

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Other names/site number N/A
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Remove "N/A" if property is part of a multiple property listing and add name)

2. Location

Street & Number: 278 Laurel Springs Rd
City or town: Cosby State: TN County: Cocke
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X Zip: 37722

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 at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: **Date**

Title: **State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**
Government

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
 Name of Property

Cocke County, TN
 County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	1	objects
2	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cocke County, TN
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD; METAL/Tin; STONE

Narrative Description

The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church is located on the north side of Laurel Springs Road about three miles south of the small community of Cosby in the southwestern corner of Cocke County in East Tennessee. The nearest city, Newport (2017 population 6,790), is about sixteen miles northeast and Gatlinburg (2017, pop. 4,163) is about fifteen miles to the southwest. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is located directly across the road from the church building and borders the south side of Laurel Springs Road for almost its entire length. The quarter-acre nominated property includes the contributing one-room, wood-frame church building built in 1914 as well as a contributing outhouse, a non-contributing outhouse, and a non-contributing sign. The church is the predominant contributing resource, and its significant features includes its one-room rectangular plan, front-gabled form, board and batten wood siding, and interior yellow pine wood finishes. Significant historic alterations occurred in 1935 and ca. 1965. The property retains its integrity.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cocke County, TN
County and State

Site

The church building is situated just north of Laurel Springs road. Within the boundary, this property features a surrounding lawn, which is also surrounded by large trees and heavily wooded areas. The site has a crushed gravel road that spans the south end of the building, connecting with an eroded concrete walkway that goes to the front door. At the beginning of the concrete walkway is a Laurel Springs Baptist Church sign and at the door is two small stone steps elevating to the door. To the west of the building upon arrival is a wooden outhouse in addition to another wooden outhouse on the south end of the church building residing just at the treeline.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church, contributing building

Exterior

Built in 1914, the Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church is a rectangular, one-room vernacular church with a front-gabled painted tin roof with forty-five-degree eaves, original painted board and batten wood siding, and an original stone foundation. The building has no exterior decorative embellishments. The south façade contains the current main entrance filled with a board and batten wood door. This entrance was installed ca. 1935 when a new road was constructed. The building includes five double-hung, two-over-two windows: two each on the west and east sides roughly five-feet apart, and one on the rear, north elevation. The rear window is in the space formerly occupied by the original main entrance; it was installed in 1935 when the main entrance was moved to the south façade. All windows were replaced between 1960 and 1965, and they are considered historic adaptations.

Interior

The interior of the Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church is a one-story, one-room floorplan. The walls, floor and ceiling are made of yellow pine. The walls are crafted with a tongue and groove technique and feature mounts for Oil Lamps as the building has never had electricity. An elevated wooden- platform sits at the southeast end of the building; a walnut pulpit sits on top. Open spaces sit to the left and right of the podium, where three rows of wooden pews once sat to serve as “amen” corners in addition to several rows of original pews on each side of the building spanning from the pulpit to the front entrance on the south wall. The window at the rear of the building (north wall) provides light for the Minister to read his text. Two double-hung, two-over-two windows sit on either side of the room (east and west walls) providing light to the interior of the building. The interior also features an original wood-burning stove that served as the building’s primary heat source since construction.

Church Sign, non-contributing object

The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church also features a church sign and two outhouses. The congregational sign was recently constructed and made with a wooden base with a hanging metal plate serving as the sign. The sign reads, “*Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church: Ye Are The Light of the World, Matthew 5:14. Organized 1889, Built 1914.*” The sign is located four feet from the pathway to the front door and is a non-contributing object due to its recent construction.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cocke County, TN
County and State

Outhouse #1, non-contributing building

The site also features two outhouses, one at the northwestern corner of the property and the other at the southwest corner behind the rear of the building. The outhouse in the western corner is a non-contributing, plywood building with a tin roof. It was built within the last ten to fifteen years and is on the verge of collapsing. This building is considered non-contributing due to its recent construction.

Outhouse #2, contributing building

The outhouse located at the southwest corner of the property is the original outhouse dating to 1914. This building was constructed of wood and has a tin roof. Since the building is original to the property and marks the direction of the original entrance to the building, it is considered contributing.

Integrity

The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church has undergone a few changes since its construction in June of 1914. The first were minor interior changes ca. 1919. The most significant change came in 1935 when the entrance to the building was moved from the north side to the south side. Then between 1960 and 1965 the windows were replaced in addition to tin roof that replaced the old one. The building still exhibits these alterations, which are themselves historically significant. The building retains its characteristic floorplan, form, wood board and batten siding, interior yellow pine floors, tongue and groove walls, and ceilings. The building therefore has excellent integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. These intact physical aspects allow the property to maintain its integrity of association with its architectural significance and convey the feeling of a highly intact, significant rural vernacular church.

The building retains its integrity of location. It retains the majority of its rural setting with dense forests surrounding it on my sides. The setting has been minimally impacted by construction of a RV Park directly to the north sometime between 2013 and 2015. Though a change to the immediate setting, the impact has been minimized by mature vegetation on the property line that partially obscure the view of the park. The changed setting does not impact the property's integrity of materials, design, workmanship, association, or feeling which are the most important aspects for conveying the property's significance. Therefore, the property maintains an excellent degree of overall integrity.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
 Name of Property

Cocke County, TN
 County and State

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:

N/A

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1914; 1935; ca. 1965

Significant Dates

1914

 1935

 ca. 1965

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cocke County, TN
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its locally significant vernacular design and its high degree of historic integrity. The building is a one story, one room frame structure with board and batten siding in addition to a tin-gabled roof, stone foundation, and two-over-two double-hung windows. The interior yellow pine walls are crafted with a tongue and groove technique and feature mounts for oil lamps as the building has never had electricity. The period of significance is 1914, 1935, and ca. 1965 which correspond to the original date of construction and the dates of important historic alterations. The church meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A as it was originally constructed for religious purposes but it is nominated for its architectural significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance

History

The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church originated from the Bethany Primitive Baptist Church of Christ which was organized on January 4, 1889.¹ Bethany Primitive Baptist Church of Christ was established as the first church in the Cosby community. The congregation constructed a church building half a mile to the east of Laurel Springs's site on the property of Alexander Webb. This building was known as Whaley's Chapel, in honor of elder George Bradford Whaley, First Sergeant in the Union 11th Tennessee Regiment Cavalry, who often preached here.² By 1911, the church splintered due to disagreements between elder Issac L. Ogle and elder Samuel McMillan over secret orders, Sunday School, and Arminian doctrine.³ This congregation considered themselves conservative and often referred to themselves as the old, "original," Primitive Baptist Church.

Upon leaving the Whaley's Chapel location, it is believed that the new Laurel Springs congregation first met in the Laurel Springs School on the old Indian Camp Road until 1914, when the current building was constructed just 500 yards away. One of the charter members, Calvin Jenkins, deeded this property on June 13, 1914 and the building was constructed three months later.⁴ The first services held in this building was the annual three-day meeting of the Tennessee and Nolichucky Primitive Baptist Association in September of 1914.⁵ It is thought that the building was built through a collaborative effort of: Jackson B., Noah Webb, Joseph Valentine, Calvin Jenkins and Joseph M. Williams and his sons, John and Z.R. The Church met monthly, at first on the second Sunday of the month, but the meeting date later changed to the third.⁶ They

¹ "Bethany Primitive Baptist Church of Christ Minutes January 3-4, 1889." Cosby, TN, n.d.

² "Rev George Bradford Whaley (1838-1914) - Find A..." Find a Grave. Accessed November 4, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11325960/george-bradford-whaley>.

³ Tennessee and Nolichucky Consolidated Primitive Baptist Association Minutes, 1911.

⁴ *Cocke County: Register of Deeds: Deeds*. Vol. 32, 519.

⁵ "Newport Plain Talk." *Costner News*, 1914.

⁶ Tennessee and Nolachucky Consolidated Primitive Baptist Association Minutes.1921

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church

Cocke, TN

Name of Property

County and State

also participated in “foot washing” and communion services from time to time.⁷ In addition to church services, the building served as an interim schoolhouse for the Webb Springs school, which burned in 1939.⁸

The Williams family were the driving force in this little church. Joseph M. Williams also served as deacon and his son William C Williams was the first clerk. Zacky R. Williams was their song leader and served as the associational Clerk for over thirty years. At its height, thirty-six members worshipped at Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church.⁹ The church never had electricity; any necessary light was supplied by the windows or oil lamps (wall mounts for the lamps are still extant). In 1963, Elder Zenith Whaley became the pastor. He filled this role until his death in 2009.¹⁰ Over the years, congregant numbers dwindled. The last surviving member was Dovie Williams Valentine (A granddaughter of Joseph M. Williams) who died in 2012.

As of 2020, the church was vacant. The current owner has recently begun rehabilitation of the building, including repairing and repainting the batten and board siding and replacing the tin roof in-kind.

Architecture

The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church is an excellent example of a simple, vernacular church house that is characteristic of early twentieth century church buildings designed for small, rural communities in Tennessee. Built in September of 1914, the Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church has no specific architectural style, but it was constructed to be functional for a small Baptist community. The church’s significant architectural features include its one-room rectangular plan, front-gabled form, board and batten wood siding, tin roof, stone foundation, and interior yellow pine finishes.

The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church has undergone a few historic alterations since its construction in 1914. The first were minor interior changes in ca. 1919, followed by the most significant change in 1935 when the entrance to the building was moved from the south side to the north side. The entrance was originally on the southwest end of the building but was changed when the new road was built on the north side around 1935. This property was considered for purchase by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park but ultimately was not due to the road change.¹¹ Then between 1960 and 1965 the windows were replaced, and a newer tin roof replaced the weathered and rusted original tin roof. The building has also been repainted to the original white color within the last year. These alterations are considered historic alterations reflecting how the congregation adapted to changes in the environment and are thus included within the period of significance.

The first churches that were built in Cocke and adjacent Sevier counties were constructed using log construction. Following the Civil War, the Reconstruction period in these counties experienced a “building boom” and log buildings were surpassed by new frame buildings.¹² Sawmills had sprouted around most of these two counties and this contingency led to the construction of new churches, houses, stores and

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ “Fire Destroys Webb Springs School,” *Newport Times*, February 21, 1940.

⁹ Tennessee and Nolachucky Consolidated Primitive Baptist Association Minutes.1929

¹⁰ Tennessee and Nolachucky Consolidated Primitive Baptist Association Minutes.1963

¹¹ Great Smoky Mountains National Park Land Plat Map 23. Tract number 1194. 9th Civil District Cocke County, TN. Surveyed by Butler, 1927.

¹² Robbie D. Jones, *A Survey of Historic Architecture Sevier County, Tennessee Final Report* (Knoxville, Tenn.,(1993),50.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cocke, TN
County and State

outbuildings by 1885.¹³ This building boom also paved the way for new courthouses, colleges, railroads, mountain inn resorts, and a National Park for this little Appalachian community.¹⁴ According to the Historic Architecture Survey Report of Sevier County (1993), “The availability of inexpensive building materials proffered small country churches” all over the region with architecture “of a simple style that was basically a rectangular gable front with architectural detailing similar to the dwellings being constructed at the time.”¹⁵ The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church building fits this profile quite well even though it was built shortly after the reconstruction period.

The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church is comparable to three other rural, vernacular churches in the Smoky Mountain region. These three churches are the Primitive Baptist Church, Missionary Baptist Church, and the Methodist Church in Cades Cove, within the boundaries of Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NR 7/13/1977). All these buildings, including the Laurel Springs congregation, had their founding in the 19th century, with their current constructions done between the reconstruction period and the early-twentieth century.

The oldest of these churches is the Primitive Baptist Church, which was established in 1827 (Figure 1). According to the National Park Service, the one-room, one-story building was constructed in 1887 and features a “rectangular, front gable frame church and a front-gable frame cistern house.”¹⁶ The simple design of the building features clapboard siding, wooden 6/6 double-hung windows, a central brick chimney, square bell tower, and a tin roof with no ornamentation. This building is bigger than the Laurel Springs location, but both are one-room, one-story buildings with tin roof, wooden double-hung windows, rectangular gable fronts, and lack of ornamentation. In contrast, Laurel Springs lacks the height and bell tower of Primitive Baptist Church. This building was rehabilitated several times from 1979 to 1988.¹⁷



Figure 1: Primitive Baptist Church



Figure 2: Missionary Baptist Church

The Missionary Baptist Church was established in 1839 (Figure 2). This vernacular structure was originally constructed in 1894 but was dismantled and moved to its current location with several alterations in 1915.

¹³ Ibid, 42.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid, 50.

¹⁶ “National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory Primitive Baptist Church and Cemetery Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict,” National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory Primitive Baptist Church and Cemetery Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict § (1998), 29.

¹⁷ Ibid, 29.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church

Cocke, TN

Name of Property

County and State

This simply designed structure features a “rectangular, front-gable frame with a front-gable narthex and pyramidal bell tower” along with clapboard siding, 2/2 wooden double-hung windows and a tin roof.¹⁸ This building differs greatly from the Laurel Springs congregation but shares the same rectangular gabled front 2/2 double-hung windows, which were added to this building in 1915. Rehabilitation to the site occurred in 1988.¹⁹

The closest building in age to the Laurel Springs location is Cades Cove Methodist Church. The congregation was founded in 1840 and the current building was constructed in 1902. This building is reminiscent of the previous two buildings in that it is also a one-room, one-story structure that includes a rectangular front-gable with a “pyramidal bell turret and flared spiral.”²⁰ This structure also incorporates clapboard siding, 2/2 wooden double-hung windows and a tin roof. This building is unique in that it has two front stairway entrances. While this congregation is Methodist and not Primitive Baptist, the architecture is remarkably similar vernacular structure of the Baptist churches, even being constructed after the reconstruction period. This site was rehabilitated in 1991.²¹



Figure 2: Cades Cove Methodist

Other notable vernacular church buildings found a little closer to Laurel Springs include the Little Cataloochee Baptist Church and Palmer Methodist Chapel Churches just across the state line in North Carolina. These buildings are also very similar to the churches in Cades Cove. Unlike the church buildings found in Cades Cove and the Cataloochee Valley, the Laurel Springs building primarily lacks a bell tower, clapboard siding and a cemetery. The Laurel Springs Church building is of a slightly different vernacular construction, unique being the only building made primarily of board and batten.

The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church is a rectangular, one-room, open floor plan with a gabled tin roof, non-decorative wooden eaves and includes board and batten siding with a stone wall foundation. The building includes five double-hung, four-pane windows roughly five-feet apart on each side and one at the

¹⁸“National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict,” National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict § (1998), 26.

¹⁹ Ibid, 22.

²⁰ “National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory Methodist Church and Cemetery Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict,” National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict § (1998), 29.

²¹ Ibid, 38.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church

Name of Property

Cocke, TN

County and State

rear. The walls, floor and ceiling are made of yellow pine that is ship lapped throughout the width of the building. The walls are crafted with a tongue and groove technique and feature mounts for Oil Lamps as the building has never had electricity. An elevated wooden- platform sits at the southeast end of the building, where a walnut pulpit sits on top. Open spaces sit to the left and right of the podium, where three rows of wooden pews once sat to serve as “amen” corners in addition to several rows of pews on each side of the building spanning from the pulpit to the front entrance, leaving a center aisle for foot traffic. The window at the rear of the building provides light for the Minister to read his text. The two double-hung, four-pane windows sit on either side of the room providing light to the interior of the building. The interior also features an original wood-burning stove that has served as the building’s primary heat source since construction.

While the Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church is simple, its functionality is specific to a rural mountain congregation. One small example of this can be seen in the forty-five-degree wooden eaves used underneath the tin roof. In his article “Just Folks Designing,” architect Thomas Hubka briefly suggested, “that vernacular designers go about making design decisions by working from a commonly understood and shared ground of forms and materials that have been tested in a specific community over generations . . .”²² When asked about the specificity of these types of eaves found in smoky mountain counties, a local woodworker explained, “the 45 degree eaves were constructed to help control the mountain wind storms destructive power,” which can easily tear the roof right off the frame.²³ This angle specifically deflects the wind in such a way that relieves overall resistance and pressure on the roof.²⁴ The Sevier County architectural survey report suggested that, “Except for a few dwellings in Sevierville and Pigeon Forge, most of the structures with 45 degree eaves were found in the mountainous sections of the county.”²⁵

On the inside, the Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church still retains open spaces to the east and west of the podium where three rows of wooden pews once sat as the designated “amen” corners (Figure 4). Amen corners are characteristic of both white and black Baptist and Methodist churches dating back as far as the 1840s in the United States. According to Walter Hunsinger and Nancy LaRoche’s *Picturesque Expressions: A Thematic Dictionary*, amen corners are where, “A coterie of fervent believers or ardent followers, so-called from the place in a church, usually near the pulpit, occupied by those who lead the responsive amens. A person in the amen corner is, figuratively speaking, a disciple or devotee; often a yesman or sycophantic toady...”²⁶ A good cultural reference to amen corners can be seen a comical anecdote found in the short story “An Uncalled for Amen,” published on April 6, 1869 in *The Mississippi Creole* newspaper. In the

²² Thomas Carter and Elizabeth C. Cromley, *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture: a Guide to the Study of Ordinary Buildings and Landscapes* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2008), 15.

²³ *A Survey of Historic Architecture*, 42.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Urdang, Laurence, Walter W. Hunsinger, and Nancy LaRoche. *Picturesque Expressions: a Thematic Dictionary*. Old Lyme, CT: Verbatim Books, 1985.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cocke, TN
County and State

story, the preacher, in an effort to explain the uncertainty of life remarked, ““And I, your speaker, may be dead before another morning dawns,”” to which a member of the amen corner exclaimed, ““Amen!””²⁷ The following day the preacher approached this brother inquiring, ““what did you mean by saying amen to my remarks last night? Do you wish I was dead?””²⁸ The brother responded ““Not at all. Not at all. I thought if you should die you would go straight to glory, and I meant amen to that!””²⁹ This small anecdote reveals the fervent nature of the amen corner, illustrating what services may have looked like at the Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist congregation.

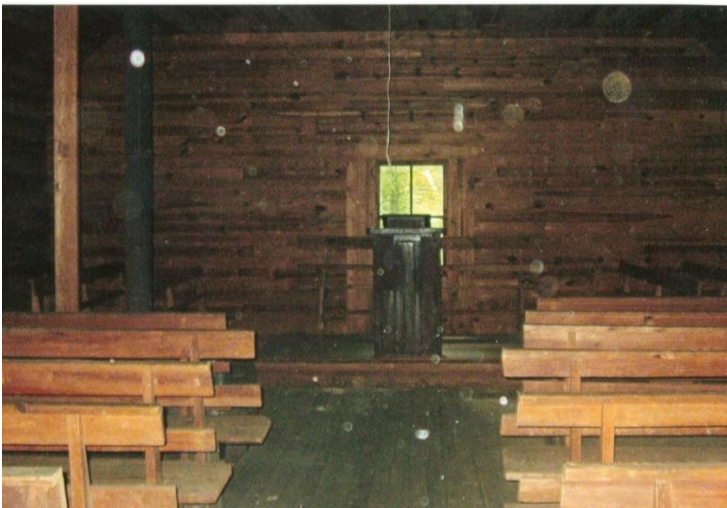


Figure 4: Laurel Springs Congregational “Amen” corners.

Characteristic of rural vernacular buildings is the inclusion of an outhouse or a ‘privy’ on the property. The outhouse located at the northwestern corner of the property is the original outhouse dating to 1914 (Figure 5). This structure is made of wood and has a tin roof. This single-stall outhouse served as the building’s primary restroom until the newer one was added to the property within the last ten to fifteen years. This structure is also testament to the fact the Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church building has never had indoor plumbing. The church also has never had electricity and still retains wall mounts for oil lamps, as well as the original wood stove for heat.

²⁷ National Endowment for the Humanities, “The Mississippi Creole. [Volume] (Canton, Miss.) 1841-1851, April 06, 1849, Image 1,” News about Chronicling America RSS (M.N. Prewett), accessed November 17, 2020, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83016872/1849-04-06/ed-1/seq-1/>.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cocke, TN
County and State



Figure 5: Original outhouse.

The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church is an excellent example of an early twentieth century, rural vernacular church building. This church retains a high degree of historic integrity both on the exterior and interior, as little has been changed since its construction in 1914 and the few changes that have been made are, in and of themselves, historically significant. Compared to other rural vernacular church buildings in the region, it is the only one constructed primarily with the board and batten technique. Its lack of a bell tower represents an important variation of rural religious architecture in East Tennessee. This building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its locally significant, rural vernacular architecture and its high degree of historic integrity.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cocke, TN
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

- “Bethany Primitive Baptist Church of Christ Minutes January 3-4, 1889.” Cosby, TN, n.d.
- Carter, Thomas, and Elizabeth C. Cromley. *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture: a Guide to the Study of Ordinary Buildings and Landscapes*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2008.
- Cocke County: Register of Deeds: Deeds. 32*. Vol. 32, n.d., 519.
- “Costner News”. Ferman Maddron. Newport Plain Talk. September 2, 1914.
- Douglass, Teresa. “Republican Primitive Baptist Church, Haywood County National Register of Historic Places Nomination,” Tennessee (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 2000).
- “Fire Destroys Webb Springs School.” *Newport Times*, February 21, 1940.
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park Area. Tract Number 1194. Plat No.23. 1” = 400’ Primitive Baptist Church. District 9, Cocke County, Tennessee.1927.
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Sheet No. 6.1:24,000. Department of the Interior. U.S. Geological Survey,1929.
- Humanities, National Endowment for the. “The Mississippi Creole. [Volume] (Canton, Miss.) 1841-1851, April 06, 1849, Image 1.” News about Chronicling America RSS. M.N. Prewett. Accessed November 17, 2020. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83016872/1849-04-06/ed-1/seq-1/>.
- Jones, Robbie D. *A Survey of Historic Architecture Sevier County, Tennessee Final Report*. Knoxville, Tenn., 1993.
- Mortimer, Melissa. “Ebenezer Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Marion County National Register of Historic Places Nomination,” Tennessee (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 2020).
- National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory Methodist Church and Cemetery Great Smoky Mountains NP - Cades Cove Subdistrict § (1998).
- Nolichucky Primitive Baptist Association Minutes.1911 and 1914.
- “Rev George Bradford Whaley (1838-1914) - Find A...” Find a Grave. Accessed November 4, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11325960/george-bradford-whaley>.
- Tennessee and Nolichucky Consolidated Primitive Baptist Association Minutes.1921,1923,1929 and 1963.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
 Name of Property

Cocke, TN
 County and State

“The Evansville Daily Journal. [Volume] (Evansville, Ia. [I.e. Ind.]) 1848-1862, October 26, 1850, Image 2.”
 News about Chronicling America RSS. Wm. H. Chandler & Co. Accessed November 17, 2020.
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82015672/1850-10-26/ed-1/seq-2/>.

TN Historical Commission Viewer. Accessed November 18, 2020.
<https://tnmap.tn.gov/historicalcommission/>.

Urdang, Laurence, Walter W. Hunsinger, and Nancy LaRoche. *Picturesque Expressions: a Thematic Dictionary*. Old Lyme, CT: Verbatim Books, 1985.

US Geological Survey. Jones Cove Quadrangle, Tennessee. 1:24,000. 7.5 Minute Series.
 Reston ,VA:United States Department of the Interior, USGS, 1940.Photo Revised 1978.

Quin, Richard. “Pigsah United Methodist Church and Cemetery, Giles County National Register of Historic Places Nomination,” Tennessee (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1984).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)			State Historic Preservation Office
previously listed in the National Register			Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register			Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark			Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #			University
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	X		Other East Tennessee Development District
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #		Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cocke, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.25 **USGS Quadrangle** Jones Cove, TN

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.772071 | Longitude: -83.257901 |
| 2. Latitude: 35.772286 | Longitude: -83.258341 |
| 3. Latitude: 35.772315 | Longitude: -83.258508 |
| 4. Latitude: 35.772149 | Longitude: -83.258698 |
| 5. Latitude: 35.771786 | Longitude: -83.258867 |

Verbal Boundary Description

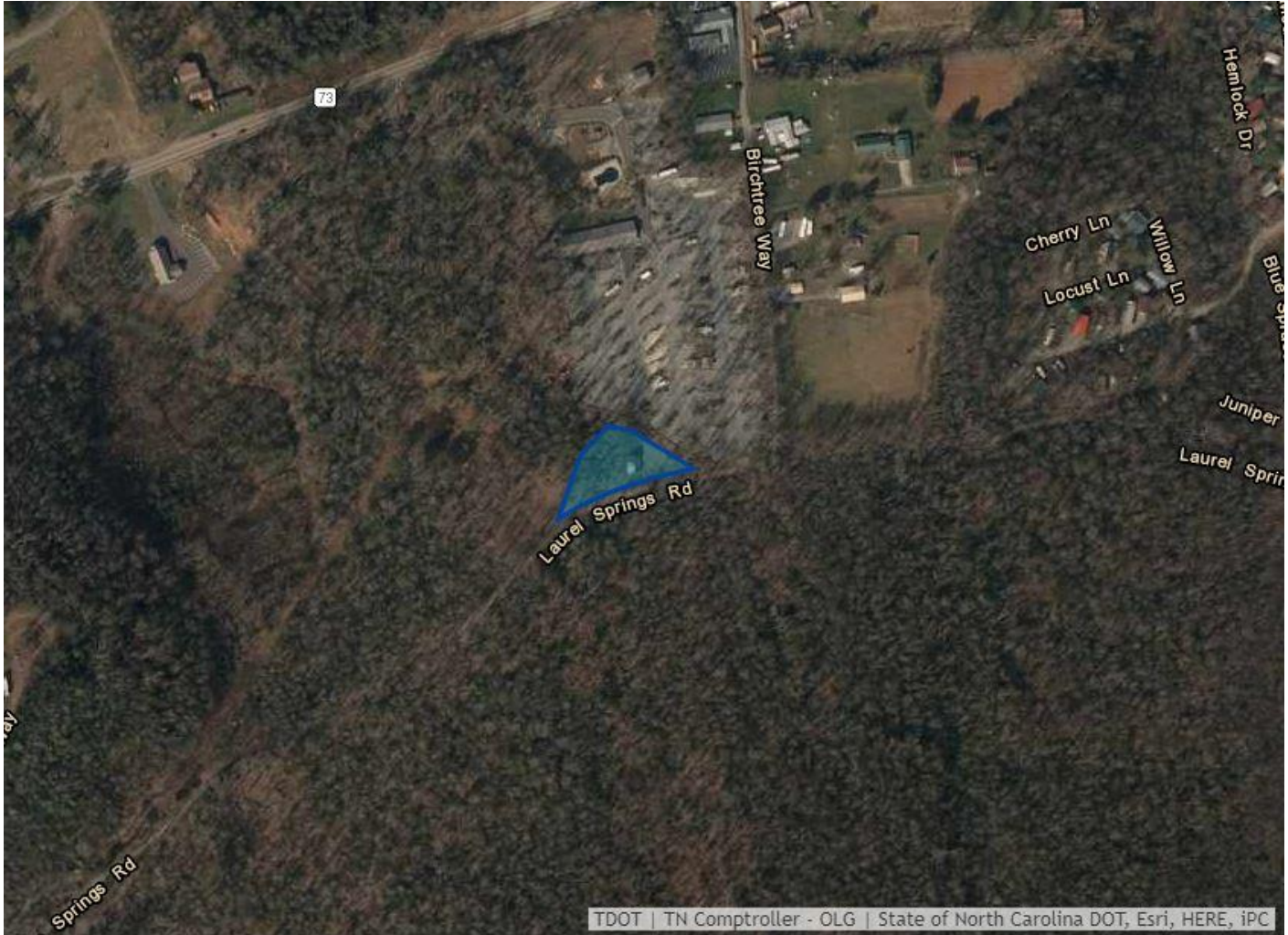
The Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church is at 278 Laurel Springs Road, Cosby Tennessee. The Property is a ¼ of an acre lot with triangular shaped boundary with three points to the north and two to the south. Laurel Springs Road forms the entire width of the southern boundary line. Laurel Springs Road separates the church plot to the north and Smokey Mountains National Park to the south. The Property Boundary is as shown on Map 127, Parcel Number 133.00 of the Cocke County tax map and is consistent with Warranty Deed book 32, Page 519. These boundaries are depicted on enclosed maps.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries enclose the property and resources historically and current associated with Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church.

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cooke, TN
County and State



Parel number 133.00 2019 Tax Map Cooke County Property Assessors office. TN Property Data

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cocke, TN
County and State



Parcel number 133.00 2019 Tax Map Cocke County Property Assessors office. TN Property Data

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property

Cocke, TN
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name Jonathan Moseley; Rebecca Schmitt

Organization East Tennessee Development District; Tennessee Historical Commission

Street & Number 216 Corporate Place Date January 2021

City or Town Alcoa Telephone 865-273-6003

E-mail jmoseley@ETDD.org State TN Zip Code 37701

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property
Cocke County, Tennessee
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos and Plans Page 21

Photo Log

Name of Property: Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church

City or Vicinity: Cosby, TN

County : Cocke County

State: TN

Photographer: Shane McGaha

Date Photographed: November 8, 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 13. Southwest elevation, initial view with sign. Camera facing northeast.
- 2 of 13. Southwest elevation, initial view upon arrival. Camera facing northeast.
- 3 of 13. Front façade, board and batten detailing with stone steps and front walk. Camera facing northwest.
- 4 of 13. West-southwest corner elevation. Camera facing east-northeast.
- 5 of 13. West elevation. Camera facing east.
- 6 of 13. Northwest elevation. Camera facing southeast.
- 7 of 13. North elevation. Camera facing south.
- 8 of 13. Northeast elevation. Camera facing southwest.
- 9 of 13. Laurel Springs Church sign. Camera facing northwest.
- 10 of 13. Interior, center aisle. Camera facing northeast.
- 11 of 13. Interior, wooden pews. Camera facing northeast.
- 12 of 13. Interior, pulpit. Camera facing northeast.
- 13 of 13. Interior, front door. Camera facing south-southwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church

Name of Property
Cocke County, Tennessee

County and State

N/A

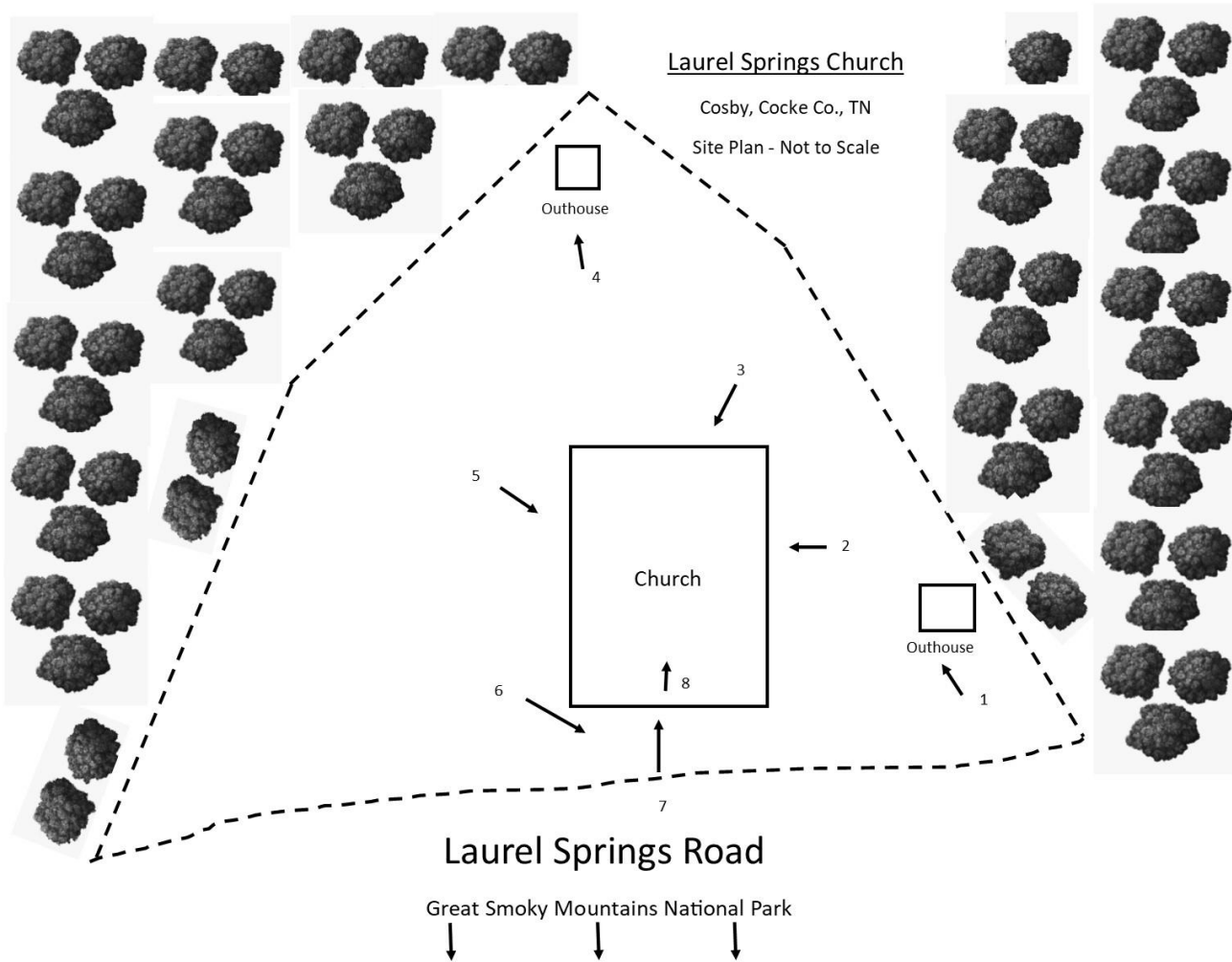
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos and Plans

Page 22

Site Plan



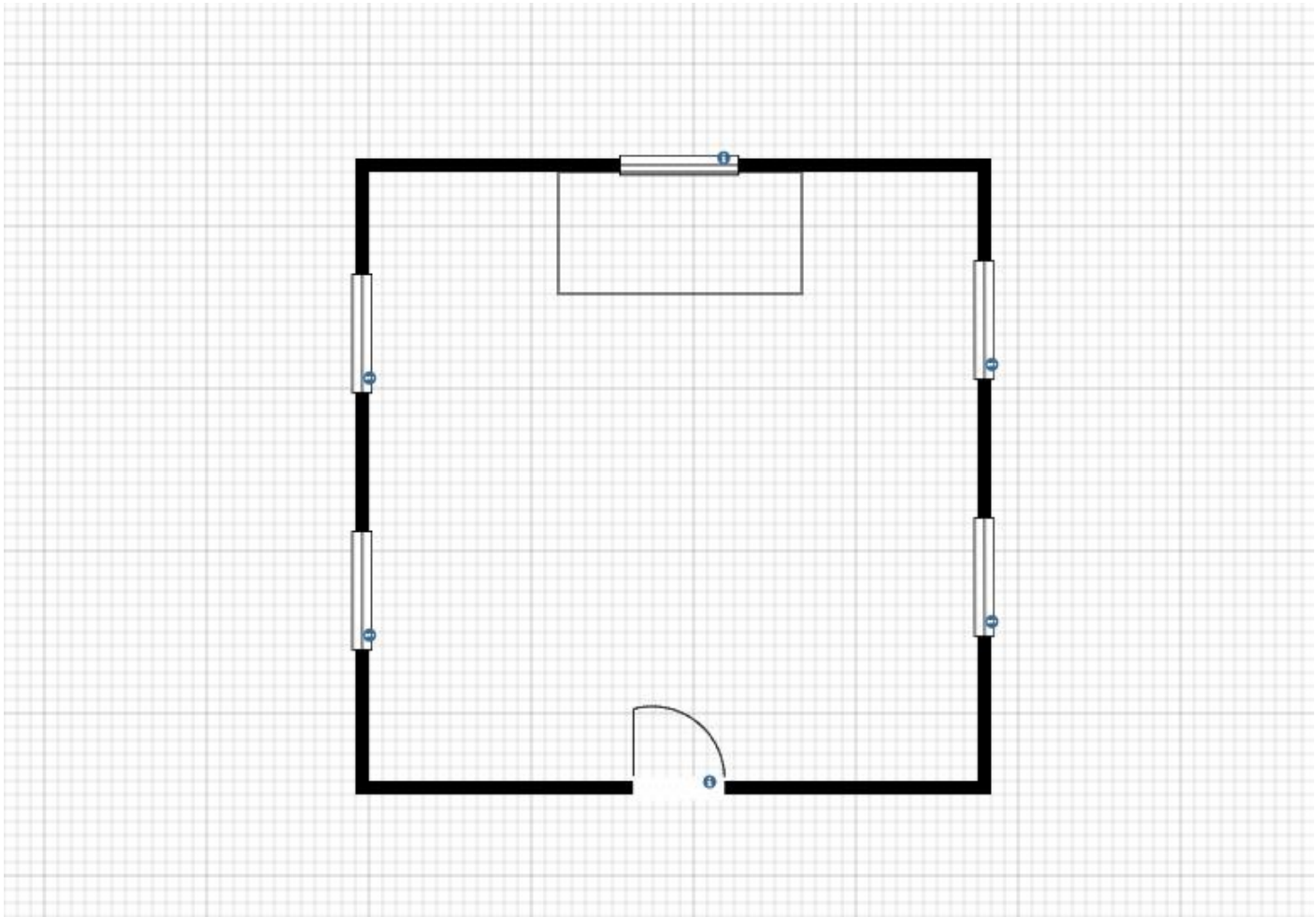
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property
Cocke County, Tennessee
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos and Plans Page 23

Floor Plan



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property
Cocke County, Tennessee
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos and Plans Page 24



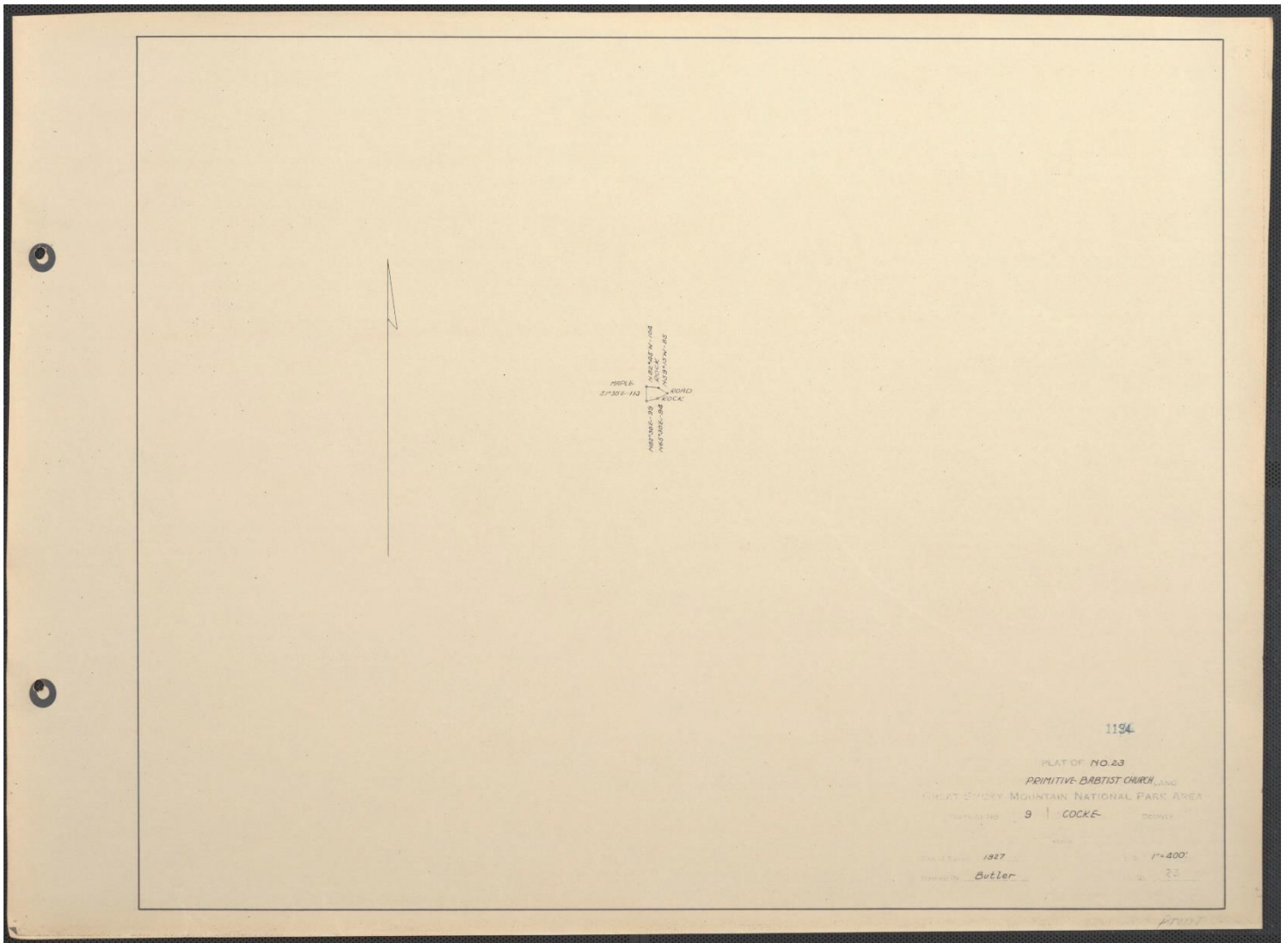
Cocke County Park Area Map. Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Circa 1928.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church
Name of Property
Coke County, Tennessee
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos and Plans Page 25



Great Smoky Mountains National Park Land Plat Map 23. Tract number 1194. 9th Civil District
Coke County, TN. Surveyed by Butler, 1927. 1"=400

Property Owner:

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name Matthew Shane McGaha

Street & Number 5044 Deep Rd Telephone (423)2375713

City or Town Cosby State/Zip TN/37722

LAUREL SPRINGS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

COSBY, COCKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE



1 OF 13



2 of 13

LAUREL SPRINGS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

COSBY, COCKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE



3 of 13



4 of 13

LAUREL SPRINGS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

COSBY, COCKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE



5 of 13



6 of 13

LAUREL SPRINGS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

COSBY, COCKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE



7 of 13



8 of 13

LAUREL SPRINGS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

COSBY, COCKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE



9 of 13



10 of 13

LAUREL SPRINGS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

COSBY, COCKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE



11 of 13



12 of 13



13 of 13