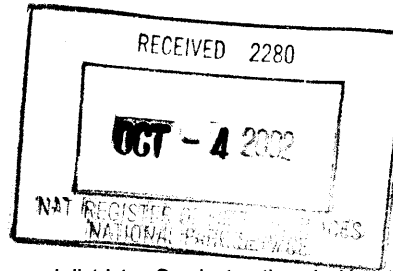


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1339



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Alpine Institute

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number SR 52

N/A not for publication

city or town Alpine

N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Overton

code 133 zip code 38543

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Herbert C. Hayden
Signature of certifying official/Title

10/2/02
Date

DSHPD - THC
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

11/15/02
Date of Action

Alpine Institute
Name of Property

Overton County, TN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) **Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	1	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
7	1	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Religion / Religious Facility
Church Related Residence
Education/School
Recreation and Culture/Sports Facility
Agriculture/Subsistence/
Processing/Agricultural
Outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Religion/Religious Facility/
Church Related Residence
Domestic/Single Dwelling
Recreation and Culture/Sports Facility
Agriculture/Subsistence
Agricultural/Outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Gothic Revival
OTHER: American Foursquare
PWA Modern

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation Stone; Concrete
walls Stone; weatherboard; vinyl
roof Asphalt shingle - metal
other Wood; glass; brick

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
(See Continuation Sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____
 Education _____

Period of Significance

Circa 1920-circa 1945 _____

Significant Dates

Circa 1920, 1934, 1937, 1939 _____

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)
 N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

unknown _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Alpine Institute
Name of Property

Overton, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 25 acres Alpine 334 NW

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>659425</u>	<u>4028912</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>659856</u>	<u>4028557</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>659968</u>	<u>4029024</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>659719</u>	<u>4028562</u>
					See continuation sheet		

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Randal D. Williams/Historic Preservation Specialist
Organization Upper Cumberland Development District date 1 April 2002
street & number 1225 South Willow Avenue Telephone 931-432-4111
city or town Cookeville state TN Zip code 38506

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name See Continuation Sheet
street & number _____ Telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ Zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Alpine Institute
Overton County, Tennessee

Narrative Description

The Alpine Institute Historic District is located in the unincorporated community of Alpine, Tennessee on State Route 52 approximately seven miles east of Livingston, the county seat of Overton County, Tennessee. The nominated boundaries of the Alpine Historic District contain the Alpine Christ Presbyterian Church and associated manse, the Alpine Institute Gymnasium, Elementary School, Workshop, Dairy Barn, and Springhouse/Creamery. There is also a noncontributing house within the boundaries of the district.

Alpine is located on the Eastern Highland Rim of Tennessee, which is part of the Interior Low Plateau Province (Braun 152), an area of rolling hills, streams, and ravines, which have directly affected settlement patterns in the Upper Cumberland area of Tennessee. This is a mesophytic forest region consisting principally of mixed deciduous hardwoods. The climate on the Highland Rim is temperate with mild winters and warm, humid summers. The community of Alpine is situated in the gently rolling hills of the Eastern Highland Rim; the setting is picturesque as higher ridges surround the community, including what is known locally as Alpine Mountain, and mixed deciduous hardwoods and conifers. Overall, the setting is bucolic.

The Eastern Highland Rim is about 1,000 feet above sea level, standing about 300 feet higher than the central basin to the west and approximately 1,000 feet lower than the Cumberland Plateau to the east (Luther 44). The Eastern Highland Rim averages about 25 miles in width, and its total area is around 2,500 square miles, roughly five percent of the state's land area (46). The Eastern Highland Rim soils are formed mainly from Saint Genevieve, Saint Louis, and Warsaw limestones, along with chert from the Fort Payne Foundation. These formations produce rich soils suitable for agriculture. Burley tobacco, corn, winter wheat and sweet potatoes are important agricultural products of the area (Terrell 89). Climate, soil types, and abundant water supply all contributed to the settlement of the Alpine area, which in turn, contributed to the establishment of Alpine Institute. Alpine Institute is significant in the overall cultural and educational milieu of the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee. Alpine Institute was an early twentieth-century private educational facility that became part of the Alpine community and the Overton County public school system.

1. Alpine Christ Presbyterian Church (1934)

The Alpine Christ Presbyterian Church is a one-and-one-half story Gothic Revival style church faced in native stone, which was quarried from Alpine Mountain. Alpine Mountain is visible from the church property. The church features a continuous stone foundation and an asphalt-shingle gable roof. The main block of the building is a rectangle. The west facade features a one-story projecting gable roof entry bay with an original slate roof and decorative finial in the shape of a Celtic cross. This entrance features original arched, paired paneled wood doors. The primary gable of the church rises above the west entrance and features a large arched, multi-light stained

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Alpine Institute
Overton County, Tennessee

glass window. The north and south elevations of the building feature stone buttresses that separate original stained glass lights. The east rear elevation of the building features a hip roof wing that extends north and south of the primary wing. The east primary gable rises above the hip roof wing and features a round multi-light window. A stone bell tower stands at the east elevation. The one story rear wing of the church projects southward and features a secondary entrance that faces west. The interior of the church is unaltered and is characterized by paneled wood doors and altar, wood chair rail and pews, and a ceiling composed of wood trusses and beams. (Contributing)

2. Alpine Christ Presbyterian Church Manse (c. 1920)

The Alpine Christ Presbyterian Church manse is a two-story frame American Foursquare house, which appears to have been built around 1920. The house features an asphalt-shingle hip roof, vinyl siding, and a continuous stone foundation. The primary, or north facade of the building features a one-story hip roof porch with a modern frame balustrade. The primary entry is centrally located at the north elevation and is flanked by paired windows of six-over-one, double hung design. The second story of the façade has a single six-over-one window flanked by paired six-over-one windows. The west and east elevations of the building also have six-over-one windows, both single and paired. The west elevation also features a stone chimney, while a two story bay with a modern single door is on the east. There is an original hip roof sleeping porch at the south elevation of the building. Also, the south elevation features a rear entrance and stone chimney. (Contributing)

3. Alpine Institute Gymnasium (1939)

The WPA constructed the Alpine Institute Gymnasium for Alpine Institute in 1939. The building is faced in native stone and features an asphalt-shingle gable roof and continuous stone foundation. The primary, or south facade of the building features an enclosed lower level entry. Stone buttresses flank the entry. Above the entry is a decorative diamond-shaped window. Many of the doors and windows of this building have been boarded up. The building is rectangular and two stories in height. The side elevations (east and west) feature shed roof one-story wings with six-over-six windows. The north elevation has buttresses and a diamond window, as does the south elevation, but has six windows on the lower level. The interior of the building features the original hardwood flooring and bleachers. A builder's plaque on the south elevation gives the construction date of 1939 and the builder, WPA. The building is still used as a gymnasium today. (Contributing)

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Alpine Institute
Overton County, Tennessee

4. Alpine Elementary School (1937)

The WPA constructed the Alpine Elementary School in 1937 as part of the Alpine Institute. By 1945, after the Institute had ceased to function, the school became part of the public school system. The school was eventually abandoned through Overton County school consolidation. The building is now used as a private residence. The building has a H-plan, native stone facing, an asphalt-shingle gable roof and a continuous stone foundation. The interior originally had a central auditorium with stage, and four classrooms. Rear additions and a kitchen were added to the building post 1945. The windows of the building are nine-over-nine double hung. The main entrance of the building is on the north facade and has a shed roof porch supported by paired posts on brick piers. The porch also features an original brick balustrade. The WPA plaque that originally appeared on the porch balustrade has been removed. (Contributing)

5. Alpine Institute Workshop

The WPA also built the Alpine Institute workshop in the late 1930s, although no builder's plaque is evident. The Workshop Building is two stories in height, faced in native stone, and features a low-pitched gable roof. The building has a continuous stone foundation. At the north and south elevations of the building are parapet walls with stone coping. A one-story section extends from the north gable end of the building and also has a parapet wall with stone coping. The north gable end of the main block of the building has a central opening that is flanked by single octagonal windows. The building is not in use today. (Contributing)

6. Alpine Institute Dairy Barn

The Alpine Institute Dairy Barn is located south of the school complex. The building is associated with the dairy operations of Alpine Institute. The building appears to date to the 1920s. The gambrel-roof frame building is two stories in height and features a metal roof and weatherboard siding. The west (main) facade has paired, sliding plank doors on tracks in the center, two small windows and a two-part (Dutch) door on each outer side. There are bay doors above the entrance at the peak of the gable. The north side elevation has five small windows on the lower level and the south side elevation has its original one-story shed wing. The barn is in use today. (Contributing)

7. Alpine Springhouse/Creamery

The Alpine Springhouse/Creamery is located north of the dairy barn and was associated with Alpine Institute; it appears to date to the 1920s or 1930s. This building is rectangular, faced in native stone, and has a cast concrete foundation. The building features a flat roof, and parapet walls capped by stone coping. There are single entries at both the north and south elevations.

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Alpine Institute
Overton County, Tennessee

Each elevation has windows with stone lintels and sills. The building is not in use today.
(Contributing)

8. Spring Cottage (c. 1925)

This building was originally built as the "teacher's house" for Alpine Institute. It is a native stone-faced Craftsman house. The house has a side-gable shingle roof with two dormers and a central chimney. The porch is covered with a shed roof supported by two square columns. All doors and windows have been replaced. This building has been altered to the point that it is no longer eligible for consideration for the NRHP. (Non-Contributing)

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Alpine Institute
Overton County, Tennessee

Statement of Significance

The Alpine Institute in Overton County, Tennessee is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under Criterion A in the area of education. The Institute is also eligible under Criterion C as an architecturally significant grouping of buildings associated with the WPA, and their construction of native stone. The ages of the buildings range from the 1920s to the late 1930s. The original Alpine Institute was founded in 1821 as a private educational facility and ceased operation in 1945, at which time it became part of the local school system. Eventually, the school was abandoned due to Overton County school consolidation. Alpine Institute is unique in Overton County in that that many of the buildings were built by the WPA using native stone. The area is significant due to the number of extant historic buildings and their high level of architectural and historic integrity. The buildings display a high level of craftsmanship. Alpine Christ Presbyterian Church is a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture and was built of native stone by local craftsmen without the aid of a blueprint. The Alpine Institute is unique in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee and is testimony to the ability and ingenuity of the native craftsmen of the area.

Background

The community of Alpine, Tennessee is located in the Upper Cumberland region of the state. Verdant river and creek valleys, and upland areas that range from rolling hills and plateaus, to low mountain terrain, physically characterize the region. The Upper Cumberland region derives its name from the Cumberland River, which drains the entire area. The Cumberland rises in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky and flows some 687 miles through Kentucky and Tennessee before emptying into the Ohio River near Smithland, Kentucky (Williams 9). Explorers originally assigned the name Upper Cumberland to the area of Tennessee bounded on the east by the Cumberland Plateau and on the west by the Cumberland River. By the 1820s steamboat personnel had assigned the appellation to the portion of the river between Carthage, Tennessee, and Burnside, Kentucky.

The Upper Cumberland region lies mainly within two distinct physiographic regions of Tennessee (10). The eastern section of the Upper Cumberland lies on the Cumberland Plateau. This plateau constitutes the southern segment of the Appalachian Plateaus Province of the Appalachian Highlands (Corlew 10). The plateau is a tableland of about 5,000 square miles that rises from 800 to 1,000 feet above the Eastern Highland Rim to the west and the Ridge and Valley Province to the east (Phelps 69). The plateau varies in width from 70 miles in the north, to 50 miles in the south. Its elevation ranges from 1,800 to 2,000 feet with some areas such as the Crab Orchard Mountains rising upwards of 3,000 feet. The Cumberland Plateau, with its steep, imposing eastern escarpment, has directly affected settlement patterns in the Upper Cumberland region. The Upper Cumberland area of Tennessee was settled mainly from the west due to the physical difficulty

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Alpine Institute
Overton County, Tennessee

associated with crossing the plateau. For this reason, the Upper Cumberland area was settled at a somewhat later date than were areas immediately surrounding it.

Directly west of the Cumberland Plateau lies the Eastern Highland Rim. The Highland Rim is an intermediate level between the Cumberland Plateau and the Central Basin, hence the name "Highland Rim" (Williams 14). Alpine, Tennessee is located on the Eastern Highland Rim.

The earliest settlers in what is now Alpine came into the area in the latter part of the eighteenth century, before Tennessee became a state (Cantrell 10). Although there were a number of squatters settled in the Upper Cumberland area as early as 1789, white settlement of the area did not begin in earnest until around 1805 when the Cherokee Indians gave up their claim to most of the land with the signing of the Third Treaty of Tellico.

The area of Alpine is inextricably linked with the history and folklore of the Cherokee. The present town of Alpine was originally named Nettle Carrier in 1845, and remained so until 1921 when it was renamed Alpine (Alpine Mountain History 11). The name Nettle Carrier supposedly has its origin in Cherokee legend. According to legend, two suitors were vying for the same maiden and the one whose nettle carried farthest downstream won her hand. The suitor became Chief Nettle Carrier of the Nettle Carrier band of Cherokee. (Cantrell 10). He was reportedly alive at the time of white settlement of the area and coexisted peacefully with the white settlers (History of Overton County, Tennessee 105). Apparently, the community of Nettle Carrier was renamed Alpine because of its topographic similarity to a European alpine village, although it was unclear as to who was responsible for the name change.

There are other stories and legends from the area that indicate that remnant bands of Cherokee continued to live in the Alpine region for some years after the forced removal of the Cherokee tribe from their ancestral homeland in 1838. Archaeological evidence indicates that Native American cultures from the paleo period through the proto-historic period lived in the creek valleys and highlands of the present-day Alpine area.

The history of the Alpine area as concerns European religion and education begins with white settlement of the area. Due to the rugged terrain of the Upper Cumberland area, settlement of the region followed an east-to-west pattern. It is important to understand the physiographic conditions of the Upper Cumberland as they have been partly responsible for shaping the cultural identity of the inhabitants of the area (Williams 16). Topography has played a central role in aligning the culture of the Upper Cumberland with that of the Appalachian highlands to the east rather than the plantation culture of the Central Basin (16). The highly dissected uplands and mountainous areas of the Upper Cumberland were not suitable for large-scale agriculture. As a result of this, labor-intensive agriculture such as the production of cotton, which required large numbers of workers, never became established in the Upper Cumberland.

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The early settlers of the region worked their farms with their families and remained outside the more established and influential plantation culture of the Central Basin.

The early settlers of the Upper Cumberland brought with them certain traits of a cultural tradition, elements of which unite it to a "backcountry" cultural complex (22). The term "backcountry" refers basically to the eighteenth and nineteenth century trans-Appalachian West as settled from Western Pennsylvania through the valleys of Virginia and into the Appalachian highlands and beyond. The settlers of this area were responsible for creating a highly distinctive, individualized, and self-sufficient culture, elements of which remain in existence to this day. Although there are various subregions within this vast geographic area, they are all united by particular folk and cultural motifs that they share. The Southern interior, especially the highlands and corresponding valleys, was settled by an amalgamation of people. Probably the most influential group of settlers to move into the Southern Uplands, including the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee, was the so-called Scotch-Irish (27).

The term Scotch-Irish is a misnomer because the people themselves were of mixed ethnic origins. They were actually a mixture of varying proportions of Celt, Roman, German, English, Scandinavian, Irish, and Scot. As a result of, a common culture arose in this area that was different in many ways from that of southern England (28). The historical Scotch-Irish were made up principally of lowland Scots and Northern English settlers who had been settled or "planted" in Ulster for political reasons by the English Crown beginning in the seventeenth century. Also included in this group were settlers from the English Midlands. This ethnic diversity, along with environmental factors, helped mold and shape the culture of Ulster.

The Scotch-Irish had adapted their culture to the harshness of the frontier between England and Scotland and subsequently the northern part of Ireland. They were used to constant environmental struggles, and internecine warfare, and for a century before migrating to America they had acted as an outpost of Protestantism in staunchly Roman Catholic Ireland. These militant Protestants moved to America in search of freedom and brought with them their habits, values, and belief system. It was this border culture based upon clan and family that was transferred to the Appalachian highlands of America (29). According to one early settler of the Alpine region, the first settlers of Overton County were from Virginia and "were practically all Scotch-Irish Presbyterians" (Cantrell 11). These settlers received their land in grants as payment for their services in the Revolutionary War.

Although rugged, contentious, and individualistic, the Scotch-Irish were not without culture. They established academies and churches and fought tirelessly for democratic ideals. All of these cultural traits apply directly to the settlers of the Upper Cumberland. These attributes are still a viable part of Upper Cumberland society. The settlers of the Upper Cumberland brought with them

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Alpine Institute
Overton County, Tennessee

a highly personalized, individualistic, and fundamentalist brand of Protestant Christianity (Williams 23). The Presbyterian Church was the first to make headway into the Upper Cumberland, and it was the Presbyterian Church that was responsible for the establishment of the first school in Alpine.

Early Alpine

John L. Dillard founded Alpine Institute in 1821, although the actual date of the school's founding is in dispute (Cantrell 16). It is possible that Dillard operated the school from his home before constructing an actual building sometime around 1821. Dillard, originally from Massachusetts, came to Tennessee from South Carolina. Educated at Princeton (History of Overton County, Tennessee 105), Dillard was considered one of the founders of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and was a minister in the Presbyterian Church (Alpine Mountain History 7). He was also a writer and published a book entitled *Medium Theology* in 1874.

The first Alpine Academy, or Institute, established as a Presbyterian school, was a log building built atop Alpine Mountain, within view of the current Alpine building complex. Along with Dillard, Christopher Organ was instrumental in establishing the first school in Alpine. What the exact curricula of the first Alpine Institute were is not known (Cantrell 17). However, by 1847 the curriculum consisted of such subjects as natural philosophy, astronomy, rhetoric, logic, algebra, grammar, and arithmetic (18). All these subjects were standard fare in academies of the mid-nineteenth century. John L. Beveridge, who was also a Presbyterian minister, taught at the original Alpine Institute. Beveridge went on to become governor of Illinois in 1873.

The Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee was the scene of bitter guerilla warfare during the Civil War. The loyalties of the area were divided between the Union and the Confederacy. Many of the guerilla fighters were motivated by vengeance and vendetta and had minimal connections with either the Union or Confederate armies. Men such as the Confederate, Champ Ferguson, and the Union sympathizer "Tinker" Dave Beatty, were infamous for their brutality. It was during the Civil War that unknown parties burned the first Alpine Institute to the ground. Some time after the Civil War, although the exact date is unknown, a one-room school was built on the site of the present Alpine Institute Campus (17). This school was also founded by John L. Dillard and Christopher Organ, and was considered the successor of the antebellum Alpine Institute. This school also burned at an unknown date, and apparently Dillard and Organ's affiliation with Alpine Institute ended at this time.

The new school begun in 1880 in Alpine was called Alpine Academy (20). The school was coeducational with enrollment upwards of 200 students. This incarnation of Alpine Institute offered primary through college-level courses and was financed by means of tuition fees, which varied with the level of the course (21). This school was established and directed by a local board of trustees

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Alpine Institute
Overton County, Tennessee

(History of Overton County, Tennessee 105). By the late 1880s, for reasons that are unclear, the school ceased operation.

Around 1890 a new Alpine Institute was opened, which was also known as the Bowden-Roberts School (105). The school employed a faculty of six men and was overseen by a board of trustees composed of six men from the local community (Cantrell 22). This school was financed by means of tuition fees, the amount of which varied according to which department the student was placed in. The course of study was divided into three departments - primary, intermediate and collegiate (22). Some of the courses offered at the school included geography, geology, Latin, algebra, and Tennessee history. It is believed that Alpine Institute was the first school in the state to incorporate a history of Tennessee into its curriculum (History of Overton County, Tennessee 105). The school eventually offered only elementary school subjects and fell under the direction of the public school system of Overton County (Cantrell 24).

A. H. Roberts and his wife Nora Dean Bowden were instrumental in establishing this Alpine Institute. Mr. Roberts was born in the Alpine Community in 1868 and attended Hiwassee College near Chattanooga, where he graduated in 1889 at the age of twenty-one (History of Overton County, Tennessee 51). Roberts then returned to Alpine to teach; he taught there for five years. Roberts served two terms as county school superintendent of Overton County before going to Cumberland School of Law in Lebanon, Tennessee where he received a law degree. Roberts practiced law in Overton County for sixteen years before becoming Chancellor of the Fourth Judiciary Division of Tennessee in 1910. Roberts continued in this position until September of 1918 when he sought and won the governorship of the state of Tennessee (51).

After the demise of the Bowden-Roberts School, the Alpine area was left with a one-teacher school that operated only three months per year (Cantrell 26). The Presbyterian Church maintained an interest in the spiritual and educational needs of the Alpine area for many years. As a response to the educational needs of the area, the National Missions Board of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., in conjunction with the Cookeville, Tennessee Presbytery, sponsored a subscription school in Alpine under the direction of Reverend R. V. Riddle (26).

The so-called "Riddle School" began operation in January 1914 under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. This school was established essentially in reaction to the poor state of education in the rural area in and around Alpine. The school was basically a stopgap measure until a more comprehensive school could be established in the area.

With the idea of rural development in mind, Dr. J. H. Miller, Superintendent of National Missions in Middle and West Tennessee for the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and Dr. Warren H. Wilson of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., held a series of "Country Life" meetings in several communities of the Upper Cumberland region (26). The purpose of these

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meetings was to determine the greatest social needs of the area. From these meetings it was determined that the educational needs of the region were paramount. The rural public school system of the time was at a very low level. A lack of adequate funding, and a general apathy toward formal education had combined to create the conditions which allowed for this poor state of rural public education during this period. It was felt by the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., that if conditions were to improve, it was the Church's task to accomplish it (27).

At this time, a new presbytery, The Cumberland Mountain Presbytery, was established (27). This new presbytery was responsible for the educational needs of the rural counties surrounding the Alpine area. These counties included Overton, Pickett, Clay, Fentress, and Jackson (8). Dr. Warren H. Wilson and the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. were made responsible for the establishment of a school in the area. In 1917, Dr. Wilson commissioned a survey to ascertain the best location in the area for the new school. It was determined from the results of the survey, that the best location for the school would be at Alpine (27).

Development of present day Alpine Institute

The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. purchased a 100 acre farm in Alpine in 1917 and began construction of Alpine Institute. The school was financed primarily by the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., although the Overton County Board of Education did contribute financially to the project (History of Overton County, Tennessee 106). The original, pre-WPA, Alpine Institute campus consisted of a single school building that housed both the elementary and high schools, a dispensary, dairy barn and creamery, and the principal's home (106). The school also had two dormitories for housing the students who lived on campus. Adjoining the campus was the Alpine Christ Presbyterian Church and associated manse. The people of the Alpine community and surrounding area provided labor and materials for the construction of the Alpine Institute school plant. The school graduated its first class in 1924 (Cantrell 27).

The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Board of National Missions, the Executive Committee of Alpine Institute, which was an agent of the Board of National Missions, and the Overton County Board of Education, all worked in conjunction to upgrade the programs and services offered at Alpine Institute. By 1936, Alpine Institute was considered one of the best schools in Middle Tennessee (28). Also, in 1936, for the first time in it's history, Alpine Institute received a "Grade A" rating from the State of Tennessee, which qualified it as a "Class A" school (77).

Alpine Institute was established primarily to meet the needs of the local, rural communities it served. Most of the students who attended the school were from these rural areas. As a result of this, Alpine Institute's curricula consisted of agriculture and home-making courses, as well as more standard academic fare (77). For its time and place, Alpine Institute was a comprehensive school

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offering such diverse courses as cabinet making, printing, nurse training, leadership training, art, and music (79). Alpine Institute's program of study was as modern as any in the United States.

Once the school was established, the Alpine Christ Presbyterian Church was built in 1934. The building is Gothic Revival style and was built of stone that was quarried on Alpine Mountain within view of the church site. As with Alpine Institute, the people of the community donated their time and talents to build the church. There were no blueprints used in the construction of the church, nor was an architect employed in its construction (Winton, Reva. Personal Interview. 25 February 2002). The church is an excellent example of native ingenuity and craftsmanship.

The history of Alpine Institute changed dramatically during the 1930s, when the school was chosen as a building project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA was a US government agency established by executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935; it was renamed the Works Progress Administration in 1939, when it was made part of the Federal Works Agency. Ostensibly, the WPA was designed to increase the purchasing power of people on relief by employing them on useful projects. WPA's building program included the construction of 116,000 buildings, 78,000 bridges, and 651,000 miles of road. At its peak WPA had about 3.5 million persons on its payrolls. Altogether WPA employed a total of 8.5 million persons, and total federal appropriations for the program amounted to almost \$11 billion. In 1939, a Senate committee report sharply criticized the WPA. That same year WPA appropriations were cut, several projects were abolished, and others were curtailed. Steadily increasing employment in the private sector as a result of World War II caused further reductions in WPA appropriations and payrolls. In June 1943, the agency officially went out of existence.

Alpine Institute benefited directly from the building projects of the WPA. The WPA built several of the buildings of Alpine Institute. It is not clear as to exactly how and why the WPA became so extensively involved in the construction of Alpine Institute. No WPA record of the Alpine projects could be located. It is safe to assume, however, that due to poverty and unemployment rates in the Upper Cumberland area, the WPA found a ready source of labor and projects for the people of the region. The WPA had many projects in the Upper Cumberland, including Pickett Sate Rustic Park (NR 7/8/86), Standing Stone State Rustic Park (NR 7/8/86), and Fall Creek Falls State Park. There were numerous other WPA projects throughout the Upper Cumberland area, so it is a reasonable assumption that the Alpine Institute Project was part of an overall WPA revitalization effort focused on the rural Upper Cumberland counties where poverty and unemployment had historically been high, but during the Great Depression, were even higher.

Until 1936, the elementary and high schools at Alpine Institute were housed in the same building (Cantrell 27). The extant elementary school was constructed as a WPA project in 1937. Apparently, it was the first building at Alpine Institute to be constructed by the WPA. The Alpine Institute Workshop dates roughly to the same year, although the exact date of its construction is

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unknown. The WPA built the Alpine Institute Gymnasium in 1939. All these building were constructed of native materials, the most obvious of which is the stone facing.

The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. worked diligently to make Alpine Institute a school that would meet the all around needs of its students, and consequently, the community as a whole. Alpine Institute was a self-help school in that students could earn their way through school by working on the Institute's 100-acre farm (History of Overton County, Tennessee 106). The boys worked on the farm doing typical farm labor such as planting and harvesting crops, tending cattle and hogs, and maintaining the farm property. The girls were assigned domestic duties such as cooking and serving meals, house cleaning, and laundry work. Admission to Alpine Institute was free; there was no tuition charged (106). Room and board was charged at the rate of \$7.50 per month, but this fee was generally exchanged for farm and domestic labor.

Alpine Institute occupied the WPA buildings as soon as construction was completed. The school was one of the most modern and well-equipped schools in the region with a fully self-contained physical plant. The water and food supply for the school came from the school grounds; gardens and livestock provided the bulk of the food, while a spring on the school grounds provided water for the Institute.

According to Cantrell, the school made an effort to select courses that would fit the needs of the students who attended the school, and to teach them in a way that would be beneficial in the local setting (77). The agriculture and homemaking departments were very significant components of the school's curriculum. Other standard courses such as English, history, science, and mathematics were taught, but the vocational courses were the most important from an overall socioeconomic perspective. Alpine Institute was also involved in extension work, a form of outreach to the local community. During the summer months many students conducted Bible schools and were trained through leadership classes (89). Alpine Institute was also known for its athletic teams, especially baseball and basketball. The first basketball team to be organized at Alpine Institute was the 1922 team (History of Overton County, Tennessee 106). The 1938 team won the state championship.

From its inception, Alpine Institute made a concerted effort to integrate its programs into the local community. Members of the Alpine community were welcome at school functions and participated in the day-to-day activities of the school.

Some of the buildings of Alpine Institute are still owned by the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and serve the people of the Alpine community. Christ Presbyterian Church is an active, vital church and attracts people from around Tennessee who utilize the building for weddings and other social functions. The Gymnasium is still in use as are the Manse and Dairy Barn. The Creamery and Workshop are not in use today, but remain in relatively good condition. The school is now a

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private residence. While no longer serving as a school, the buildings of Alpine Institute still serve the people of the Alpine community.

Alpine Institute played a significant role in the education of the rural population of the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee; in fact, that was the school's primary purpose (141). The school sought to train students in fundamental subject matter, and also sought through practical application, to train students to be self-sufficient, productive members of society. The buildings of the Alpine Institute retain their integrity and reflect this historic association.

Note: footnotes for this nomination use MLA format.

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is comprised of parcels 64, 65 and part of 67 on Overton County Tax Assessor Map 47.

Boundary Justification

The Alpine Institute boundary includes the Christ Presbyterian Church, manse, elementary school, gymnasium, workshop, dairy barn, and creamery, as well a one non-contributing building. The district is surrounded by altered properties or property not associated with the areas of significance of the district.

This tax map has a scale of 1" = 400'. This is the only scale map available for rural areas of Tennessee.

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Photographs

Photos By: Randal D. Williams
Date: 25 February 2002, 28 March 2002
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, TN

Christ Presbyterian Church

East elevation featuring bell tower and circular stained glass window, facing west.

1 of 35

South elevation featuring addition, facing north.

2 of 35

Southeast elevation, facing northwest.

3 of 35

East elevation, facing southwest.

4 of 35

West elevation, facing east.

5 of 35

North elevation, facing southeast.

6 of 35

Interior of sanctuary featuring circular stained glass windows and rafters, facing east.

7 of 35

Church Manse

South elevation featuring 2nd floor sleeping porch, facing north.

8 of 35

West elevation featuring stone chimney, facing northeast.

9 of 35

West elevation featuring stone chimney, facing southeast.

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Alpine Institute
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North elevation, facing south.
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East elevation, facing west
12 of 35

Elementary School

North elevation featuring stone chimney, facing southeast.
13 of 35

North elevation featuring original stone balustrade and wooden doors, facing south. Note missing WPA plaque on right stone pier.
14 of 35

Northeast elevation, facing southwest.
15 of 35

Northwest elevation, facing southeast.
16 of 35

South elevation, facing northwest.
17 of 35

Gymnasium

South elevation, facing north.
18 of 35

East elevation, facing west.
19 of 35

North elevation, facing south.
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West elevation, facing east.
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South elevation, facing northwest.
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Southwest elevation, facing northeast.
23 of 35

Workshop

Northwest elevation, facing southwest.
24 of 35

North elevation, facing south.
25 of 35

North elevation, facing southeast.
26 of 35

South elevation, facing northwest.
27 of 35

Southwest elevation, facing northeast.
28 of 35

South elevation, facing north.
29 of 35

Dairy Barn and Creamery

Creamery North elevation, facing south.
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Creamery Southwest elevation, facing northeast.
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Creamery Southeast elevation, facing northwest.
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Dairy Barn Northeast elevation, facing southwest.
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Dairy Barn Northwest elevation, facing southeast.
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Dairy Barn and Creamery, facing southeast.
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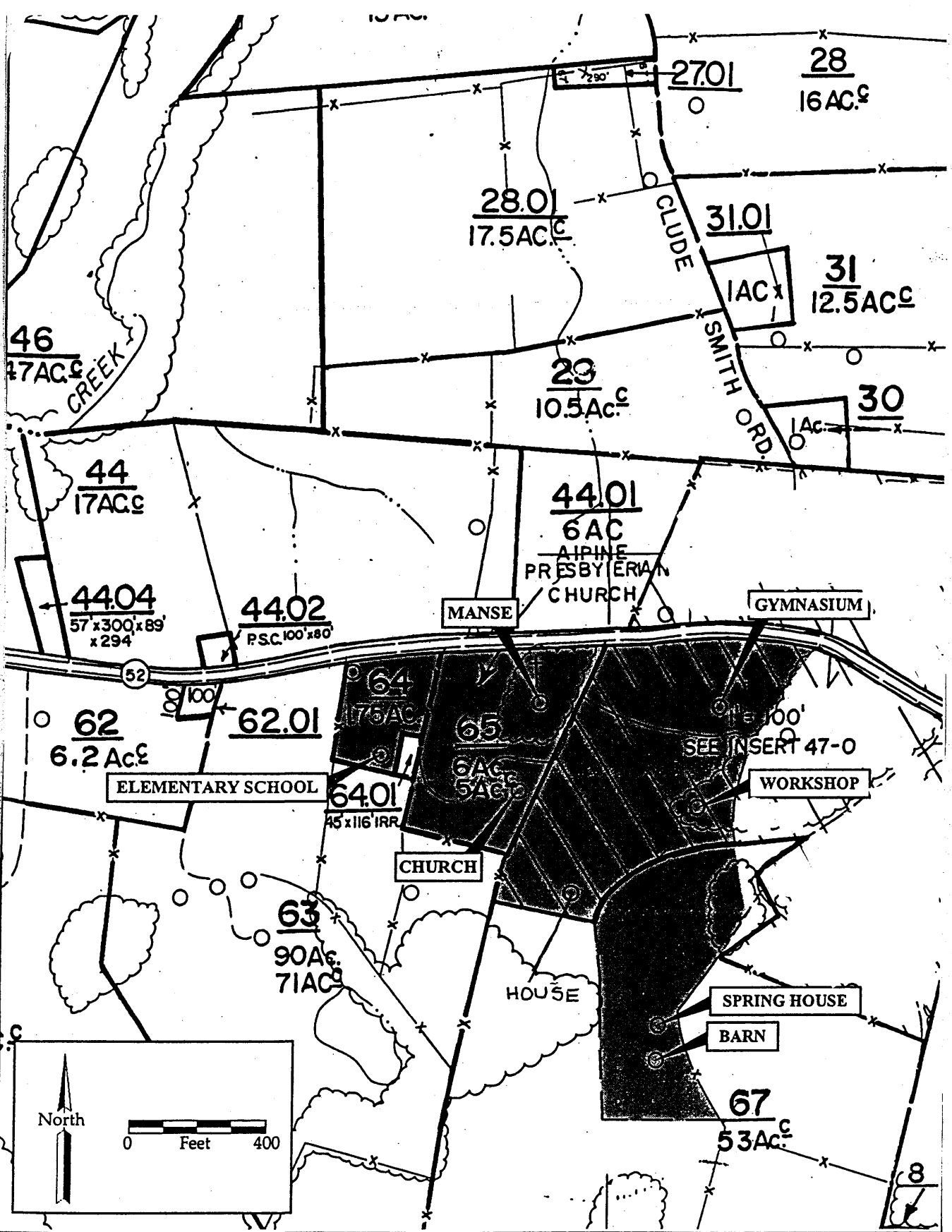
Property Owners

Church, Manse, Gymnasium
Christ Presbyterian Church
135 Campus Circle
Alpine, TN 38543

Elementary School
Kevin and Bonnie Sandrock
112 Campus Circle
Alpine, TN 38543

Workshop
Gerald Norris
115 Allred Lane
Alpine, TN 38543

Dairy Barn, Creamery, and
Noncontributing Craftsman house
George and Jessie Linder
250 Pat Carr Lane
Alpine, TN 38543



Alpine Institute
Overton Co. TN