a location in the mountains of North Carolina that would become a summer refuge for his family and others-- a place perhaps with the character of Linville, North Carolina. He was searching for a place with rich healing air for health and relaxation, superb views, pure water and close by attractions such as Mt. Mitchell.

Clarkson, along with two real estate dealers from Marion, Reid Queen and Floyd Gardner, rode over the rough terrain of the mountains in search of the perfect place for the forming of the colony that is now known as Little Switzerland. Stopping at one particular place, Clarkson paused and "as far as the eye could see, he was surrounded by an incredible dream of misty blue mountains and green valleys made unbearably beautiful by the play of sunlight and cloud shadows falling gently upon the Blue Ridge". It was hardly necessary for Clarkson to articulate what was in his mind, "This is the Place."<sup>10</sup>

Clarkson went back to Charlotte and began to seek other investors to build summer homes and cottages for the enjoyment of the wondrous mountains. They sought to escape the heat, to better their health, but first and foremost to claim their right to live and worship in a very special atmosphere. He was successful for in July of 1909, the investors purchased the property. The community was named Little Switzerland. Clarkson had been to Switzerland and visited the Jura Mountain Range and found this area to be similar both in beauty and comfort for the summertime. Eleven hundred acres was to be divided among the investors, with mountain families living on the property being allowed to remain in

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their homes for the rest of that year or longer. The mountaintop property lies on both sides of the line between Mitchell and McDowell Counties. There are but two remaining markers of the original community land; one is a stone pillar topped with concrete just off NC 226A toward Wildacres and the other a pair of stone pillars located near Big Lynn Lodge on NC 226A.

The company began to sell lots of one acre each in 1910 and agreed that only one dwelling per lot would be built a fact that holds true today. In 1911, the Clarksons and the Duls were the first to build their cottages. One more step remained necessary to make the property more attractive to buyers—improved transportation routes to Little Switzerland. The Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway ran from Spruce Pine through Altapass then Marion and Bostic Junction, and then into Spartanburg, South Carolina. Once the traveler arrived in Spruce Pine, it was still a long, rugged nine or more miles to Little Switzerland. Not many people would be desirous of riding wagons or horses up the rugged trail to Little Switzerland. The Switzerland Company's boundary was at Big Lynn Gap so Clarkson enticed the railroad to move its station, called Mt. Mitchell Station, up the hill to the entrance of the First Washburn Tunnel at Gillespie Gap, just two miles from Big Lynn. An existing road, actually two ruts in the ground, was to be the initial route, and would be used until improvements could be made. In 1780 the "Over-the-Mountain-Boys" had passed through Gillespie Gap on their way to King's Mountain, thus giving the gap a name that was well known and making it a grand place from which to build a good road to Little Switzerland.

The road was begun in 1910 by David H. S. Tappan, civil engineer and surveyor, and in approximately four months it was completed three and one-half miles or nearly to Bearwallow Gap on the western side of the community. It was called "Etchoe Pass Road", in honor of Colonel Francis Marion from whose sister the Clarkson Family is descended. It was through Etchoe Pass in Macon County, North Carolina that Colonel Marion was sent to fight the Cherokee. By 1912, traffic on the Etchoe Pass Road was such that a regular hack would meet the daily train and bring people, luggage and the mail up to the main road and on to the Switzerland Inn. By 1920, automobiles had become the transportation of the day for many, so a toll was collected for each person and each piece of luggage, thereby adding up a tidy sum for improving and maintaining the road. The tollhouse was located at the "big lynn", a linden tree reported to be seventy-five feet tall and fifteen feet around. It was also referred to as the "marryin tree" as it was so close to the Mitchell and McDowell County line that couples could claim sanctuary in either county.

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By 1911, the first Switzerland Inn had been built and was being run by Clarkson's sister, Mrs. Ida Clarkson Jones. The large, two-story wooden building was covered with chestnut bark. The inn did a thriving business during the coming years and was a desirable drawing card for the community. This inn held some of the Sunday School classes and church services until the church building was constructed. As the community of Little Switzerland began to thrive, cottagers and visitors alike were seeking a permanent place to worship on Sunday. Clarkson and the other founders wished to attract moral and upstanding visitors and residents to the community and to establish a very high quality of life. Sometimes the gathering for worship took place at the Switzerland Inn, sometimes in a grove of chestnut trees behind the Clarkson's house and at times in the houses.

The inspiration for constructing a church building came in 1912 from Mrs. McNeely DuBose, who proposed a chapel in honor of her late husband who had been rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville, chaplain at St. Mary's in Raleigh and rector of Grace Episcopal in Morganton. It was to be an Episcopal church for many of the cottagers and guests were from Charlotte where they attended St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The church was originally to bear the name, the Church of the Resurrection: DuBose Chapel. Mrs. DuBose offered a parcel of her land near her house for the site of construction, but this was hilly and difficult to access. The Switzerland Company, Judge Clarkson, President, offered a piece of land near the center of the community and the church was built at this location. Mrs. DuBose gave seven hundred dollars of the fourteen hundred it was to cost; the Episcopal Women's Guild under the guidance of Mrs. DuBose and Mrs. Clarkson set out to raise the other half. In order to begin construction, a loan was arranged for the remaining funds; this was soon paid off. The ladies were industrious in their pursuit of funds. Mailboxes would often contain invitations to "tea" at a home, (tea literally being a cup of the brew and a cracker - no fancy trimmings to spend money on).<sup>11</sup> These were planning sessions for their money raising ventures—entertainment, ice cream socials, parties for children, bazaars, sales of handicrafts by the local mountain residents, and pictures made into postcards and sold.

Adlai Osborne, architect from Charlotte and an early summer resident of Little Switzerland was contracted to draw up the plans and did so in the summer of 1912.<sup>12</sup> No time was lost in beginning the construction and the first service was held in the Church of the Resurrection on June 13, 1913.

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When worship began, the church was not a finished building, but was under a wooden shingle roof with rough board siding (without the battens) and only sub-flooring. Worshipers sat upon nail kegs or boards resting on blocks of wood as there were no pews. Local carpenters did the construction work, and the wood used was local hemlock and chestnut. The church was furnished through many memorial gifts, the most notable of which was the stained glass window, attributed to Louis Comfort Tiffany, given by Mrs. DuBose in memory of her husband. The sanctuary furniture (altar, altar cross, and chancel furniture) was made by Mr. Brumby of Marietta, Georgia and Dunedin, Florida and given in memory of his wife and the Rev. DuBose.

Unlike the establishment of mission churches by the Western Diocese of the Episcopal Church, such as the Highlands Church of the Incarnation (NR 1996), the Little Switzerland community set about acquiring land, raising money, contracting for architectural drawings and enlisting local carpenters to build the Church of the Resurrection. No priests were sent out from the Diocese, but Clarkson and others invited clergy, or if none were available, the congregation held their own service. The land upon which the church and Geneva Hall stood was given to the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, rather than the Diocese furnishing the land, building the structure and sending the missionary circuit riders.<sup>13</sup> The Church of the Resurrection has been self-sustaining since its inception and continues to fulfill the desire of Heriot Clarkson and other founders to have a strong religious presence in this resort community.

In the first services the congregation was mainly made up of cottagers and summer visitors. An effort was made to get the mountain people to attend and several families did come, and were instructed and confirmed and are still active in the community. They, however, have gone to year-round churches, as this was a summer church. But in times of activities of the Church of the Resurrection, the local people are quite interested and still participate, making this the true community church that Clarkson had in mind.

As the community grew, it came to need a post office and a grocery store. At least by 1912, Heriot Clarkson had built a post office and grocery building on the backside of his own property (approximately the site of the shops across from the present day Switzerland Inn). By 1912 a telephone line was erected and maintained from Little Switzerland to Spruce Pine. Electricity was not to be available in the community until 1938.

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Even though the community was somewhat short of the amenities, people continued to buy land and build cottages, many of which were covered with chestnut bark, as are those of the same era in Linville, North Carolina. Many Craftsman-like bungalows and cottages were built in this area, though most of them have been updated and remodeled and even torn down and replaced. The home of the Clarksons stood approximately where the Switzerland Inn swimming pool is now located. Before 1916 a row of cottages was built along the ridge. Their back yards were aligned along the road, now High Ridge Road, and their front yards were rolling down the hill toward what is now NC 226A. A boardwalk was built on the slope in front of these cottages and guests from the Switzerland Inn would walk there on the cool summer evenings. The residents from other areas of Little Switzerland called these houses "Society Row", thus giving rise to the naming of other parts of the community, such as Laurel Lane, Bearwallow, Osborne's Knob, Bland's Knob and more. Several camps were established and thrived during this era: Camp As-You-Like-It for girls in 1914, later to be known as Camp Glenlaurel, and Camp Finney for boys. Campers from the girls' camp attended services at the Church of the Resurrection as a group, walking to and from the church.

The flood of 1916 was one of two factors determining whether or not Little Switzerland would survive as a resort community; the other was the coming of the automobile. In the flood, the fear was not of flooding waters, as the community was located on a high ridge, but of landslides. After the flood, the difficulties in getting to Little Switzerland resulted in the company building an acceptable road from Marion. This was accomplished in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Since the mid-1930s, better roads and more cottages have been built. The loosely knit community became an incorporated organization in 1944 and the future of Little Switzerland was no longer in doubt. With tourists coming in ever-increasing numbers, the Switzerland Inn built several guest cottages, and the chestnut-bark Honeymoon Cottage of the present Switzerland Inn formerly served as the tearoom of the Switzerland Inn.

The coming of the Blue Ridge Parkway in the late 1930s was a great boon to Little Switzerland. It multiplied the tourists and allowed them easier access to the community. When completed, the Blue Ridge Parkway proved beneficial to communities along its path, including Little Switzerland. Planning for the Parkway began over two decades earlier. In 1912, The Switzerland Company received a letter from Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, a North Carolina State Geologist and Economic Surveyor. As the new

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president of the Appalachian Highway Company, Pratt was endeavoring to plan the construction of the "Crest of the Blue Ridge Highway" which was actually the idea that produced the Blue Ridge Parkway. For many reasons, the Switzerland Company felt it did not wish to be involved with the project at this time. The road was stopped by World War I and not resumed until 1935 when the first few miles were laid. Even as the first few miles were begun at the Virginia-North Carolina border, there was still uncertainty as to the route the Parkway would take. However, it was finally decided the Parkway would come through North Carolina and pass through the community of Little Switzerland.

As surveying began, it was ascertained that the Church of the Resurrection and Geneva Hall were in the path of the road and would have to be moved. The Parkway claimed a two-hundred-foot right-of-way, and a four-hundred-foot scenic easement in some areas, on either side. In passing Little Switzerland, it took a little over eighty-eight acres of land through the center - land that had been set aside for development and which was part of the original tract. A suggested restitution on the part of the Switzerland Company of \$22,500.00 for lost land was refused by the highway commission. The Little Switzerland Company therefore instituted a lawsuit and was awarded \$25,000 in addition to being given a direct entrance to the Parkway. Judge Heriot Clarkson was heavily involved with all of the proceedings of highway right-of-way and with the lawsuit that came out of the decision. Construction of the Parkway proceeded and the route was completed as far as Asheville by 1952.

Meanwhile, finding the Church of the Resurrection on land to be accessioned for the right-of-way was a shock for the community as this church had been and was a stabilizing factor in the community and area. The church, built through the perseverance of the Episcopal Women's Guild, was a continuing force that was needed in the community. Therefore, the only solution that would do was to move this church and Geneva Hall one hundred yards up the hill. An older resident of Little Switzerland recalls that the buildings were "rolled" up the hill to their new location.<sup>14</sup> A process of jacking up the building and placing logs underneath would have been the method of "rolling". As the building was rolled past a rear log that log would have been transferred to the front as the building moved along, eventually arriving on the new location. The residents of this community surely felt a great need to retain this church to go to this type of trouble in those early days— a need to retain the social and cultural balance that had been the presence in this community for over twenty-five years.

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In 1939, Bishop Robert H. Gribbon of the Western Diocese of North Carolina re-laid the cornerstone and the church continued its activities with no ill effects from the move.<sup>15</sup> In the mid-1940s, the building was again raised, a beautiful stone foundation laid, and the church set upon it. The Church of the Resurrection stands today much as it did in 1913; it continues to serve the spiritual and cultural needs of Little Switzerland and surrounding communities. The church has just celebrated its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary this past June 14, 1998. The church is one of the few surviving buildings of the original community, and a significant reminder of the historic and cultural forces represented in the settlement and development of the thriving community of Little Switzerland.

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ENDNOTES

1. Ledger of the Church of the Resurrection, Little Switzerland, North Carolina. Drawing of the Church of the Resurrection with the top one-third torn off, however showing the entire church plan, is pasted the inside front of the Ledger. Also in the Ledger is a list of memorials and gifts.
2. Switzerland Company gave plot of land for church. Deed February 21, 1914 from Switzerland Company to Rt. Rev. J.M. Horner and Trustees for the Missionary District of Asheville, North Carolina. Book and Page number not noted on deed.
3. Deed Registered August 11, 1937, Mitchell County, Book 95, Page 349. H. J. Gregg and wife, Hattie H. Gregg to Rt. Rev. Robert E. Gribbin, et als.
4. #1
5. Duls, Louisa DeSaussure, THE STORY OF LITTLE SWITZERLAND, Whittet & Sheperson, P.O. Box 553, Richmond, Virginia 23204. The book is an excellent source of knowledge of the history of Little Switzerland and was used as the background information in the preparation of this nomination. Statements herein reflect the drawing together of the facts from this book and other sources, but as there is need for chronological writing, endnotes will be limited to actual statements and facts which require endnotes. Herein the endnotes will be cited as THE STORY OF LITTLE SWITZERLAND.
6. Letter dated June 21, 1976 from Lorens Stained Glass Studios, 175 Laredo Drive, Decatur, Georgia.
7. Clarkson, Mary Osborne (Mrs. Heriot), THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION: DU BOSE MEMORIAL, A Sketch Since Its Foundation, 1912 A. D. A thirty page booklet in the possession of the Church of the Resurrection. No publisher or date can be found, however, it must have been after 1939 as the laying of the cornerstone for the church which had been moved is included. Included in the booklet is a list of gifts and memorials to the church.
8. THE STORY OF LITTLE SWITZERLAND, page 1.
9. THE STORY OF LITTLE SWITZERLAND, page 123

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10. #1

11. #2

12. Interview, March 1998, by Wilma Bryant with Mrs. Carrie Washburn of Little Switzerland, North Carolina.

13. Deed Registered August 11, 1937, Mitchell County, Book 95, Page 349, H. J. Gregg and wife, Hattie H. Gregg to the Rt. Rev. Robert E. Gibbon et als.

14. THE STORY OF LITTLE SWITZERLAND, page 124-125.

15. *The Charlotte Observer*, Sunday, August 17, Religious Activities Section, 1952. *Tri-County News*, Spruce Pine, September 8, 1949. Page 6.

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### Interviews

Interview of Mrs. Carrie Washburn of Little Switzerland by Mrs. William Bryant (Wilma), member of the Church. March 1998.

Interview by Helen Cain with Martha Espedahl, a member of the Church of the Resurrection living in Little Switzerland, N. C. February and March 1998.

Interview by Helen Cain with Carol Lane and Gene Lane of Columbia, Mo. March 1998

The following interviews were conducted by Helen Cain with in person, over the telephone, or by letter. All persons are members of the Church of the Resurrection.

George and Miriam Mix of Satellite Beach, Fla. February 1998

Jay and Beth Burgess of Tallahassee, Fla. March 1998

Pat Fuller of Athens, Ga. March 1998

Coles Jackson of Cheraw, S. C. February 1998

Sarah Smith of Inverness, Florida January and February 1998

Mrs. John Baird of Little Switzerland, N. C. February 1998

Anne Davis of Dade City, Fla. February 1998

Judy and Carl Schuler of Lakeland, Fla. February 1998

Suzanne Morris of New Smyrna Beach, Fla. February 1998

Bert and Nancy Whiting of Lakeland, Fla. February 1998

Markine Osterling of New Smyrna Beach, Fla. March 1998

Bob and Mary Carpenter of Charlotte, N. C. January and February 1998

Mary Ellen Berry of Montgomery, Ala. March 1998

Elgie and Bobbie Dinsmore of Burnsville, N. C. March 1998

Bob and Gussie Gray of Spruce Pine, N. C. March 1998

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### Interviews

Sanders and Blandings Guignard of Columbia, S. C. February 1998

Betty Rees of St. Petersburg, Fla. February 1998

Dot Hipp of Camden, S.C. February 1998

Bill and Ruth Taft of Fredericksburg, Va. January 1998

Larry and Jane Vickers of Atlanta, Ga. March 1998

The Rev. George Cave and wife Jo. Interviews with Father Cave have been numerous since summer of 1997 and continuing until April 1998.

### Federal and State Records

The Archives of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville, North Carolina.

### Local Records

Mitchell County Deeds, Mitchell County Courthouse, Bakersville, North Carolina

Mitchell County Tax Accessors's Records, Mitchell County Courthouse, Bakersville, North Carolina

Mitchell County Times-Mitchell News Journal, 401 Locust Street, Spruce Pine, North Carolina

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this nomination is parcel #3837 in the subdivision of #7017 Little Switzerland, Plat Book 1, Page 10, Subd. Code 0022. Mitchell County Tax maps on file in the County Tax Office in Bakersville, North Carolina.

### Verbal Boundary Justification

The 2.3 acre tract included in this nomination includes the site of the church, the memorial garden, the bell tower, and Geneva Hall. It also includes the church driveway and the parking area which is associated with the use of the church. This represents all of the property now associated with the Church of the Resurrection, Little Switzerland, North Carolina.

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### Additional Documentation

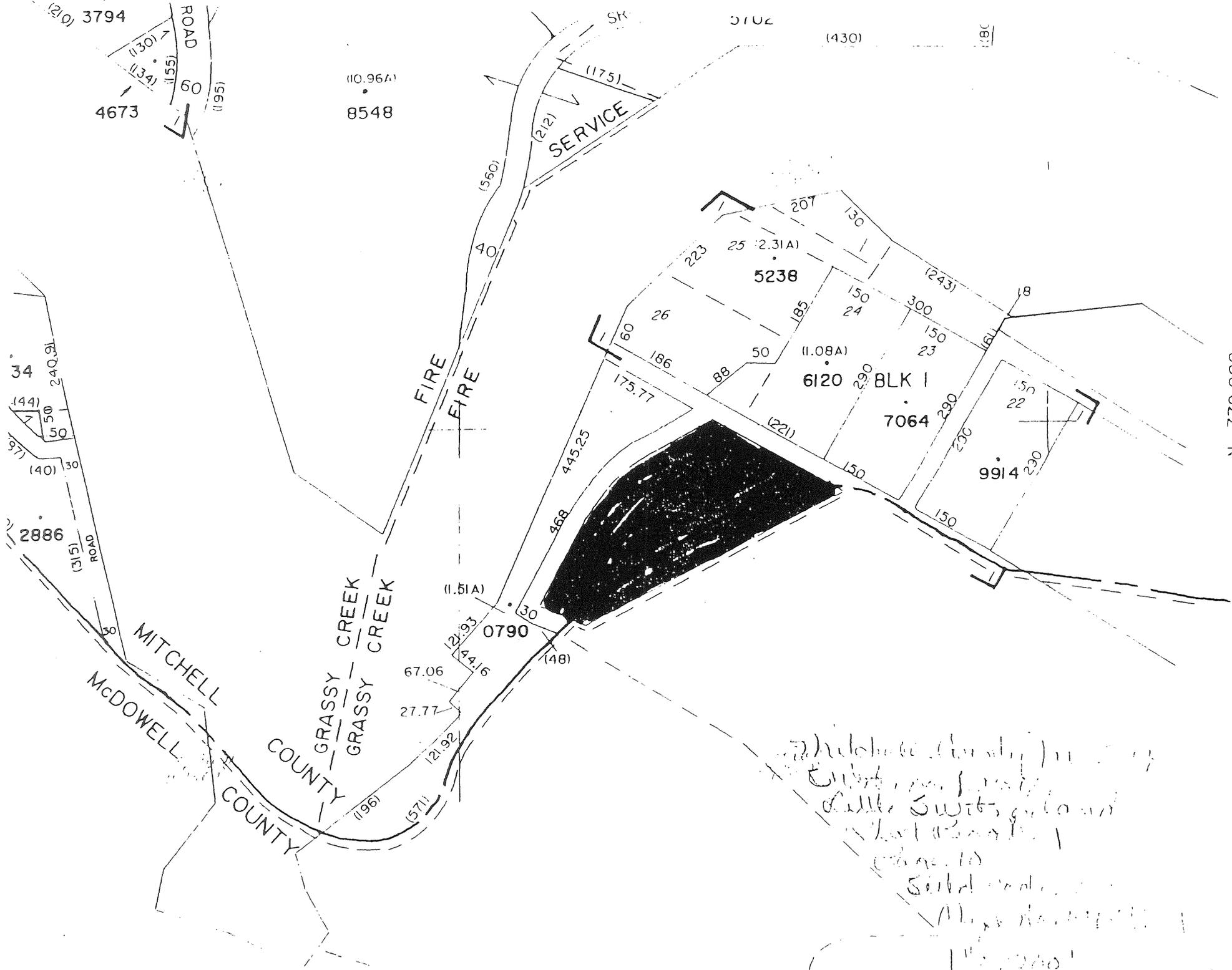
#### PHOTOGRAPHS

#### Church of the Resurrection: Schedule of Photographs

Name of Property: Church of the Resurrection  
East side of Ridge Road  
Little Switzerland  
Mitchell County  
North Carolina

Location of all original negatives: North Carolina Division of  
Archives and History, Western Office, Asheville, North Carolina

1. Church of the Resurrection: Front elevation, nave and front  
southern transept elevation.  
Photographer: Carol Lane, February 1998.
2. Church of the Resurrection: Front elevation, nave and front  
northern transept elevation.  
Photographer: Carol Lane, February 1998
3. Church of the Resurrection: Southern transept and kitchen.  
elevation. Bell tower.  
Photographer: Carol Lane, February 1998.
4. Church of the Resurrection: Full rear elevation.  
Photographer: Martha Espedahl, March 1998.
5. Church of the Resurrection: DuBose Memorial window, located in  
center of rear elevation.  
Photographer: Helen Cain, August 1997.
6. Church of the Resurrection: Interior plastered ceiling forming  
cross, lighting fixtures and  
memorial window.  
Photographer, Helen Cain, August 1997.
7. Church of the Resurrection: Southern transept interior.  
Photographer: Helen Cain, August 1997.
8. Church of the Resurrection: Cathedra or Bishop's seat.  
Photographer: Helen Cain, August 1997.



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Little Switzerland Quad  
Church of the Holy Spirit  
Mitchell/McDowell Co  
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