Form 10-306 (Oct. 1972)		TES DEPARTMEN ONAL PARK SERV			OR		Tennessee			
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DESCRIBE THE P	RESENT AND OR	IGINAL (if kr	OWN) PHYSICAL	APPEARANCE						
Messer B	arn									
Building #	¥467									
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Lat. 350	41' 14'' 23' 40''									

This is a large, rectangular, one story barn with loft. The roof is gabled and shingled. The walls are random width board on the ends. The two sides are open, providing access to the two interior cribs or pens.

The foundation is dry stone, and since the barn is built on a hillside, the foundation is about 4 feet high on the front to make the structure level.

The roof has considerable overhang to create shed space for livestock. The roof is supported by poles set along the outer edge.

The interior of the barn consists of two pens with a drive through between. Each pen is divided into two stalls. These pens are built of hewn logs. Beams are laid over the pens to support the hayloft. The loft is built of poles laid over beams set on two-foot centers.

Doors and Windows:

There are no windows in the building. The doorways into the pens are four in number, two into each pen. All openings are rectangular, and all doors are missing.

Floors:

The ground floor is earth, and the hayloft is pole set on two foot centers.

General Location:

The barn is generally oriented north and south, and is 300 yards west of the Greenbrier Jeep Trail.

This barn has just undergone extensive rehabilitation. All work was done under the direction of an historical architect and the work was done by a carpenter skilled in this type of rehabilitation. Original material was used as far as feasible.

SIGNIFICANCE					
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)				
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	X 20th Century		
15th Century	17th Century	X 19th Century			
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known)	1			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	k One or More as Appropriat	e)			
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Messer Barn: order of significance 3rd

A stout barn was an absolute necessity to any successful Smoky Mountain farm. The barns provided storage for the vast amounts of hay needed to feed the animals through the winters. Livestock raising was a major economic activity in the mountains, therefore barns were common. Today, there are but a handful of the structures left, and one of the outstanding is the Messer barn.

The barn is the last surviving original structure in what was Greenbrier community. Prior to the development of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Greenbrier was a populous area. With the National Park movement in the 1920's and 1930's the land was purchased and the people moved away.

Prior to that time Greenbrier had been a fairly populous farming community. It had also been a center of political power in the area.

Greenbrier was one of the first areas of settlement on the northern side of the Great Smoky Mountains. Starting in the 1850's, settlers pushed into the coves and valleys of the area, and communities were established. Although relatively isolated, Greenbrier was aware of outside events more so than certain other areas of the mountains.

The farms produced corn, vegetables, and grain along with cattle and hogs. Quantities of moonshine whiskey were distilled and drunk, and there was a certain amount of social stagnation that took place, but not to the same extent as in other areas of the mountains.

Today the only reminder of the people of Greenbrier and their way of life in this section of Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the Messer barn.

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