

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)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

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

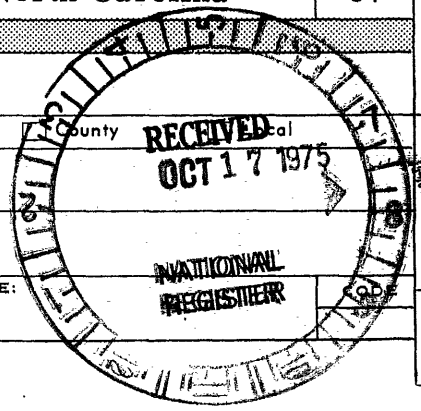
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Swain

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ENTRY NUMBER: 916

DATE: JAN 1 1976

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
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 33' 12"	83° 18' 20.05"	
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

<p>State Liaison Officer recommendation:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> State Liaison Officer Signature</p> <p>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 <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> OCT 15 1975 Federal Representative Signature Date Deputy Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Title</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>Acting <i>[Signature]</i> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date 11/19/75</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> Registrar of The National Register</p> <p>Date 12/31/75</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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.

