NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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OMB No. 10024-0018

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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 Headrick's Chapel other names/site number N/A	
2. Location	
street & number Wears Valley Road rotty or town Hatchertown	N/A☐ not for publication ☐ ☑ vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Sevier code 155	zip code 37862
	van
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 propert National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation she additional comments.)	ties in the R Part 60. In Derty be)
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that the property is: I hereby certify that the property is: I entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet I determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet	Date of Action
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register ☐ removed from the National Register.	
other, (explain:)	

Name of Property			County	and State	
5. Classification			1.02		
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)			s within Property sted resources in count)	
□ private □ public-local	building(s) ☐ district	Contribu	ting	Noncontributing	
public-State	site	1_	···	2	buildings
public-Federal	☐ structure ☐ object				sites structures
					objects
		1		2	Total
Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is not par			f Contributi onal Regist	ng resources previ er	ously listed
N/A			0	_	
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructio	ns)	Current Fu (Enter categor	inctions ries from instru	ctions)	
RELIGION: religious facili	ty	RELIGION:	religious fa	acility	
RECREATION AND CULT	TURE: auditorium	RECREATI	ON AND C	JLTURE: auditorium	
				A14-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-	
					
7. Description					
		Matariala			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instruction		Materials (Enter categor	ries from instru	ctions)	
Gothic Revival influence		foundation	STONE		
		walls	Weatherb	oard	
		_			
		roof	Tin; ASPF	IALT	
		other	GLASS		

Sevier County, Tennessee

Narrative Description

Headrick's Chapel

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

Headrick's Chapel	Sevier County, Tennessee
Name of Property	County and State
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE SOCIAL HISTORY RELIGION
■ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	TELIOION
☑ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity who's components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1902-1950
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations N/A (Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
Property is: A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A Significant Person
☐ B removed from its original location.	(complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A
□ C moved from its original location.□ D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
 ☐ F a commemorative property ☐ G less than 50 year of age or achieved significance 	Architect/Builder Unknown
within the past 50 years. Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation should be supported by the property of th	eets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form of	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 #	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository: East Tennessee Development District
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	·

Headrick's Chapel	Sevier County, Tennessee
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
To. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property Less than one acre	Wear Cove 157 NW
UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 16 257525 3953740	3
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
2	4
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation st Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Amanda L. Wild, Historic Preservation organization East Tennessee Development Dis	strict date January 19, 2001
street & number 5616 Kingston Pike, Post Office	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
city or town Knoxville	state Tennessee zip code 37939
Additional Documentation	
submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 0r 15 minute series) in	dicating the property's location
A Sketch map for historic districts and pr	operties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photog	raphs 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 Headrick's Chapel Board of Trustees (Co	ontact Person: Rhonda Luebke)
street & number P.O. Box 22563	telephone 865-693-7895
city or town Knoxville	state Tennessee zip code 37933

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

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

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DESCRIPTION

Headrick's Chapel is located between Sevierville and Townsend on Highway 321 in Wears Valley, Sevier County, Tennessee. In a commercialized county with a proliferation of outlet malls, restaurants, hotels, and shopping centers, Wears Valley remains virtually unblemished with gently rolling hills and pastureland creating a bucolic setting. The highway curves around the chapel, which is only several feet from the roadside. The chapel, itself, retains a high degree of integrity as a result of few changes to the building since the belfry and rear addition were added in 1908 and 1920 respectively. Although it is a simple vernacular structure, the chapel represents excellent craftsmanship along with Gothic Revival architectural detailing.

The chapel is located on less than one acre of land. Two privies (non-contributing) are located to the east of the building under a large oak tree. A cemetery is located to the north and west of the chapel. The cemetery is administered by a separate deed and board of trustees, and is not included in this nomination.

Headrick's Chapel is a one-story rectangular building with painted white cedar weatherboard exterior walls, and a regular smooth ashlar stone foundation. The chapel is located on a slight slope; therefore, the foundation is more exposed on the eastern end of the north and south elevations, as well as on the rear addition to the building. The moderately pitched front gable standing seam metal roof has a slight eave overhang. A belfry was added to the building ca. 1908, and is situated on the western end of the chapel roof. All of the windows of the building retain the original glazing as well as wood muntins, and are surrounded by a plain trim.

The front-gabled façade contains the entrance to the chapel. A concrete handicap accessible ramp leads to the entrance. A pair of two-paneled wood doors are symmetrically situated in the west elevation. A plain trim surrounds the doors. The trim above the door is slightly rounded, and there is a concave entablature, which was possibly at one time a transom, above the door. A quatrefoil, a Gothic Revival architectural detail, is symmetrically located in the gable. An open rake cornice follows the perimeter of the gabled roofline.

The south elevation faces the road. A concrete ramp runs along the entire length of the south elevation, and wraps around to the front (west) of the building to provide accessibility to the entrance of the building. The elevation contains two window openings with, four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash.

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The gabled east (rear) elevation of the building contains a rear addition constructed ca. 1920. The exterior walls of the addition are covered in weatherboard, painted white; thus matching the appearance of the original structure. The addition is five-sided with a hipped asphalt shingle roof. The top of the roof is contained within the gable of the façade; thereby not extending above the original roofline. Four of the five sides contain window openings with, two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash. The easternmost (rear) side does not contain a window or any ornamentation.

The north elevation is almost identical to the south elevation; however, there is no ramp, and a brick chimney is located on the outside of the north elevation. Two window openings with, four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash are symmetrically placed in the north facade.

The small open belfry is the most ornamental feature on the building, and shows Gothic Revival architectural details. The belfry is located nearest the facade, and rises from the roof ridge. The belfry is capped with a steeply pitched, cross gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Each gable field is decorated with scalloped shingles as well as saw tooth bargeboard detailing along the gable eaves and posts forming the tower. A bell remains in the tower.

The entrance on the facade of the chapel leads into the building's interior. The interior of the chapel is of a simple design consisting of an aisleless nave, and a small chancel, which was formed by the building's addition. The interior walls and ceiling are of poplar, hand-planked, and painted white. The original wood floor remains.

The interior received minimal alterations, and contains many original features and furnishings. The pews are original to the building and they are also constructed from poplar. The church is electrified with four hanging light fixtures and one attached light fixture in the chancel. These fixtures were added during the late 1940s. The arrangement of the church was slightly altered when the current stove replaced the original wood stove, which was centrally located in the room. The stove now rests along the north wall of the nave.

The 1920 addition to the building included the construction of a raised platform, the chancel, on the east end of the building. The chancel is approached by one wood stair that runs along the entire length of the platform. The platform contains a pulpit, altar, wood stands, and other furnishings associated with worship. The pulpit and wood stands, which are located on either side of the wood pulpit, are built-in features and were constructed with the 1920 addition.

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Two wood privies, one for males and one for females, are located to the east of the church, underneath a large oak tree. These privies replaced the original privies that were once located across the street. The Primitive Baptist congregation removed the original privies in the 1950s or 1960s.

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Headrick's Chanel

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Headrick's Chapel, located in Wears Valley in Sevier County, Tennessee on Highway 321, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its significance in the religious and social history of Wears Valley, and under criterion C for its architecture. The church has a distinct history as a structure shared by four religious denominations, and as a building utilized for social functions. Secondly, it is an excellent example of a vernacular church with subtle Gothic Revival influences. The chapel is a well-preserved local landmark that not only represents local craftsmanship, but also a significant history of the religious and social customs of a small mountain community in Wears Valley.

Wears Valley is located between Townsend and Sevierville and remains rural and uncommercialized. The valley is approximately six miles long and four miles wide with a population of 1,100. The land consists of rolling hills, fertile lowlands, springs, and two large mountains, the Cove Mountain and Round Top. The chapel is located only several feet from the highway, and the road curves around the structure. A cemetery is located behind the chapel. Residents from the valley gathered at this cemetery for burial services as early as 1830, but without the benefit of a church.

During the last decade of the nineteenth century, residents in the valley began to desire a chapel, especially for funeral services. One event specifically motivated the residents to build a structure. Lena Headrick explains, "When lighting struck down the tree only a few hours after a Decoration Day service, they knew that Providence had settled the matter." A committee of people from the valley requested Peter Headrick to donate land for a new church. He was at first hesitant, but as explained by Lena Headrick, "Uncle Peter was hesitant at first and asked for some time to think it over, but that very night, before the sun rose again, he awoke and walked the three miles over the mountain to Reverend Dan Abbott's to tell him he would donate the land." The donated land was located nearest to the old portion of the Headrick cemetery, and was valued at twenty-five dollars.

Peter Headrick and his wife, S.E. Headrick, signed the original deed on May 3, 1902. It established that the chapel would be shared jointly by the entire community, and not belong to any one denomination. The deed specifically states, "The Primitive Baptist, Missionary Baptist, M.E.

¹ Lena Headrick, "Headrick's Chapel," New Harp of Columbia (Spring 1990 #5), 3.

² Lena Headrick, "Headrick's Chapel," 3.

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Raising funds and the actual construction of the chapel was a community effort. Over sixty people are listed in the church account book as having donated money for the construction of the chapel. The largest sum paid was \$50.00, while many other individuals contributed much less. Others donated their labor and materials. Lena Headrick states, "Money was scarce in Wears Valley then, with donations ranging from nickels and dimes to several dollars, so most people simply donated logs." The people utilized local resources that were readily available. Poplar, for instance, came from the Smoky Mountains. The exterior weatherboard is of cedar, and the interior walls, ceiling, floor, and pews are of poplar. The windows, however, came by railroad, and a member in the community rode into Townsend and brought the windows back in a wagon. West Crowson, Uncle Jake Headrick's son-in-law, sawed the logs into lumber, and community members dressed the wood by hand. Construction of the chapel proceeded rapidly, and the community held a dedication ceremony on August 31, 1902.

The single-most purpose of the chapel was for funeral services, and these services took precedent over all other services or church functions. Peter Headrick specified this stipulation clearly in the original deed stating, "Provided that funeral services or service in connection with the burial of the dead shall always take preference to any and all other uses and purposes and each and all the denominations shall give way to such funeral services." Funerals served as one of the community's greatest social activities, and the building was always full.

Aside from worship services and funerals, the church provided for other activities as well. On January 4, 1903, a Union Sunday school was organized. Sunday school was held every Sunday

³ Sevier County, Deed Book 4, 445.

⁴ Headrick, "Headrick's Chapel," 3.

⁵ Deed Book 4, 445.

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afternoon in the chapel and continued through 1954. In 1954, the Sunday school was phased out because many of the churches in the area had developed their own Sunday schools.

The chapel was also host to old harp singing. It is believed that this tradition began circa 1910. According to Lena Headrick, the originator of the local tradition is unknown, but it is possible that it was Reverend John Abbott as he was recognized for his voice and for his interest in harp singing. The harp singing continues today, being held on the fourth Sunday in September. The chapel was also used for revivals, and during these religious experiences, community members recall that the church was always packed with people coming not only from the Valley, but from around the county, as well as from neighboring Blount County.

Since its construction in 1902, there have been only minimal alterations to the chapel. In 1908, Jim Dunn, son-in-law of Peter Headrick, built a belfry for the building. An account ledger from Headrick's Chapel, dated May 16th, 1908, lists the names of individuals and their subscriptions for the belfry. Subscriptions were generally less than one dollar, with most people contributing twenty-five cents. After the bell was added, it would be tolled every time that someone died in Wears Valley. The belfry is an important design element of Gothic Revival churches. Headrick's Chapel's belfry is the most ornamental feature on the structure with a steeply pitched, cross gable roof, scalloped shingles, and saw tooth bargeboard detailing.

In the 1920s, an addition to the east elevation of the church was made. This addition includes a small platform, or chancel, and was added because more room was needed, particularly for funeral services. Aside from this addition, the interior has been altered very little. Originally, a wood stove was located in the center of the building. The original location of the chimney in the ceiling is visible by a metal plate that covers the opening. Swinging oil lamps provided the original lighting for the chapel. In 1948, electricity came to the valley, so it is likely that the chapel received electrification shortly after this time.

Two privies are located to the east of the chapel, but are non-contributing buildings. The original privies were located across the street, on property not contained within the deed. Lois Luebke believes that this land originally belonged to a Headrick, who allowed for the construction of the privies on his land. Most likely when the land was sold, the new owner requested the removal of the privies. The Primitive Baptist congregation constructed the existing privies during the 1950s or 1960s.

⁶ Headrick, "Headrick's Chapel," 4.

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Wears Valley has undergone several name changes since its early settlement in the eighteenth century. The area was first called Crowson's Cove; in 1807 it was referred to as Wears Cove; in 1832, a map of Tennessee labeled the area as Weirs Cove; and then in 1898, the settlement was called Wears Valley. In 1792, two white settlers, Aaron Crowson and Percefield (first name is unknown) traveled from North Carolina to the area that is today called Wears Valley in search of home sites. The men had the land surveyed, perhaps by a surveyor with the last name of Wear. Percefield was killed early in the adventure, and was the first person to be buried in the valley.

Crowson remained in the valley and received a land grant. Soon, other families migrated to the area. Ida Headrick Myers, author of a short history of Wears Valley, explains that the families who settled in the valley represented "mountain folk," ninety-eight percent of whom descended from white settlers of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. The Wears, Crowson, Hatcher, Timel, Barnes, Mattox, Baily, Walker, Yearout, Shulz, Slaughter, Headrick, Emert, Blair, King, Lines, Lawson, and Bryan families were among the first to settle in the area.

Religion and worship were particularly important to these settlers, and they quickly established services. During the early settlement of the area, no churches existed in the valley; therefore, the community often met in the homes of neighbors to worship.⁸ The first church structure was rather crude with dirt floors.

In 1860, Richard Crowson and Reuben Hatcher built a Methodist church. Both the Methodist congregation and a Baptist congregation met at this church until 1886 when the Methodists built their own building, which still stands today. That same year, the Wears Valley Baptist congregation built their own church; however, this building is no longer extant.

Architecturally, Headrick's Chapel provides an excellent example of a vernacular church with subtle Gothic Revival detailing. Gothic Revival architecture was commonly used in church buildings during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Several rural churches in Sevier County resemble Headrick's Chapel. The Little Greenbrier School and Church (1882) (NR 1976), which is located two miles south of Wears Valley, has a rectangular form, poplar walls, gable roof, and a

⁷ Ida Headrick Myers, "Recollections of Wears Valley," Pamphlet, McClung Collection, East Tennessee Historical Center, Knoxville, TN.

⁸ Sevier County Heritage Book Committee, *Sevier County, Tennessee and Its Heritage*, (Waynesville, NC: Walsworth Publishers, 1994), 20.

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single doorway. Murphy's Chapel (1887) is located near Harrisburg and is rectangular with a gable front, bell tower, standing seam metal roof, and single wood panel door with a transom. Shult's Grove (1914) is architecturally similar with a rectangular form, front gable, tower, single wood panel door, and a metal roof.⁹

Headrick's Chapel is a simple rectangular frame building with a standing seam metal room, paneled double door, and double-hung sash windows. Gothic Revival architectural details in Headrick's Chapel are exhibited in a quatrefoil located in the front gable, and also in the belfry, which is decorated with scalloped shingles and saw tooth bargeboard detailing. Both interior and exterior features have been well preserved, and the building retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Headrick's Chapel served an important religious and social need in the community providing for worship, funerals, weddings, revivals, Sunday School, and harp singing. The construction of the building was community-driven and financed by donations and labor by members in the community. The building represents the development of Wears Valley, and the importance this chapel played in fulfilling the needs of the community.

Headrick's Chapel provides an excellent example of vernacular church architecture with a distinct social and religious history. Although three of the other congregations that historically met in the chapel have since built their own church, it continues to be occupied by the Primitive Baptist congregation one Sunday a month. The chapel continues to be used for funeral services, usually by the Primitive Baptists, but it is available for the community. Weddings still take place here; as does an annual harp sing.

⁹ Robbie D. Jones, *Historic Architecture of Sevier County* (Sevierville, TN: Smoky Mountain Historical Society, 1997), 258.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY		
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Jones, Robbie D. Historic Architecture of Sevier C Mountain Historical Society, 1997.	County. Sevierville, TN: Smoky	

Luebke, Lois Headrick. Interview by Amanda L. Wild, 18 January 2001.

Myers, Ida Headrick. "Recollections of Wears Valley." Pamphlet, McClung Collection.

Sevier County Heritage Book Committee. Sevier County, Tennessee and Its Heritage. Waynesville, NC: Walsworth Publishers, 1994.

Sevier County Deed Book 4.

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Headrick's Changl

GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Headrick's Chapel sits on less than one acre of land on Wears Valley Road, and is located on Parcel 2 on Sevier County Tax Map No. 134 (Scale: 1" = 400').

The tax map for this nomination has the scale of 1" = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

Boundary Justification

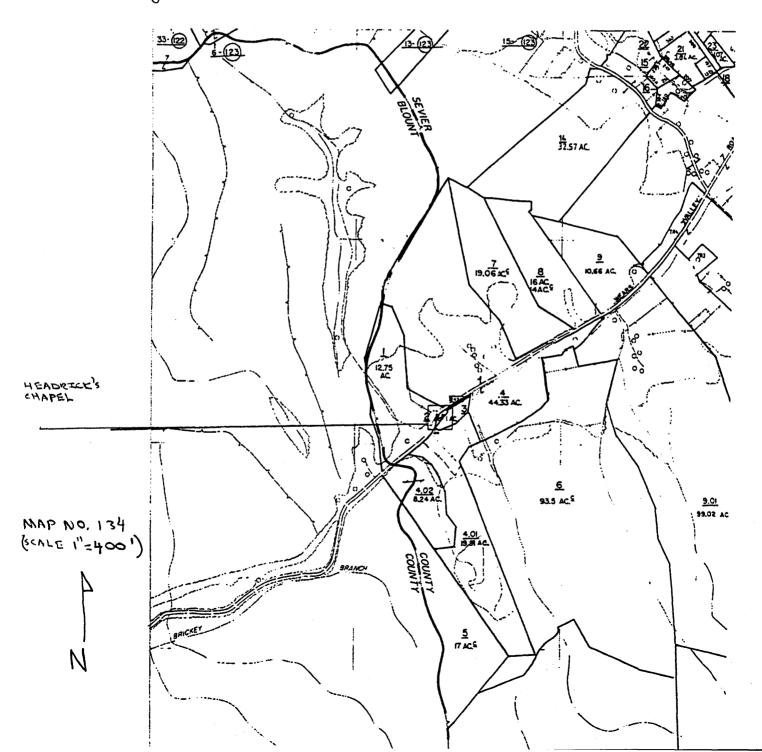
The nominated boundary includes the parcel of land historically associated with the chapel, and included within the original deed.

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Headrick's Chapel Wear s Valley, Sevier Co.



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Headrick's Chapel Sevier County, Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

Headrick's Chapel Sevier County, Tennessee

Photos By: Amanda Wild

East Tennessee Development District

P.O. Box 19806 Knoxville, TN 37939

Date:

January 2001

Negatives:

Tennessee Historical Commission

2941 Lebanon Road Nashville, TN 37243

West (front) and north elevations, facing southeast 1 of 8

South and east (rear) elevations, facing northwest 2 of 8

North and east elevation, facing southwest 3 of 8

Interior, facing east 4 of 8

Interior, facing west 5 of 8

Privies, facing north 6 of 8

West elevation, facing east 7 of 8

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Bell tower, facing southeast 8 of 8