

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 '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 Perry's Camp

Other names/site number Flat Branch Court

2. Location

Street & number 101 Flat Branch Road not for publication

City or town Sevierville vicinity

State Tennessee code TN county Sevier code 155 zip code 37862

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 forth 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 L. Hays 9/14/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State of 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:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	<u>for Signature of the Keeper</u> <u>ms [signature]</u>	Date of Action <u>10/30/92</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Perry's Camp
Name of Property

Sevier Co., TN
County and State

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5		buildings
0		sites
3		structures
0		objects
8	0	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)

RECREATION & CULTURE:

outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE:

outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: motor tourism building

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD, weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more 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 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.)

Property is: **N/A**

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/ENTERTAINMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Circa 1928-1942

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Perry's Camp
Name of Property

Sevier Co., TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 59.81 acres

**Gatlinburg 157 NE &
Pigeon Forge 156 SE**

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	272000	3959080
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	17	272000	3958500

3	17	271000	3958540
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	17	271000	3951110

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 Claudette Stager, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date September 1992

street & number 701 Broadway telephone (615) 742-6723

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37243-0442

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 Mack & Agnes Marshall

street & number 101 Flat Branch Road telephone (615) 436-4369

city or town Sevierville state TN zip code 37862

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. 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 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Perry's Camp
Sevier County, TN

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Located in Sevier County on U.S. 441 (S.R. 71), near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Perry's Camp consists of a residence/office, four cabins, stone walls, a sluice, and a water wheel. Low stone walls and paths help to link the resources together in their rustic, wooded setting. Although the residence/office contains a circa 1850 log core, it was modified circa 1928-1935, when the cabins were constructed. The sluice, water wheel, and stone walls are contemporary to the buildings.

The largest building in the complex is the building now used as a residence and office. The core of the building consists of a one story hewn log building resting on a raised, one story stone basement. The porch, two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a kitchen were added to the main level by Charles Perry circa 1928. Another bathroom, two bedrooms, and the basement were added at the same time. The basement contains a garage entrance and windows. The irregular plan building is topped by a steeply pitched gable roof. Gable roof dormers and bays are sheathed in wood shingles. Numerous windows are located on the facade and elevations. A prominent feature of the exterior is the one story wrap-around porch. The porch retains its original wood floor and ceiling and is supported by peeled log columns resting on stone piers. Exposed rafter ends and plain wood railings are also seen on the porch. Additions from the 1960s include a bathroom, a bedroom enlargement, a patio, and an extension of the chimney.

The interior of the residence/office contains the original circa 1850 stone fireplace, wood floors and ceilings, and exposed logs. Chestnut paneling, taken from the original office building which was demolished in 1957, has been used in some of the rooms. This building was once used as a rental cabin.

The four cabins were built between 1928 and 1935. They are arranged in a linear pattern along Flat Branch Road. The one story frame buildings are covered with poplar weatherboard and have gabled roofs. Three of the cabins sit on raised basements fabricated of stone. Basically rectangular in plan, the cabins have small additions on the rear, multi-light windows on most elevations, exterior brick flues, and porches. Each cabin consists of two rooms, approximately 9 x 12 feet. Floor covering is linoleum in the bedrooms and bathrooms. Two of the cabins have interior paneling of chestnut.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Perry's Camp
Sevier County, TN

Cabin #1 rests on a raised stone basement. The porch roof is situated under a gable roof that is integral to the main roof. There is a gable roof projection, slightly lower than the building, on the facade. The original brick fireplace is extant inside.

Cabin #2 has a half-hip roof covering the porch. Its stone raised basement entry can be entered through wood doors.

The porch on Cabin #3 is below a gable roof projection; part of it is open and part is screened in.

Cabin #4 is similar to Cabin #1, except that it sits on a concrete block foundation.

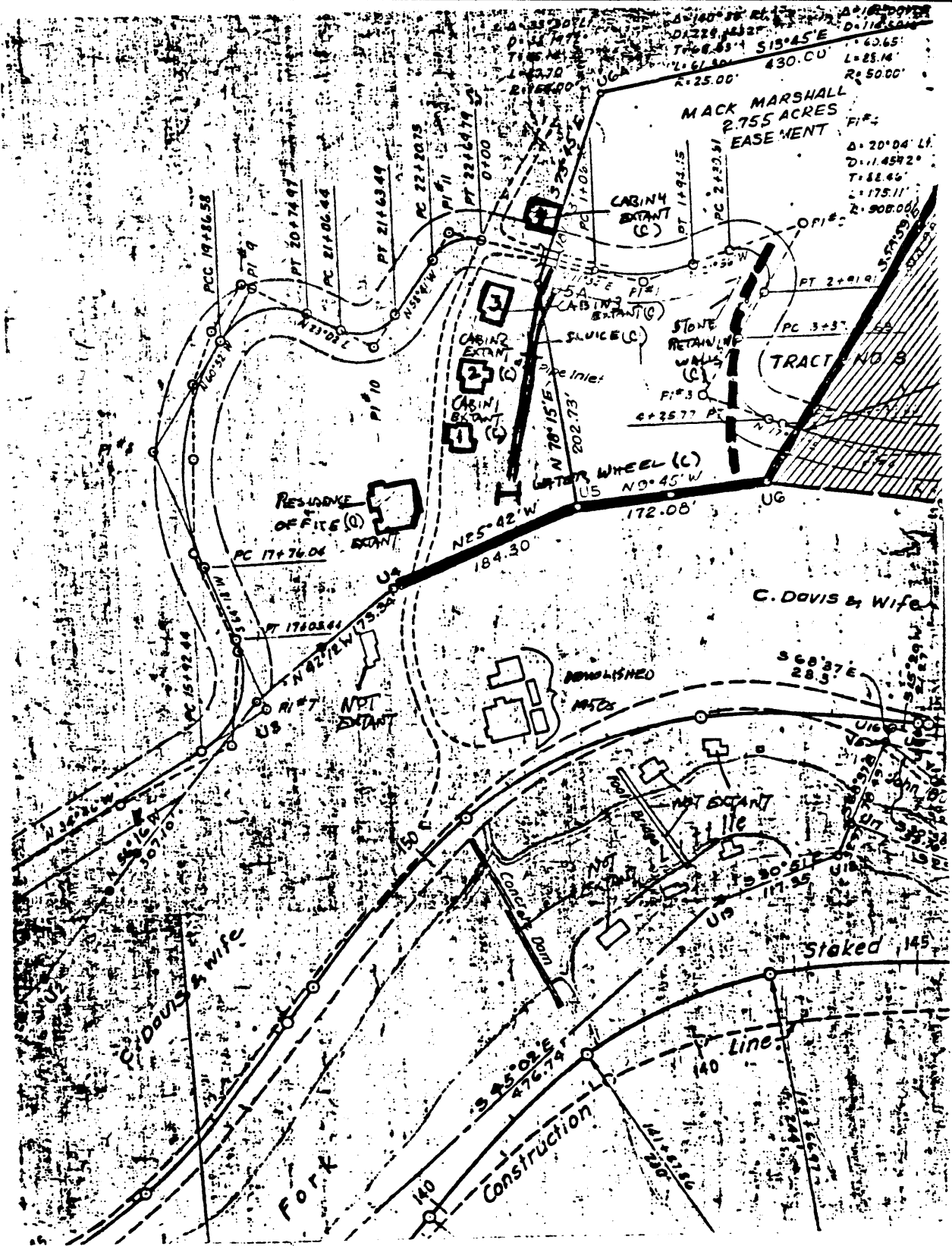
In the 1930s, Perry had Flat Branch Creek walled with rock and the grounds terraced. In 1957, when the National Park Service improved U.S. 441, five cabins, a dam, a restaurant building, a generator house, a hillside garage, a swinging bridge, and were demolished. Today, although reduced in size, the buildings and their setting retain a high degree of all areas of integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Perry's Camp Sevier County



United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4Perry's Camp
Sevier County, TN

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Perry's Camp is being nominated to the National Register under criterion A and C in the areas of entertainment/recreation and architecture. The 1930s complex is located in East Tennessee on U.S. 441, an important entry into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). The buildings are located between Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, two major hotel/shopping communities, north of the park. They represent the type of tourist lodging that was important during the early part of the twentieth century, particularly after the initiative to form the park began in the South. Constructed of log, frame, and stone, the buildings represent good examples of rustic designs used for tourism related resources in from the 1920s-1930s era. The use of native materials and simple designs, help the buildings fit into the wooded setting.

During the early part of the twentieth century, tourists to the South often camped out or had to stay in expensive hotels. Camps and some of the earlier, more primitive cabins, had gained a reputation as being dirty and frequented by drifters. However, beginning circa 1925, camp owners began to build small cabins, some with amenities, and private homes were opened for overnight accommodations. As a result, tourists could travel with less equipment in their automobiles. Charles Perry purchased the site of Perry's Camp circa 1928, soon after this change in accommodations for tourists began. Perry was a restaurant owner from Knoxville, in adjacent Knox County, who was known more for his bootlegging than his food. During the late 1920s until circa 1935, Perry built a two story stone and log restaurant/office (non-extant) and several cabins. During that era the complex was comprised of the office, cabins, dam, generator house, pump house, work shop, chicken house, water wheel and sluice, water tank, swinging bridge, tenant house, and garage. Today, a large cabin (now the residence/office), four cabins, sluice and water wheel, and much of the terraced and walled setting is extant. At one time, complexes such as this were known as cabin camps, but they later became known as courts and, finally, motor courts.

Perry successfully ran the tourist complex in Sevier County until his death in 1949. The present owners, Mack and Agnes Marshall, purchased the property in August 1952. They obtained all of the land west of the right-of-way of the highway (S.R. 71/U.S. 441) and used all of the property until the road was improved. (The right-of-way property had been conveyed to the State of Tennessee by previous owners in March 1952.) U.S. 441 was widened - a new road was built on the west side of the river - in order to improve access to the GSMNP. The new access loop took the garage. The Marshalls

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5Perry's Camp
Sevier County, TN

note that "progress" took away many of the cabins and other structures on the site. Perry's Camp has remained a stopover for travellers in the region.

Although little information on the daily, historic use of Perry's Camp was found, Mack Marshall recalled traveling and tourism as he remembered it as a youth, during the period when Perry's Camp opened. The Marshall family toured parts of the western U.S. in 1934. They would bargain for the room rates and check the rooms for bugs before settling in. Few cabins had indoor restrooms and the electricity would often be shut off at night. Straw ticking was sometimes used instead of mattresses.

Marshall's parents constructed the Round Top Cabins in Sevier County near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1937. Unlike some of the accommodations they had stayed in on their western tour, the new cabins had innerspring mattresses, cross ventilation, hot and cold running water, and bathrooms. Tourists still visited the rooms before they paid for them - in cash - and got the key. There was no office at the Round Top Cabins until after World War II. The cabins were operated by the Marshall family only during the summer months. The complex was later converted to apartments and they no longer retain their historic integrity as tourist cabins.

The history of tourism in Tennessee is closely tied to the development of its system of roads. Although the movement to obtain better roads in the south, called the Good Roads Movement, was stated circa 1901 to expedite farmers' attempts to get their produce to markets, it was not until roads were promoted for tourism use that more roads were improved or new ones were built. The American Automobile Association was established nationally in 1902. By 1915, soon after Henry Ford implemented the modern assembly line for automobile production, there were 25,000 automobiles in Tennessee and the State Highway Commission was formed. Matching funds for road construction were offered by the federal government to those states with highway departments. The Tennessee State Legislature authorized borrowing five million dollars in 1925 to build highways and bridges. A 1927 study by Harland Bartholomew and Associates for the city of Knoxville in Knox County, adjacent to Sevier County, reported that automobile registration had increased from 5,978 in 1920 to 18,600 in 1925.

The Appalachian Mountains delineate the eastern boundary of Tennessee, separating it from North Carolina. With Chattanooga in the southeastern part of the state, travelling up through Knoxville, and over to cities in East Tennessee, there was a potential for tourism to become an important

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6Perry's Camp
Sevier County, TN

industry in these cities, surrounding communities and the mountains themselves. An important stimulus to tourism in the region occurred after 1925-1926 when the legislation authorizing the GSMNP was enacted. The Cherokee National Forest and the Pisgah National Forest surround the GSMNP. Beginning in 1933, the Blue Ridge Parkway was constructed as an extension of the Sky Line Highway in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park. The new road made access to the GSMNP easier. Locally, S.R. 71 (U.S. 441) was built as a gravel road in the late 1920s. In 1937, because this was the main road over the mountains, the National Park Service was given jurisdiction over the road and they paved it. The GSMNP was finally dedicated in 1940 by President Roosevelt.

In addition to routes into the GSMNP, there were numerous automobile tours promoted regionally and nationally. Probably the best known one is the Dixie Highway. The Dixie Highway Association was begun in 1915 and publicized routes from northern Michigan into Florida. Another route endorsed in 1926 by the Appalachian Journal in Knoxville came closer to the Perry's Camp location in Sevier County. Called the Dixie Park and Forest Tours, it included various roads from Washington, D.C. to points in Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Georgia. The route linked travellers with communities, caves, national forests, and parks. In 1927, the Appalachian Journal published routes for the Lincoln Johnson Tour, through southeastern Kentucky and upper East Tennessee, and for the Cherokee National Forest Tours, through East Tennessee including Knox and Sevier counties in the north and Polk and Hamilton counties in the south. The tours highlighted historic sites and natural features, respectively. Perry's Camp was located near the middle of many of these tour routes, making it convenient for automobile tourists to stay there.

There have been some changes to the Perry's Camp complex, primarily the loss of several buildings. However, the extant buildings still retain the essential physical features necessary to convey their significance. Integrity of feeling and association are especially strong, while integrity of design, workmanship, and materials are still strong. Integrity of location and setting remain, although they have been somewhat compromised by the road expansion and loss of buildings. Although a comprehensive survey of tourism related resources in the corridor along the mountains in East Tennessee has not been attempted, preliminary work has indicated that few resources are extant and those that are standing have been altered. Some resources, like Perry's Camp, were small groups of cabins or cottages, with few embellishments, that fit into their wooded settings. Because this is such an important tourism area in the State, development pressures are great and those resources that still stand are threatened

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Perry's Camp
Sevier County, TN

with the possibility of demolition or alteration. A United Motor Courts brochure from 1942 named four motor courts, that were members of the United Motor Courts association, on U.S. 71 between Knoxville and Gatlinburg; Perry's Camp was not mentioned. The motor courts advertised heat, fans, kitchenettes, and baths - all modern conveniences. Rustic cottages, playgrounds, fishing, and the GSMNP were also mentioned. It is not believed that any of these resources exist. Today, Perry's Camp is a rare example of an early twentieth century tourism-related resource. Known as Flat Branch Court, the complex's business cards state that there are "comfortable cottages close to the Little Pigeon River between Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg on U.S. Highway 441 and 321."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page⁸ _____Perry's Camp
Sevier County, TN

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Belasco, Warren. Americans on the Road: From Auto Camp to Motel 1910-1945. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1979.
- Jakle, John. The Tourist: Travel in Twentieth Century North America. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1985.
- Liebs, Chester. Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1985.
- Scott, Mel. American City Planning Since 1890. Berkley, CA: University of California Press, 1971.
- Frome, Michael. Strangers in High Places. Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 1980.
- Newton, Norman. Design on the Land. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971.
- Bowman, Elizabeth Skaggs. Land of High Horizons. Kingsport, TN: Kingsport Press, Inc., 1951.
- Marshall, Mack and Agnes. "Perry's Camp."
- Marshall, Mack. "Cabins? Motels? What's in a name?"
- Carver, Martha. "Historic Bridge Survey Report: Tennessee's Masonry Arch, Timber Truss, Metal Truss, Concrete Arch, Metal Arch and Suspension Bridges." Part I, draft 1991."
- Preston, Howard Laurence. Dirt Roads to Dixie. Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 1991.
- United Motor Courts, Inc. "United Motor Courts." Promotional brochure. Tenth edition, 1942.
- Jones, James B. "The Development of Motor Tourism in Tennessee's Southeastern Corridor, Circa 1910-1945: A Case Study Exploring Options for the Recognition and Preservation of Cultural Resources Associated with One Aspect of the More Recent Past." Study Unit number 11, 1991.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

Perry's Camp
Sevier County, TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Perry's Camp
101 Flat Branch Road
Sevierville vicinity, Sevier County, Tennessee
Photographs by: James Jones
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee
Date: October 15, 1991

Residence/Office, facing southwest
#1 of 23

Residence/Office, facing west
#2 of 23

Residence/Office, facing south
#3 of 23

Cabin #1, facing north
#4 of 23

Cabin #1, facing northeast
#5 of 23

Cabin #1, facing south
#6 of 23

Cabin #2, facing northwest
#7 of 23

Cabin #2, facing northwest
#8 of 23

Cabin #2, facing northeast
#9 of 23

Cabin #3, facing northwest
#10 of 23

Cabin #3, facing southeast
#11 of 23

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 10

Perry's Camp
Sevier County, TN

Cabin #3, facing northeast
#12 of 23

Cabin #4, facing northwest
#13 of 23

Cabin #4, facing southeast
#14 of 23

Cabins #4 and #3, facing east
#15 of 23

Back of cabins #3, #2, #1, facing southeast
#16 of 23

Backs of cabins, facing west
#17 of 23

Sluice and water wheel, facing east
#18 of 23

Overview including Cabin #1, sluice, stone work, facing west
#19 of 23

Overview including water wheel, wall, Cabin #1, facing west
#20 of 23

Overview showing water wheel and walls, facing northwest
#21 of 23

Overview showing walls, sluice, Cabin #1, facing northwest
#22 of 23

Stone walls, facing northwest
#23 of 23

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 11

Perry's Camp
Sevier County, TN

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Perry's Camp is comprised of all of the land (59.81 acres) on Sevier County Tax Assessor's map 116, parcel 9. Beginning at point A, the boundary moves along the property line southerly approximately 1200 feet to point B; thence westerly along the property line approximately 1200 feet to point C; thence south along the property line approximately 500 feet to point D; thence easterly and westerly along the property line approximately 2600 feet to point E, the southernmost point of the boundary; thence northeasterly along the property line approximately 2400 feet to point F, the easternmost point of the boundary; thence northwesterly along the property line approximately 2500 feet to the point of the beginning.

A tax map with the scale 1"=800", prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization, is the only scale map available for this property.

The parcel being nominated is an irregular shape that has been historically associated with the built resources. The cabins are concentrated along Flat Branch Road and the area around them and the remainder of the parcel provides a rustic wooded setting that is important to tourism related buildings in this part of Tennessee in the mountains.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 12

Perry's Camp
Sevier County, TN

↑ 1" = 200'

A. ← Boundary

