

APPENDIX B

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT FOR THE ELKMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT, GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE

APRIL 2004

**CULTURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT FOR THE
ELKMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT, GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL PARK, SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Submitted to:
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738
In Partial Fulfillment of Contract
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TRC Garrow Associates (TRC) conducted a cultural and historic landscape assessment for the Elkmont Historic District (EHD) in Sevier County, Tennessee, during 2003–2004. The work was performed as a subcontractor to T N & Associates (TN&A) of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which was contracted by the National Park Service (NPS) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a General Management Plan Amendment for the EHD in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM). In 2003, GRSM made the decision to elevate the EHD planning process from an EA to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The landscape assessment begun under the EA has been carried forward to the EIS. During 2003, TRC and TN&A undertook background research, field survey, data analysis, preparation of a detailed historical chronology, and preliminary mapping. In 2004, the team prepared refined maps and this assessment narrative.

As stated in the project Statement of Work, the primary purpose of the landscape assessment was to determine if data existed to support the recommendation of cultural landscape management zones in the EHD. Through the production of plan maps from five identified historic periods, emphasis was placed on how Euro-American settlement patterns affected spatial organization, land use, and use of the natural environment. Review of historic maps, photographs, drawings, and texts identified the topography, vegetation, circulation, natural systems and features, views and vistas, buildings and structures, and small-scale features in the EHD in each historic period. Understanding the landscape over time permitted informed analysis of what remains of the significant cultural landscape, as well as what does not remain or is no longer apparent.

The assessment has determined that the surviving landscape characteristics and features in the EHD have retained their integrity. Moreover, because the characteristics and features are located in an NRHP-listed historic district and they retain their integrity, they are recommended contributing to the EHD. In terms of cultural landscape management zones, the characteristics and features are evenly distributed throughout the District to the point that the definition of zones is not warranted—in essence, the EHD is a cultural landscape management zone in and of itself.

Because most of the surviving landscape characteristics and features would remain under six of the seven alternatives proposed for impact analysis under the current EIS, and because a natural resource-based alternative—Alternative A, which calls for removal of all manmade features at ground level or above—is needed to provide a full range of alternatives in the group of alternatives being studied, another alternative focusing on conservation of the landscape characteristics and features is not required. Therefore, none of the proposed draft alternatives would have to be changed or eliminated in the EIS process.

Large-scale cultural and historic landscape maps and a large historic photograph display sheet have been prepared by TN&A for this assessment and for use at public meetings associated with the EIS. Reduced copies of the maps are presented as figures in this narrative. Supporting historical graphics, photographs, and drawings have been assembled and are being submitted under separate cover, as required by the contract. In addition, the data gathered for this assessment will be utilized by GRSM to assist public interpretation and education efforts regarding the development of the EHD and the creation of the National Park.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TRC would like to extend its thanks to Ian Shanklin, landscape architect at GRSM, who provided overall project direction and coordination. Annette Hartigan, curator of the library and archives at GRSM, provided her expertise on materials housed in the GRSM collections and assisted TN&A and TRC researchers in their efforts.

TRC also is appreciative of the individuals who shared their personal photographs of Elkmont. These include Julie Brown, Charlotte Burdette, Eleanor Dickinson, Katherine Kuhlman, Bill Lawhorn, Mayna Avent Nance, Doug Redding, and Ed Thompson.

TN&A project managers Jackie Little, Rose Chmielewski, and Barbara Garrow served as points of contact with GRSM and provided oversight for all products produced by TN&A and TRC. At TN&A, Jenni Hendricks assisted with the background research, and Perry Childress assisted in the field survey and analysis, and prepared the draft cultural and historic landscape maps. Peter Schoephoester prepared the final versions of the maps, which appear as figures in this document.

At TRC, Jeff Holland conducted the background research. Todd Cleveland performed the field survey and analysis, and authored this report. Vince Macek put together the report graphics.



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I. INTRODUCTION

During 2003–2004, TRC Garrow Associates (TRC) conducted a cultural and historic landscape assessment for the Elkmont Historic District (EHD) in Sevier County, Tennessee. TRC conducted the work as a subcontractor to T N & Associates (TN&A) of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which was contracted by the National Park Service (NPS) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA)/General Management Plan Amendment for the EHD, which is within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM). In 2003, GRSM made the decision to elevate the EA to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The cultural and historic landscape assessment begun under the EA has been carried forward with the EIS. During 2003, TRC and TN&A undertook background research, field survey, analysis, preparation of a historical chronology, and preliminary mapping. In 2004, the team prepared refined maps and this assessment narrative. As dictated in the project Statement of Work, the chief purpose of the cultural and historic landscape assessment was to determine if data existed that would uphold the recommendation of cultural landscape management areas or zones within the EHD. Through the preparation of plan maps from five identified historic periods (see Table 1), attention was given to how Euro-American settlement and occupation patterns affected land use, spatial organization, and use of the natural environment. Inspection of historic maps, photographs, drawings, and textual references identified the topography, natural and cultural vegetation, circulation, natural systems and features, views and vistas, buildings, structures, and small-scale features present in the EHD during each of the five historic periods. Understanding the landscape over time permitted an informed analysis of what presently remains of the historically significant cultural landscape, as well as what no longer remains or is no longer apparent.

Table 1. Historic Periods Addressed in the EHD Cultural and Historic Landscape Assessment.

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| 1. Pre-National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Listed Period of Significance: 1880s–1907 |
| 2. NRHP Listed Period of Significance 1908–1942: Sub-period 1908–1913 |
| 3. NRHP Listed Period of Significance 1908–1942: Sub-period 1914–1924 |
| 4. NRHP Listed Period of Significance 1908–1942: Sub-period 1925–1932 |
| 5. NRHP Listed Period of Significance 1908–1942: Sub-period 1933–1942 |
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Large-scale landscape maps and a large historic photograph display sheet have been prepared by TN&A for the assessment and for use at EIS-related public meetings. Reduced copies of the maps appear as figures in Chapter III. Supporting historical graphics, photographs, and drawings have been assembled and are being submitted under separate cover. In addition, the data gathered for the assessment will be used by GRSM in public interpretation and education efforts regarding the development of the EHD and the creation of the National Park.

For detailed information describing and locating the individual landscape features at each cabin and structure within the EHD, refer to the cultural resources baseline report prepared by TRC.¹

¹ Cleveland, Todd, Larry McKee, Paul Webb, David S. Leigh, Steve Gaddis, and Tasha Benyshek. *Cultural Resources of the Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sevier County, Tennessee*. Submitted to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, by TRC Garrow Associates, Atlanta, Georgia, 2002. A copy of the report can be viewed online at <http://www.elkmont-gmpa-ea.com/BaselineRept.html>.



II. METHODS

Data Review, Research, and Mapping

The process of preparing the cultural and historic landscape assessment for the EHD began with a review of data provided by GRSM. The data included a CD of select historic drawings and photographs, text on the history and development of the District, photographs of the cabins taken in 2001, and current landscape drawings in CAD format prepared by Jerry McGee, a former GRSM landscape architect. The data also included copies of historic photographs provided by the public at the various meetings and workshops held in the fall of 2002 for the EA process.

Following the data review stage, TRC identified gaps in the existing data that would need to be filled to satisfy the objectives of the assessment. The purpose of this exercise was to provide focus to the upcoming research phase so that it could be executed as efficiently as possible. TRC and TN&A staff then spent one week at the GRSM archives reviewing and collecting historic drawings, maps, and photographs pertaining to the broad landscape characteristics and individual landscape features of the EHD during the five periods listed in Table 1.

The collected data were then organized and analyzed, and the historic drawings, maps, and photographs illustrating topography, vegetation, watercourses, circulation patterns, and landscape elements were keyed to their appropriate location within the EHD according to the applicable cultural and historic landscape period. Histories of Elkmont and textual references to the landscape were reviewed to obtain descriptions of land use and to aid in the identification and placement of landscape features illustrated in the drawings, maps, and photographs. It should be noted that many of the graphic images did not identify the specific location of the landscape features depicted on them, other than a general location of “Elkmont” or “Appalachian Club area” or “campground.” TRC and TN&A staff used written histories, field survey, and cross-checking of other drawings, maps, and photographs to establish the locations of many of the individual landscape features and to identify the placement of views shown in the photographs.

TRC and TN&A staff then formulated statements reflecting the overall landscape theme of each period (see Table 1). These statements summarized the key events that were occurring in the EHD prior to and during the District’s period of significance. Major changes in land use and spatial organization served as dividing points in the history of the EHD and were used to separate that history into defined periods. Each period was then depicted on its own cultural and historic landscape map (see Chapter III). As part of this exercise, a detailed historical chronology was prepared listing all of the key events impacting the EHD landscape between the 1880s and 1942.

Fieldwork and Analysis

Staff utilized field survey to compare current conditions with the historic appearance of the EHD. This enabled TRC and TN&A to determine how and to what extent the area had changed since 1942, the end date of the fifth study period. As noted above, the fieldwork also assisted in pinpointing the location of several landscape features that could not be accurately located through documentation. Moreover, there were certain features that were not discovered during the background research phase that were found during walkovers of the EHD. The comparison of past and present conditions also helped to determine if surviving landscape characteristics and features had integrity and, if so, if they should be considered significant in accordance with the NRHP eligibility criteria (see below).

Following the determinations of integrity and NRHP significance for the surviving landscape characteristics and features, staff sought to define proposed cultural landscape areas or zones within the EHD. Due to the nature and location of the landscape characteristics and features in the EHD, however, it was felt that the District essentially was a single landscape management zone



and that division into smaller areas or zones was not necessary (see further discussion in Chapter IV).

The final step in the cultural and historic landscape assessment entailed a look at the seven draft alternatives proposed for impact analysis under the EIS process. This evaluation was undertaken to determine if the findings of the landscape assessment would affect and/or alter any of the proposed alternatives. TRC and TN&A staff deduced that because most of the identified landscape characteristics and features would remain in place under six of the alternatives—Alternative A calls for removal of all manmade features at ground level or above in the EHD unless natural resource degradation would occur—none of the alternatives would have to be changed or eliminated in the EIS process. This information was presented to GRSM staff at a meeting on January 26, 2004 (see Chapter IV for further discussion).

NRHP Eligibility Criteria

According to 36 CFR 60.4, cultural resources that are eligible for the NRHP include buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts that retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and also meet one or more of the criteria outlined below. Criterion D is most often (but not exclusively) associated with archaeological resources.

- *Criterion A (Event)*. Association with one or more events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state, or local history.
- *Criterion B (Person)*. Association with the lives of persons significant in the past.
- *Criterion C (Design/Construction)*. Embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or representation of the work of a master; or possession of high artistic values; or representation of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- *Criterion D (Information Potential)*. Properties that yield (or are likely to yield) information important in prehistory or history.

III. SITE HISTORY

Introduction

The EHD includes landscape features directly tied to individual buildings and structures, such as stone walls and planters at the cabins, along with characteristics and features found District-wide, such as watercourses and roads. The characteristics and features can be divided into two main groups. The first group includes those characteristics and features that are indicative of both natural and human-influenced processes, such as spatial organization, natural systems and features, and land use. The second group includes those characteristics and features that are evident as physical forms on the landscape, such as circulation, topography, vegetation, buildings and structures, small-scale features, and views and vistas. Like the landscape processes, some of the physical forms are natural in origin, while others are human-influenced.²

² The landscape terminology used in this chapter is taken from the following sources: Birnbaum, Charles A., and Christine Capella Peters (editors). *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of*



Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of the EHD has been determined by several of the processes and physical forms noted below. For example, natural systems and features, as well as topography and vegetation, have dictated in large part how the landscape developed over time and how humans reacted to the natural conditions they encountered. Choices about land use have greatly affected the appearance of the landscape over time. Finally, circulation patterns, heavily influenced by natural features, have played a major role in determining how the area developed, especially in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features in the EHD include the water resources, i.e., the rivers and streams. The District is drained by the Little River and its tributaries, which include Jakes Creek and Slick Limb, Catron, Mids, Pine Knot, Tulip, and Bearwallow branches.

Land Use

The history of land use in the EHD—particularly the impact of the Little River Lumber Company on the birth and development of the Appalachian and Wonderland clubs, and then in turn the impact of those organizations on the development of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park—is addressed in detail in the cultural resources baseline report prepared by TRC.³

Circulation

The roads and trails in the EHD are the means of circulation in and through the area. They functioned that way historically and continue to do so today. Former railroad corridors gave way to automobile roads, some of which over time gave way to recreational trails. These corridors—the entry road off Route 73, known as the Elkmont Road or the Elkmont Spur, Jakes Creek Road, Little River Road/Trail, and the road behind the Wonderland Hotel and through the Wonderland cabins—brought people into the area and formed the spines around which the Appalachian and Wonderland clubs developed. This linear pattern of development was in large part imposed by the area's topography, but it also was dictated by the location of lots sold by the Little River Lumber Company, as well as the proximity of Elkmont town and the logging railroad.

Topography and Vegetation

The ruggedness of the terrain and the density of the forest played a major role in determining how the area developed—first as a logging operation and then as a resort community. Human decisions regarding access, circulation, and development options had to be analyzed in terms of the constraints imposed by the area's natural conditions. The resulting layouts of the Appalachian and Wonderland clubs—even the designs of the individual buildings—were greatly influenced by

Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Heritage Preservation Services, Historic Landscape Initiative, Washington, D.C., 1996; Keller, J. Timothy, and Genevieve P. Keller. *National Register Bulletin 18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes.* U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1994; McClelland, Linda Flint, J. Timothy Keller, Genevieve P. Keller, and Robert Z. Melnick. *National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes.* U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., n.d.

³ Cleveland et al. 2002. A copy of the report can be viewed online at <http://www.elkmont-gmpa-ea.com/BaselineRept.html>.



the area's natural environment, as well as by manmade constraints, such as lot location, lot size, and proximity to the logging operations.

Water Features

As humans interacted with the natural environment of the District, they sought ways to harness the area's natural watercourses to meet their needs. Dams at the Little River and its tributaries provided swimming holes and lakes for recreation. Tub mills utilized the power of flowing water to grind cornmeal and flour, and power plants did the same to produce electricity. Springheads and cisterns provided sources of clean water for drinking and cooking. Even the indoor plumbing found throughout the Appalachian and Wonderland clubs constituted a manmade means of utilizing the area's natural water resources.

Buildings and Structures

Both by design and necessity, the cabins in the Appalachian and Wonderland clubs were arranged in certain groupings. The narrowness of the landform between Jakes Creek and Bearwallow Branch or between Jakes Creek and the foot of the ridge to the east (in the Society Hill section) necessitated that buildings be built up on the central road, as well as close to Jakes Creek in a number of instances. Until 1926, the "road" along Jakes Creek consisted of an unpaved dirt or gravel road paralleling the logging railroad tracks. In 1926, the Little River Lumber Company removed the rails when it ceased logging operations in the area, and the railroad right-of-way with the wood ties still intact became the road. In 1933–1934, the road was improved by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and covered with crushed stone.⁴ Lot location and size also played a major role in determining the placement of individual buildings.

Visual inspection of the club areas indicates that the cabins observed a uniform setback from the road (or railroad in many cases), and this is certainly evident in the Daisy Town section of the Appalachian Club. This is even apparent as one moves south in the Appalachian Club area to the Society Hill section. Along the Little River in the Millionaires' Row section, available building land was more plentiful, so cabin owners did not have to build right up to the former rail right-of-way (now a trail). A good example is the Spence Cabin, which is hidden from the trail and instead is oriented to the river. The Faust Cabin also is more aligned with Bearwallow Branch than with the trail. Only at the Murphy and Cambier cabins is there an orientation to the former rail right-of-way—most likely due to the narrowness of the landform there between the river and the ridge to the south. At the Wonderland Club, some cabins were constructed right up to the central access road because of the narrowness of the ridgetop in that particular area. Yet those cabins close to the road usually had a ridgetop view as well.

⁴ Blythe, Robert W, *Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Park Development Historic District* (listing pending, draft National Register of Historic Places Registration Form on file at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, n.d.): 8:16; Maher, Cornelius, and Michael Kelleher, *Great Smoky Mountains National Park Roads & Bridges, Little River Road* (Historic American Engineering Record written historical and descriptive data, HAER No. TN-35-C, available at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hhquery.html>, 1996): 12–14; Schmidt, Ronald G., and William S. Hooks, *Whistle Over the Mountains: Timber, Track & Trails in the Tennessee Smokies* (Yellow Springs, Ohio: Graphicom Press, 1994): 75.



Small-Scale Features

Most small-scale features within the EHD are located at individual cabins and buildings. Such features include stone walls along roads, stone retaining walls, stone property boundary walls, dry laid stone walls enclosing paths or yards, stones used to line walks or paths, and property or yard fences built of wood, steel, and wire. Other small-scale features include stone entry steps, mortared stone gate posts and entry walls, and stone patios. Stone planters can be found at many of the cabins. Other small-scale features are scattered throughout the District and are not tied to a specific cabin or building. These include stone-faced culverts, used to carry the various streams and branches in the District beneath the roads. Examples of such culverts can be found along Catron and Bearwallow branches.

Views and Vistas

Historically, the views and vistas within the District were much more abundant and panoramic, as clear-cutting from logging and limited agriculture had “opened up” the landscape. In time, the forest returned, resulting in the landscape presently in place. Accordingly, most current views and vistas are axial in nature, concentrated along roads, trails, and watercourses. Most of these are historic, dating to the resort era or even earlier, as some of the road views follow even earlier railroad views. Partial panoramic views are available at a few high elevation spots in the District: from the Wonderland Hotel porch looking southwest; from Wonderland Cabins 58-4d through 58-9i looking southeast to southwest; from the pre-GRSM water tank area near the Kuhlman Cabin looking west-northwest; and from the GRSM horse barn pasture looking in all directions. These are partial panoramic views because the forest growth has obscured the once open spaces within the EHD, leaving only the more distant views of ridgelines and mountaintops beyond the District. The District also includes the more modern views within the Elkmont Campground, which are both axial and panoramic in nature.

Discussion of Period Maps

This section provides an overview of each cultural and historic landscape map, with a listing of historical events that occurred during the timeframe represented by each map. Bulleted points summarize the cultural landscape of each period, focusing on the significant landscape characteristics and features that demonstrate human interaction with the natural environment of the EHD. As discussed above, the cultural landscape topics include: spatial organization, natural systems and features, land use, circulation, topography and vegetation, water features, buildings and structures, small-scale features, and views and vistas. Additional information not shown on the maps is given where appropriate. Supporting graphics, photographs, and drawings have been assembled and are being submitted under separate cover. Each map discussion also includes an indication of which landscape characteristics and features have survived to the present day.

Map 1. 1880s–1907: Pre-Commercial Logging

This map illustrates the time period of the 1880s through 1907, just before large-scale commercial logging came to the EHD (Figure 1). The specific events of the time period are listed in Table 2. Human interaction with the natural landscape consisted of the pioneer homesteads and farmsteads scattered throughout the District and connected by assumed trails or roads. Levi Trentham’s tub mill near the confluence of Jakes Creek and the Little River was a key feature.



Small-scale logging was taking place in the vicinity of the EHD, and large-scale commercial logging by the Little River Lumber Company was under way along the Little River's West Fork.

Table 2. Historical Chronology: 1880s–1907.

Date(s)	Event(s)
1880s– 1904	Swaggerty and Eubanks selectively logging East Fork (upper Jakes Creek/Blanket Mountain area) using portable sawmill; J.L. English Company selectively logging Blanket Creek area; other locals working in other parts of Little River watershed
1900	W.B. Townsend of Pennsylvania visits area with associates to inspect forest; group forms Little River Lumber Company (LRLC)
1901	Little River Railroad (LRRR) is chartered
1902	Logging by LRLC begins along West Fork of Little River
1903	LRLC's first mill at Townsend begins operations
1906	LRRR starts building East Fork line

Sources: Cleveland et al. 2002:29; Dykeman and Stokely 1984:97; Schmidt and Hooks 1994:4–5, 8, 10, 12, 16, 56.



Elkmont Historic District Cultural Landscape
Great Smoky Mountains National Park



8

Spatial organization:

- Little River and Jakes Creek formed primary spines through area
- Bearwallow, Catron, Mids, Pine Knot, Slick Limb, and Tulip branches formed secondary spines
- Steep slopes and ridges paralleled watercourses for much of their length
- Homesteads and farmsteads with associated cleared land were located on flat areas adjacent to watercourses
- Forest covered majority of area

Natural systems and features:

- Area watercourses: Little River, Jakes Creek, and Bearwallow, Catron, Mids, Pine Knot, Slick Limb, and Tulip branches; also natural springs

Land use:

- Agriculture, domestic, industry (tub mill), and logging (in the vicinity)

Circulation:

- Assumed trails or roads ran through area, likely paralleling watercourses

Topography and vegetation:

- Little River and Jakes Creek were bordered by flat areas that quickly rose to steep slopes
- Steep slopes were cut by branches that flowed down from higher elevations
- Area included native trees and plants as well as crops grown by pioneers (corn and grains)

Water features:

- Levi Trentham's tub mill and flume were located at confluence of Jakes Creek and Little River¹

Buildings and structures:

- Pioneer cabins of log construction (typical of time period and area)
- Frame barns and other agricultural outbuildings²
- Trentham's tub mill

Small-scale features:

¹ Source: Photograph: "Primitive watermill on Jake's Creek of Little River, on the property of Little River Lumber Company" in *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* (GSMNP 1:2, 1926) (GRSM Archives, Publications file, I-17); photograph: "Flume leading to old Trentham mill, Appalachian Club, Elkmont, Tenn." (n.d.) (GRSM Archives, Lumbering Photos, Hooks Collection, Oversize, 32910).

² Source: Photograph: "The road up through Elkmont, circa 1918. Approximate location of present drive between walk-in Section A and regular Section A of campground. Barn in center background, Whaley barn. Burned during World War I" (GRSM Archives, Lumbering Photos, Hooks Collection, Oversize, 32179).



- Wood flume that led to Trentham's tub mill
- Assumed footbridges crossed Little River, Jakes Creek, and various branches

Views and vistas:

- No identified views and vistas, but it is assumed that axial views were located along watercourses and trails or roads and that panoramic views possibly existed at cleared areas near cabins

Of the landscape characteristics and features noted above, the following have survived to the present time:

- Spatial organization (without pioneer homesteads and farmsteads and with successional forest in place)
- Natural systems and features
- Topography
- Levi Trentham's cabin (relocated to rear of Cabin 7 in Daisy Town in 1932; chimney base still visible in current campground)³
- Axial views along watercourses

Map 2. 1908–1913: Establishment of Elkmont Town, Little River Railroad, Appalachian Club (Parts of Daisy Town and Society Hill), and Wonderland Hotel

This map illustrates the time period of 1908–1913, when the Little River Lumber Company established its logging town of Elkmont and completed its Little River Railroad line to the area (Figure 2). It also includes the establishment of the Appalachian Club Hotel and the building of a clubhouse and cabins in the Daisy Town and Society Hill sections. The Wonderland Hotel was constructed near the end of the period. The specific events of the time period are listed in

³ Dickinson, Eleanor, *Elkmont Community Historic District* (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form [not official version used for listing], on file at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, 1993): 7:6.



Elkmont Historic District Cultural Landscape
Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Table 3. Human interaction with the natural landscape consisted of pioneer homesteads and farmsteads scattered throughout the District (although some began to be removed); rail lines paralleling the Little River, Mids Branch, and Jakes Creek; established roads and assumed trails or roads through the area; the beginning of large-scale commercial logging in the area; and nodes of development at the Wonderland Hotel, Elkmont Town, and the Appalachian Club. It also was during this period that daily excursion train service to and from Elkmont began.

Table 3. Historical Chronology: 1908–1913.

Date(s)	Event(s)
1908	LRLC completes lumber camp at Elkmont; LRRR completes line to Elkmont; LRLC starts logging Mids Branch; Elkmont railroad station likely built along with town
1908– ca. 1912	Elkmont Hotel is constructed; first Elkmont school is constructed (removed at unknown date, but certainly by 1942)
1909	LRLC/LRRR opens access to Jakes Creek; peak year of timber production in Appalachians; daily excursion train service to/from Elkmont begins; Elkmont company store/post office opens
1910	LRLC deeds 50 acres +/- to Appalachian Club for purpose of building clubhouse and cabins (tract lies between Jakes Creek, Jakes Creek spur line, [Tulip] Poplar Branch, the Little River, and the Little River rail line); LRLC leases 40,000 acres to Appalachian Club for hunting and fishing (East Fork watershed above Elkmont); two-story Appalachian Club Hotel is built on site of current Appalachian Clubhouse with wide steps reaching from porch down to level of Bearwallow Branch; Old Elkmont Cemetery is established; Appalachian Club railroad station likely built along with hotel
Ca. 1910	Cabins 1–5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 19, 20, 23, 27, 29, 31, 32, and 36 are built; unpaved road through Society Hill is likely built (located west of rail line in current front yards of cabins; road likely was reclaimed by cabin owners for front yard space when LRRR removed rails from Jakes Creek spur line in 1925, and former railbed began to be used as road); raised wood boardwalk along west side of Daisy Town and Society Hill road is constructed (ran between Appalachian Club Hotel and Cabin 36; wood boardwalk was replaced with gravel path with wood sides by ca. 1928, because wood surface became too moist and slippery as tree canopy reestablished itself)
Ca. 1910– 1913	Elkmont Baptist Church is constructed; power plant is built along Jakes Creek in Society Hill section
1911	LRLC deeds 65 acres to Carter brothers for Wonderland Park development
1912	Wonderland Park Hotel is built; Wonderland Park railroad station likely constructed at same time
Ca. 1912	Cabins 13, 21, 24, 26, 28, and 38 are built; spring at base of slope east of Appalachian Club Hotel is being utilized (accessed via at least two wood staircases from Daisy Town)
1913	Cabins 25 and 58–4d are built; LRLC deeds land to Appalachian Club for playground and swimming pool with dam; LRLC deeds 823.6 acres to Carter brothers for Wonderland Park Addition; Appalachian Club Hotel Annex with 16 rooms is built (known as The Mac-Ever-Son or McEverson Apartments)

Sources: Appalachian Club, Inc. ca. 1928; Cleveland et al. 2002:30; Dickinson 1993:7:15, 9:37; Dickinson 2003; Dykeman and Stokely 1984:99; Morrell 1976:2, 3, 15; Schmidt and Hooks 1994:34, 56, 62; Weals 1991:43.



Spatial organization:

- Little River and Jakes Creek formed primary spines through area
- Bearwallow, Catron, Mids, Pine Knot, Slick Limb, and Tulip branches formed secondary spines
- Steep slopes and ridges paralleled watercourses for much of their length
- Homesteads and farmsteads with associated cleared land were located on flat areas adjacent to watercourses (although some began to be removed during this period)
- Forest was cleared throughout much of area
- Nodes of development were established at north end of EHD (Wonderland Park Hotel), center of EHD (Elkmont Town), and center to south end of EHD (Appalachian Club); for most part, these nodes were located on flat areas adjacent to Little River and Jakes Creek

Natural systems and features:

- Area watercourses: Little River, Jakes Creek, and Bearwallow, Catron, Mids, Pine Knot, Slick Limb, and Tulip branches; also natural springs

Land use:

- Agriculture, cemetery, commerce (hotels and store/post office), domestic (pioneer cabins, resort cabins, and hotels), education, industry (tub mill, power plant at Jakes Creek, and rail shop), logging, transportation

Circulation:

- Assumed trails or roads ran through area from pioneer times, likely paralleling watercourses
- LRRR tracks paralleled Little River, with spur lines up Mids Branch and Jakes Creek (notable features included triple siding at Elkmont Town and wye [fork] at Mids Branch)
- Roads ran from north of cemetery to Elkmont Town, and from Appalachian Club station up Jakes Creek spur line¹

Topography and vegetation:

- Little River and Jakes Creek were bordered by flat areas that quickly rose to steep slopes
- Steep slopes were cut by branches that flowed down from higher elevations
- Area lost many native trees and plants due to logging, resulting in denuded landscape (although trees were retained at lower elevations near developed areas [Wonderland Park Hotel, Elkmont Town, and Appalachian Club])²

¹ Source: Photograph: unidentified view of Elkmont, most likely Society Hill area looking north-northeast, showing unpaved road in front of cabins to west of railroad line (pre-World War I) (collection of Charlotte Burdette).



- Crops were grown by pioneers (corn and grains)
- Likely some exotic plant species were introduced at hotels and Appalachian Club cabins

Water features:

- Levi Trentham's tub mill and flume were located at confluence of Jakes Creek and Little River
- Stone or concrete spring head was built at Bearwallow Branch down slope from Daisy Town cabins³
- Concrete power plant was constructed at Jakes Creek in Society Hill section

Buildings and structures:

- Pioneer cabins of log construction (typical of time period and area)
- Frame barns and other agricultural outbuildings
- Trentham's tub mill
- Wonderland Park Hotel and railroad station⁴
- Elkmont Town buildings and structures (dwellings, hotel, store/post office, railroad station, school, and rail shop)⁵
- Appalachian Club Hotel, Annex, and railroad station⁶

² Source: Photograph: "Above Elkmont" (view of logging; n.d.) (GRSM Archives, Lumbering Photos, Hooks Collection, Oversize, 32709); photograph: unidentified views labeled "logging" (ca. 1917) (collection of Bill Lawhorn); photograph: "1912 or 1913" (view of Elkmont Town looking south; may date to ca. 1910–1912) (Old Elkmont Town Walk notebook, EM-138, and Photo files III-L-17827, GRSM Archives); photograph: "Looking toward Wonderland area circa 1910 from Elkmont. Houses on right located in lower end of walk-in campgrounds, Section A" (GRSM Archives, Lumbering Photos, Hooks Collection, Oversize, 32718); photograph: "A 1912 Sunday School picnic special passenger train, with engine #110, poses at Elkmont" (in front of Wonderland Hotel) (GRSM Archives, Lumbering Photos, Hooks Collection, Oversize, 32904).

³ Source: Photograph: "Appalachian Club men at spring" (June 1914) (collection of Eleanor Dickinson).

⁴ Source: Photograph: "Wonderland Hotel. Railroad tracks running along base of hill in front. Copied from advertising brochure" (n.d.) (GRSM Archives, Photos, III-L-17827).

⁵ Source: Photograph: "Elkmont 1916" (view of Elkmont Town looking north) (Old Elkmont Town Walk notebook, EM-79, GRSM Archives); photograph: "Elkmont, 1917–1918" (view of Elkmont Town looking northwest) (Old Elkmont Town Walk notebook, EM-112, GRSM Archives); photograph: "Elkmont 1917–1918" (view of Elkmont Town looking north) (Old Elkmont Town Walk notebook, EM-137, GRSM Archives); photograph: "Elkmont post office" (n.d.) (collection of Eleanor Dickinson).

⁶ Source: Photograph: "Depot of Appalachian Club, 1915" (GRSM Archives, Lumbering Photos, Hooks Collection, Oversize, 32820); photograph: "Annual 4th of July Picnic at Clubhouse" (1914) (collection of Eleanor Dickinson); photograph: "Card room, Appalachian Club, Elkmont, Tennessee" (color postcard; n.d.) (collection of Eleanor Dickinson); photograph: "Appalachian Club group" (view of porch of hotel; ca. 1917) (collection of Eleanor Dickinson).



- Appalachian Club cabins (Daisy Town and Society Hill)⁷

Small-scale features:

- Wood steps that connected railroad station to Wonderland Park Hotel
- Wood flume that led to Trentham's tub mill
- Walkway that connected railroad station to Appalachian Club Hotel
- Stone or concrete springhead at Bearwallow Branch (Daisy Town)
- Concrete power plant at Jakes Creek (Society Hill)
- Wood boardwalk that ran from Society Hill (Cabin 36) to Appalachian Club Hotel⁸
- Assumed footbridges crossed Little River, Jakes Creek, and various branches

Views and vistas:

- Axial views were located along watercourses, trails, roads, and railroad lines
- Panoramic views were available in several locations due to clearcutting of much of forest: at Wonderland Park Hotel, within Elkmont Town, and within Appalachian Club
- Panoramic views possibly existed at cleared areas near pioneer cabins (especially following clearcutting of forest)

Of the landscape characteristics and features noted above, the following have survived to the present time:

- Spatial organization (without pioneer homesteads and farmsteads, without Elkmont Town, and with successional forest in place)
- Natural systems and features
- Land use (cemetery)
- Circulation (trail still marks location of road from Old Elkmont Cemetery to Elkmont Town)
- Topography
- Vegetation (exotic plant species)
- Water features (spring head at Bearwallow Branch and power plant base at Jakes Creek)

⁷ Source: Photograph: "Wild Rose Cabin" (Cabin 1; n.d.) (collection of Eleanor Dickinson); photograph: "Mrs. Lillian Davison, porch of "Lafalittle" cottage at Elkmont, with her grandchildren, Lillian Webster and Frank Webster, Jr." (Cabin 26; n.d.) (GRSM Archives, Lumbering Negatives, Small Pictures, III-L-17805); photograph: "Andrews Cabin built by Avents" (Cabin 20; 1910) (collection of Mayna Avent Nance); photograph: "Keener Cabin" (Cabin 31; pre-World War I) (collection of Charlotte Burdette); photograph: "Woodward Cottage [Walnut Lodge]" (Cabin 18; June 1914) (collection of Eleanor Dickinson).

⁸ Source: Photograph: "Hommel Cottages?" (view of wood boardwalk; n.d.) (collection of Eleanor Dickinson); photograph: "Walter Atkins Van Gilder, Cabin #6, 'Dear Lodge,' with dog 'Buddy'" (view of gravel boardwalk; 1924) (collection of Eleanor Dickinson).



- Levi Trentham's cabin (relocated to the rear of the Mayo Cabin in Daisy Town in 1932); Wonderland Hotel; Appalachian Club cabins
- Small-scale features (concrete spring head at Bearwallow Branch and base of power plant at Jakes Creek)
- Axial views along watercourses; partial panoramic views at Wonderland Hotel and near Cabin 40 in Appalachian Club

Map 3. 1914–1924: Establishment of Wonderland Club, First Road from Outside, Boy Scout Camp, and Hommel Orchard

This map illustrates the time period of 1914–1924, when the Wonderland Park Hotel was sold and renamed the Wonderland Club. The first road to reach Elkmont from the outside was built from Gatlinburg, and a Boy Scout camp was established across from the Wonderland Club on flat land adjacent to the Little River. Rufus S. Hommel acquired some acreage from the Little River Lumber Company and started an apple orchard in Society Hill (Figure 3). The specific events of the time period are listed in Table 4. Human interaction with the natural landscape consisted of pioneer homesteads and farmsteads scattered throughout the District; rail lines paralleling the Little River, Mids Branch, and Jakes Creek; established roads and assumed trails or roads through the area; the movement of large-scale commercial logging to points outside the area by the end of the period, allowing the forest to begin regenerating; and increased development at the Wonderland Club, Elkmont Town, and the Appalachian Club. It also was during this period that a fungus began to destroy the area's American chestnut trees, and that the National Park movement was birthed.

Spatial organization:

- Little River and Jakes Creek formed primary spines through area
- Bearwallow, Catron, Mids, Pine Knot, Slick Limb, and Tulip branches formed secondary spines
- Steep slopes and ridges paralleled watercourses for much of their length
- Homesteads and farmsteads with associated cleared land were located on flat areas adjacent to watercourses
- Previously cut forest showed signs of regeneration by end of period
- Nodes of development at Wonderland Club, Elkmont Town, and Appalachian Club continued to grow
- New Boy Scout camp was established near Wonderland Club in flat area along Little River
- Hommel orchard was established in Society Hill area of Appalachian Club on side of steep slope



National Register of Historic Places
Listed Period of Significance 1908-1942
Sub-period 1914-1924
 Elkmont Historic District Cultural Landscape
 Great Smoky Mountains National Park

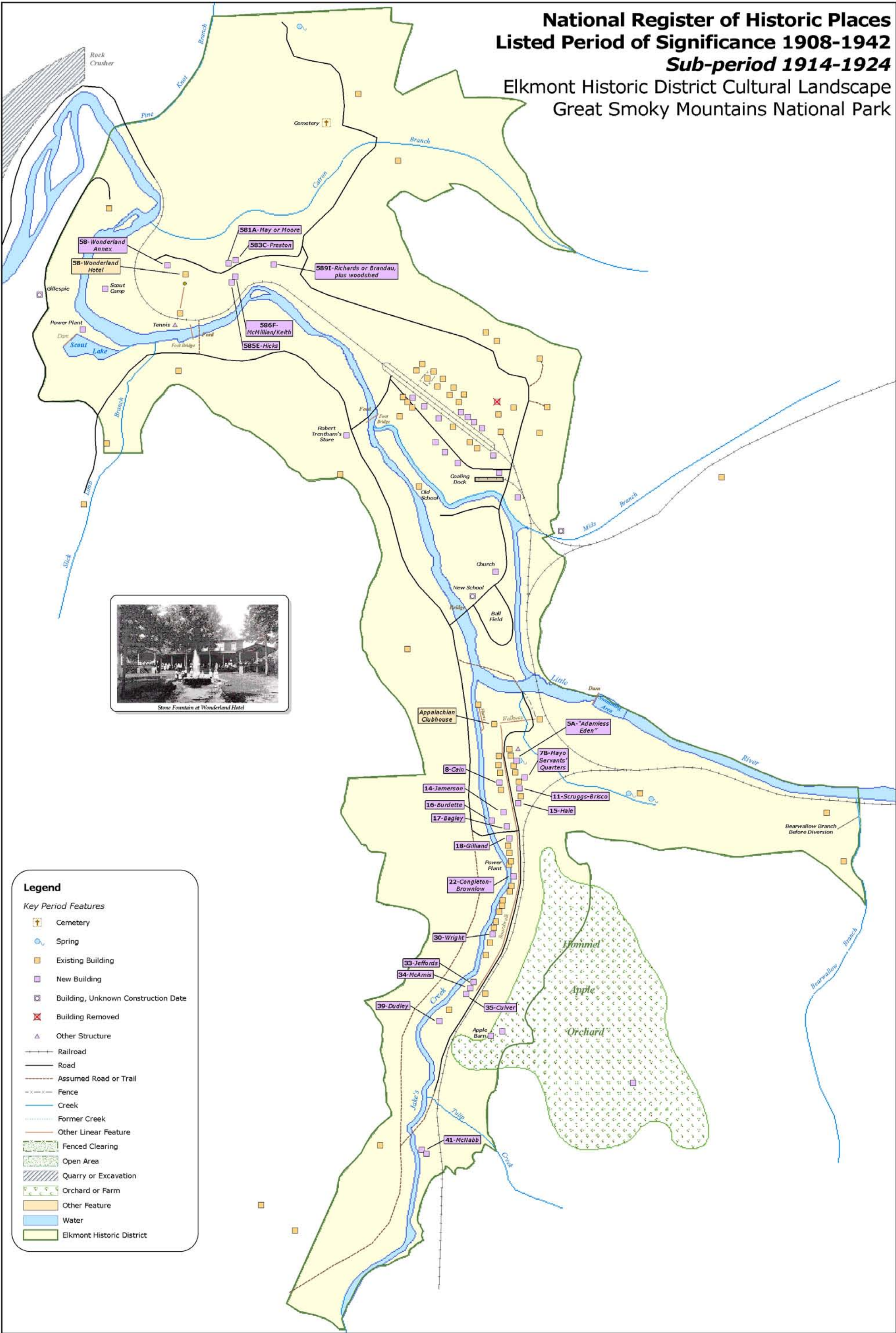


Figure 3. Cultural and Historical Landscape Assessment for the Elkmont Historic District 17

Table 4. Historical Chronology: 1914–1924.

Date(s)	Event(s)
1914	Appalachian Club swimming pool with dam (a.k.a. swimming hole) is built; Carter brothers sell Wonderland Park Hotel and adjacent grounds and buildings to group of Knoxville citizens, who rename area Wonderland Club
Ca. 1914	Cabin 15 is built
1914–1918	World War I brings increased demand for timber and wood products; Sevier County builds wagon road from Gatlinburg to Elkmont via Fighting Creek Gap
Ca. 1915	Boy Scout Camp Helpful (?) (a.k.a. Camp Townsend) is established (lake and power plant are built across Little River from camp sometime between ca. 1915 and ca. 1927); Cabins 8, 11, and 22 are built
Ca. 1916	Cabin 18 is built
1917	Cabin 58-1a is built
1917–1921	LRLC deeds large parcel east of Jakes Creek spur line to Rufus S. Hommel, who plants apple orchard (where Cabins 36 and 37 are) and builds apple barn (now in ruins)
Ca. 1918	Cabin 58-5e is built
1918–1922	State of Tennessee relocates Fighting Creek Gap Road; also widens it to 16 feet and resurfaces it with crushed stone
1919	Appalachian Club is reconstituted as New Appalachian Club; all holdings are transferred to new club except for 49 cabins and their lots
1920	LRLC relogs upper reaches of Jakes Creek and begins logging Meigs Creek area west of Elkmont; Wonderland Hotel Annex is built
Ca. 1920	Fungus destroys American chestnut trees; Cabins 7B, 33, 34, 37, and 58-9i are built
Ca. 1921	Cabins 5A (“Adamless Eden”) and 30 are built; wide steps from porch of Appalachian Club Hotel down to Bearwallow Branch are removed sometime between 1914 and ca. 1928 and replaced with swinging log and board walkway over Bearwallow Branch; walkway connected rail station to hotel porch and likely survived into 1940s, either in original form or rebuilt following 1932 fire
1922	Fire at Blanket Mountain; Cabin 58-3c is built
Ca. 1922	Cabins 35 and 58-6f are built
1923	Mr. & Mrs. Willis P. Davis and Col. David Chapman join to establish National Park and form Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association; John Gore, former director of Boy Scout Camp Helpful (?) (a.k.a. Camp Townsend), turns it into private Camp Le Conte for boys (camp has two buildings, 17 tent sites, and recreational areas on 10 acres; in operation until 1954); Sevier County builds vehicle bridge (wood on stone piers) across Little River in Elkmont Town (near campground site E-3; bridge removed sometime between 1942 and 1952)
Ca. 1923	Cabins 39 and 41 are built; wood steps and railings leading to Wonderland Hotel from rail station are replaced with stone steps, walls, and piers sometime between ca. 1918 and ca. 1928
1923–1924	LRLC pulls out of Meigs Creek area
Early 1920s	Second Elkmont school is in place

Sources: Cleveland et al. 2002:31, 33; Dykeman and Stokely 1984:104, 116; GSMNHA and NPS n.d.; Maher and Kelleher 1996:11; Morrell 1976:3, 6; Schmidt and Hooks 1994:78, 108; USGS 1956, 1979.



Natural systems and features:

- Area watercourses: Little River, Jakes Creek, and Bearwallow, Catron, Mids, Pine Knot, Slick Limb, and Tulip branches; also natural springs

Land use:

- Agriculture (pioneer settlers and Hommel orchard), cemetery, commerce (hotels, store/post office, and Robert Trentham's store), domestic (pioneer cabins, resort cabins, and hotels), education (old and new schools in Elkmont Town), industry (tub mill, power plant at Jakes Creek, power plant at Boy Scout lake, and rail facilities), logging, recreation (Boy Scout camp, tennis at Wonderland Hotel, ball field at Elkmont Town, and swimming hole at Appalachian Club), religion (church in Elkmont Town), transportation

Circulation:

- Assumed trails or roads ran through area from pioneer times, likely paralleling watercourses; many of these were turned into established roads during period, tying west side of Little River to Elkmont Town and Appalachian Club
- LRRR tracks paralleled Little River, with spur lines up Mids Branch and Jakes Creek
- New road from Gatlinburg via Fighting Creek Gap entered Elkmont Town from north and proceeded to "island" area (where schools, church, and ball field were located) and on to west side of Little River
- New vehicle bridge across Little River in Elkmont Town; also fords and footbridges allowed passage across river¹
- Road continued to run from Appalachian Club rail station up Jakes Creek spur line

Topography and vegetation:

- Little River and Jakes Creek were bordered by flat areas that quickly rose to steep slopes
- Steep slopes were cut by branches that flowed down from higher elevations
- Native trees and plants removed by logging showed signs of regeneration by end of period, as LRLC moved to areas outside EHD; appears trees were always retained at lower elevations near developed areas (Wonderland Club, Elkmont Town, and Appalachian Club)
- Crops were grown by pioneers (corn and grains)
- Rufus Hommel grew apples at his orchard in Society Hill
- Likely some exotic plant species were introduced at hotels and Appalachian Club and Wonderland Club cabins

Water features:

¹ Source: Photograph: "Elkmont vehicle bridge showing uneven surface of old structure due to deflection between piers and abutment" (GRSM Archives, Superintendent Monthly Reports 1936–1937); photograph: "View showing deflection in old structures" (GRSM Archives, Superintendent Monthly Reports 1936–1937).



- Boy Scout lake with dam was created on west side of Little River across from scout camp; associated power plant may have been built during this period or during following period (1925–1932)²
- Appalachian Club swimming hole with dam was built in Little River³
- Levi Trentham’s tub mill and flume were located at confluence of Jakes Creek and Little River
- Stone or concrete spring head was built at Bearwallow Branch down slope from Daisy Town cabins
- Concrete power plant was constructed at Jakes Creek in Society Hill section

Buildings and structures:

- Pioneer cabins of log construction (typical of time period and area)
- Frame barns and other agricultural outbuildings
- Trentham’s tub mill
- Wonderland Club Hotel, Annex, and associated cabins⁴
- Boy Scout camp buildings⁵
- Elkmont Town buildings and structures (including new school, church, store, and vehicle bridge across Little River)⁶
- Appalachian Club cabins (including new cabins in Daisy Town and Society Hill)
- Buildings and structures associated with Hommel apple orchard

Small-scale features:

- Wood flume that led to Trentham’s tub mill
- New stone steps, walls, and piers at Wonderland Club Hotel; assume stone fountain built at same time⁷

² Source: Photograph: “Camp Le Conte for Boys, Elkmont. Map by F.B. Kuhlman. Lake at Camp Le Conte, 1927–28” (GRSM Archives, Oversize photo files, IV-4-34993, -34994).

³ Source: Photograph: “Swimming hole” (July 1914) (collection of Eleanor Dickinson).

⁴ Source: Photograph: “Wonderland Hotel Annex” (9/9/21) (collection of Eleanor Dickinson); photograph: “The Wonderland Club Hotel” (1920s) (collection of Katherine Kuhlman).

⁵ Source: Photographs: “Camp Townsend,” “‘Chow’ Time,” “Stayovers,” “Dave [and] Pat,” and “Breaking Camp” (ca. 1917) (collection of Bill Lawhorn).

⁶ Source: Photograph: “Elkmont Missionary Baptist Church (built between 1912 and 1916). Moved to Wear’s Valley. Ball Park was good place for baseball, football, golf, even croquet. This “ballpark,” or play area, once occupied sections C, D, and E of campground” (Old Elkmont Town Walk notebook, GRSM Archives); photograph: “Coaling dock, Elkmont. Located just down from Mids Branch where the wye and water tank were located, circa 1915” (GRSM Archives, Lumbering Photos, Hooks Collection, Oversize, 32848).



- Tennis courts at Wonderland Club
- Earthen dam and concrete power plant at Boy Scout lake
- Stone dam at Appalachian Club swimming hole
- Swinging log and board walkway that connected rail station to Appalachian Club Hotel⁸
- Stone or concrete springhead at Bearwallow Branch (Daisy Town)
- Concrete power plant at Jakes Creek (Society Hill)
- Wood boardwalk that ran from Society Hill (Cabin 36) to Appalachian Club Hotel
- Footbridges across Little River and assumed footbridges across Jakes Creek and various branches⁹

Views and vistas:

- Axial views were located along watercourses, trails, roads, and railroad lines
- Panoramic views were available in several locations due to clearcutting of much of forest: at Wonderland Club Hotel, Annex, and cabins; within Boy Scout camp; within Elkmont Town; at Elkmont Town ball field; within Appalachian Club; and to/from Hommel orchard¹⁰
- Panoramic views possibly still existed at cleared areas near pioneer cabins

Of the landscape characteristics and features noted above, the following have survived to the present time:

- Spatial organization (without pioneer homesteads and farmsteads, Elkmont Town, Boy Scout camp, and Hommel orchard; with successional forest in place)
- Natural systems and features
- Land use (cemetery and recreation [swimming hole])
- Circulation (trail still marks location of old road to Gatlinburg via Fighting Creek Gap)
- Topography

⁷ Source: Photograph: view of front of Wonderland Hotel showing operating fountain (n.d.) (collection of Julie Brown); photograph: view of stone steps at Wonderland Hotel (n.d.) (collection of Ed Thompson).

⁸ Source: Photograph: “Entrance to Club House, Appalachian Club, Elkmont, Tennessee” (postcard; n.d.) (GRSM Archives, Lumbering Photos, Hooks Collection, Oversize, 32936).

⁹ Source: Photograph: “Footbridge over Little River above Elkmont, 1925” (GRSM Archives, Oversize photo files, III-38-31822bl); photograph: “Foot bridge over Little River at Elkmont. Near Scenic Loop Road, 1930” (in *GSMNP* by Great Smoky Mountain Publishing Company, Knoxville, Tennessee) (GRSM Archives, Publications file I-16).

¹⁰ Source: Photograph: view of vista from top of Wonderland Hotel steps (n.d.) (collection of Ed Thompson); photograph: “Elkmont looking downriver” (GRSM Archives, Lumbering Photos, Hooks Collection, Oversize, 32914); photograph: “A game of baseball on the open field near the church and/or school, ca. 1920” (GRSM Archives, Old Elkmont Town Walk notebook, EM-27, and Photo files, III-L-17839); photograph: “Road near Elkmont on Scenic Loop. GSMNP, ““Land of Everlasting Hills.”” (shows view of Hommel orchard in distance; ca. 1930) (GRSM Archives, Publications file, I-15).



- Vegetation (exotic plant species)
- Water features (Boy Scout lakebed, dam remnants, and base of power plant; Appalachian Club swimming hole; spring head at Bearwallow Branch; and power plant base at Jakes Creek)
- Levi Trentham's cabin (relocated to the rear of the Mayo Cabin in Daisy Town in 1932); Wonderland Hotel, Annex, and cabins; Appalachian Club cabins
- Small-scale features (Wonderland Hotel steps and fountain; remnants of scout lake dam and power plant; concrete spring head at Bearwallow Branch; and base of power plant at Jakes Creek)
- Axial views along watercourses and roads; partial panoramic views at Wonderland Hotel, at Wonderland Cabins 58-4d to 58-9i, and near Cabin 40 in Appalachian Club

**Map 4. 1925–1932: LRLC Ceases Elkmont Operations; Former LRRR Railbeds
Converted to Auto Roads; Cochran Farm and Millionaires' Row Established**

This map illustrates the time period of 1925–1932, when the LRLC ended its logging operations in the Elkmont area and pulled up its tracks to use in other parts of the Smokies. Former railbeds were then transformed to automobile roads (initially with the wood ties still in the ground), allowing private automobiles to travel throughout the former LRRR network, including the Elkmont area. This period also saw the establishment of the Cochran Farm in Society Hill, and the initial development of the Millionaires' Row section of the Appalachian Club (Figure 4). The specific events of the time period are listed in Table 5. Human interaction with the natural landscape consisted of pioneer homesteads and farmsteads scattered throughout the District (although a few were removed during the period); established roads and assumed trails through the area; the cessation of large-scale commercial logging in the area and the closing down of LRLC operations in Elkmont; and increased development at the Boy Scout camp, the Wonderland Club, and the Appalachian Club. Elkmont Town decreased in size as several buildings were removed. The Little River rail line and the Mids Branch and Jakes Creek spur lines were taken up, and the railbeds were converted to auto roads (except at Mids Branch). It also was during this period that the effort to fund land acquisition for the National Park began.



Elkmont Historic District Cultural Landscape
Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Table 5. Historical Chronology: 1925–1932.

Date(s)	Event(s)
1925	Congress authorizes groups in Tennessee and North Carolina to buy land and deed it to federal government for National Park; Tennessee legislature approves sale of LRLC land to state, which would then donate it to federal government (LRLC would get 15-year period to remove 16-inch-diameter and larger trees from Middle Fork); LRLC removes rails from Elkmont and moves base of operations to Middle Fork; Cabin 40 is built (initially named “Wonderview” or “Wonderful View,” then changed to “Crofton” when forest covers view); Rooster Williams crashes plane at Elkmont (in current campground)
Ca. 1925	Cabins 58-7g and 31A are built
1926	Groups in Tennessee and North Carolina have raised \$1 million; Tennessee and LRLC reach formal agreement on sale of LRLC land; LRLC closes Elkmont operations; LRRR beds are converted to auto roads (gravel over wood ties); Cabin 40 is turned into working farm by Alva C. Cochran, with barn, chicken house, woodshed, garage, privy, and spring (farm grew Wonderview sweet corn and operated until 1988)
Ca. 1926	Cabin 58-8h is built; garage and woodshed at Cabin 40 are built
1927	Tennessee and North Carolina legislatures contribute \$2 million each; sale between Tennessee and LRLC is finalized (title changes hands, deeds are delivered, and LRLC gets most of agreed-upon funds: \$273,557 for 76,507 acres)
1927–ca. 1932	North building of Elkmont Hotel turned into Elkmont Tavern (assume that south building removed at this time); Elkmont gas station is built
1928	John D. Rockefeller, Jr. gives \$5 million for National Park through Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Fund; LRLC deeds 65 acres along Little River east of Appalachian Club to Alice U. Morier (Millionaires’ Row); Cabin 43 is constructed; New (Jakes Creek) Elkmont Cemetery is established
Ca. 1928	Cabins 42, 44, 45, 47, and 58-2b are built; Alice Morier likely had Bearwallow Branch diverted at this time (previously flowed directly into Little River via LRRR culvert; now turned and flowed parallel to river); side extension and rear wing of Wonderland Hotel are built (loop drive between hotel and annex likely established)
1928–1931	Tennessee builds 24-foot-wide Little River Road over bed of LRRR from Townsend to Elkmont, and improves Fighting Creek Gap Road from Elkmont to Sugarlands
Ca. 1930	Cabin 48 and Servants Quarters at Wonderland Hotel are built; footbridge over Bearwallow Branch is constructed; sewer line to Wonderland Hotel and power lines to Wonderland and Appalachian clubs are in place
1930s	Appalachian Club water tanks are installed (Society Hill)
1932	Levi Trentham log cabin is moved from west side of Little River to rear of Cabin 7; Appalachian Club Hotel and Annex burn

Sources: Cleveland et al. 2002:33; Dickinson 1993:7:6, 12; Dykeman and Stokely 1984:116, 117; Maher and Kelleher 1996:12; Schmidt and Hooks 1994:16, 56, 106, 110, 114; Weals 1991:iv–v, 84–85, 87–88.

Spatial organization:

- Little River and Jakes Creek formed primary spines through area



- Bearwallow, Catron, Mids, Pine Knot, Slick Limb, and Tulip branches formed secondary spines
- Bearwallow Branch was redirected near Little River to flow parallel to river
- Steep slopes and ridges paralleled watercourses for much of their length
- Homesteads and farmsteads with associated cleared land were located on flat areas adjacent to watercourses (although a few were removed during period)
- Levi Trentham's log cabin was moved from west side of Little River to Daisy Town section of Appalachian Club
- Previously cut forest showed further signs of regeneration during period
- Nodes of development at Camp Le Conte, Wonderland Club, and Appalachian Club continued to grow
- Several buildings were removed from Elkmont Town
- Millionaires' Row section of Appalachian Club was established
- Working farm (Cochran) was established at Cabin 40 in Society Hill, adjacent to Hommel apple orchard
- Sewer line to Wonderland Club and power lines to Appalachian and Wonderland clubs were installed; water tanks were built for Appalachian Club; open pit garbage dump for Appalachian Club was built 0.2 miles northwest of Daisy Town (outside EHD); cesspool for Appalachian Club was built roughly 400 feet west of Daisy Town (within EHD)
- Appalachian Club Hotel and Annex burned

Natural systems and features:

- Area watercourses: Little River, Jakes Creek, and Bearwallow, Catron, Mids, Pine Knot, Slick Limb, and Tulip branches; also natural springs
- Bearwallow Branch was diverted from Little River and redirected east to flow parallel to river and rejoin it farther downstream; allowed Bearwallow Branch to flow adjacent to Cabins 47 and 48 in Millionaires' Row section

Land use:

- Agriculture (pioneer settlers, Hommel orchard, and Cochran farm), cemetery (Old and New Elkmont cemeteries), commerce (Wonderland Hotel, Elkmont Tavern, gas station, store/post office, and Trentham and Parton stores), domestic (pioneer cabins, camp cabins, resort cabins, and hotels), education (old and new schools in Elkmont Town), industry (power plants at Jakes Creek and camp lake), recreation (camp, tennis at Wonderland Hotel, Appalachian Golf Club near Wonderland Club, ball field at Elkmont Town, and swimming hole at Appalachian Club), religion (church in Elkmont Town), transportation

Circulation:

- Assumed trails or roads ran through area from pioneer times, likely paralleling watercourses; most of these were already established roads by this period



- With removal of LRRR tracks, former rail corridors were converted to automobile roads (except up Mids Branch); allowed access to all parts of EHD¹
- Elkmont now accessible from outside via road from Townsend or via Fighting Creek Gap Road from Gatlinburg
- New roads built throughout EHD during period: access road to Old Elkmont Cemetery; access drive from main road up to rear of Wonderland Hotel and Annex; loop road at Daisy Town and Appalachian Club Hotel; access road to New Elkmont Cemetery
- With removal of Jakes Creek spur line, road now followed former rail corridor; former unpaved road paralleling spur line to west was removed, and land was “returned” to front yards of cabins along Jakes Creek
- Existing bridges, fords, and footbridges continued to be used

Topography and vegetation:

- Little River and Jakes Creek were bordered by flat areas that quickly rose to steep slopes
- Steep slopes were cut by branches that flowed down from higher elevations
- Native trees and plants removed by logging were now regenerating
- Crops were grown by pioneers and Alva Cochran (corn and grains)
- Rufus Hommel grew apples at his orchard in Society Hill
- Likely more exotic plant species were introduced at hotels and Appalachian Club and Wonderland Club cabins

Water features:

- Camp Le Conte lake with dam and power plant
- Appalachian Club swimming hole with dam
- Levi Trentham’s tub mill and flume were removed during period
- Stone or concrete spring head at Bearwallow Branch
- Concrete power plant at Jakes Creek

Buildings and structures:

- Pioneer cabins of log construction (typical of time period and area); Levi Trentham log cabin moved to Daisy Town
- Frame barns and other agricultural outbuildings
- Trentham’s tub mill (removed during period)

¹ Source: Photograph: “Road to Elkmont after removal of tracks, drove on railroad ties. Joe Meyers stands by car, circa 1927. Photo by Laura Thornborough” (GRSM Archives, Lumbering Photos, Hooks Collection, Oversize, 32810).



- Wonderland Club Hotel (expanded with side and rear additions), Annex, and cabins (including several new cabins; Epps Cabin may have been built in Wonderland Club area, but exact location not known)
- Camp Le Conte camp buildings (including new cabins and gym)²
- Elkmont Town buildings and structures (including new store, gas station, and tavern at former hotel)³
- Appalachian Club Hotel and Annex burned during period
- Appalachian Club cabins (including new cabins in Society Hill)
- Millionaires' Row cabins and outbuildings
- Buildings and structures associated with Hommel apple orchard
- Buildings and structures associated with Cochran farm in Society Hill
- Water tanks, cesspool, open pit garbage dump, and utility lines in Appalachian and Wonderland club areas

Small-scale features:

- Wood flume that led to Trentham's tub mill (removed during period)
- Stone steps, walls, piers, and fountain at Wonderland Club Hotel; flanking switchback dirt paths added to sides of steps during period⁴
- Tennis courts at Wonderland Club
- Earthen dam and concrete power plant at camp lake
- Stone dam at Appalachian Club swimming hole
- Swinging log and board walkway that connected rail station to Appalachian Club Hotel
- Stone or concrete springhead at Bearwallow Branch (Daisy Town)
- Concrete power plant at Jakes Creek (Society Hill)
- Wood boardwalk that ran from Society Hill (Cabin 36) to Appalachian Club Hotel (converted from wood to gravel path with board sides during period)
- Stone and concrete Bearwallow Branch footbridge in Millionaires' Row section

² Source: Photograph: "Camp Le Conte. Typical front view, Cabins #1-1 through E1-12, 1955 disposal program. Photo by H. Reese Smith" (GRSM Archives, Photo files, III-B-8107); photograph: "Camp Le Conte. Side view, Building #E1-17, gymnasium, 1955 disposal program. Photo by H. Reese Smith" (GRSM Archives, Photo files, III-B-8112).

³ Source: Photograph: "Old service station at Elkmont, August 1, 1939. Photo by H.O. Edwards" (GRSM Archives, Photo files, III-B-9884); photograph: view of Elkmont Tavern from road (n.d.) (collection of Julie Brown).

⁴ Source: Photograph: view of stone steps at Wonderland Hotel (shows path at right edge of photo; n.d.) (collection of Ed Thompson).



- Footbridges across Little River and Jakes Creek and assumed footbridges across various branches

Views and vistas:

- Axial views were located along watercourses, trails, roads, and railroad lines
- Panoramic views were available in several locations due to clearcutting of much of forest; however, these views were shrinking as forest regenerated: at Wonderland Club Hotel, Annex, and cabins; within camp; within Elkmont Town; at Elkmont Town ball field; within Appalachian Club; and to/from Hommel orchard and Cochran farm⁵
- Panoramic views possibly still existed at cleared areas near pioneer cabins

Of the landscape characteristics and features noted above, the following have survived to the present time:

- Spatial organization (without pioneer homesteads and farmsteads, Elkmont Town, Camp Le Conte, Cochran farm, and Hommel orchard; with successional forest in place)
- Natural systems and features (including redirected Bearwallow Branch)
- Land use (cemetery, recreation [swimming hole], and transportation [roads])
- Circulation (trail still marks location of old road to Gatlinburg via Fighting Creek Gap, and roads into and throughout EHD following removal of tracks still in place)
- Topography
- Vegetation (native trees and plants, exotic plant species)
- Water features (camp lakebed, dam remnants, and base of power plant; Appalachian Club swimming hole; spring head at Bearwallow Branch; and power plant base at Jakes Creek)
- Levi Trentham's cabin (relocated to the rear of the Mayo Cabin in Daisy Town in 1932); Wonderland Hotel, Annex, and cabins; Appalachian Club cabins, including those at Millionaires' Row; water tanks, utility lines, and other infrastructure
- Small-scale features (Wonderland Hotel steps, fountain, and switchback paths; remnants of Camp Le Conte lake dam and power plant; concrete spring head at Bearwallow Branch; base of power plant at Jakes Creek; and Bearwallow Branch footbridge)
- Axial views along watercourses and roads; partial panoramic views at Wonderland Hotel, at Wonderland Cabins 58-4d to 58-9i, and near Cabin 40 in Appalachian Club

Map 5. 1933–1942: Establishment of National Park and CCC

This map illustrates the time period of 1933–1942, when the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was established, and the CCC established its presence in the Park and at Elkmont (Figure 5). The specific events of the time period are listed in Table 6. Human interaction with the

⁵ Source: Photograph: view within Elkmont Town looking northwest, with tavern at right side of photo (n.d.) (collection of Julie Brown).



Table 6. Historical Chronology: 1933–1942.

Date(s)	Event(s)
1932–ca. 1936	Elkmont Tavern is removed; second Elkmont school is removed and third school is built (third school removed in ca. 1950)
1933	Federal government contributes \$2 million, bringing total for Park land acquisition to \$12 million; CCC is established by Franklin D. Roosevelt; within GRSM, CCC builds 600 miles of trails (including 70 miles of Appalachian Trail), six fire towers, and 300 miles of fire roads and tourist highways; CCC also conducts debris clean-up, reforestation, and erosion control (e.g., builds several concrete erosion control buffers in Elkmont area), and installs telephone lines throughout Park
Ca. 1933	Alice Morier’s dwelling, Happy Landings, is built (burned in 1968); Alice’s stables are built (later became Cabin 46)
1933–34	Approximately 17 CCC camps are located in Park; Elkmont Camp NP-12 (12 th camp in Park; a.k.a. Camp #1212) is established and expanded with Camp #422 two years later; Camp NP-12, with enrollees from New York and New Jersey, contains at least six buildings; U.S. Bureau of Public Roads designs and CCC improves Elkmont roads (Little River and Jakes Creek); CCC also rebuilds two wood bridges in Elkmont and resurfaces area roads with crushed stone; CCC likely builds stone-faced culverts beneath roads, as well as low stone and wood bridge over Mids Branch
1934	GRSM is established as National Park on June 15 th ; LRLC leaves Tremont area; new Appalachian Clubhouse is built at same location as original hotel and annex
1935	4,350 CCC enrollees working in Park
1936	Col. W.B. Townsend dies on February 23 rd
1936–37	CCC builds Little River stone bridge, blocking arm of Little River through Elkmont Town and thereby removing “island”; CCC walkway at Appalachian Club swimming hole likely built at this time; vehicle bridge across Little River (near campground site E-3) is likely removed at this time
1938	Elkmont Baptist Church is relocated to Wear’s Valley and renamed Valley View Church
1938–39	NPS builds new section of Little River Road from Fighting Creek Gap to Elkmont (current road)
1939	Last logs from Middle Fork reach LRLC mill in Townsend; NPS builds underground cistern and piping to Elkmont Town (located up slope to east of current campground)
1939–42	Elkmont gas station is removed
1940	Roosevelt dedicates National Park on September 2 nd at Rockefeller Memorial (Newfound Gap); land acquisition for Park is nearly complete; Cabin 49 is built
1940–44	LRLC buildings and equipment are removed and sold
1942	CCC program is terminated and all camps are closed

Sources: Dykeman and Stokely 1984:119, 121–122; Jolley 2001:7, 8, 19, 20; Jones 1996:109, 113, 124; Schmidt and Hooks 1994:16, 34, 114, 136.



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natural landscape consisted of pioneer homesteads and farmsteads scattered throughout the District (although several were removed during the period); established roads and assumed trails through the area; the removal of most of the buildings and structures in Elkmont Town; the construction of a number of structures in the EHD by CCC enrollees; the erection of a new Appalachian Clubhouse; increased development along Millionaires' Row; and the closing down of the Hommel orchard. It also was during this period that a temporary campground was built in the former "island" area that today contains sections B–F of the current Elkmont Campground.

Spatial organization:

- Little River and Jakes Creek formed primary spines through area
- Bearwallow, Catron, Mids, Pine Knot, Slick Limb, and Tulip branches formed secondary spines
- Steep slopes and ridges paralleled watercourses for much of their length
- Homesteads and farmsteads with associated cleared land were located on flat areas adjacent to watercourses (although several were removed during period)
- Previously cut forest showed further signs of regeneration during period
- Nodes of development were located at Camp Le Conte, Wonderland Club, and Appalachian Club
- Most of Elkmont Town was removed, although third school was built
- Millionaires' Row section of Appalachian Club continued to develop
- Cochran farm continued to operate in Society Hill
- Hommel orchard closed and associated buildings were removed
- Appalachian Golf Club closed
- Infrastructure remained in place; NPS added new cistern and water pipes to Elkmont Town; sewage treatment area was built up slope south of Camp Le Conte lake
- New Appalachian Clubhouse was constructed
- CCC camps were established at Elkmont on west side of Little River; enrollees worked throughout EHD and built many new structures
- Two cleared pastures were established in Millionaires' Row area
- Temporary campground was established in former "island"; branch of Little River that created island was cut off by CCC's Little River stone bridge

Natural systems and features:

- Area watercourses: Little River, Jakes Creek, and Bearwallow, Catron, Mids, Pine Knot, Slick Limb, and Tulip branches; also natural springs

Land use:

- Agriculture (pioneer settlers and Cochran farm), cemetery (Old and New Elkmont cemeteries), commerce (Wonderland Hotel and Elkmont Town store/post office),



domestic (pioneer cabins, camp cabins, resort cabins, and hotel), education (third school in Elkmont Town), government (CCC camps), industry (power plant at Jakes Creek), recreation (camp, tennis at Wonderland Hotel, swimming hole at Appalachian Club, and temporary campground), transportation

Circulation:

- Assumed trails or roads ran through area from pioneer times, likely paralleling watercourses; most of these were established roads by this period
- CCC built small bridge over Mids Branch and large stone arched bridge over Little River; also improved and resurfaced area roads and rebuilt two wood bridges on Elkmont Road
- NPS built new section of Little River Road from Fighting Creek Gap to Elkmont (current alignment); now travelers could drive between Townsend and Gatlinburg without entering Elkmont
- Existing roads, bridges, fords, and footbridges continued to be used; wood vehicle bridge over Little River near current campground was removed

Topography and vegetation:

- Little River and Jakes Creek were bordered by flat areas that quickly rose to steep slopes
- Steep slopes were cut by branches that flowed down from higher elevations
- Native trees and plants removed by logging were now regenerating
- Crops were grown by pioneers and Alva Cochran (corn and grains)
- Hommel orchard closed
- Likely more exotic plant species were introduced at hotel and Appalachian Club and Wonderland Club cabins

Water features:

- Camp Le Conte lake with dam (power plant was closed)
- Appalachian Club swimming hole with dam
- Stone or concrete spring head at Bearwallow Branch
- Concrete power plant at Jakes Creek

Buildings and structures:

- Pioneer cabins of log construction (typical of time period and area)
- Frame barns and other agricultural outbuildings
- Wonderland Club Hotel, Annex, and cabins (two cabins were removed during period)
- Camp Le Conte camp buildings



- Most of Elkmont Town buildings and structures were removed during period (including gas station, tavern, Parton's store, church, two former schools); third school built during period¹
- New Appalachian Clubhouse built during period
- Appalachian Club rail station removed during period
- Two cabins and barn added to Millionaires' Row (barn later remodeled into cabin)²
- Buildings and structures associated with Hommel apple orchard were removed
- Buildings and structures associated with Cochran farm in Society Hill
- Water tanks, cesspool, open pit garbage dump, and utility lines in Appalachian and Wonderland club areas; added sewage treatment area up slope south of camp lake, and NPS built underground cistern and water piping system to Elkmont Town (located up slope east of current Campground)
- CCC camp on west side of Little River contained at least six buildings of temporary frame construction³
- CCC built smaller wood and stone bridge over Mids Branch and larger stone, multi-arched bridge over Little River⁴

Small-scale features:

- Stone steps, walls, piers, and fountain at Wonderland Club Hotel; flanking switchback dirt paths at sides of steps
- Tennis courts at Wonderland Club
- Earthen dam at camp lake (concrete power plant closed during period)
- Stone dam at Appalachian Club swimming hole; CCC added stone walkway to swimming hole during period

¹ Source: Photograph: "Elkmont schoolhouse, Elkmont, Tennessee. Old Elkmont schoolhouse, near Elkmont store, November 1949. Sold 1950. Photo by rangers" (GRSM Archives, Photo files, III-B-10825).

² Source: Photograph: "'Happy Landings,'" Home of Alice Townsend, third wife of Col. Townsend. Destroyed by fire, 1968. Photo by Bill Hooks" (n.d.) (GRSM Archives, Photo files, III-L-4738).

³ Source: Photograph: "Cooks and mess boys at CCC camp, Elkmont, 1933. Copy of photo from Mrs. Isabelle Gifford, a resident of Elkmont at the time. Her mother was a laundress for the men" (GRSM Archives, Photo files, III-C-CCC-16901).

⁴ Source: Photograph: "Footbridge at Elkmont. Rockwork done by CCC, 1935. Copied from print belonging to Marshall Fox, Waldens Creek, who worked on this bridge" (GRSM Archives, Photo files, III-C-CCC-18156); photograph: "Elkmont Vehicle Bridge. Mast in place for derrick, footer for abutment in background" (GRSM Archives, Superintendent Monthly Reports 1936–1937); photograph: "CCC enrollees at work on Elkmont bridge. Copied from print belonging to Marshall Fox, who was one of the enrollees working on this project" (GRSM Archives, Photo files, III-C-CCC-18160); photograph: "Elkmont bridge, 1938. Four span with multi-plate steel arches, masonry piers, and spandrel walls. Constructed by CCC without skilled labor. Initial design by W.A. Wilhelm" (GRSM Archives, Oversize photo files, I-8-31494a).



- CCC built stone-faced culverts to carry Pine Knot and Bearwallow branches beneath roads
- CCC built concrete erosion-control buffer walls on slopes east of Elkmont Town
- Swinging log and board walkway that connected rail station to Appalachian Club Hotel
- Stone or concrete springhead at Bearwallow Branch (Daisy Town)
- Concrete power plant at Jakes Creek (Society Hill)
- Gravel path with board sides that ran from Society Hill (Cabin 36) to Appalachian Clubhouse removed during period
- Stone and concrete Bearwallow Branch footbridge in Millionaires' Row section
- Stone fireplace or possible still built in Millionaires' Row between Cabins 46 and 47
- Footbridges across Little River and Jakes Creek and assumed footbridges across various branches

Views and vistas:

- Axial views were located along watercourses, trails, roads, and railroad lines
- Panoramic views were available in several locations due to clearcutting of much of forest; however, these views were shrinking as forest regenerated: at Wonderland Club Hotel, Annex, and cabins; within camp; within Elkmont Town; at temporary campground; at CCC camps; within Appalachian Club; and to/from Cochran farm
- Panoramic views possibly still existed at cleared areas near pioneer cabins

Of the landscape characteristics and features noted above, the following have survived to the present time:

- Spatial organization (without pioneer homesteads and farmsteads, Elkmont Town, Camp Le Conte, Cochran farm, Hommel orchard, Appalachian Golf Club, CCC camps, and cleared pastures at Millionaires' Row; with successional forest in place)
- Natural systems and features (including loss of "island" when bridge cut off branch of Little River)
- Land use (cemetery, recreation [swimming hole and campground], and transportation [roads])
- Circulation (trail still marks location of old road to Gatlinburg via Fighting Creek Gap; road network outside and inside EHD; CCC stone bridge over Little River)
- Topography
- Vegetation (native trees and plants, exotic plant species)
- Water features (camp lakebed, dam remnants, and base of power plant; Appalachian Club swimming hole; spring head at Bearwallow Branch; and power plant base at Jakes Creek)
- Levi Trentham's cabin (relocated to the rear of the Mayo Cabin in Daisy Town in 1932); Wonderland Hotel, Annex, and cabins; Appalachian Club cabins, including those at



- Millionaires' Row; water tanks, utility lines, and other infrastructure (sewage treatment area and cistern with piping no longer in use)
- Small-scale features (Wonderland Hotel steps, fountain, and switchback paths; remnants of Camp Le Conte lake dam and power plant; CCC culverts and erosion control walls; remnants of CCC walkway at swimming hole; concrete spring head at Bearwallow Branch; base of power plant at Jakes Creek; Bearwallow Branch footbridge; stone fireplace or possible still between Cabins 46 and 47)
 - Axial views along watercourses and roads; partial panoramic views at Wonderland Hotel, at Wonderland Cabins 58-4d to 58-9i, and near Cabin 40 in Appalachian Club



IV. ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Integrity and Eligibility

An examination of the seven qualities of integrity—location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association—indicates that the surviving landscape characteristics and features that defined the cultural landscape during the historic period (1880s–1942) have retained their integrity. The characteristics and features include: spatial organization, natural systems and features, land use, circulation, topography and vegetation, water features, buildings and structures, small-scale features, and views and vistas. While not all characteristics and features from each period have survived to the present, a sufficient number has survived in its original location, in a setting in keeping with the historic setting, with historic design, materials, and workmanship intact, and with a feeling and association that ties back to the historic period. Because the surviving characteristics and features are located within an NRHP-listed historic district and they retain their integrity, they are recommended contributing to the EHD. Cultural landscape features directly associated with a particular building or structure are recommended contributing to that building or structure, as well as to the District as a whole. Larger, District-wide landscape elements and smaller features not directly tied to a particular building or structure also are recommended contributing to the District. The surviving landscape characteristics and features provide tangible links to the historic events that shaped the EHD during the historic period. While the club era is best represented by the current landscape, there are surviving features that point to each successive use of the area between the 1880s and 1942, from pioneer settlement to the CCC presence. The surviving features also showcase the architectural and engineering skills of those who designed and built them, and they point to the continual back-and-forth process of making the manmade fit within the natural environment, and then bending or even breaking the natural environment to fit man’s varied programs and purposes.

Management areas or zones

The surviving landscape characteristics and features with integrity and significance are evenly distributed throughout the EHD to the point that the definition of cultural landscape management areas or zones is not warranted—in essence, the EHD is a cultural landscape management zone in and of itself. There are a few landscape components and features in the EHD that are somewhat isolated and that possibly could be identified as discrete management areas or zones, but the vast majority of the characteristics and features are either found District-wide or are interconnected to the point that separation into individual zones is not necessary.

Impacts to alternatives

Because most of the surviving landscape characteristics and features would remain in place under six of the alternatives—Alternative A calls for removal of all manmade features located at or above grade in the EHD unless natural resource degradation would occur—none of the draft alternatives would have to be changed or eliminated in the EIS process. This information was presented to GRSM staff at a meeting on January 26, 2004.

Although Alternative A calls for removal of all manmade features at or above ground level in the EHD, this alternative could not be reworked to retain all identified landscape characteristics and features without conflicting with its chief purpose, which is to return the EHD to a natural state through active restoration measures. Because a natural resource-based alternative needed to be in the group of alternatives carried forward to impact analysis in order to provide a full range of alternatives for analysis, and because the remaining six alternatives allow for retention of most of the surviving landscape characteristics and features, it has been determined that the proposed alternatives can be carried forward without alteration, at least in terms of the cultural landscape issues and concerns.



V. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The cultural and historic landscape assessment for the EHD, conducted during 2003 and 2004, has identified a number of surviving landscape characteristics and features that defined the cultural landscape during the historic period chosen for study (1880s–1942) (Table 7). This period, which includes the EHD’s NRHP-listed period of significance, was broken down into five smaller periods that corresponded to key events and major changes in land use and spatial organization. Each of the five periods was then represented on its own cultural and historic landscape map, and a detailed historical chronology was prepared listing all of the events that had an impact on the EHD landscape between the 1880s and 1942.

Table 7. Surviving Landscape Characteristics and Features with Significance.

Type of Characteristic or Feature	Description of Examples Found in EHD
Spatial organization	Pattern of watercourses, landforms, circulation routes, topography, vegetation, nodes of development, buildings and structures, and smaller features
Natural systems and features	Little River, Jakes Creek, numerous branches (including redirected Bearwallow Branch), and loss of “island” when stone arch bridge cut off branch of Little River through Elkmont Town (current campground)
Land use	Cemeteries, recreation (swimming hole and campground), and transportation (roads)
Circulation	Old road to Gatlinburg via Fighting Creek Gap, roads into and throughout EHD following removal of railroad tracks, and CCC stone bridge over Little River
Topography and vegetation	Flat land adjacent to watercourses, sloped areas and ridges, native trees and plants (successional forest), and exotic plant species planted by club residents
Water features	Spring head at Bearwallow Branch; power plant base at Jakes Creek; Camp Le Conte lakebed, dam remnants, and base of power plant; Appalachian Club swimming hole; underground cistern near Elkmont Town (current campground)
Buildings and structures	Levi Trentham’s log cabin, Wonderland Club area (hotel, annex, and cabins), Appalachian Club area (clubhouse and cabins in Daisy Town, Society Hill, and Millionaires’ Row), and infrastructure (water tanks, utility lines, etc.)
Small-scale features	Wonderland Hotel steps, fountain, and side paths; remnants of Camp Le Conte dam and power plant; Bearwallow Branch footbridge; CCC culverts and erosion control walls; remnants of CCC walkway at swimming hole; stone fireplace or possible still between Cabins 46 & 47
Views and vistas	Axial views along watercourses and roads; partial panoramic views at Wonderland Hotel, at Cabins 58-4d to 58-9i, and near Cabin 40

The surviving landscape characteristics and features have retained their integrity. While not all characteristics and features from each period have survived, a sufficient number has survived in its original location, in a setting in keeping with the historic setting, with historic design, materials, and workmanship intact, and with a feeling and association that ties back to the historic period. Because the surviving characteristics and features are located within an NRHP-listed historic district and they retain their integrity, they are recommended contributing to the EHD. Those features directly associated with a particular building or structure are recommended contributing to that building or structure, as well as to the District as a whole. Larger, District-



wide elements and features not directly tied to a particular building or structure also are recommended contributing to the District.

In terms of cultural landscape management zones for the EHD, the surviving landscape characteristics and features with integrity and significance are evenly distributed throughout the District to the point that the definition of zones is not warranted—in essence, the EHD is a cultural landscape management zone in and of itself. There are a few landscape components and features in the EHD that are somewhat isolated and that possibly could be identified as discrete zones or areas, but the vast majority of the characteristics and features are either found District-wide or are interconnected to the point that separation into individual zones appears unnecessary. Because most of the surviving landscape characteristics and features would remain in place under six of the seven alternatives proposed for impact analysis under the current EIS, none of the draft alternatives would have to be changed or eliminated in the process. Alternative A, though it calls for removal of all manmade features at or above grade in the EHD, cannot be reworked to retain the landscape characteristics and features without removing its chief purpose, which is to return the EHD to a natural state through active measures. Because a natural resource-based alternative is needed in the group of alternatives, and because the remaining alternatives allow for retention of most of the surviving landscape characteristics and features, it has been determined that the alternatives can be carried forward without alteration, at least in terms of the cultural landscape issues and concerns.



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