

Levi Trentham Cabin
Elkmont Historic District
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Historic Structure Report



September 2010

for

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Southeast Region, National Park Service

by

Joseph K. Oppermann–Architect, P.A.

539 N. Trade Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101

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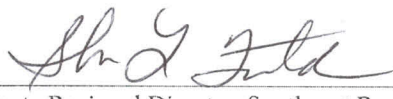
LCS#: 264307

The historic structure report presented here exists in two formats. A traditional, printed version is available for study at the park, the Southeastern Regional Office of the NPS (SERO), and at a variety of other repositories. For more widespread access, the historic structure report also exists in a web-based format through ParkNet, the website of the National Park Service. Please visit www.nps.gov for more information.

Levi Trentham Cabin
Elkmont Historic District
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Historic Structure Report
2010

Approved by:  10/15/15
for Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park Date

Recommended by:  10/22/15
Acting Chief, Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Region Date

Recommended by:  10/30/15
Deputy Regional Director, Southeast Region Date

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Executive Summary

Although Native Americans had settled along the Little River for centuries, the first permanent Euro-American occupation began with the 1785 Treaty of Dumplin Creek, whereupon the Cherokees ceded their lands to the United States. With the opening of the territory, settlers began to farm the mountain valleys and coves.

The heavily forested and rugged mountain terrain initially inhibited extensive settlement or travel through the area. By the later part of the 19th century, however, family-owned companies began to cut and laboriously haul the timber out of the mountains. Larger timber companies soon turned their attention to the Great Smoky Mountains, especially after timberlands in the northeast and Great Lakes area were significantly depleted.

In 1901, one such larger company, the Little River Lumber Company, began purchasing land in Sevier County. The company set up its headquarters and constructed a large band mill in Tuckaleechee Cove, which they named Townsend. To extract the valuable hardwoods from upper elevations, the lumber company created the Little River Railroad Company in 1901. The Little River Railroad connected to the Knoxville & Augusta Railroad and later would be extended to link the mountainous areas with the company headquarters at Townsend. By 1908, the railroad extended to the Little River Valley where a lumber camp was established. This camp was to become a base of operations and a community of workers and their families soon took root and called it Elkmont.

The linking of the railroad to isolated mountainous regions greatly affected the area. Although constructed for timbering, the railroad allowed the Lumber Company to benefit from the tourist potential inherent in the remote beauty of the Little River Valley. The Company allowed Knoxville sportsmen to use the railroad to reach hunting and fishing locations in the backcountry. Before long, the railroad included an observation car that took

travelers from Knoxville to Elkmont every Sunday. As these excursions grew in popularity, they came to be offered several days a week and, by 1909, tourists traveled daily from Knoxville's Southern Station to Elkmont.

As land was cleared, the Lumber Company began to promote the area for development and in 1910, deeded 50 acres to the Appalachian Club while retaining timber and mineral rights. The Appalachian Club was a Knoxville-based sportsmen's club composed primarily of businessmen who sought hunting and fishing opportunities in the mountains. The club would become more social over time and the primary clubhouse was built south of Elkmont. Its members were mostly from Knoxville but also from other cities in the South. Although the Appalachian Club served as both clubhouse and hotel, club members soon constructed cabins around the clubhouse and the area quickly developed into its own community.

In 1911, the Little River Lumber Company made another deed of land, selling acreage just north of the Elkmont Community to C.B. Carter. Carter and his brother founded the Wonderland Park Company and constructed the Wonderland Park Hotel on their new acreage in 1912. Like the Appalachian Club, the Wonderland Hotel catered to those seeking relaxation and recreation in a mountain landscape. The Wonderland Club was similar to the Appalachian Club with its members' cabins clustered near the hotel.

Meanwhile, the little community of Elkmont that began as a lumber camp in 1908 became a sizable town as the Little River Lumber Company increased its operations in the valley. Elkmont was situated in a relatively flat area created by the junction of the Little River and Jakes Creek. Inhabited mostly by workers and their families, the town had a character distinct from its neighbors at the Appalachian and Wonderland clubs. At its

peak, Elkmont town could boast of several dozen dwellings, a few commercial buildings, a school, and two churches. The buildings were often stark and utilitarian, reflecting the town's impermanence and hard working residents. The decline of the early lumber town coincided with the relocation of the Little River Company's operations in 1923, and discontinuation of the Rail Company in 1925. The loss of its primary employer and their designation as part of a national park signaled Elkmont's end as a year-round community. Between 1934 and 1942, the majority of the town was removed with many frame buildings dismantled for their lumber

The loss of transportation also initiated changes for the club members. Fortunately, the loss of the rail line coincided with the rising popularity of the automobile. The Little River Railroad tracks were replaced by a gravel road for automobile traffic. New and improved roads were built in the region as part of the nationwide trend. Rebuilding became a profitable enterprise during the 1920s and reflected the demand for efficiency and enjoyment of auto travel.

The rise in good roads and automobile ownership brought more people to the Elkmont clubs. Visitors spent their time in rustic, yet comfortable cabins, enjoyed their meals at the club, and enjoyed dances in the ballroom. Outdoor activities were naturally the focus of their stay. The increased membership necessitated an increase in infrastructure. Boardwalks were built, swimming holes created, and amenities extended. In addition to the private cabins, the construction included numerous outbuildings such as guest cottages, servants' quarters, wood sheds, garages and privies. Construction continued at both clubs throughout the 1920s.

The establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), some seventeen years in the making, from 1923 to 1940, brought about the demise of the club communities. Unlike previous national parks, with land donated or already in Federal domain, property had to be purchased by the states of North Carolina and Tennessee for transfer to the Federal Government. The purchase was often made from reluctant property holders. An agreement was eventually reached with Elkmont residents in 1932 whereby land owners would receive lifetime leases in return for sale of their property at half the appraised value.

In 1952, the lease terms were reconstituted as members of both clubs exchanged their lifetime leases for a fixed 20-year lease in exchange for commercial power service. The leases were again extended for another twenty years in 1972 with the majority expiring in 1992. In 1994, the properties associated with the two clubs were listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Elkmont Historic District. In 2001 the last of the leases finally expired; all properties are now owned by the National Park Service.

The importance of the district rests not only in its architectural integrity, but also in its association with the development of summer resort communities during the early twentieth century. These communities were the products of a renewed interest in nature and outdoor recreation, and their architecture, landscaping and planning reflect this admiration for a "back-to-nature" lifestyle.

The park's 1982 General Management Plan (GMP) states in part, "...leases for approximately 50 structures ...will expire in 1992, and four remaining leases will expire in 2001. None of these leases will be extended, and the structures are proposed for removal on termination of the leases. Building sites will be returned to a natural state."

Subsequent to the preparation of the GMP, the Elkmont Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the proscribed GMP actions for this district were determined to constitute adverse effects. Resolution was reached and in late December, 2008 and a Memorandum of Agreement was circulated for signing by representatives of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer and other parties. The Memorandum of Agreement states in part, "...eighteen contributing and one non-contributing building will be retained....A total of 30 contributing buildings will be removed."

In implementation of this agreement, the National Park Service contracted with Joseph K. Oppermann – Architect, P.A., for the purpose of preparing an historic structure report for the Levi Trentham Cabin, one of the buildings to be retained. The study team included Joseph K. Oppermann, FAIA, historical architect and principal investigator, Rebecca McCormick,

technical assistant and Laura Burghardt, preservation specialist. An initial visit to the site was made in April of 2010 with a follow-up visit in May.

Oppermann and McCormick compiled the field measurements; McCormick prepared digitized drawings of floor plans and certain architectural elements. Laura Burghardt reviewed the historical assessments previously compiled by the National Park Service and prepared the historical descriptions of this HSR. Oppermann investigated the building fabric to assess physical condition and to determine the evolutionary history of the building. No invasive methods of investigation were employed. No equipment was tested. Photo-documentation of the building and site were prepared by Oppermann.

Dianne Flaugh, cultural resource manager for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, provided copies of relevant documents from park files, logistical assistance and general project oversight. Tommy H. Jones, cultural resource specialist of the National Park Service's Southeast Regional Office, provided technical review.

The following is a summary of the findings concerning the Levi Trentham Cabin, one of the nineteen buildings to be retained as accorded in the Memorandum of Agreement. The cabin is located near the northern end of the Appalachian Club complex in the community of Daisy Town. It sits on the east side of the community's main thoroughfare, Jakes Creek Road, on the parcel of land known as the Mayo property. It rests immediately behind the Mayo Cabin and a short distance in front of the Mayo Servants' Quarters.

The Mayo Cabin is believed to have its start on this site beginning about 1910. Like other nearby cabins erected nearby by railroad and lumber company executives for shelter while fishing and hunting, it was assembled from the pre-fab setoff houses typically used for workman's lodging. The Mayo Cabin is believed to have constructed for Colonel W. B. Townsend, owner of both the Little River Lumber Company and a subsidiary the Little River Railroad Company. Construction of the Mayo Servants' Cabin is believed to have followed in about 1920 as activity in this area shifted from businessmen's hunting and fishing to family

recreation associated with the new nearby social club.

The Levi Trentham Cabin appeared on site even later. In actuality, this single-pen, one-story log house is one of the oldest buildings in the region. It was initially built about 1830 nearby on the banks of Jakes Creek, residence for one of several families of subsistence farmers in the area. Along with the 1845 log Aven Cabin, it is one of only two known mid-nineteenth century structures remaining in the Elkmont vicinity.

The Mayo family acquired the log cabin from the building's last occupants at its Jakes Creek location, Levi Trentham, grandson of the builder, and Levi's wife, Emaline Ownby. In 1932 the Mayo family dismantled the log building and reassembled it on its current location. Its reconstruction was not without change. The weatherboard siding was removed from the exterior. The porch that extended across what is now the west elevation was eliminated. The whole building was raised to allow construction of a wood floor, replacement for the ground that was the original base, and set on a stone foundation. The original doorway was increased in height; a matching doorway was added to the opposite wall. The one window opening was modified for a pair of casement window sash; five more openings were created at first floor with same casement sash. Two small windows, each with a single sash, were added at each of the two gables.

The Levi Trentham Cabin has remained largely intact since its move and reassembly/remodeling of 1932. It is in generally sound condition with several notable exceptions.

- The stone chimney has pulled away from its place against the exterior surface of the south wall.
- There is significant rot in the lower logs of the south exterior wall and the logs along the south ends of the east and west exterior walls. These are areas where the grade is high and rainwater pools.
- Portions of the stone perimeter foundation wall have collapsed.

In conclusion, the Levi Trentham Cabin retains its historic character of the reassembly and modification of 1932. Much of that building

material remains intact and is in sound condition. There are, however, several threatening conditions and associated deterioration that merit prompt remedial action.

Administrative Data

Locational Data

Building Name: Levi Trentham Cabin

Location: Elkmont Historic District
Great Smoky Mountains National Park

County: Sevier County

State: Tennessee

Related Studies

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior. Elkmont Historic District. *Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan Amendment*. Vol. I. Gatlinburg, TN: National Park Service, 2006.

Thomason and Associates. *The History and Architecture of the Elkmont Community*. Atlanta, GA: Southeast Region National Park Service, 1993.

Thomason, Phillip and Dr. Michael Ann Williams. Revised by Len Brown. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form; Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, 1994.

TRC Garrow Associates, Inc. *Archaeological Investigations in the Elkmont Historic District. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sevier County, Tennessee*. Unpublished draft report submitted to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sevier County, TN.

TRC Garrow Associates, Inc. *Cultural Resources of the Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sevier County, Tennessee*. Unpublished report submitted to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sevier County, TN, 2004.

Real Property Information

Acquisition Date: June 14, 1933

Numbering Information

LCS ID: 264307

Size Information

Total Floor Area: 289 square feet ±

Roof Area: 367 square feet ±

Number of Stories: 1

Number of Rooms: 1

Number of Bathrooms: 0

Cultural Resource Data

National Register Status: Listed March 22, 1994; Contributing Structure
Reference # 94000166
Name: Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Proposed Treatment Restoration of the exterior to its 2005 appearance (pre-stabilization).
Rehabilitation of the interior.

I.A Historical Background and Context

The town of Elkmont was developed in the early twentieth century as a summer community, deep in the woods of the Great Smoky Mountains in Sevier County, Tennessee. Elkmont was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994 as the Elkmont Historic District. The district consists mainly of early twentieth-century rustic summer cabins, a social clubhouse, and several outbuildings constructed primarily between 1910 and 1930 and organized around two clubs, the Appalachian Club and the Wonderland Club. While the district's contributing structures maintain much of their historic integrity, most have been vacant since 1992 and are in various states of disrepair. The importance of the Elkmont district rests not only in its architectural integrity, but also in its association with the development of summer resort communities during the early twentieth century. These communities were the products of a renewed interest in nature and outdoor recreation, and their architecture, landscaping and planning sought earnestly to express this "back-to-nature" approach.

The following summation of Elkmont's historical background and context is based primarily on the following sources: 1. Thomason and Associates' 1993 report for the National Park Service, *The History and Architecture of the Elkmont Community*; 2. Thomason and Associates' 1994 National Register Nomination for "Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park"; 3. TRC Garrow Associates, Inc.'s 2004 report, *Cultural Resources of the Elkmont Historic District*; 4. TRC Garrow Associates, Inc.'s unpublished report, *Archaeological Investigations in the Elkmont Historic District*; and 5. the National Park Service's 2006 report, *Elkmont Historic District - Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan Amendment*. The information in Parts IA and IB of this report is from these sources, unless otherwise noted. Because numerous studies,

reports and books document Elkmont's history, this Historic Structures Report focuses on physical investigation of the building rather than additional archival research.

Environment

Nestled in the Little River Valley of the Tennessee portion of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Elkmont community is ideally situated for a mountain getaway. The valley sits about 2,000 feet above sea level and is enclosed by steeply sloped forested mountains. Within these mountains is a biologically rich environment with a wide diversity of plants, animals and invertebrates. Temperate weather and high levels of rainfall have promoted both human settlement and plant growth. The Little River and its tributary, Jakes Creek, form the main spines through the valley, fed by tributaries flowing from the upper elevations of the surrounding mountains. The valley is narrow. Its level areas along the waterways have been the areas of settlement through several centuries and changing cultures.

Early Euro-American Settlement

Although Native Americans settled in the Little River Valley centuries earlier, the first permanent Euro-American occupation occurred after the 1785 Treaty of Dumplin Creek, when the Cherokees ceded their lands to the United States. With the opening of the territory, these new settlers began to farm the mountain valleys and coves. Two families, Ownby and Trentham, came to own much of the land along Jakes Creek on which they constructed their single- and double-pen log dwellings, farm buildings and mills.

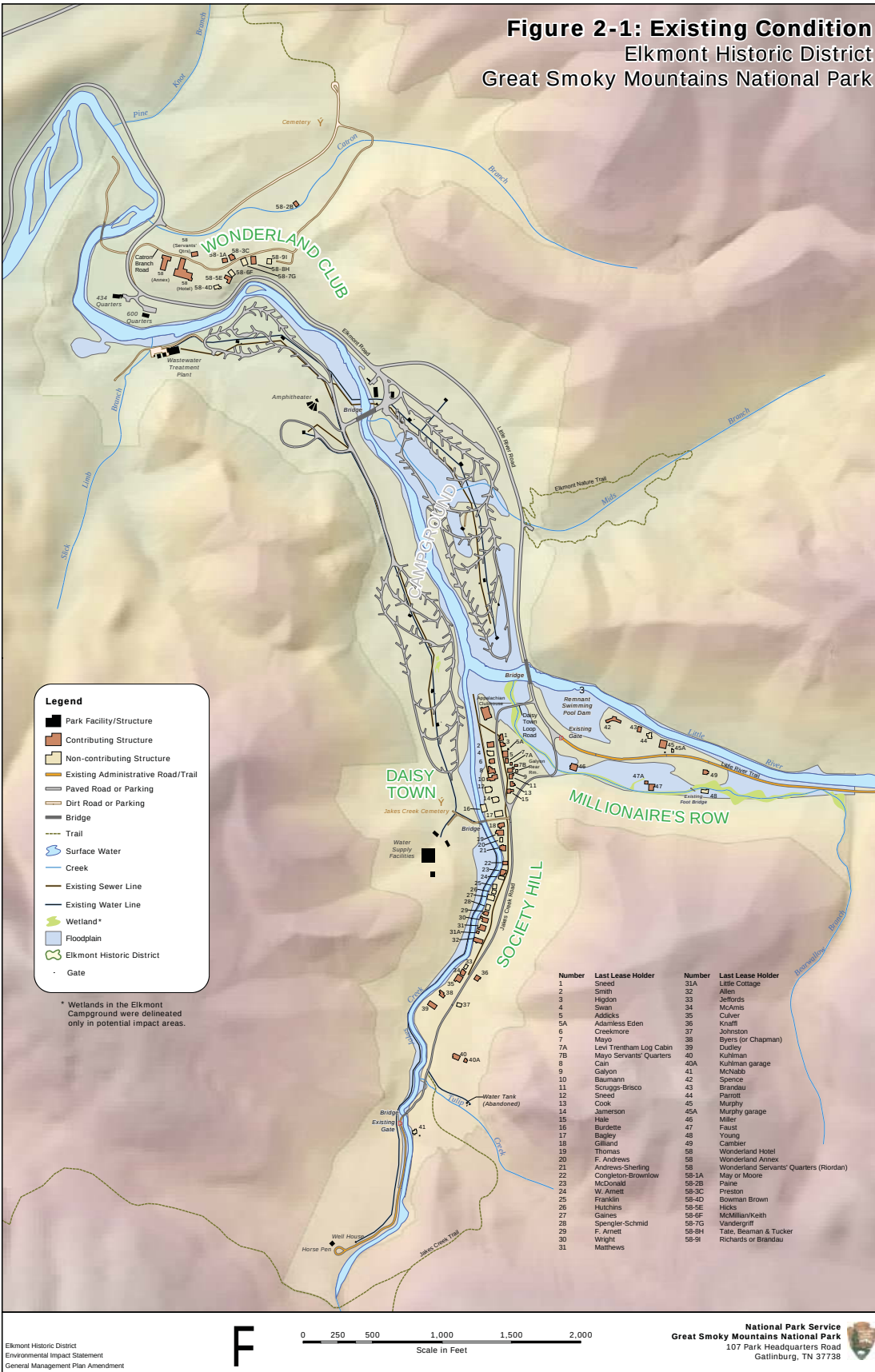


Figure 1, Map of Elkmont Historic District showing its communities bordering Jakes Creek and the Little River. (National Park Service)

The heavily forested and rugged mountain terrain initially inhibited extensive settlement and travel through the area. By the latter part of the 19th century, however, family-owned companies, especially the J.L. English Company and Swaggert & Eubanks, began to cut and laboriously haul the timber out of the mountains. Larger timber companies soon saw opportunity in the Great Smoky Mountains, especially after timberlands in the Northeast and Great Lakes area were largely depleted. These companies had a substantial impact on the surrounding environment by the early twentieth century, for with their greater capital came more efficient means and methods of extracting the timber, and a corresponding destruction of mountain habitat.



Figure 2, Avent Cabin, Elkmont, built by the Ownby family in 1845.

Arrival of Little River Lumber Company

In 1901, the Little River Lumber Company began purchasing wooded land in Sevier County. The company set up its headquarters and constructed a large band mill in Tuckaleechee Cove, which they named Townsend after Col. W. B. Townsend, the company's founder and general manager. To extract the valuable hardwoods from upper elevations, the lumber company created the Little River Railroad Company in 1901. That railroad connected to the Knoxville & Augusta Railroad and later would be extended to link the mountainous areas with the company headquarters at Townsend.

During construction of the Little River Railroad, simple temporary structures known as “set-off” houses were built for railroad employees and their families.



Figure 3, Little River Railroad Company set-off houses. (Little River Lumber & Railroad Company Museum)

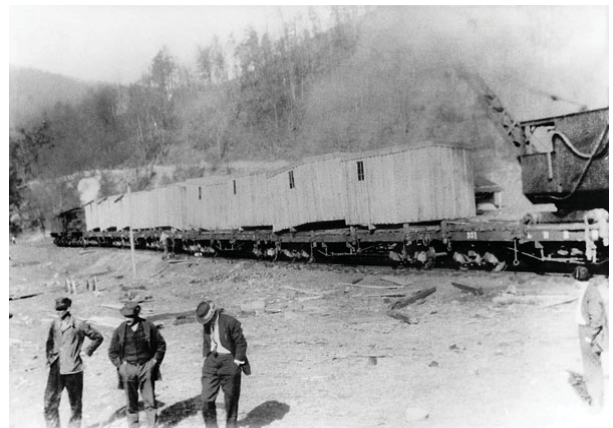


Figure 4, Set-off houses being transported by train. (Little River Lumber & Railroad Museum)



Figure 5, “Stringtown” above Elkmont. (Little River Lumber & Railroad Museum)

These structures were assembled at railroad company headquarters and moved by train as railroad construction progressed. Often, several set-off houses were placed in a row to create what was known as a stringtown.

By 1908, the railroad extended to the Little River Valley where a lumber camp was established. This camp was to become a base of operations. A community of workers and their families soon took root and called it Elkmont.

The linking of the railroad to isolated mountainous regions greatly affected the area. Although built for timbering, the railroad allowed the lumber company to benefit from the tourist potential inherent in the remote beauty of the Little River valley. The company allowed Knoxville sportsmen to use the railroad to reach hunting and fishing locations in the backcountry. Before long, the railroad included an observation car that took travelers from Knoxville to Elkmont every Sunday. As these excursions grew in popularity, they came to be offered several days a week and, by 1909, tourists traveled daily from Knoxville's Southern Station to Elkmont.



Figure 6, Undated photograph of Little River Railroad Company observation car near Elkmont. (Little River Lumber & Railroad Museum)

Appalachian Club

As land was cleared, the lumber company began to promote the area for development and in 1910, deeded 50 acres to the Appalachian Club while retaining timber and mineral rights. The Appalachian Club was a Knoxville-based sportsmen's club composed primarily of businessmen who sought hunting and fishing opportunities in the mountains. The club would become more social over time and the primary clubhouse was built south of the railroad workers' town of Elkmont.

In 1910, Colonel Townsend built his own cabin south of the clubhouse. Members, mostly from Knoxville but also from other Southern cities, constructed their own cabins around the new clubhouse; the area soon developed into its own community, known as Daisy Town.



Figure 7, Exterior of the original Appalachian Clubhouse, circa 1910. (Photo from Images of America: The Great Smoky Mountains National Park by Steve Cotham)

The Appalachian Clubhouse served as both clubhouse and hotel. Ten rooms were initially constructed, but an annex was added early on to provide additional accommodations as membership grew. Based on early photographs, the original clubhouse was designed in the same rustic style prevalent throughout the district. It was a two-story wood frame structure with a large porch that stretched the width of the building. Two masonry chimneys can be seen in an early photograph rising at the front elevation. The fireplaces for these two chimneys likely served a spacious room used for dining, dancing, and other social events. To protect the club members from dirt and mud as they traveled to and from the Clubhouse, a boardwalk was built connecting the Clubhouse to the cottages.

The Appalachian Club's members included many of Knoxville's social elite. Their retreat into the mountains brought with them many of their social standards and formality. The clubhouse meals were served by waiters, nurses watched over the children, and its members arrived well attired to performances and formal costume parties.¹ Societal manners and customs were essentially introduced to the mountains, despite being surrounded by the rustic and rugged environment.

1. Thomason and Associates, *History and Architecture* , 17.



Figure 8, Socializing on the original Appalachian Clubhouse porch. (Photo from *Images of America: The Great Smoky Mountains National Park* by Steve Cotham)

The Appalachian Club was promoted in brochures by the Little River Railroad and Knoxville & Augusta Railroad. The natural surroundings, cozy cottages, and modern amenities were advertised to entice newcomers. According to a 1914 brochure, the Appalachian Club, “...has made extensive improvement on its club house and annex since last year, and is now in position to serve its members better than ever before.”² Some of the changes mentioned in the brochure include a complete water and sewerage system and electric lighting.

A complete water and sewer system was installed at the Appalachian Club circa 1917 and a water tank was constructed near the Hommel Orchard. Prior to this time, water had come from a spring near the bank of Jakes Creek.

The first electric system in the Appalachian Club was provided by a water-powered generator. This system provided electricity for two hours a day. The system failed several years later when members began adding electric stoves, refrigerators, and heaters to their cabins. Later, diesel-powered generators were installed at the northern end of the Elkmont community where a dam on the Little River was created. With this system, lights were turned off promptly at 10:00 PM each night. It was not until 1952 that commercial electric service was brought to the Elkmont community by the Sevier County Electric Company.³

2. Ibid., 11.

3. Guymon, Daisy Town Community Historic District, Draft National Register Nomination.

Wonderland Park Company (Club)

In 1911, the Little River Lumber Company made another deed of land, selling acreage just north of the Elkmont community to Charles B. Carter. Carter and his brother founded the Wonderland Park Company and constructed the Wonderland Park Hotel on their new acreage in 1912. Like the Appalachian Club, the Wonderland Hotel catered to those seeking relaxation and recreation in a mountain landscape, and was conveniently reached by the daily passenger train from Knoxville, the Elkmont Special. The Wonderland Hotel was also advertised by the two rail lines in brochures promising an array of outdoor activities, such as fishing, horseback riding and mountain climbing, as well as social events and formal dances.

Only a year later, the Carter brothers’ activities were drawing attention. They were associated with aggressive, perhaps deceitful, sales tactics and were selling land quickly. A legal dispute in 1913 disrupted any plans the brothers may have had for the property, and the land was sold instead to a group of Knoxville residents who established the Wonderland Club. The Wonderland Club was similar to the Appalachian Club with its members’ cabins built near the hotel.



Figure 9, Undated photograph of Wonderland Hotel. (GSMNP Collection)

The Town of Elkmont

The little community that began as a lumber camp in 1908 soon became a sizable town as the Little River Lumber Company increased its operations in the valley. Elkmont was situated in a relatively flat area where Jakes Creek joined the Little River. The workers’ town had a character distinct from its neighbors at the Appalachian and Wonderland clubs. At its peak, Elkmont town could boast

of several dozen dwellings, a few commercial buildings, a school, and two churches. The buildings were often stark and utilitarian, reflecting the town's impermanence and hard working residents. The decline of this early lumber town coincided with the relocation of the Little River Company's operations in 1923 and discontinuation of the rail company in 1925. The loss of its primary employer and the designation as part of a national park signaled Elkmont's end as a year-round community. Between 1934 and 1942, the majority of the town was removed with many frame buildings dismantled for their lumber.

In the late 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps chose the former site of the town of Elkmont for their camp which, in 1952, was redeveloped by the National Park Service into a campground.



Figure 10. Undated photograph of log train in Elkmont. (Little River Lumber & Railroad Museum)

Retreat of the Lumber Company and Rise in Tourism

The relocation of the Little River Lumber Company and the abandoned railroad severely affected the Elkmont community, but the loss of transportation also initiated changes for the wealthy club members. Fortunately, the loss of the rail line coincided with the rising popularity of the automobile. The Little River Railroad tracks were replaced by a gravel road for automobile traffic. New and improved roads were built in the region as part of the nationwide trend. Rebuilding became a profitable enterprise during the 1920s and reflected the demand for efficiency and enjoyment of auto travel. Road improvements were spurred on by businessmen and organizations that sought to increase automobile travel and bring potential business to their communities.

The new roads and new automobiles brought more people to the Elkmont clubs. Visitors spent their time in the rustic, comfortable cabins, enjoyed their club meals, and dances. Outdoor activities continued to be popular activities, including swimming, hiking, picnicking, and outdoor games such as badminton. The increased membership necessitated an increase in infrastructure. Additional cabins were built, boardwalks added, swimming holes created, and amenities extended. Construction continued at both clubs throughout the 1920s, but as the region transformed during the early- to mid-1930s into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, new development was halted.

The “Back-to-Nature” Movement and Craftsman Architectural Style

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the exploitation of natural resources was destroying the American rural landscape and indirectly leading to unsightly urban sprawl. In response, Americans took a renewed interest in nature. Cities were increasingly seen as crowded, polluted, immoral places that had lost touch with the simplicity and purity of the country. In contrast, suburban or country living was viewed as more wholesome; outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and canoeing became steadily more popular. This renewed interest in the outdoors led to the formation of national organizations, such as the Sierra Club (1892), National Audubon Society (1905), Boy Scouts (1910), and the Campfire Girls (1912). These nature-oriented movements sparked enthusiasm for the national park system and the numerous outdoor lodges and summer resorts that sprung up around the country.

Popular at this time was the Craftsman style of architecture, an offspring of the American Arts and Crafts Movement. The Craftsman style sought a return to architectural simplicity, truthfulness in construction, use of natural materials, and harmony with the natural surroundings. It shares many of the values of the back-to-nature movement and, beginning about 1905, was popular particularly for small suburban or country houses.



Figure 11, Craftsman style houses Hunt & Eager, Architects. (Photograph from *The Craftsman*, November 1908)

Due to the propensity of bungalow house designs, the Craftsman style is often referred to as the Bungalow style. The style appealed to the public and was spread in numerous trade and architectural journals and magazines. Mail-order catalogs featured countless variations of Craftsman-style homes. With its use of natural materials and harmonious design with nature, the Craftsman style became an especially fitting choice for summer houses and mountain retreats.

The architectural precepts of the Craftsman style include a reliance on locally available natural materials (i.e. river stone), low-pitched roofs, and large porches. River stone was an important element in Craftsman buildings found in chimneys and foundations, as well as retaining walls and other landscape features.

Architecture in the Elkmont Development

As membership in the two Elkmont club communities grew, so did construction activity. The majority of the buildings, mostly summer cabins, were built between 1910 and 1930. Also built during this period were hotels, clubhouses, and numerous outbuildings such as guest cottages, servants' quarters, wood sheds, privies and garages.

Most of Elkmont's buildings from this period have a simple rustic appearance often described as "folk" or "vernacular." How vernacular they are is hard to tell, especially due to the popularity of the Craftsman style. Architects may have evoked local architecture rather than simply followed local tradition.



Figure 12, The 1934 Appalachian Clubhouse showing uses of natural materials and simple geometric forms.

Whether based on traditional folk designs, the Craftsman style, or a co-mingling of the two, common features are found in the architecture of Elkmont. According to the Thomason report, most buildings are balloon frame construction covered with board-and-batten, weatherboard, or drop siding, and originally had galvanized steel roofs, many later replaced with asphalt shingles. Stone, bricks, and concrete were typically used for chimneys, foundations, and retaining walls, while outdoor living spaces were created with the large porches found on most Elkmont buildings. Wood paneled doors and variations on the casement window are other common features found in the buildings of both club communities. The rustic elements of the exterior are continued on the interior and are evident in the predominance of exposed wood ceilings, walls, and floors.

Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) was approximately seventeen years in the making, from 1923 to 1940, and brought about the demise of the club communities. The idea to create a national park in the Great Smoky Mountains was initially proposed by Willis and Anne Davis, who were inspired by the national parks in the west and wondered if the same could be created here. The Davis family, wealthy and influential Knoxville residents, were able to generate interest in the idea among politicians, businessmen, and naturalists.

As the park idea gained momentum, a group of Knoxville businessmen, many of whom were members of the Appalachian Club, created the Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association in 1923 to promote the creation of a national park. One of its members was Colonel David C. Chapman, a successful Knoxville wholesale druggist, who quickly became a driving force behind the movement. Successful lobbying campaigns, first from citizen groups and then the states of Tennessee and North Carolina, eventually convinced the U.S. government to authorize in 1926 purchase of the land for the park.



A group of hikers are seen in this photograph taking a brief rest on a hike up newly named Mount Chapman. They are Harvey Broome (left), honoree David Chapman (front), and Knoxville photographer Jim Thompson (right). These men were leaders of the Tennesseans promoting the creation of the park. Both Chapman Highway (Highway 441) and this peak in the Smokies were named for David Chapman. (Thompson Collection, Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection.)

Figure 13, Colonel David C. Chapman (front) one of the founders of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and member of the Appalachian Club. (Photo from *Images of America: The Great Smoky Mountains National Park* by Steve Cotham)

Although the movement faced many obstacles, primarily from those who feared the park would interfere with their business or property interests, it continued to gain adherents. Perhaps the most powerful was John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who made a \$5 million donation with the stipulation that it would be matched.⁴ With contributions in hand,

organizers began the arduous task of convincing landowners to sell.

Unlike previous national parks, with land donated or already in Federal domain, property had to be purchased by the states of North Carolina and Tennessee for transfer to the Federal Government. Property holders were often reluctant. An agreement was eventually reached with Elkmont residents in 1932 whereby land owners would receive lifetime leases in return for sale of their property at half the appraised value. Appraisals began in 1932.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park was officially established in 1934, but it was not until 1940 that the park was formally dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The establishment of the park effectively ended both new development and the sale of lots in the Elkmont communities. Although the restrictions were detrimental to expansion of both clubs, they nevertheless contributed to the overall preservation of the community plan, landscape features, and most of the buildings. Available records do not address changes in the two clubs during the 1930s and 40s. However, in 1952, the lease terms were reconstituted as members of both clubs exchanged their lifetime leases for a fixed 20-year lease in exchange for commercial power service.⁵ The leases were again extended for twenty years in 1972 with the majority expiring in 1992. In 1994, the properties associated with the two clubs were listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Elkmont Historic District, and in 2001, the last of the leases finally expired. All properties are now under National Park Service ownership.

4. "History of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park." www.gsmnp.com.

5. "Elkmont Historic District. Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan Amendment." National Park Service. January 2006.

I.B Chronology of Development and Use

The Levi Trentham Cabin sits directly behind the Mayo Cabin near the northern end of the Appalachian Club complex in the community known as Daisy Town. The Trentham Cabin was originally situated on the banks of Jakes Creek but was moved to its present location by the Mayo family in 1932 for use as a family living room.¹ A single-pen log structure, the cabin is named for Levi Trentham, who was widely known in Elkmont as Uncle Levi.²

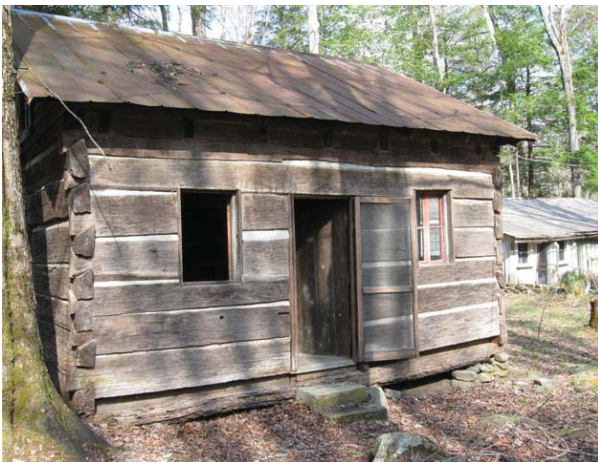


Figure 1, Levi Trentham Cabin, 2010.

Initial Construction

According to Garrow's *Cultural Resources* report, the Trentham Cabin was constructed about 1830. If so, it may be the oldest surviving building in the Elkmont area.³ By the mid-nineteenth century, several subsistence farms were located in the Jakes Creek area, most owned by the Trentham and Ownby families. These cabins along Jakes Creek and the Little River tributaries were single- and double-pen log dwellings similar to the Trentham

Cabin.⁴ According to Mayo family tradition, the original owner of the cabin was Levi Trentham's grandfather.⁵ It is likely that it was the center of a small subsistence farm surrounded by several outbuildings.⁶

The only other surviving structure in the Elkmont vicinity dating from the mid-nineteenth century is the circa 1845 Avent Cabin, shown below. Built by the Ownby family, this structure was originally part of a farm along Jakes Creek and was surrounded by several barns and other outbuildings.⁷ Although the Avent Cabin remains in its original location (near the southernmost point of the Appalachian Club complex), it has been extensively remodeled.⁸



Figure 2, Avent Cabin.

Uncle Levi Trentham

Levi Trentham (1852-1936) lived with his wife Emaline Ownby, sometimes known as Aunt Emaline, and their children in the Levi Trentham

1. Dan Mayo, Interview.

2. Thomason and Associates, 22.

3. TRC Garrow Associates, 90.

4. Thomason and Associates, 22.

5. Dan Mayo, Interview.

6. Elkmont Historic District, National Register Nomination, Section 7, Page 2.

7. Ibid.

8. Garrow, *Cultural Resources*, 19.

Cabin at its original location on the banks of Jakes Creek.⁹ In 1905, Levi inherited his father's land, which lay between Jakes Creek and the Little River.¹⁰ The time period in which Levi and his family occupied the cabin is not known.

Levi Trentham was employed by the Little River Lumber Company in the early twentieth century, as were most men living in the Elkmont area at the time.¹¹ A carpenter by trade, he is believed to have built at least two buildings in Elkmont during the 1910s and 1920s when the Appalachian Club complex was under development.¹² Many club



Figure 3, "Uncle" Levi Trentham and "Aunt" Emaline. (public.fotki.com/lillianll/my_public_photos/people_of_interest/levi-trentham)

9. Thomason and Associates, 24.

10. Daisy Town Community Historic District, Draft National Register Nomination, Section 8, Page 4.

11. Mason, 1016.

12. Thomason and Associates, 24.

members hired local carpenters to build their houses, while others brought in carpenters from Knoxville.¹³

The two cabins generally attributed to Levi Trentham are the Franklin Cabin and the Matthews Cabin, neither of which is among the eighteen contributing properties to be retained. The Franklin Cabin is a one-story frame dwelling. According to John A. Evans, it was built by Levi Trentham about 1913. The Matthews Cabin is a one-and-a-half story, double-pen log dwelling built about 1925. According to R.C. Matthews, the cabin was built by Levi Trentham for Bruce Keener of Knoxville.¹⁴



Figure 4, Uncle Levi Trentham, unknown date. (public.fotki.com/lillianll/my_public_photos/people_of_interest/levi-trentham)

13. Ibid.

14. Thomason and Associates, 116 and 118. Evans and Matthews are descendants of early cabin owners.



Figure 5. Uncle Levi Trentham on a porch, perhaps his own, circa 1909. Note weatherboard siding. (*Field and Stream*, 1909)

In addition to his job with the lumber company, Uncle Levi operated a small store in Elkmont and delivered ice twice a week to Appalachian Club members. He was well known throughout the area as a bear hunter.

In 1909, an article in *Field and Stream* magazine entitled “Hunting Black Bear in the Smokies,” told of a bear hunting expedition with Uncle Levi and his son Robert.¹⁵ Levi claimed to have killed 69 bears in one year around 1890.¹⁶

A photograph taken for the 1909 article shows what may be the Trentham Cabin covered with weatherboard siding, and shows Levi on a porch

with a square support post (see Figure 5). The *Field and Stream* article states, “Uncle Levi’s long porch outside was piled high with the baggage of these brilliantly colored birds of passage, en portage,” referring to the many colorful characters at an early twentieth-century supper at the Trentham Cabin.¹⁷

Architectural evidence confirms the existence of a porch and siding. Horizontal rows of cut nail holes and some nail fragments are present on the building exterior, indicating removed siding. Five notches are present along what is now the west side of the cabin. These notches are probably pockets for brackets which once supported a porch, presumably the one seen in an early twentieth century photograph (Figure 5).

The cabin was originally set directly on the ground, having a dirt floor. The bottom log on each wall was susceptible to quicker rot, and therefore was not notched, so that it could be easily replaced.¹⁸

According to descendants of the Mayo family, the cabin had only one door and one window in 1932.¹⁹ Further, the original vertical board door remained on the cabin, though the wrought iron strap hinges had been removed. As stated above, the physical evidence for a porch is on the west side of the cabin, and the current west door has ghost marks for strap hinges. However, this is not the first door. The door opening was previously much lower and much wider. The earlier opening was probably the original one for the cabin. The original window location on the cabin is not known, though it probably was adjacent to the original door.

Move to the Appalachian Club

In the 1930s and 1940s, as the area began to be converted to park land, structures in the lumber camp of Elkmont were slowly taken down or moved. Many of the frame structures were dismantled, their parts used for lumber, while others were moved other areas. The town of Elkmont no longer exists, with only the later Appalachian Club and Wonderland Club buildings remaining.²⁰

17. Mason, 1025

18. Carol Mayo Jenkins, Interview.

19. Claxton Mayo, Interview.

20. Garrow, *Cultural Resources*, 19.

15. Mason.

16. Myers and Boyer, 48.

In 1932, The Trentham Cabin was disassembled and moved to its present location in the Appalachian Club complex by the Mayo family.²¹ Dale R. Mayo, who purchased the cabin in 1924, was the owner of D.R. Mayo Seed Company in Knoxville. According to Mayo family descendants, it was Dale Mayo's wife who had the Levi Trentham Cabin moved to the Mayo Cabin property. How and when the Mayo family acquired the cabin is unknown. However, descendants recall visiting the Trentham Cabin while still inhabited by Levi Trentham, before it was moved.²²

The Levi Trentham Cabin was reassembled behind the Mayo Cabin on a stone foundation. According to descendants of the Mayo family, the unique Roman numeral assigned to each log indicated how the cabin was to be reassembled on its new site in 1932.²³ However, it was a common practice for builders to assign numbers to each log as a method of guiding the sequence of assembly of the pre-cut log members. It is possible that marks created by the original builder later guided reconstruction after relocation. These marks are still visible on the south end of the west side of the cabin.



Figure 6, Identifying Roman numerals cut into the Trentham Cabin logs.

The building was extensively remodeled at the time of the move. The siding was removed and the porch was dismantled. Flooring from the Great Southern Lumber Company in Bogalusa, Louisiana, was installed in the cabin (Figure 7).

Window openings were cut into the cabin walls and casement windows were installed to provide

more light. A second doorway was cut opposite the original doorway.²⁴ A vertical board door was installed with salvaged wrought iron hinges.

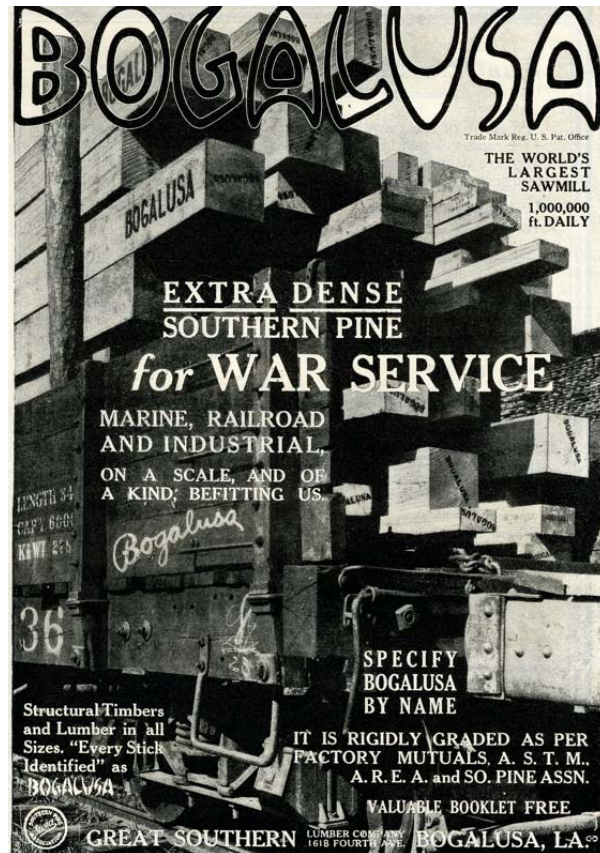


Figure 7, Bogalusa lumber advertisement in the *World's Work Advertiser*, unknown date.

From the time of the Trentham Cabin's move in 1932, it remained part of the Mayo (Appalachian Club Cabin 7) property. The cabin was used as a living room for the Mayo family from 1932 until the expiration of their property lease in 2001. No evidence was found to indicate the cabin was ever divided into more than one room.

U.S. Government Purchase

In 1932, the United States government reached an agreement with Elkmont property owners wherein land owners would receive lifetime leases in return for the sale of their property at half the appraised value. The Mayo (Cottage 7) property was appraised on May 18, 1932. At this time, the property was valued at \$1,530.00 with the "Log Living Room" (Levi Trentham Cabin) valued at \$350.00 (Figure 8).²⁵

21. Ibid., 90.

22. Dan Mayo, Interview.

23. Claxton Mayo, Interview.

24. Carol Mayo Jenkins, Interview.

25. "Cottage #7 - Elkmont, Tenn.," Notecard, Sevier County Public Library.

NAME	ADDRESS	COUNTY	ACRES	DATE
D. R. MAYO	~~034333X~~ KNOXVILLE	SEVIER	.2	5/16/32
LOCATION: Cottage #7 - Elkmont, Tenn. 11 th Dist. Deed No 877				
DESCRIPTION:	Main House	\$784.79	5/18/32	
	Log House	350.00		
	Guest house			
	& wood house	125.00		
	Lot, shrubbery, etc	200.00		
	Total -	\$1459.79		
	Lot, Fencing, Shrubby & Mis.	\$ 275.00		
	Residence	780.00		
	Log Living Room	350.00		
	Guest Room and Wood House	125.00		
	Tot. Present Value	\$ 1530.00		
	M. B. McMahan			
PRICE:	W.R.Mize, John McMahan, R.H. McMahan \$1459.79			
	APPROVED FOR PURCHASE BY COMMISSION 6/15/32 ~~\$725.00~~ \$775.00			
	CHECK FOR \$775.00 1/3/33 SENT TO OLA HATCHER, CLERK			
	DEED RECORDED AND RETURNED \$775.00 1/28/33			
Transferred to Federal Government 7/14/33				
(over)				

Govt. Recd. 6/11

Figure 8, Notecard detailing 1932 appraisal of the Appalachian Club Cottage 7 (Mayo Cabin) prior to purchase by the Federal Government. The Levi Trentham Cabin is referred to as "Log House" and "Log Living Room." (Sevier County Public Library)

The Levi Trentham Cabin was transferred to the Federal Government as part of the Mayo property sale on July 14, 1933.²⁶ The Mayo family held a lease to the property until 2001.

National Park Service

The Elkmont Historic District, including the Levi Trentham Cabin, was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. The Levi Trentham Cabin is designated as a Contributing

Structure to the Historic District.²⁷ Although the cabin's approximate construction date is nearly a century earlier than that of most other structures in the Elkmont Historic District, the cabin's 1932 move is a significant part of the district's history and is within the district's period of significance.²⁸ The Trentham Cabin has remained unoccupied since the expiration of the Mayo family lease in 2001. As a result, physical elements of the cabin have been removed by visitors, including the wrought iron door hinges. Ghost marks of the hinges remain on the west door.

26. Ibid.

27. Elkmont Historic District, National Register Nomination.

28. Thomason and Associates, 125.

I.C Physical Description

Unless otherwise indicated, photographs were taken by the author in 2010.

General Description

The Levi Trentham Cabin is a one-room, one-story log structure with a square footprint measuring approximately 18 feet in both length and width. The entrance door faces west towards the street. A river stone chimney sits against the south exterior elevation of the building. The finished floor is raised approximately 1 foot 8 inches above grade. The roof is a gable structure with the ridge running north-south. Originally constructed as an early family residence on Jakes Creek, the cabin was relocated to its current site a century later for reuse as part of a vacation retreat complex of buildings.

Site Features

The current site of the Trentham Cabin is near the northern end of the Appalachian Club complex of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Sevier County, Tennessee. The Club complex is located on a wooded ridge above Bearwallow Branch. Jakes Creek Road, which turns into Daisy Town Road, is the main thoroughfare running north-south with cabins aligned on either side.

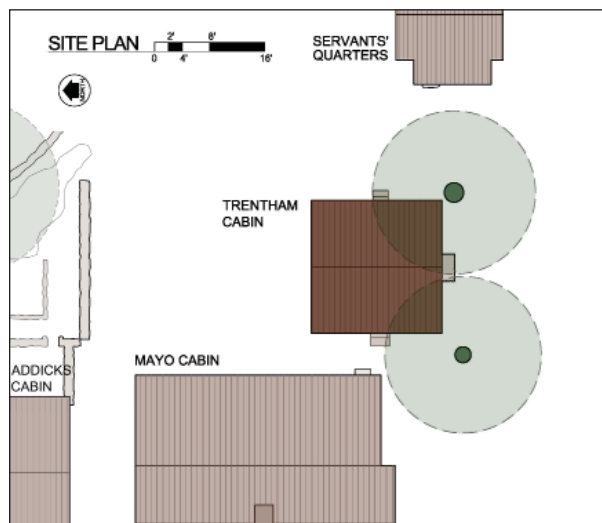


Figure 1, Site plan showing location of Trentham Cabin in relation to the Mayo Cabin and the Servants' Quarters.

Trentham Cabin is situated on the east side of Jakes Creek Road on what was the property that already contained the Mayo Cabin and Mayo Servants' Quarters. When Trentham Cabin was first relocated to the Appalachian Club complex the Mayo family reportedly used the space as a living room. The cabin is sandwiched between the Mayo Cabin and its ancillary structure, the Servants' Quarters on a rather small site. The site is dotted with several mature evergreen and deciduous trees and natural rock outcroppings.



Figure 2, View of Trentham Cabin between Mayo Cabin in foreground and Servants' Quarters behind (photo from Diane Flaugh, Cultural Resources Department, NPS).

Due to its location between Mayo Cabin and the Servants' Quarters, Trentham Cabin does not have a paved entrance walkway or any paved outdoor patios like many of the other cabins in the Appalachian Club complex. The cabin's property is tightly bordered on the east and west sides. Another property, known as Galyon Cabin, is located to the south of Trentham Cabin and Addicks Cabin is just ten feet to the north.

Origins and Dates of Design

The Levi Trentham Cabin is reputed to have been originally built on Jakes Creek ca. 1830. It was reportedly disassembled, moved and reassembled

on its current site at the northern end of the Appalachian Club complex in 1932. The single pen log cabin was probably constructed by its future occupants as their principal residence. When moved, it became a multi-use ancillary structure on a vacation home site.

Notching for brackets suggests that the simple log structure may have once had a porch along its west side. Additionally, cut nail holes in horizontal rows six to nine inches apart on all exterior elevations suggest that siding covered the logs at one time. The porch and siding were probably removed and discarded when the cabin was relocated to its current site.

Reportedly, the cabin also had a chimney in its original construction, but when it was moved to its current site it was abandoned. A new river stone chimney was constructed on the south side of the cabin where it stands today.



Figure 3, Southwest oblique view of the cabin.

According to interviews with the Mayo family, once the cabin was rebuilt at the Appalachian Club complex they made several modifications to it to suit their needs. The cabin only had one door originally, reportedly on the east side. This door had a notch at the bottom corner, used by the cat to come and go. There was but one window. The family added the second door on the west side and installed nine more windows to allow more light into the space (four of the windows are located high up in the gable ends).

The physical evidence of the building fabric somewhat contradicts these family recollections, however. It is the current west elevation of the cabin, not the east elevation, that has evidence

of a previous porch (wall notches for porch roof brackets) and earlier doorway. Typically, the door would be located at the porch and indeed the west doorway has evidence of an earlier design; the logs are notched for a shorter, wider door. And although the east door is notched, this appears to be a twentieth century feature because the door itself is modern, reconstructed with wire nails.



Figure 4, Notches on west elevation suggest a previous porch.

The Mayo family also said that boards laid across the exposed collar ties and the loft space was used as a sleeping place for the children. Today the boards no longer exist, the ceiling is open to the roof structure above.

Interior Organization

The floor plan of Trentham Cabin is quite straightforward; it is a single square-shaped room. The space can be accessed from both the east and west sides through entrance doors. A large river stone fireplace is centered on the south wall.

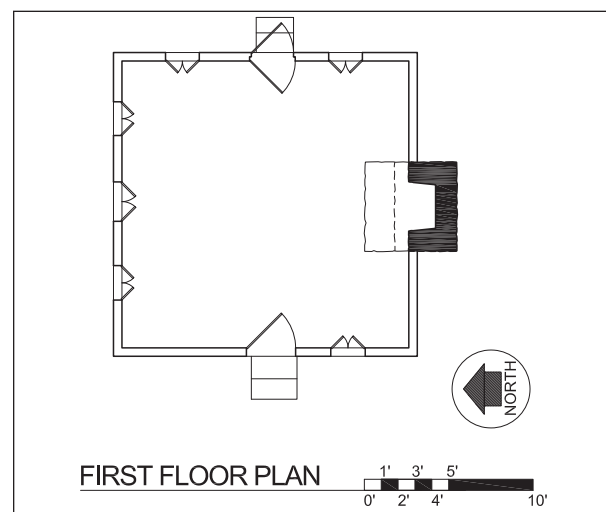


Figure 5, Floor plan of the cabin as found in 2010.

Exterior

The single-story square log cabin sits on a mortared river stone perimeter foundation wall. There are two concrete entrance steps at both the east and west entrances to the cabin. On the west side they are 2'-8½" wide and on the east side they are 2'-2½" wide.

The cabin's log walls are hewn with half-dovetail notching at the corners. The log daubing is a modern mixture, rich in Portland cement, probably in an attempt to increase durability. The gabled roof is covered with 5-V metal roofing and the walls under the gable are finished with weather boards. The roof ridge runs north-south.



Figure 6, Northwest corner with unhewn sacrificial bottom log on west elevation (right) and rot in hewn bottom log of north elevation (left).

There are two entrance doors to the cabin; one is located centrally on the west elevation and the other is almost directly across from it on the east elevation. Both doors are constructed of boards and battens. Both are modern reconstructions, assembled with wire nails. The east entrance also has a screen door.



Figure 7, Northeast oblique of cabin showing partially collapsed east foundation wall.

The windows at the main floor level are all pairs of two-light casement window sash that are hinged on each jamb and open inward. An exception is the center window on the north elevation. That window opening has a pair of larger, three-light casement window sash. Along the north and south elevations there are two additional windows in each gable, close to the roof line. Each of these window openings contain a single, six-light, side-hinged sash. All of the window sash date to the 1932 reconstruction.

A reconstructed river stone chimney sits external to the structure centered on the south elevation. At the base it measures roughly 5'-0" in width and 2'-4" in depth.

Construction Characteristics

Structural Systems

Foundation/Flooring Systems

The perimeter foundation wall of the cabin is made of stacked and mortared river stone. There are also small stone piers at the center floor girder.

The flooring system is made of wood joists that measure 2" by 6⅛" and are spaced 24" on center. The floor joists run east-west. A floor girder of the same size runs north-south at the center of the room. The finished flooring is made up of 1" thick by 3¼" wide wood boards that run north-south. The underside of the flooring is labeled with the name of the manufacturer, the Bogalusa Lumber Company.



Figure 8, Modern conventional floor framing and flooring, both with Bogalusa Sawmill stamp, installed during 1932 reconstruction.

Exterior Walls

The hewn logs of the cabin are roughly 6" wide and vary in height from 10" to 13". It is thought that the logs are made of poplar. They have half-dovetail notching at the corners and Portland cement rich chinking. The bottom log at the west and west elevation is unhewn and intended to be sacrificial. Close to grade, each will decay more quickly than the upper logs. Therefore, the bottom log is unfinished, expected to be replaced more quickly than the other logs.



Figure 9, Half-dovetail notching at log corners.

Above the logs, at the gables on the north and south elevations, there are three vertical struts to support the roof framing. Each gable end is finished with weather boards.



Figure 10, View of exposed roof structure.

Roof Framing

The rafters of the gabled roof measure 2" by 4¼" and are spaced roughly 36" on center. Exposed collar ties that measure roughly 4" by 7" run east-west and are notched into the top logs of the walls. The collar ties are spaced approximately 32" on center. The bottom of the collar ties are 7'-6" above finished floor; the distance between the bottoms of the collar ties to the roof peak is 6'-5". The roof deck boards are random widths ranging from 8" to 12".

Utility Systems

There are currently no mechanical heating or air conditioning systems in the cabin.

Mechanical Systems

The cooling of Trentham Cabin was through passive systems. Because the cabin is located in a wooded, mountain region the space remains relatively cool even during summer months. Operable windows allow for fresh air and breezes.

Heating would have been provided by the wood-burning fireplace on the south wall. Additionally, there are remnants of a gas supply line on the south wall, just east of the fireplace. This likely was used for a space heater.



Figure 11, Gas line connection at south wall.

Electrical Systems

As mentioned in Part I.A, electrical power prior to the 1950s came to the Appalachian Club complex from a water-powered generator and was

reportedly very unreliable. After 1952, commercial electrical power, which was more reliable, was provided by the Sevier County Electrical Service. No power is currently provided to the site.



Figure 12, An electrical wire connected the Mayo Servants' Quarters to the Trentham Cabin fuse box, which in turn connected to the Mayo Cabin.

An overhead electrical power line most recently came to the Mayo Cabin site from an electrical pole to the southwest, just across Jakes Creek Road. An electrical cable from the northeast corner of the Mayo Cabin connected directly to a fuse box, still present, on the interior west wall of Trentham Cabin. From Trentham Cabin power was then run by an electrical wire from the Trentham Cabin fuse box to the Servants' Quarters. Thus, all of the electrical lines connect back to and were dependent upon the power at the Mayo Cabin.



Figure 13, Early fuse box on the interior surface of the west wall of Trentham Cabin.

The wiring in the cabin is made of PVC-sheathed cable. The only electrical outlets in the cabin are

on the west and north walls. Both outlets are surface-mounted metal box outlets.



Figure 14, Early Bakelite Corporation light fixture mounted to the south side of the front entrance door.

There is one exterior light fixture mounted just south of the front, or west, entrance door. The fixture is made by the Bakelite Corporation, which was popular during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. A similar wooden board that this fixture is mounted to is found on the east elevation, next to the door, but there is no longer a light fixture mounted to it.

Two matching light fixtures similar to the exterior one are mounted to the underside of the collar ties inside the cabin. They are also early Bakelite Corporation brand fixtures.



Figure 15, Early Bakelite Corporation ceiling-mounted light fixture inside of cabin on bottom of collar beam.

Plumbing Systems:

There is no evidence of plumbing having been present in the Trentham Cabin.

Exterior Features

Roof and Rainwater Collection/Dispersal

The roof is a 5-V crimped metal gabled roof with the ridge running north-south. The roof does not have gutters, nor is rainwater collected and directed away from the site.

Chimney

There is one chimney that sits external to the structure centered on the south elevation. It is made of stacked and mortared river stone. The chimney appears to be unstable and is pulling away from the wall. Wooden boards have been nailed around the upper part of the chimney in an effort to brace it in place.



Figure 16, River stone chimney on south elevation with recently added frame for support.

Doors

The board-and-batten front door of Trentham Cabin on the west elevation is thought to be made of walnut. It is constructed of v-groove tongue and groove boards and is assembled with cut nails. The door probably dates to the 1930s and is not original to the structure. The door measures 2'-11" wide and 6'-0" tall.



Figure 17, West elevation doorway notched for earlier, shorter and wider door.



Figure 18, Wrought handle at west elevation front door.

There are ghost marks of two 32" long strap hinges on the outside surface of the front door. There currently are two 12" three-knuckle steel barn hinges. The door has a wrought handle but is missing the lock. There is a modern 3½" Yale hardware lock. Outside, just south of the doorway, a hammered metal rod probably held a lantern.



Figure 19, Hammered metal rod probably held an exterior lantern.



Figure 20, Interior side of east entrance door with corner notch for passage by the cat. Door is a 1932 reconstruction.

The back doorway on the east elevation has a two-part screen door and a board-and-batten door. The board-and-batten door is also thought to be made of walnut. It is constructed of square-edged tongue and groove boards and is assembled with cut nails. The door measures 2'-8" wide and 5'-11" tall. It has three 3½" five-knuckle brass-plated butt hinges that are mortised into the door. The door has a wrought handle with a missing lock mechanism and one remaining strap on the south door jamb for a lock bar.

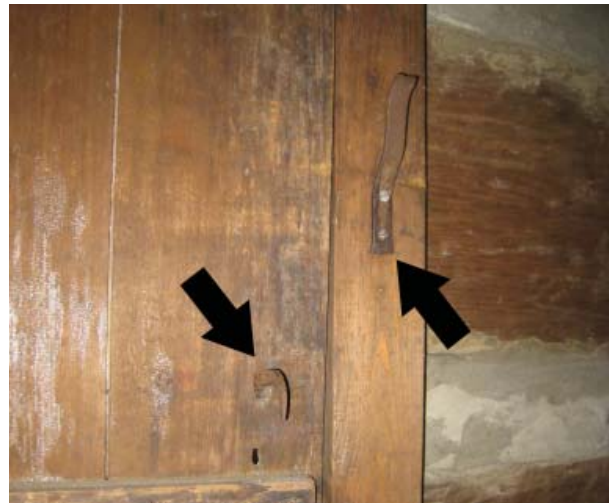


Figure 21, Wrought strap for lock bar on south jamb of east door. Remnants of latch are still attached to door.

Windows

Five of the ten windows in the cabin are identical two-light paired casement window sash hinged on the jambs. Each of these openings measure 2'-0" wide by 3'-0" tall. Each sash has two 3½" five-knuckle ball pin hinges.



Figure 22, Typical paired casement window. Casing constructed in 1932 from floor boards from the Bogalusa Sawmill.

The central window opening on the north elevation is unique to the cabin. It contains a pair of three-light casement window sash, hinged on

the jamb. The opening measures 2'-4" wide by 4'-4" tall. Below the window on the outside there is a small wooden shelf with wood brackets that supports a flower box.



Figure 23, All five windows of the north elevation were reportedly added during the 1932 reconstruction. Only one window opening, probably on the west elevation, is original.

The remaining four windows present in the two gabled north and south ends of the cabin constitute a third window type. Each gable has two, six-light side-hinged window sash that measure roughly 2'-4" wide by 1'-10" tall.



Figure 24, Typical side-hinged sash window of gables.

Interior Description

The interior of Trentham Cabin is square in plan measuring roughly 17'-2" in both length and width.

Flooring

The wooden floor boards measure 1" in depth by 3¼" in width and run north to south.

Baseboards

There are no baseboards in the cabin.

Walls

The interior walls are unfinished and the 10" to 13" tall logs with cement chinking are exposed.

Doors

There are two doorways in the cabin, both are exterior. The doors and their hardware are described in the *Exterior Features* section above.

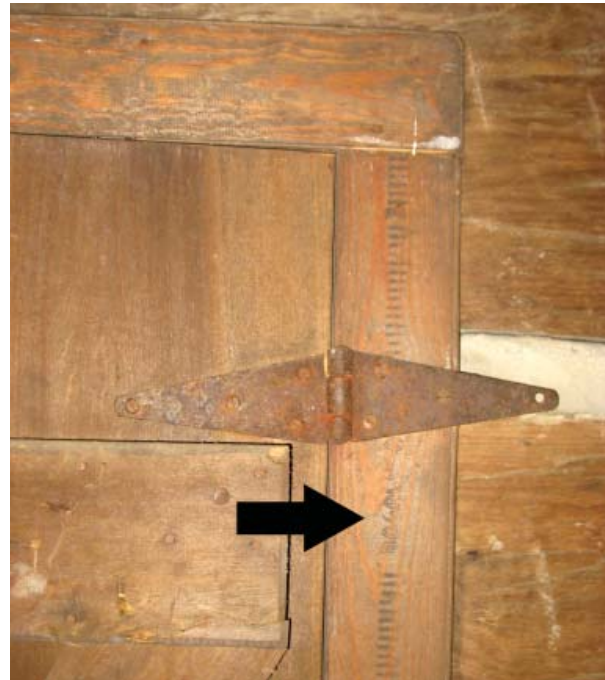


Figure 25, Typical interior door casing. Constructed in 1932 from floor boards stamped at the Bogalusa Sawmill.

The door casings on the interior are made up of tongue and groove flush boards that measure ¾" in depth by 3¼" in width, floor boards from the Bogalusa Sawmill. The casings are installed with simple butt joints.

Windows

There are six paired two-light wooden casement window sash at ground level of the cabin. They are described in the *Exterior Features* section above.

Six-light side-hinged casement windows are located up in the gable ends of the cabin; there are two windows on both the north and south elevations. They are described in the *Exterior Features* section above.

The window casings on the interior match the door casings; they are made up of tongue and groove

flush boards that measure $\frac{3}{4}$ " in depth by $3\frac{1}{4}$ " in width. The casings are installed with simple butt joints.

Crown Molding

There is no crown molding in the cabin.

Ceiling

The cabin does not have a finished ceiling. The roof rafters, collar ties and deck boards are all exposed. The roof deck boards are random in width ranging from 8" to 12".



Figure 26, Exposed collar ties and roof rafters.

Finishes

The window sash are painted.

Electrical Systems

The fuse box mounted to the west wall contains only two fuses. There is exposed PVC-sheathed cable wiring running throughout the cabin.

There are only two outlets in the cabin. One is mounted to the north wall and the other is mounted to the west wall. Both are metal box outlets.

There are two ceiling-mounted light fixtures attached to the underside of the collar ties that date to the 1940s. The fixtures are Bakelite brand bases and they are both missing globes.

Fireplace

A large river stone-faced fireplace is centered on the south wall; it has a brick firebox. The firebox measures 2'-11" wide by 2'-10" tall by 1'-7" deep. The fireplace has a stone shelf that functions as a mantle and two smaller stone shelves roughly

18" above the finished floor. The stone hearth measures 2'-7" deep by 5'-3" wide and sits nearly flush with the wood flooring.



Figure 27, River stone fireplace with brick firebox constructed on the south elevation in 1932.

Character Defining Features

- The proximity of the cabin to the Mayo Cabin and the Mayo Servants' Quarters.
- The hewn poplar logs with half-dovetail notching at the corners.
- The unhewn sacrificial bottom logs of east and west walls.
- The metal-covered gable roof.
- The river stone external chimney with brick firebox.
- The two exterior doorways and board-and-batten doors.
- The paired two-light casement windows at ground level.
- The side-hinged six-light casement windows in the gable ends.
- The $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide wood flooring throughout.
- The early Bakelite brand light fixtures on the interior and exterior.
- The electrical fuse box.
- The remnants of door hardware.

Summary of Physical Conditions

In general Trentham Cabin is in fair to good physical condition. However, there are several conditions of special concern.

The river stone chimney is pulling to the south away from the cabin.



Figure 28, Southeast corner exhibiting rot in bottom logs, both south and east elevations.

There is rot in the lower logs, especially along the south elevation and the south ends of the east and west elevation logs where grade is high and rain water pools and is not diverted away from the building.

The perimeter stone foundation wall has partially collapsed.

Neither propane gas nor electrical service are functioning.

II.A Ultimate Treatment & Use

Recommended Ultimate Treatment

The park's 1982 General Management Plan (GMP) called for the cessation of care for the buildings of Elkmont. However, the subsequent listing of the Elkmont Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places led to a reconsideration of these properties and the issuance in late 2008 of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office. This MOA provides for the retaining of nineteen buildings in the Elkmont Historic District, sixteen of which, including the Trentham Cabin, are in the core Daisy Town portion of the district.

This agreement also specifies the appropriate treatment for the Trentham Cabin and the other fifteen designated Daisy Town properties. It states "the exterior...will be restored and the interior rehabilitated." In addition, "contributing cultural landscape features will be preserved (i.e. stone walls and paths)..."

Keeping in mind these stipulations as to treatments, while recognizing the importance of modifications over time that reflect the changing values of Americans at leisure, coupled with the general scarcity of collected iconographic images, documentary information and oral traditions which can clarify the building's evolution, it is recommended that a relatively late restoration date for the exterior be chosen and the interior rehabilitation reflect this choice. Thus, the accumulated building fabric is retained and is available for later reassessment of treatment options as missing gaps of information become known through additional research.

Accordingly, the Recommended Ultimate Treatment includes the restoration of the

exterior to its circa 2005 appearance (prior to stabilization) and the rehabilitation of the interior to its current appearance but in good repair. In the event that subsequent research provides a clearer picture of the property in an earlier era, a reassessment of treatment may occur and another restoration date selected. It is further recommended that the current mechanical and electrical systems be disconnected and retained in place for interpretive purposes; a new electrical system of limited scope for house and site should be installed for security and emergency lighting. It is further recommended that interior use of the Trentham Cabin by the public be limited to daytime visitation only.

This approach would have the following advantages:

- Enhances public benefit by retaining and preserving a contributing property of a National Register historic district.
- Enhances public education of an important epoch of park history by presenting the building itself as an important cultural resource.
- Broadens the public's educational experience by retaining character-defining architectural features spanning the building's history.
- Allows the upgrading of utilities, such as the electrical system, while retaining character-defining, but non-functional, historic features, such as plumbing features.
- In the current absence of evidence of missing early designs, such as lighting fixtures, provides flexibility in the design of replacements.
- Allows the flexibility of closing off from public access entire rooms, groups of rooms or the entire house interior in accordance with park administrative capabilities.
- Retains flexibility for future park decisions regarding treatment and interpretation to coincide with the results of additional research and investigation.

- Constitutes cost-effective treatments of the exterior and the interior.

This approach would have the following disadvantages:

- Incurs the cost of designing, installing and maintaining fire-detection, intrusion-detection and emergency lighting systems.

II.B Requirements for Treatment

The General Management Plan (GMP) for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was prepared in 1982. That document states in part, "...leases for approximately 50 structures occupied by the Elkmont Preservation Committee (cabins and the Wonderland Hotel) will expire in 1992, and four remaining leases will expire in 2001. None of these leases will be extended, and the structures are proposed for removal on termination of the leases. Building sites will be returned to a natural state."

Subsequent to the preparation of the GMP, the Elkmont Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the proscribed GMP actions for this district were determined to constitute adverse effects. Resolution was reached in late December 2008. The "Memorandum of Agreement Re. Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan Amendment" was circulated for signing by representatives of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation,

the National Park Service, the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer and other parties. The amending Memorandum of Agreement states "...eighteen contributing and one non-contributing building will be retained." Further, of the eighteen retained buildings the "exterior of the sixteen buildings in Daisy Town will be restored and their interiors rehabilitated." The Trentham Cabin is one of the sixteen designated buildings.

Treatment of the building and site are to be guided by *The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects*, the Americans with Disability Act, and the International Building Code.

Threats to public life, safety and welfare are to be addressed; however, because this is an historic building, alternatives to full legislative and code compliance are recommended where compliance would needlessly compromise the integrity of the historic building.

II.C Alternatives for Treatment

In addition to the Recommended Ultimate Treatment discussed in Section II.A above, an alternative treatment is discussed below.

Alternative #1: Restore the exterior and the interior of the Cabin to its appearance prior to its dismantling and subsequent reconstruction on current site in 1932, an appearance which is believed to have remained relatively intact since its construction in about 1830. Remove vestiges of modern modifications. Interpret as a pure representation of its original mid-nineteenth century design.

This approach would have the following advantages:

- Enhances public benefit by retaining and preserving a contributing property of a National Register historic district.
- Enhances public benefit by restoring one of the earliest cabins of the region.
- Expands the public's educational experience by focusing on an important but less represented epoch in the region's history, an era that predates park history.
- Enhances the public's experience by presenting the building itself as an important cultural resource.
- Broadens the public's educational experience by reconstructing the cabin's rare character-defining architectural features of its earliest historical period.

- Allows the flexibility of closing off from public access the entire interior for secure storage or for another-purpose area.
- Allows the introduction of modern, code-compliant architectural elements, such as handrails at stairs and porches, to improve the safety of public visitation.
- Eliminates the cost of designing, installing and maintaining utility systems.

This approach would have the following disadvantages:

- Incurs considerable costs for additional research and investigation prior to reconstruction.
- Incurs considerable costs for the reconstruction efforts themselves.
- In the absence of much documentary evidence and potentially little physical evidence, likely will rely heavily on speculation and the comparative method using other buildings.
- Potentially jeopardizes its designation as a contributing member of an historic district listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Reconstructs an appearance that is out of context with the surrounding historic district and its twentieth century period of significance.

II.D Recommendations

The Recommended Ultimate Treatment for the Trentham Cabin includes the restoration of the exterior to its circa 2005 appearance, and the rehabilitation of its interior.

The circa 2005 restoration date is recommended because it predates the temporary stabilization repairs that are currently in place. This relatively late date was also chosen because compliance retains the majority of changes that have occurred since original construction on this site, thus providing a broad picture of the evolution of the property.

To provide maximum flexibility for future treatment and interpretation, it is further recommended that a very conservative approach be taken in retaining in place and preserving even the small and apparently minor character-defining features. This approach applies to not just the two historic buildings but also the cultural landscape of the site.

The purpose of this section is to provide park personnel with information that will assist in preparing a strategy for the repair and subsequent maintenance of the property.

The drawings of *Appendix B. Repair & Maintenance: Schematic Plans* are intended to work in unison with these Repair Notes by providing an indication of approximate location and scope of some repairs. While construction notes and schematic plans are helpful for planning and cost-estimating purposes, and in some instances may be sufficient to implement satisfactory remedial actions, they are not a substitute for construction documents.

Actions to Achieve Recommended Ultimate Treatment

To achieve the Recommended Ultimate Treatment, the following actions should be taken:

The Site

- Conduct archaeological survey to identify resources that might be affected by ground-disturbing site activities.
- Record to Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) Standards those elements which may be dismantled, even partially, as part of the repair process.
- Hand rake regularly to remove small-sized decayed vegetative matter such as leaves, fallen small limbs, and dead plants.
- Hand remove larger decayed vegetative material such as fallen limbs and branches.
- Prevent vegetative matter from collecting where it will keep building material wet.
- Trim overhead dead limbs and cable weak limbs, etc. that appear most likely to fall in a storm.
- Remove regularly small saplings that appear within five feet of the building perimeter.
- Monitor growth of adjacent trees periodically, assess damage to structures directly (roots, limbs, etc.) or indirectly (blocked site drainage, etc.), and prune or remove as necessary to alleviate damage.
- Periodically survey for damaged masonry site features. Locate missing stones and either re-secure or label and store in a safe place for later reinstallation.
- Reinstall displaced stones using a mortar mix that has similar visual and performance characteristics; the mix may vary from site to site or even within a site.
- Keep masonry features intact wherever possible rather than dismantling and

reconstructing.

- Give highest priority to repairing site features that provide a measure of safety, such as walkways and steps.
- Stabilize in current state and make weather tight those damaged site features not scheduled for immediate restoration or reconstruction.
- Establish positive drainage away from the Trentham Cabin site in conjunction with site drainage for adjoining buildings, primarily the Mayo Cabin and the Mayo Servants' Quarters.
- Take care to retain and preserve natural outcroppings of rock that occur.

Trentham Cabin

- Investigate condition and stabilize/reconstruct any damaged portions of the masonry foundation walls.
- Reuse same stones using a mortar compatible with the original in terms of both visual and performance characteristics.
- Provide positive drainage away from the building.
- Evaluate possibility of lowering grade at south side of building while establishing positive drainage away from building.
- Make weather tight the exterior weatherboard siding at gables. Tighten elements to remove gaps between individual elements, caulk and treat unpainted elements with a natural penetrating oil to promote longevity.
- Investigate extent of rot in the exterior logs, primarily close to grade and especially at south elevation and south ends of east and west elevations. Only where deterioration exceeds 50% of log mass, make in-kind Dutchman repairs.
- Provide infill replacement daubing where missing, matching existing daubing in composition and appearance.
- Apply natural penetrating oil to the logs and all other unfinished wood surfaces.
- Make weather tight all exterior doors and window units, by making tight the trim, caulking seams and reglazing windows. If previously painted, repaint window sash; if sash unpainted, apply penetrating natural oil. Also apply penetrating natural oil to unpainted doors and door and window framing/trim.
- Investigate entire chimney condition from

foundation to top of stack. Determine cause(s) of instability and formulate repairs that allow chimney to be repositioned while remaining intact without dismantling.

- Discretely install hardware mesh at top of chimney to discourage entry by bats, birds and other animals.
- Provide functional locking mechanisms at exterior doorways in order to secure building as needed. Reuse existing locks when feasible; if reuse not feasible, be nondestructive and apply new rim lock as opposed to installing mortise lock. Retain early lock for interpretive purposes, even if no longer functional.
- As per *International Building Code*, there are no changes in grade from yard to house significant enough to warrant the addition of a handrail.
- The site is not wheelchair accessible.
- Install gutters and downspouts on east and west elevations.
- Disconnect, label and retain in place, for safety and interpretive purposes, unused elements and remnants of the cabin's early electrical system. Remove visually incongruous modern elements. Place interpretive signage identifying remnants. Identify all fixtures as being non-functioning.
- To minimize the potential for fire caused by electrical malfunction, redesign and install for cabin and site a new electrical system of limited scope for security and emergency lighting.
- Place new electrical panel in a secure location.
- Provide for an evening disconnect to cabin except for security systems.
- Install fire and intrusion detection systems.

General

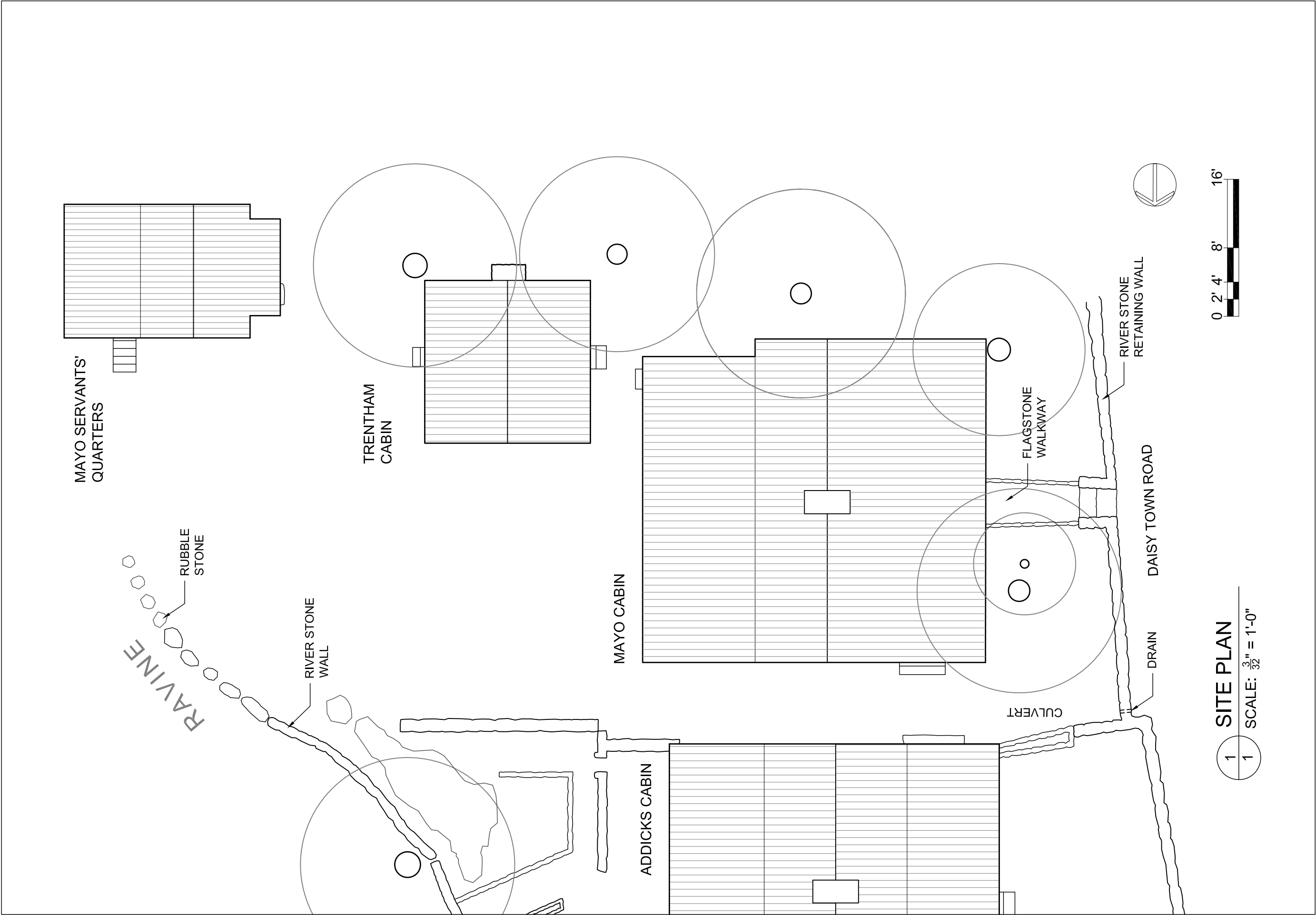
- Perform analyses of exterior and interior paint and finishes for reference in developing park interpretive programs.
- Given the richness of site features, prepare a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the Elkmont Historic District. Incorporate results into park maintenance and interpretive programming
- Periodically review visitation and use policy in light of benefits to the public, risk to the resource and capacity of the park to administer.

Appendix A:

Documentation Drawings:

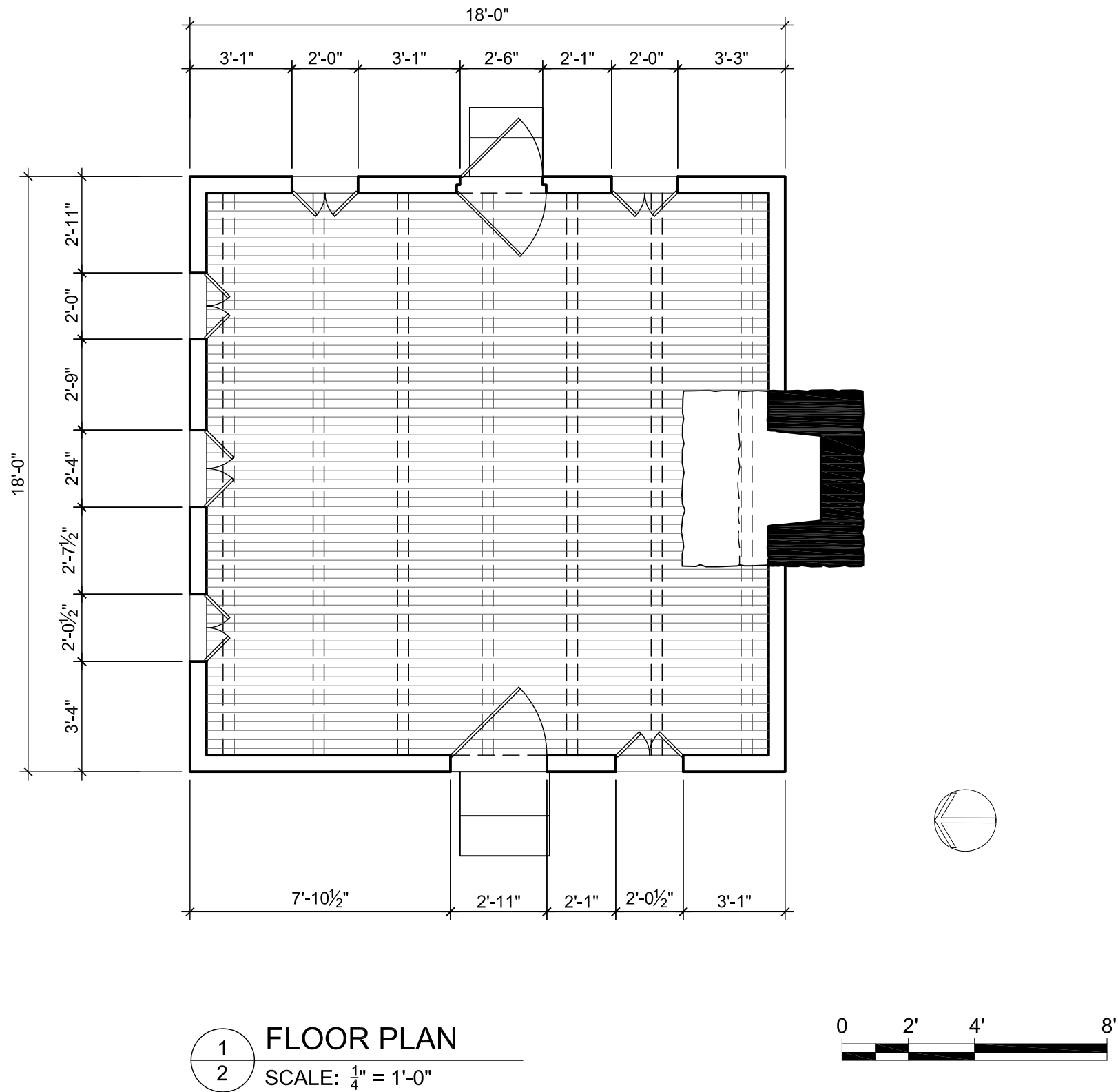
As-Found

Sheet 1: Site Plan
Sheet 2: Floor Plan
Sheet 3: Details



DATE: 05.01.2010	
BY: JKO RLM	
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"	
APPENDIX A: AS FOUND SHEET	
A-1	

TRENTHAM CABIN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK ELKMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT SEVIER COUNTY, TN	
JOSEPH K. OPPERMANN - ARCHITECT, P.A. WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA	



TRENTHAM CABIN
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
ELKMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT
SEVIER COUNTY, TN

DATE:
05.01.2010

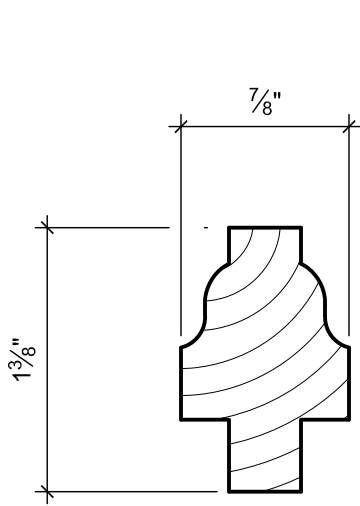
BY:
JKO
RLM

SCALE:
1/4" = 1'-0"

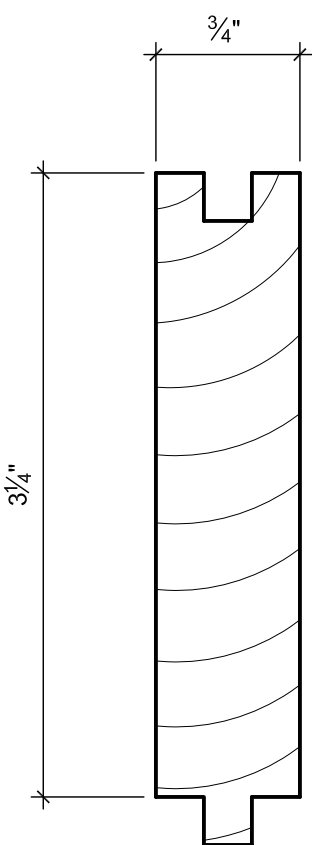
APPENDIX A:
AS FOUND
SHEET

A-2

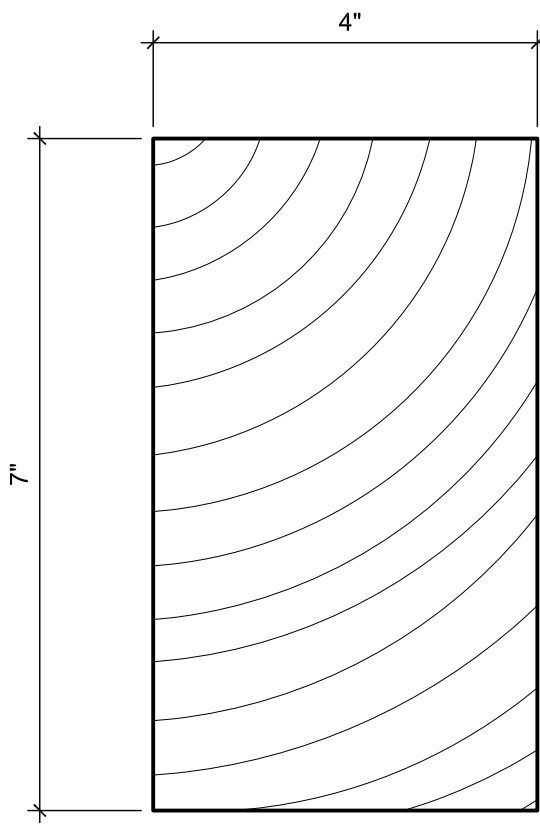
JOSEPH K. OPPERMANN - ARCHITECT, P.A.
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA



1
3 TYP. 1932 CASEMENT WINDOW MUNTIN
SCALE: FULL SCALE



2
3 TYP. 1932 WINDOW/DOOR CASING
SCALE: FULL SCALE



3
3 TYP. EXPOSED COLLAR TIE
SCALE: 6"=1'-0"

TRENTHAM CABIN

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
ELKMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT
SEVIER COUNTY, TN

DATE:
05.01.2010

RECORDED BY:
JKO
RLM

SCALE:
VARIES

APPENDIX A:
AS FOUND
SHEET

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WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

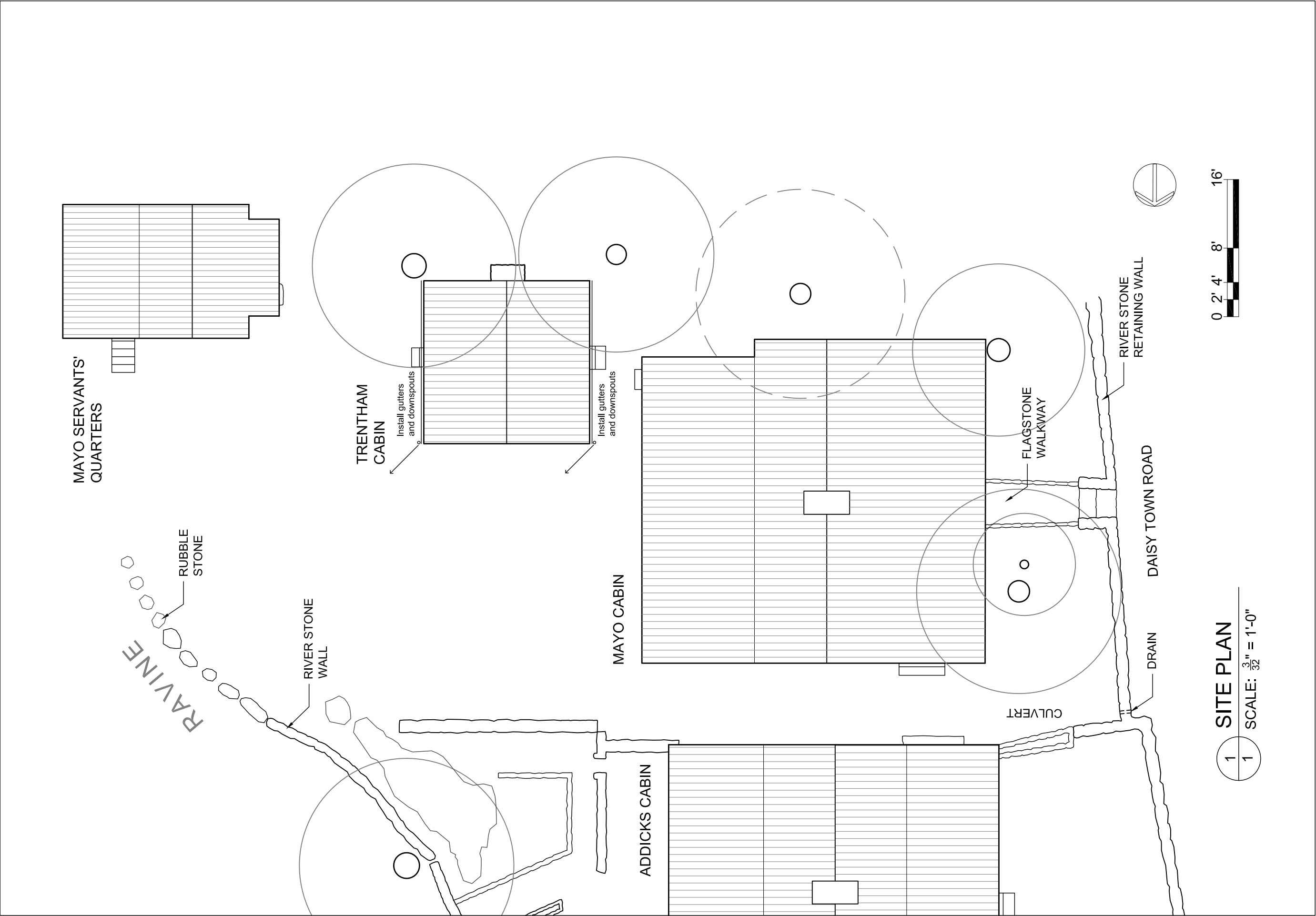
Appendix B:

Repair & Maintenance:

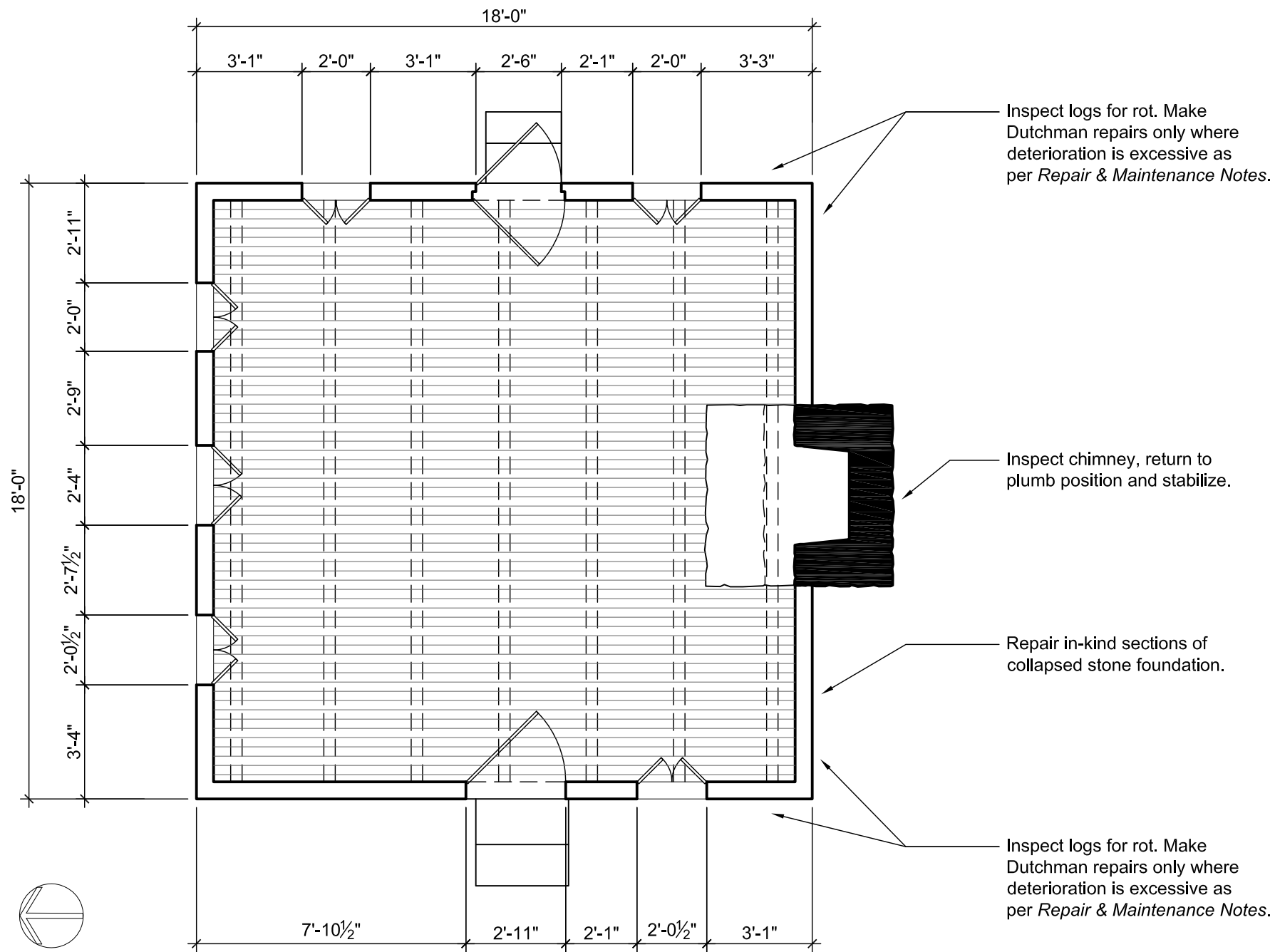
Schematic Plans

Sheet 1: Site Plan

Sheet 2: Floor Plan



JOSEPH K. OPPERMANN - ARCHITECT, P.A. WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA	
TRENTHAM CABIN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK ELKMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT SEVIER COUNTY, TN	
DATE: 08.31.2010	BY: JKO RLM
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'0"	
APPENDIX B: REPAIR & MAINTENANCE B-1	



1 FLOOR PLAN
2 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



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WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

TRENTHAM CABIN
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
ELKMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT
SEVIER COUNTY, TN

DATE:
08.31.2010

BY:
JKO
RLM

SCALE:
1/4" = 1'-0"

APPENDIX B:
REPAIR &
MAINTENANCE

B-2

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