

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100001750

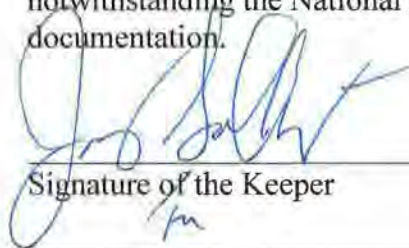
Date Listed: 10/12/2017

Property Name: Look Rock Observation Tower (Historic Resources of Great Smokey Mountains National Park MPS)

County: Blount

State: TN

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

10-12-2017  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

### Section 8: Criteria Considerations and Period of Significance

Criteria Consideration G is hereby deleted. The Period of Significance is hereby amended to 1966-1967.

The significance of this structure in park planning is limited to the period in which it was executed; there is no continued (and exceptional) significance in development and/or planning beyond the completion of the project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The NPS FPO and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office were notified of this amendment.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MP-1750

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Look Rock Observation Tower

Other names/site number: Look Rock Fire Lookout

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: Foothills Parkway West, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

City or town: Walland

State: TN

County: Blount

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national      X statewide      \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A      \_\_\_ B      X C      \_\_\_ D

<u>Gary R. [Signature]</u>	<u>8/24/2017</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>NPS FPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
_____	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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\_\_\_ national      X statewide      \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A      \_\_\_ B      X C      \_\_\_ D

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title: DSTPO

TN Historical Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

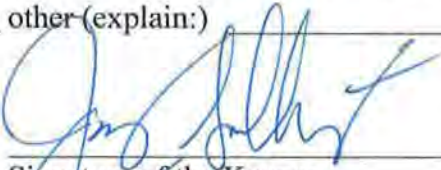
Look Rock Observation Tower  
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

  
Signature of the Keeper

10-12-2017  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	_____	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

OTHER/Fire Lookout

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

OTHER/Air Quality Monitoring Station

OTHER/Communication Tower (emergency)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

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Other: Park Service Modern

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE; METAL/Aluminum

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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**Summary Paragraph**

Look Rock Observation Tower is a reinforced concrete tower constructed 1966-1967 which stands over seventy eight feet tall. This tower was designed to serve as both a visitor observation tower and a fire lookout. The tower includes a reinforced concrete radio equipment room below the tower and a concrete bench at the foot of the tower ramp. Located in Blount County, Tennessee, Look Rock Observation Tower stands on the crest of Chilhowee Mountain along Foothills Parkway in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). This is a site that has long served as a destination for visitors to the region looking for views over the surrounding area. Today visitors to the tower are still rewarded with views of Maryville, Tennessee to the north and of the Great Smoky Mountains to the southeast. The last of three towers built at national parks in the Park Service Modern style, Look Rock Observation Tower references the 1959 Clingmans Dome Tower (NR, 8/15/2012) in its design but features a switchback ramp rather than the spiral ramp of the Clingmans Dome Tower and adds a fire watch cab above the viewing platform. Other contributing resources include a cylindrical reinforced concrete radio equipment room (contributing structure) and a concrete bench (contributing object). Look Rock Observation Tower retains integrity as a property that embodies the distinctive architecture of the Mission 66 era of development in the national park system.

This registration form nominates the Look Rock Observation Tower individually under the broader contexts defined in a Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) prepared for the



Look Rock Observation Tower

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*Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park* and approved November 29, 2016  
(MC64501273).<sup>1</sup>

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## Narrative Description

### Setting

Look Rock Observation Tower is located in GSMNP off of the western most section of Foothills Parkway. It is in Blount County, Tennessee approximately ten miles southwest of Walland and about three miles northeast of the west terminus of Foothills Parkway at U.S. Highway 129. Here Foothills Parkway extends across Chilhowee Mountain near the mountain crest. This ridge extends thirty five miles running between the Little Tennessee River to the southwest and the Little Pigeon River watershed to the northeast. The geographic point of Look Rock, at 2,652 feet, stands as one of the highest points along the western portion of Chilhowee Mountain and the base of the tower sits at an elevation of 2,638. The view from the tower to the northwest is out across Little Mountain and Black Sulphur Knobs toward Maryville, Tennessee, while the view to the south is across Happy Valley to the Great Smoky Mountains including Beard Cane, Cades Cove, Cove, Rich, and Thunderhead Mountains. An approximately 2,000 foot long paved walking trail connects the tower to a Foothills Parkway overlook and parking area at Murray Gap. A short distance east of Murray Gap, a service road also extends up from Foothills Parkway to an air quality monitoring station about 550 feet northeast of the tower.

Chilhowee Mountain is part of the physiographic Ridge-and-Valley region of the Appalachian division, a belt that spans the Appalachian Mountains from Georgia to New Jersey and eastern New York. The peak of Chilhowee Mountain is composed of the Chilhowee Group Rocks that contain sandstone and some shale rock formed in the Cambrian Period.<sup>2</sup> Paleozoic rocks found in this region contain Skolithos fossil remains of some of the earliest signs of life in eastern Tennessee.<sup>3</sup> A Xeric and Oak-Hickory forest community dominates the Chilhowee Mountains and is populated by many tree species including: Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*), Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*), Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*), Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*), Mockernut Hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), Sand Hickory (*Carya pallida*), and Pignut Hickory

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen Olausen, John Daly, and Laura Kline, *National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form: Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park* (report prepared for National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, GA, by PAL (The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.), Pawtucket, RI, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Roy Dale Thomas, "The Vegetation and Flora of Chilhowee Mountain" (Ph. D. diss., University of Tennessee, 1966), 30.

<sup>3</sup> National Park Service, "Foothills Parkway Master Plan" (1964), 30.

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(*Carya glabra*). While to the west the forest type changes and is dominated by a Table/Mountain Pitch Pine forest community.<sup>4</sup>

## Resource Descriptions<sup>56</sup>

### Look Rock Observation Tower (contributing structure, 1967)

Look Rock Observation Tower was constructed during 1966 and into 1967 as part of the National Park Service (NPS) Mission 66 program. Overall, the tower stands seventy-eight feet six inches tall. Constructed of reinforced concrete, the structure's main components are the observation deck, fire lookout cab and a series of three ramps with half-turn landings all supported by rectangular piers and fixed cantilever arms.

The approach to the tower leads the visitor up a paved nine foot wide asphalt trail that ends at the ramp abutment where the ramp to the tower begins. A **concrete bench (contributing object, ca 1968)** sits on the right side of the trail about ten feet before the trail meets the ramp. This bench measures eighteen inches deep, ten feet long and sixteen inches in height. The base of the bench narrows from eighteen inches wide to nine and a half inches wide at its connection point with the concrete footer (see photo1).

The ramps/landings and the observation deck are bordered by concrete side walls that are thirty-three inches tall and nine inches thick. Along the top of these side walls are holes that mark where a 1.5 inch aluminum pipe hand rail was once connected. Some of these connection points have been patched over and others have not or the patching has failed.

On the ramps, the width between the side walls begins at nine feet wide at the start of the first ramp but tapers down to a width of six feet within the first seventeen and a half feet of the ramp. The ramp width remains at six feet wide through the remainder of the three ramps and each section of ramp is 150 feet long. Drainage on the ramp is provided by one and a half inch aluminum pipes that protrude through the bottom of the ramp to let water fall to the ground below.

The three sections of ramp are connected by half turn landings. The landing between the first and second ramps is below the observation deck and measures ten feet by seventeen feet. The second half turn landing is a seven foot by seventeen foot rectangle and is approximately level with the

<sup>4</sup> Thomas, 98.

<sup>5</sup> Mark Little (GSMNP Radio Technician) and Jim Renfro (GSMNP Air Quality Specialist) in discussion with Daniel Sanchez (GSMNP Cultural Resource Intern) and author, 2016.

<sup>6</sup> Daniel Sanchez (GSMNP Cultural Resource Intern), series of on-site visits, June and July 2016.



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top of surrounding trees. The third ramp attaches asymmetrically off center to the main circular observation deck.

As the three ramps rise up to the observation deck, they are supported by three rectangular T-type (hammerhead) reinforced concrete piers that stand in the three and a half foot wide space separating the ramps. The main observation deck is supported by four more rectangular reinforced concrete piers. The cantilever arms (corbels) of these piers form a horizontal cross that serve as beams to hold up the circular observation platform. The first half turn landing also is supported by three of the four piers supporting the main observation deck (see photos 1, 2, 3 and 4).

The main observation deck itself is twenty-eight feet in diameter and edged with concrete side walls of the same dimension as is found on the ramps. There is one interpretive panel mounted with metal brackets onto the outside of the concrete side wall on the north side of the observation deck. Remnants of bolts can be found at other points along the outside of the side wall possibly marking where other panels were once attached.

The four piers that support the observation deck also protrude vertically through the observation deck to support the fire lookout cab. An aluminum spiral staircase leads up to the fire lookout cab from the center of the main observation deck. This lookout cab is not open to the public and access to the spiral staircase is protected by a cylindrical aluminum cage with a quarter arc gate. The spiral staircase is supported by a center column attached both to the floor of the observation deck and the bottom of the fire lookout cab with plates. This staircase is twenty and a half feet in height from the floor of the observation deck to the finished floor of the lookout cab room (see photo 4).

A round hatch style trap door provides access into the circular lookout cab. This lookout cab is enclosed by a three foot tall concrete wall topped with an aluminum window frame system. There are three window sections per quarter circle for a total of nine operable awning style aluminum windows with a fixed transom window above each one. A circular flat concrete roof protects the lookout cab from the elements. A round port in this roof exists to provide access to the roof top in the rare instances this is needed. In the center floor of the lookout cab room there are several bolt holes. These are remnants of when the tower served as a fire lookout for the Tennessee State Forestry Department and the lookout cab contained an Osborne fire-finder topographical map used for spotting the location of fires.

When built, the tower was designed to accommodate a roof top tower supporting one vertical antenna and one corner reflector antenna. Conduit extended down to a radio equipment room at the base of the tower below the observation deck. Although the roof top tower has remained the

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same, the antennas supported by this tower have been added to or updated numerous times and today there are four vertical antennas and one microwave grid antenna mounted on the tower. There are also four vertical antennas and two microwave dish antennas attached to the side of the lookout cab.<sup>7 8</sup>

Found tucked behind the ramps that visitors climb to reach the observation deck is the reinforced concrete cylindrical **radio equipment room (contributing structure, 1967)**. This room is approximately ten feet in diameter and eight feet tall with a flat concrete roof topped with metal roofing. Centered in the area between the four columns that support the tower, the room is partially enclosed in fencing; one short segment of wall serves as part of the fenced enclosure. The chain link fence enclosure, along with the non-historic equipment inside the enclosure, was added in 2012 (**fence, noncontributing structure**) (see photos 5 and 6).

Just feet beyond the radio equipment room to the southwest is a large grouping of rock outcroppings. These rock formations also extend toward Foothills Parkway and along the north side of the observation tower. The formations were carefully designed around during planning for the observation tower to ensure they would be protected (see photo7).

The construction drawings note that the entire tower structure was to be painted with a glaze coating.<sup>9</sup> Today the walls and piers of the tower along with the radio equipment room have been painted a light gray color while the floors of the ramp and observation deck are unpainted concrete.

### Statement of Integrity

The Look Rock Observation Tower retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, association and feeling. The appearance of the tower is virtually unchanged from the time of its construction. The concrete bench was added near the base of the ramp ca. 1968. Other exterior alterations include the removal of aluminum handrails (date unknown) and the application of a light gray paint coating on the walls and piers of the tower to cover graffiti. Interpretive panels have also been replaced. Circa 1968 four aluminum panels, each measuring ten inches by twenty-four inches, were fabricated at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for installation at on the tower. These were engraved with photographs and identified surrounding landforms. Today there is only one thirty six and a half inch by eighteen and a half inch interpretive panel on the observation deck. This interpretive panel is one of two installed on the

<sup>7</sup> September 1981 correspondence between GSMNP Superintendent Merrill Beal and Robert Swiger, Staff Officer, Cherokee National Forest approved the addition of two four-foot antenna disks to the tower (copy on file in GSMNP Archives, Collections Preservation Center).

<sup>8</sup> The last change in antenna configuration occurred in 2012.

<sup>9</sup> "Fire and Lookout Tower Look Rock" (drawing, GRSM\_133\_3024, 1965). Hand notation as built.

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tower in 2005. The missing interpretive panel was stolen including the frame and mounting. The insert in the existing interpretive panel was also vandalized and a new insert installed in 2010.<sup>10</sup>

Where originally there was one vertical antenna and one corner reflector antenna attached to the top of the tower, there are now four vertical antennas and one microwave grid antenna. Also three vertical antennas and two microwave dish antennas have been attached to the side of the lookout cab (none originally). Some of these antennas were added in 2012, to address the communication needs of federal, state, and local law enforcement. At that same time two unused antennas were removed, the area below the tower and first approach ramp was fenced with chain link security fencing, and a replacement steel door was installed on the radio equipment room (construction plans called for a wood door).

The structure continues to convey strongly its association with the Mission 66 era of NPS planning and development. Its original function of providing visitors a point from which to view out over the surrounding trees to see the surrounding area remains unchanged. It also continues to serve as a key component in the park radio communication system and now also hosts communication antennas for other area agencies. However, it no longer serves as a fire lookout but instead the fire lookout cab houses a webcam and other pieces of environmental monitoring equipment.

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<sup>10</sup> Kent Cave (retired GRSMP Resource Education Ranger), e-mail message to author, July 6, 2017.



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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

#### Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**  
1966-1972

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**  
1966-1967

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**  
Biderman, Benjamin

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Look Rock Observation Tower is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the state level as an example of the Fire and Lookout Tower property type defined in the Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). The property possesses significance under Criterion A in the area Community Planning and Development within the MPDF context *Mission 66 Era of National Park Service Planning and Development, 1945-1972* because it represents the evolution of national park planning and development that occurred as the NPS attempted to revive the infrastructure of national parks and improve visitor services and recreational opportunities. This property is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture within the MPDF context *Mission 66 Era of National Park Service Planning and Development, 1945-1972* because it embodies the distinctive mid-twentieth-century modern design principles and construction techniques (Park Service Modern) practiced by NPS architects and planners during the Mission 66 era.

The period of significance for the Look Rock Observation Tower extends from 1966 when construction of the observation tower began to 1972, the end of the *Mission 66 Era of National Park Service Planning and Development* context period for GSMNP. The importance of the Mission 66 era context, with a period of significance extending to 1972, has been well established and is documented in Ethan Carr's *Mission 66 Modernism and the National Park Service Dilemma*, Sarah Allaback's *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*, and the *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources* Multiple Property Documentation Form (65501248). Look Rock Observation Tower also meets Criteria Consideration G because it, like the Clingmans Dome Tower, is a relatively rare example of a Mission 66 era observation tower built in the distinctive Park Service Modern style. Scholarly study, by Carr, Allaback, and others, has established the context needed to evaluate properties associated with the Mission 66 program and the Park Service Modern architectural style. Only three observation towers were built by the National Park Service during the Mission 66 era.

This nomination is limited to Mission 66 era built resources. However, the site surrounding the tower has a history of use as a destination for early recreational users and as a fire lookout. Minimal information is currently known about these uses that pre-date the Mission 66 era built resources. Additional research and documentation would be needed before the potential site resources related to these earlier uses could be adequately evaluated.



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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### CRITERION A – COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Look Rock Observation Tower meets the registration requirements for state significance under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development as defined in the *Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park* MPDF (Section F) for the Fire and Lookout Tower property type within the MPDF context *Mission 66 Era of National Park Service Planning and Development, 1945-1972*. The Look Rock Observation Tower was constructed between the years of 1966 and 1967 as part of the NPS Mission 66 program to modernize and rethink the visitor experience in the national parks. Plans for this tower are found early on in the park's Mission 66 Plan with the purpose of the tower to provide scenic views into the park thus fulfilling an important function of the Foothills Parkway. Mission 66 plans also included the construction of a nearby park maintenance yard, and the Look Rock campground and picnic area. Visitor access to the tower is provided by a trail leading up from a Foothills Parkway overlook located west of the access road to the campground and picnic area.

#### Use of Look Rock as a View Point

The site of Look Rock Observation Tower has long been a place to which visitors to the area came to take advantage of the view. Photographs, some from as early as 1895, capture the image of hikers enjoying the view from the rock formations found at this location.<sup>11 12</sup> Nearby Montvale Springs, found northwest of Look Rock, was the starting point for many of these early hikers. Photographs of Look Rock were even commissioned by Montvale Springs Hotel Company (a hotel that was first built in 1832; the last hotel burned down in 1933) for use in advertising in the 1920s.<sup>13 14</sup> The Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, established in late 1924, and

<sup>11</sup> Look Rock, July 1895, photograph, Box 24, Hall-Stakely Papers, C. M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library. Accessed March 2016.

<http://cmdc.knoxlib.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p265301coll9/id/62/rec/1..>

<sup>12</sup> William Orland Garner, Group Sitting on Look Rock, Chilhowee Mountain, 1890-1903, photograph, W. O. Garner Digital Photograph Collection, Blount County Library. Accessed March 2016.

<http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?sid=b11bb2127309687c66212e35829b7cfe&q1=look+rock&rgn1=All+Categories&op2=And&q2=&rgn2=All+Categories&type=boolean&g=bcapp&view=thumbnail&c=gar>

<sup>13</sup> Tara Mitchell Mielnik, "Blount County," *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, last modified January 1, 2010. Accessed July 2016. <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=102>.

<sup>14</sup> Thompson Brothers, Great Smoky Mountains, April 20, 1926, photograph, Thompson Photograph Collection, C. M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library. Accessed March 2016. <http://cmdc.knoxlib.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p265301coll7/id/2650/rec/4>.

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still in existence today, led hikes to Look Rock. Early Hiking Club programs described Look Rock as a “beautiful spot near the south end of Chilhowee Mountain has an altitude of about 2,600 feet and is only about an hour’s drive from Knoxville.”<sup>15</sup> Hiking Club records show that Club-led hikes to Look Rock continued to be held as late as 1947.<sup>16</sup>

### Use of Look Rock as a Fire Lookout

Look Rock Observation Tower is the second tower to stand in the general Look Rock area. While very little information has been located regarding the earlier tower, it is known that a steel fire lookout tower was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) about 1938.<sup>17</sup> It and a small log ranger cabin stood on a parcel of land a short distance east of the current tower location.<sup>18 19 20</sup> The land was owned by the Tennessee State Forestry Department and the CCC fire lookout was not operated by the NPS. Still, this steel lookout tower was an important member of the network of towers used to locate and report fires inside the park. In total there were ten towers within the park and seven towers outside the park boundaries in this network. Those outside the park reported fires spotted on park land under cooperative agreements.<sup>21</sup>

When Look Rock Observation Tower was built, fire lookouts were still an important function. To address this need the NPS included a fire lookout cab above the public observation deck. With this new lookout, the CCC fire lookout became obsolete and was removed. The date of the removal of the CCC tower is unknown and today the CCC tower site is the location of air quality monitoring equipment.

### Foothills Parkway and Mission 66

As visitation to the park increased in the early 1940s, the citizens of Tennessee petitioned the NPS and Congress to build a new roadway to ease congestion. In February 1944, Congress approved Public Law 232 authorizing “the acceptance of donations of land for the construction of a scenic parkway to provide an appropriate view of Great Smoky Mountains National Park

<sup>15</sup> Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, “Program of Hikes for 1929” (1929).

<sup>16</sup> Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, “Program of Hikes for 1947” (1947).

<sup>17</sup> Memorandum from Lloyd Foster to Ed Menning, May 23, 1968. Copy on file in GSMNP Archives.

<sup>18</sup> Roger Howell, Look Rock Firetower, December 27, 1936, photograph, Roger Howell Collection, C. M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library. Accessed March 2016.

<http://cmhc.knoxlib.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p16311coll2/id/624/rec/2>.

<sup>19</sup> Roger Howell, Ranger’s Cabin, December 27, 1936, photograph, Roger Howell Collection. Accessed March 2016. <http://cmhc.knoxlib.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p16311coll2/id/623/rec/14>.

<sup>20</sup> “Survey 822 Blount County Foothills Parkway,” Drawing GRMS\_133\_42929A, (1957). Survey identifies the Look Rock Fire Tower on 100 acres of land belonging to the State of Tennessee Division of Forestry.

<sup>21</sup> Laura Beth Ingle, “Every Day is Fire Day: A Study of Historic Fire Towers and Lookout Life in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park,” (Thesis, graduate schools of Clemson University and the College of Charleston, 2011), 54.

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from the Tennessee side of the park and for other purposes....” Right-of-way acquisition began in 1947, but it wasn’t until 1979 that all the property needed for the parkway was purchased by the State of Tennessee and transferred to the Federal government.<sup>22</sup>

Construction of the first segment of the Parkway began in 1960, under the Mission 66 program. With the advent of increased park visitation after WWII, NPS Director Conrad Wirth saw the need to address deferred park maintenance and the lack of adequate visitor facilities. The Mission 66 program was his answer to how to address these issues. Roads were among the NPS facilities in disrepair. During the Mission 66 era the NPS also looked at modernizing road design to address congestion and road safety concerns. These concerns existed in part because the NPS roads had not been designed to handle the speeds of modern vehicles or high traffic volumes.

Altogether, the Mission 66 program for GSMNP called for construction of Foothills Parkway in eight sections (A through H) along with reconstruction of a portion US 441 (Gatlinburg Spur) and a three mile bypass around Gatlinburg.<sup>23 24</sup> Among the first segments of Foothills Parkway completed were segment H, which extends from Chilhowee Lake to Murray Gap just west of Look Rock, and segment G, which extends from Murray Gap eastward past Look Rock to Walland, Tennessee. These segments total almost seventeen miles of roadway and opened together (along with the campground) to traffic in September 1965.<sup>25</sup> As of 2017, only twenty-two and a half miles of the total seventy-two mile parkway have been fully completed.<sup>26</sup>

### Development Plans for the Look Rock Area

An observation point at the Look Rock area was long included as part of master planning for this segment of Foothills Parkway. The 1950s Foothills Parkway road system plans indicate that a half-mile access road and parking area were planned for a Look Rock observation point, but records also show that construction of a tower at Look Rock was not a certainty.<sup>27</sup> In November

<sup>22</sup> Information regarding the history of Foothills Parkway was adapted from “Foothills Parkway Master Plan,” 1964; and “Foothills Parkway Analysis Final Report,” Prepared for the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, National Park Service, and East Tennessee Development District, by Wilbur Smith Associates, March 2002.

<sup>23</sup> John Daly, and Laura Kline, “*Great Smoky Mountains National Park Historic Resource Study*” (Report prepared for National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, GA, by PAL, Inc., Pawtucket, RI, 2015).

<sup>24</sup> Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Ph.D., Len Warner, and The Collaborative, Inc. team of Rodd Wheaton, John Feinberg and Carly Piccarello, “*National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form: National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources*” (Report prepared for National Park Service, Intermountain Regional Office, Santa Fe, NM, by the Collaborative Inc., Boulder, CO, 2015).

<sup>25</sup> “Superintendent Monthly Report, October 1965” (unpublished report, GSMNP, 1965).

<sup>26</sup> Construction is underway on a series of bridges east of segments H and G. With completion of segments F and E an additional sixteen miles of Parkway would be opened and this would connect Chilhowee Lake to Wear Valley.

<sup>27</sup> “Road System Plan, Part of the Master Plan, Foothills Parkway” (drawing, GRSM\_133\_2002, 1953).



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1961, Park Superintendent Fred J. Overly requested funds for the construction of a tower. This tower was described as a:

*Fire lookout room and a separate observation platform sufficient to accommodate 35-40 people. Tower high enough to provide good visibility. Living accommodation for fire lookout personnel either separate or in conjunction with the fire lookout room.*<sup>28 29</sup>

Regional Director Elbert Cox had oversight of GSMNP at that time responded:

*PCP proposal B-12-1, Lookout Tower, at Look Rock on the Foothills Parkway, has had careful review in this office. The proposal details a structure of both administrative and visitor use. As there is an existing fire tower in the same area, there appears to be no compelling reason for this tower other than that associated with its use by Parkway visitors in experiencing a dramatic view of the surrounding country. The Parkway has numerous turnouts and observation vantage points along the roadway which serve the same purpose, admittedly in a less dramatic manner. We consider it a matter of basic general policy to introduce as few intrusive elements of this type as possible in the natural scene.*

*Despite the fact that a great many visitors may derive enjoyment from observation towers, we are disapproving and returning the proposal.*

*The tower on Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains must be considered an exception about which there is not complete agreement.*<sup>30</sup>

Ultimately the proposal for a tower rose to the level of the Director of the NPS, who approved construction of a tower in 1964, but with the provision that parking not be provided adjacent to the tower.<sup>31</sup>

As planning and design for the tower progressed, options to cut costs were being considered, including the option of placing an observation platform on top of the water tank for the Look Rock developed area. This step would also have moved the tower away from the rock formations for which the Look Rock area was known. The park fought against this idea, arguing among other points, that the view from the water tank site was inferior to that from the rock formations

<sup>28</sup> Project Construction Program Proposal, November 1961, Look Rock Development Papers, GSMNP Archives.

<sup>29</sup> Final plans did not include living accommodations for fire lookout personnel.

<sup>30</sup> Memorandum by Southeast Regional Director to GSMNP Superintendent, April 3, 1962. Look Rock Development Papers, GSMNP Archives.

<sup>31</sup> Memorandum from Chief, Master Plan Coordination to Southeast Regional Director, February 14, 1964. Look Rock Development Papers, GSMNP Archives.

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and that if the tower were built at park proposed location with a fire lookout room then the existing metal fire tower could be eliminated. They noted this would eliminate a hazard as the metal fire tower "would provide a regular junglegym for the children." The park also noted that:

*Look Rock itself would not be disturbed. The natural beauty of Look Rock would remain as is. We believe that a tower similar to the one at Clingmans Dome can be designed and not detract from the beauty of the surrounding county.*<sup>32</sup>

By 1965, the Eastern Office of Design and Construction (EODC) was comparing Shark Valley Tower in Everglades National Park with the plans for Look Rock Observation Tower and making cost cutting suggestions. They suggested removal of a glass enclosure for the visitor viewing platform, deletion of aluminum guardrail and reducing the size of the fire lookout enclosure from 350 square feet to ninety square feet, comparable to the size of the Shark Valley enclosure.<sup>33</sup> The park response was receptive to cost saving ideas but pushed for the inclusion of a guardrail of some type and sufficient work space in the lookout enclosure for staff. This same response noted that it was important that designers not use a circular ramp like the one at Clingmans Dome because of the 'knife-edge' topography of the Look Rock site.<sup>34</sup>

In May 1966, construction of the Look Rock Observation Tower began when Hart Construction Company (Sevierville, TN) began excavations for the main tower footers. By November 1966, construction was nearly complete with work on the rail and clean up underway.<sup>35 36 37</sup> The exact date of completion is unknown but construction photographs dated 1967 show work still underway in wintery conditions.<sup>38 39</sup> A 1968 memorandum describing the history of use of the Look Rock area simply states that the tower was completed in 1967.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Memorandum from GSMNP Acting Superintendent to Southeast Regional Director, July 13, 1964. Look Rock Development Papers, GSMNP Archives.

<sup>33</sup> Memorandum from Chief EODC to Southeast Regional Director, May 21, 1965. Look Rock Development Papers, GSMNP Archives.

<sup>34</sup> Memorandum from GSMNP Superintendent to Southeast Regional Director, May 28, 1965. Look Rock Development Papers, GSMNP Archives.

<sup>35</sup> "Superintendent Monthly Report, March 1966" (unpublished report, GSMNP, 1966).

<sup>36</sup> "Superintendent Monthly Report, May 1966" (unpublished report, GSMNP, 1966).

<sup>37</sup> "Superintendent Monthly Report, November 1966" (unpublished report, GSMNP, 1966).

<sup>38</sup> No further references were made about the construction of Look Rock Observation Tower in the following Superintendent Monthly reports to indicate the final completion date or opening the facility to the public. Monthly reporting ended in June 1967.

<sup>39</sup> Look Rock Observation Tower Construction Photographs, 1966-1967. GSMNP Photographic Collection, GSMNP Archives.

<sup>40</sup> Memorandum from Foster to Menning, May 23, 1968. Resource Education Interpretation Papers, Activities and Events, GSMNP Archives.

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## CRITERION C- ARCHITECTURE

The Look Rock Observation Tower meets the registration requirements of the Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park MPDF for state significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its embodiment of the distinctive mid-twentieth century modern design principles and construction techniques (Park Service Modern) practiced by NPS architects, landscape architects and planners during the Mission 66 era. The tower qualifies as an example of the Fire and Lookout Tower property type, defined in the MPDF (Section F) as a structure designed to both present scenic views to the public and for the purpose of monitoring fire activity in the surrounding area. The Look Rock Observation Tower possesses all the aspects of integrity necessary to convey its architectural significance as identified in the MPDF.

### Mission 66 and Park Service Modern

The Mission 66 program was a response to post World War II conditions. As a result of reduced budgets during the 1940's through 1950's and a travel boom that occurred in the decade following the war, park facilities throughout the system were grossly inadequate. The Mission 66 program was conceived as a renaissance in park development and planning. "Old Traditions seemed to have determined standards far beyond their time.... Nothing was to be left sacred" stated Park Service Director Conrad Wirth. The Mission 66 program was to re-think every level of the visitor experience as well as working and living conditions for park staff.<sup>41</sup>

The architecture produced during the Mission 66 program reflected this re-thinking and is an expression of Mid-Century Modernist design in the context of the national park system. "The extensive use of concrete, large windows, flat roof lines, geometric massing" were all characteristics of new design technologies made ubiquitous in the post-war era.<sup>42</sup> This marked a decline in the rustic park architecture style embodied by much of the development built in the 1920's and 1930's.<sup>43</sup>

While Mission 66 structures no longer followed the rustic aesthetic, they still were not intended to take precedent over their surroundings but were to be structures from which to observe the surrounding resources. Innovations in concrete (i.e. ready mix concrete, reinforced and pre-stressed concrete) allowed beams and columns to span large distances uninterrupted "with few vertical supports or load bearing walls creating openness in plan and long continuous spaces."<sup>44</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Conrad Wirth, *Parks Politics and People* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1980).

<sup>42</sup> Ethan Carr, *Mission 66 Modernism and the National Park Dilemma* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2007), 131.

<sup>43</sup> Carr, *Mission 66 Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, 135.

<sup>44</sup> Carr, *Mission 66 Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, 149.



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Post-war designers also had to adapt to the needs of parks that were operating with smaller budgets and without the massive low-cost labor force of the CCC. This period ushered in new ways in which buildings were produced through the deployment of rapid construction techniques that had greater efficiency and cut labor cost. “No builder would afford to ignore labor-saving techniques such as prefabrication of structural elements, innovative uses of steel and concrete, curtain wall construction and extensive applications of glass”<sup>45</sup>

### Look Rock Observation Tower

The building materials used in Mission 66 construction projects also addressed NPS cost concerns of maintenance and operations. *Grist*, a Mission 66 era NPS publication, highlighted modern construction materials aluminum and concrete, both materials used extensively in the construction of Look Rock Observation Tower. Aluminum was touted for its ability to blend with natural surroundings and survive environmental conditions, while concrete was touted for being low cost, long lasting and an appealing appearance.<sup>46</sup>

In total there were three NPS observation towers built during the Mission 66 era, all characterized by the extensive use of exposed reinforced concrete, mass raised off the ground by columns, planned progression through space and geometric massing. Clingmans Dome Observation Tower, also in GSMNP, was the first built in 1959. Designed by Hubert Bebb, it is characterized by an observation platform supported by a central cylinder and reached by a long spiral concrete ramp, also supported by concrete cylinders. Shark Valley Observation Tower in Everglades National Park followed in 1964. There are striking similarities the Clingmans Dome Tower and the Shark Valley Observation Tower with both featuring circular viewing platforms of equal size reached by a spiral ramp (clockwise spiral upward) supported by seven concrete piers. However, the Shark Valley Observation Tower included a fire lookout cab above the observation platform and utilized concrete hammerhead columns instead of concrete cylinders. Also the Shark Valley Observation Tower includes a circular covered shelter at the base of the ramp, while the Clingmans Dome Tower has a circular open-air plaza. Look Rock Observation Tower was the last built. Its design is similar to that of the Shark Valley Observation tower with the use of hammerhead columns and the presence of a fire lookout cab reached by a metal spiral staircase.

The striking similarity of the Shark Valley Observation Tower and the Look Rock Observation Tower is not surprising considering NPS staff architect Benjamin Biderman was responsible for

<sup>45</sup> Carr, *Mission 66 Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, 137.

<sup>46</sup> Cynthia Walton, *National Register Nomination Form: Clingmans Dome Observation Tower* (National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, GA, October 2009).

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the initial design of both towers. An examination of plans for both towers shows many consistencies between the two plans including use of the same type and arrangement of support columns for the tower, spiral stairs up to the fire lookout cab and the height of the cab above the observation deck.<sup>47</sup> However the narrow ridge site of the Look Rock Observation Tower required modification of the tower ramp from a spiral form to a switchback ramp system. This reuse and modification of structure plans also epitomizes the Mission 66 era, meeting the goals of greater efficiency and cost cutting costs, while continuing to harmonize architecture with the park landscape.

### **Benjamin H. Biberman (1930-2009)**

Architect Benjamin H. Biberman designed the preliminary plans for Look Rock Observation Tower in 1965. Biberman graduated from the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in architecture and from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a master's degree in architecture. Following service in the Navy Construction Battalion as a Lieutenant Commander, Biberman joined the NPS in 1963 to work at the Eastern Office of Design and Construction. He was considered one of the leading designers within the EODC under the supervision of Division Chief Architect John B. "Bill" Cabot. He retired from the NPS in 1993 as an architect with the Denver Service Center. The full extent of Biberman's architectural design work with the NPS is unknown, however he is credited with the design of at least two Mission 66 era visitor centers. The Salt Pond Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore was designed by Biderman in 1964 and features two elongated hexagons flanking a central hexagon. Another Biderman designed Mission 66 visitor center at Petersburg National Battlefield (1965) featured a flat-roofed octagonal design.<sup>48 49</sup> Other Mission 66 era projects he was involved include plans for visitor centers at Booker T. Washington National Monument and Shenandoah National Park where his name appears as the designer on preliminary plans.

<sup>47</sup> "Fire Lookout Tower, Comfort Station, and Utilities, Seven Mile Tower, Everglades National Park," (drawing, EVER\_160\_3231, 1963). "Fire and Lookout Tower, Look Rock, Foothills Parkway, Blount County TN,"(drawing GRSM\_133\_3024, 1965).

<sup>48</sup> Carr, *National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form: National Park Service Mission 66 Resources*.

<sup>49</sup> "Benjamin H. Biderman Obituary," The Washington Post, June 14, 2009.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Allaback, Sarah. *Mission 66 Visitor Centers the History of a Building Type*. National Park Service, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, Washington D.C. , 2000.

Carr, Ethan. *Mission 66 Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*. University of Massachusetts Press, 2007.

Carr, Ethan, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Ph.D., Len Warner, and the Collaborative Inc. team of Rodd L. Wheaton, John D. Feinberg, and Carly M. Piccarello. *National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form: National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources*. Prepared for National Park Service, Intermountain Regional Office, Santa Fe, NM, 2015.

Daly, John, and Laura Kline. *Great Smoky Mountains National Park Historic Resource Study*. Prepared for National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, GA, by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., Pawtucket, RI, 2015.

*Foothills Parkway Analysis Final Report*. Prepared for the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, National Park Service, and East Tennessee Development District by Wilbur Smith Associates. March 2002.

*Foothills Parkway Master Plan*. National Park Service, 1964.

Ingle, Laura Beth. *Every Day is Fire Day: A Study of Historic Fire Towers and Lookout Life in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park*. Thesis graduate schools of Clemson University and the College of Charleston, May 2011.

National Park Service Archives and Repositories  
Denver Service Center, Denver CO

Technical Information Center (TIC)  
Drawings

Great Smoky Mountains National, Gatlinburg TN

Park Archives (Collection Preservation Center, Townsend, TN)  
Superintendent's Monthly Reports, August 1965 – May 1967  
Look Rock Development Files  
Foothills Parkway Files  
Mission 66 Management Files  
Resource Education Interpretation Activities  
Photograph Collection

Olausen, Stephen, John Daly, and Laura Kline. *National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form: Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*.

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Prepared for National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, GA, by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., Pawtucket, RI, 2016.

Thomas, Roy Dale. *The Vegetation and Flora of Chilhowee Mountain*. Ph. D diss., University of Tennessee, 1966.

Walton, Cynthia. *National Register Nomination Form: Clingmans Dome Observation Tower*. National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, GA, October 2009.

Wirth, Conrad. *Parks Politics and People*. University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**           N/A



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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** 1.46 acres

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.632979 | Longitude: -83.94267 |
| 2. Latitude: 35.632667 | Longitude: -83.94252 |
| 3. Latitude: 35.631800 | Longitude: -83.94314 |
| 4. Latitude: 35.632423 | Longitude: -83.94361 |

### Verbal Boundary Description

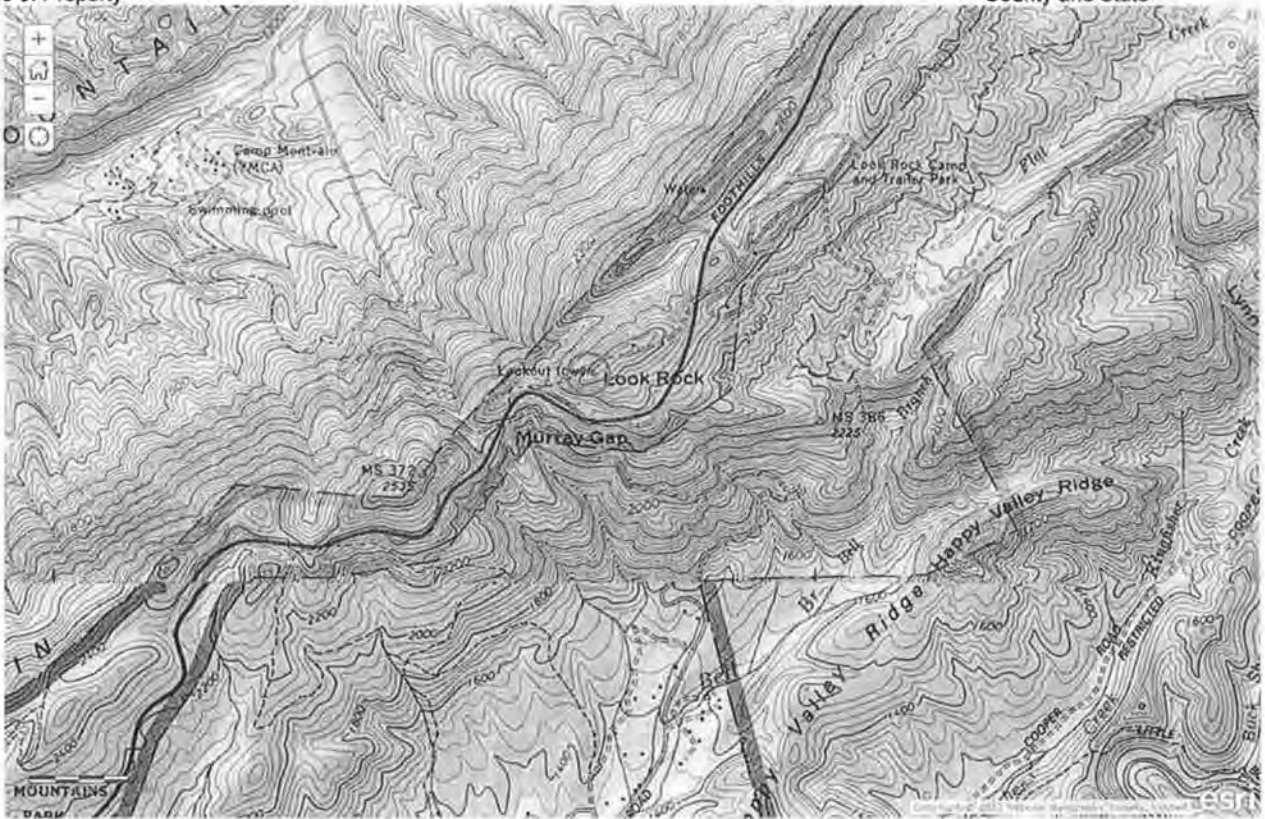
The 1.46 acre Look Rock Observation Tower property is bounded to the east by a line of convenience placed 50 feet from the end of the tower ramp (point A to B), to the south by a line running southwesterly to a point below the base of the rock bluff (point B to C), to the west by a line running northwest at roughly across the base of the rock bluff ending at a point on the 2575 contour line (point C to D) and to the north by a line parallel to and 50 feet from the north ramp wall (point D to A).

### Boundary Justification

The nomination is focused on Mission 66 era and this boundary includes all known Mission 66 era historic resources associated with the tower. Nearby portions of the rock formation, for which the area is known, are included as the setting for the tower. This boundary excludes the modern air quality monitoring equipment and structures located at what was once the site of the CCC built metal firetower and ranger cabin.

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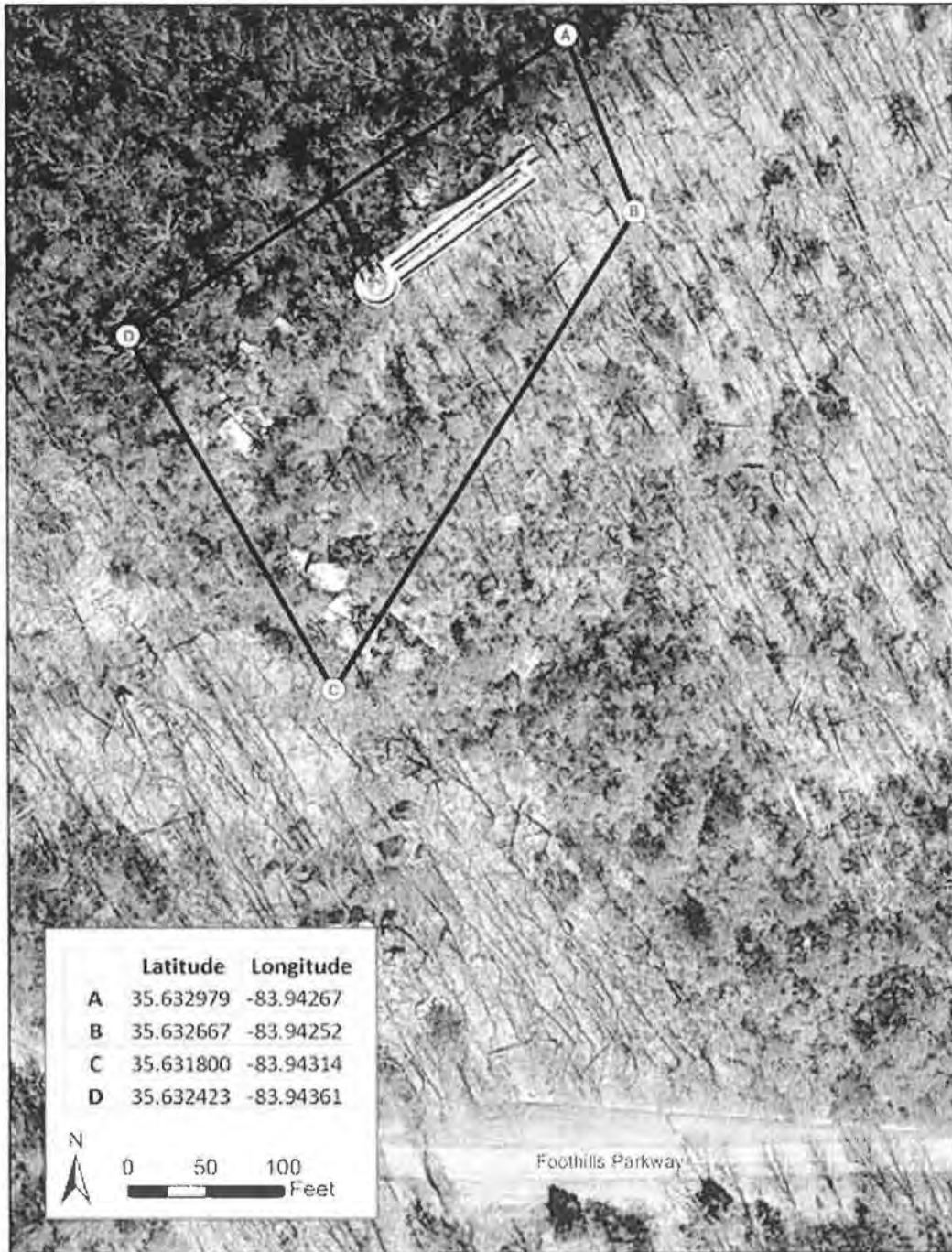


Topographic Area Map

Look Rock Observation Tower  
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Look Rock Tower, Great Smoky Mountains National Park Coordinate Map



Location Map

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dianne Flaugh/Landscape Architect  
organization: NPS, Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
street & number: 107 Park Headquarters Road  
city or town: Gatlinburg state: TN zip code: 37738  
e-mail: dianne\_flaugh@nps.gov  
telephone: 865-430-0339  
date: June 30, 2017

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

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































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/29/2017      Date of Pending List: 9/22/2017      Date of 16th Day: 10/10/2017      Date of 45th Day: 10/13/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal           | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL            | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request     | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver           | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |  |

Accept       Return       Reject      10/12/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240



H32(2280)

AUG 24 2017

### Memorandum

To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

From: Acting Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science

Subject: Look Rock Observation Tower, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Blount County, TN

*Gary Spradley* 8/24/2017

I am forwarding the National Register nomination form for the Look Rock Observation Tower in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This nomination is being submitted under the multiple property submission, *Historic Resources of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, approved in November 2016. The Park History program has reviewed the nomination and found the tower eligible under criteria A and C, and Criteria Consideration G, at the state level of significance, with areas of significance of Community Planning and Development and Architecture. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Spradley-Kurowski at 202-354-2266 or [kelly\\_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov](mailto:kelly_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov).