



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 Shults Grove Methodist Church
Other names/site number Shults Grove United Methodist Church
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number: Rocky Flats Road at East Ball Hollow Road
City or town: Cosby State: TN County: Sevier
Not For Publication: Vicinity: Zip Code: 37722

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Claudia K. Stager 10/3/16
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
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 of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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) _____

[Handwritten Signature]
 Signature of the Keeper
 for

11-22-2016
 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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	2	structures
0	0	objects
2	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Gothic Revival

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/weatherboard; STONE/granite, sandstone;
GLASS; METAL/aluminum; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

Constructed in 1914, the Shults Grove Methodist Church is located off Rocky Flats Road in Sevier County, Tennessee. The church is located approximately three-and-one-half miles southwest of the town of Cosby, Tennessee, and one-half mile west of the Cocke County line. The church is a wood frame, one-story building with a rectangular plan. The church rests on a rough, stacked stone masonry foundation, with an exterior of wood weatherboard siding. The front-gable roof is clad in standing seam metal, with a projecting bell tower on the south end. The bell tower is square in shape, with four wood posts supporting a pyramidal roof. With its intact original features and a setting lacking in modern intrusions, the church features a high degree of integrity.

Setting

Located in a rural residential area southwest of Cosby, Tennessee, Shults Grove Methodist Church is situated at the intersection of East Ball Hollow Road and Rocky Flats Road. Cosby is an unincorporated community of Sevier County with an approximate population of 6,600. The church is located atop a small hill, with a façade that faces southeast towards East Ball Hollow Road. A gravel-covered parking lot is located on the southwest side of the church, along Rocky Flats Road, with several mature-growth trees scattered throughout the parking area. Immediately adjoining the gravel lot along Rocky Flats Road is a gable-roof pavilion, constructed in 2002-2003. The pavilion is supported by simple wood posts and serves as a picnic area for the

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congregation. Wood stairs with a simple post railing on the left side extend from the east side of the gravel lot, and climb the hill towards the church. Another gravel lot is located on the northeast side of the church, with a wide gravel walkway that extends to the church's front door. A small, c.1965, outhouse is located adjacent to the northeast corner of the church. The shed-roof outhouse features an exterior of flush board siding. Concentrations of mature trees both separate the front of the church from East Ball Hollow Road, and extend along the church's northwest elevation towards Rocky Flats Road. Such vegetation creates a verdant, wooded atmosphere, despite the parcel being surrounded by roads on two sides.

Shults Grove Methodist Church (contributing building, c. 1914)

Exterior

The rectangular plan church building features a façade that is oriented towards East Ball Hollow Road on the southeast, with side elevations facing the northeast and southwest. The church rests on a continuous, uncut stone foundation that extends to accommodate the natural topography of the land. The exterior walls are clad in wood weatherboard, painted white. The front-gable roof is clad in standing seam metal, with a slight eave overhang on all elevations.

Centered on the ridgeline at the front of the church, the square-shaped bell tower has a pyramidal roof clad in pressed metal sheets. A copper spire, ending in an acorn-shaped detail, extends upward from the rooftop. The bell tower is enclosed with a simple turned wood balustrade, and decorative curved brackets enhance the wood post supports. The balustrade is set on a square base clad in wood shingles. Original to the church building, the bell tower is one of the more detailed architectural elements of the otherwise sparse building (*Photograph 11*).

The façade (southeast) features the primary entryway, a five-panel wood door that is centered on the elevation (*Photograph 1*). The door is accessed by a set of concrete steps, with a simple wood railing on the left side. The door is surrounded by simple wood trim. A Gothic-arch transom is located above the door, featuring three-light, stained-glass, Y-tracery. Immediately above the transom is a stone panel, inscribed "SHULTS GROVE M.E. CHURCH. 1914" and surrounded by wood trim (*Photograph 7*).

The northeast elevation features three evenly spaced, single-hung, wood sash windows (*Photograph 5*). The Gothic-arch windows feature three-light upper sashes with Y-tracery and two vertical light lower sashes. The uppermost light, the irregular diamond-shaped pane between the "Y," is stained glass, while the remaining lights are etched in a swirling, curved detail. It is unclear whether or not the etched panes of glass are original. A modern air-conditioning unit is placed in the window on the second bay. One of the few modifications to the church is present on the northeast elevation; an exterior concrete block chimney is located off-center, between the second and third bays. The chimney is painted white and dates to approximately 1965, when the below-grade furnace room was added to the building. A metal flue projects slightly from the top of the chimney.

Facing an expanse of dense vegetation and trees, the northwest elevation contains no fenestration or architectural details (*Photograph 4*). Due to the sloping topography of the terrain, this elevation is the closest to the natural ground line, and some staining due to moisture intrusion is visible on the lowermost levels of the weatherboard siding. However, the majority of the siding remains in good condition.

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On the southwest elevation, the single-hung, Gothic-arch windows mirror those on the northeast elevation in design and spacing (*Photograph 3*). The four largest window lights feature the same curved etching, with a painted stained glass light at the top of the Y-tracery. On the third bay, the window holds a modern air-conditioning unit. Mid-twentieth-century alterations are also visible on this elevation, with the addition of a below-grade furnace room, c.1965. The furnace room is a one-room, interior space enclosed with concrete block masonry. It provides storage space for the congregation and holds the modern heating unit. A small portion of the stone foundation was removed and replaced with concrete block masonry on both sides of the entryway. A flush board door, topped by a two-light transom window, provides access to the furnace room.

Interior

The one-room interior of the church retains a substantial amount of original details and finishes. Upon entering the doorway on the southeast elevation, one is immediately standing within the single interior space of Shults Grove Methodist Church. The original wood floors are present, though covered with a thin carpet, and the flush board wood walls feature original wood wainscoting and wood chair rail. The exposed, dark wood of the vaulted ceiling provides contrast to the painted white walls. On the same wall as the entryway, a wood ladder runs adjacent to the door to access the bell tower via a small ceiling panel. On the opposite side of the door, a rope attached to the bell hangs down to be secured to a series of hooks attached to the wall. Ten wood pews are arranged in two lines of five within the church; these wood pews date to c.1965. Evenly spaced along the ceiling above the main aisle are three metal and glass, hanging light fixtures (date unknown). Immediately opposite the door, a pulpit and altar space is located on wood risers covered in carpet.

Along with the door, windows are surrounded by a simple wood trim, with bullseye moldings at the corners (*Photograph 16*). Windows are in relatively good condition and retain high integrity, with original window ropes and pulley systems still in use.

Alterations within the interior include an area of patched ceiling that previously held the woodstove, located near the center of the west wall, and the removal of an interior stove that had provided heating for the church. The stove was removed in approximately 1965, when the below-grade interior space was constructed to serve as a furnace room. On the whole, the interior of the church retains a high degree of integrity.

Outhouse (non-contributing building, c. 1960)

Located on the northeast side of the church, towards the rear of the parcel, is a shed-roof outhouse (*Photograph 17*). The outhouse rests on a continuous concrete slab foundation, with an exterior of flush board siding. It has a standing seam metal roof with wide eave overhangs. Access is provided on the southeast elevation, with a simple flush board door. The outhouse retains an exterior appearance that is consistent with, and complimentary to, the church's exterior.

Wood Stairs (non-contributing structure, c. 1980)

A set of freestanding exterior wood stairs originates from the east side of the gravel lot that lines Rocky Flats Road (*Photograph 19*). Ten risers of stairs extend east from the parking lot, then turn approximately ten degrees towards the north for ten risers. The middle set of steps are of varying depths, and curve slightly towards the north to avoid the roots of a large tree. The final portion of stairs extends ten treads towards the west to reach the gravel walkway in front of the church façade. A square wood railing, supported by wood posts, extends the full length of the stairs' left side.

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Pavilion (non-contributing building, c. 2002)

Located immediately northwest of the gravel lot along Rocky Flats Road, the pavilion was constructed in 2002 to provide additional outdoor space for the congregation (*Photograph 20*). The pavilion's gable roof is clad in standing-seam metal, with wide eave overhangs on each elevations. The gable fields, aligned in the same direction as the façade and rear elevations of the church, are clad in vertical vinyl siding. The pavilion is supported by a series of four wood posts on each side, with each post supported by diagonal wood bracing. The pavilion rests on a gravel floor with a rough embankment of stacked stones on the side that lines Rocky Flats Road.

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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 N/A

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

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1914

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Shults Grove Methodist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture at the local level of significance. Shults Grove Methodist Church is a strong example of rural vernacular church architecture, featuring a simple adaptation of the Gothic Revival style and high quality craftsmanship. The church features a rectangular plan church with original wood weatherboard siding, a square-shaped bell tower with a pyramidal roof and a copper spire, and Gothic-arch windows with Y-tracery. The 1914 church retains a high degree of integrity, especially in the areas of location, setting, association, feeling, design, and workmanship. The site retains its rural residential surroundings in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Local Context

Shults Grove Methodist Church was built at the threshold of Sevier County's transition towards a modern economy supported by the logging, timber, and tourism industries. Located in the community of Rocky Grove, the church is representative of the array of small rural communities that developed throughout the county in the decades following the Civil War.

Largely reliant on agricultural production, Sevier County economy's in the late-nineteenth century was forced to rebound from the severe impacts of the Civil War. From 1865 to approximately 1880, Sevier County experienced a slow population growth as farmers attempted to re-establish successful markets and accelerate production. The county was not as devastated by the Civil War as were other sections of Tennessee and the South; the majority of area farms were small and operated by self-sufficient farmers, instead of large farms operated with slave labor. Because of this, agricultural production returned to pre-war levels by the 1870s, though industrial and manufacturing practices still lagged behind. The county's population continued to grow despite financial struggles, numbering over 11,000 residents in 1870.¹

Sevier County churches also experienced a period of recovery after the Civil War. All over the South, congregations underwent intense sectional battles based on political and regional allegiances. Before the war, only Baptist and Methodist denominations were located in the county, both divided into northern and southern sections. The Southern Methodist Church in downtown Sevierville was constructed in 1853; a large, Gothic Revival-style building that established a large cornerstone of Methodists in Sevierville and throughout the county. By the 1870s, smaller churches and schools, "the backbone of the rural community," were popping up in isolated communities throughout the county.²

The years from 1880 to 1900 were the "beginning of a new era of prosperity for Sevier County."³ The region had rebounded from the post-war depression, with the population up to 15,541 in 1880 and farms operating at or above levels of production achieved in 1860.⁴ As the Southern Appalachian Mountains were increasingly explored for commercial lumbering, northern economic interests brought financial stimulus to the region. The nascent logging and timber industry rapidly spread throughout the Great Smoky Mountains

¹ Robbie D. Jones, *The Historic Architecture of Sevier County* (Sevierville: Smoky Mountain Historical Society, 1996), 43-44.

² Ibid, 46.

³ Ibid, 48.

⁴ Ibid.

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and surrounding area in the following decades, and the industry supported several small family-owned mills throughout Sevier County. Tourism also began to thrive in this era, with a series of resorts and hotels constructed throughout Sevier County, including the Henderson Springs Hotel in Pigeon Forge. The timber industry and tourism provided a strong compliment to Sevier County's successful agricultural practices, and the 1890s became a period of economic and social change for the county. By 1890, Sevier County had a population of 18,761.⁵

Numerous churches and schools were constructed in the county in the 1890s, "serving as the centers of growing crossroad communities."⁶ Many were one- or two-room, modest buildings of log or wood frame. By 1890, there were seventy-two churches in Sevier County.⁷ Both Baptists and Methodists formed new congregations, and constructed new meeting houses for older congregations. Crossroads communities, such as the Rocky Grove community, grew throughout the county, anchored by small religious and educational institutions.

From 1900 to 1920, small communities throughout Sevier County continued to grow. The progress of rural areas is clear in an article in the *Montgomery Vindicator*, the county's largest newspaper (at the time), which mentioned forty-two different communities within the county limits.⁸ As companies such as the Little River Lumber Company and the Champion Fiber Company increased their presence in the Great Smoky Mountains, both the timber and tourism industries received a strong stimulus. The town of Sevierville and its immediate environs were supplied with electricity for the first time in the 1910s, benefitting from a hydroelectric station on the Little Pigeon River. Numerous "mission schools" were constructed in the more isolated communities of Sevier County, including the Pi Beta Phi Settlement in Gatlinburg in 1912 (NR-listed, 7/11/2007).

Church Origins and Development

Shults Grove Methodist Church was constructed in 1914 in the Rocky Grove community, one of the "crossroads communities" that dotted the county in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The area is now known as Cosby. In September 1912, George and R.C. Shults conveyed a portion of their family's land to the Methodist Episcopal Church for a sum of twenty-five dollars.⁹ This would provide the foundation for Shults Grove, and more land was donated to the church for another twenty-five dollars in 1914. In a deed of conveyance dated January 17, 1914, the church is described as being "situated in District One of Sevier County, State of Tennessee lying on the waters of Dunn's Creek," and was directly aligned with the Methodist Episcopal Church.¹⁰ Before the church's construction, church members met in a local schoolhouse.¹¹ The church takes its name from the area family who conveyed the land, originating with

⁵ Ibid., 49.

⁶ Ibid., 51.

⁷ Ibid., 52.

⁸ Ibid., 66.

⁹ Sevier County Register of Deeds. Book 23, page 142.

¹⁰ Sevier County Register of Deeds. Book 28, page 74.

¹¹ Duay O'Neil, "Shults Grove United Methodist Church celebrating 100th anniversary," *The Newport Plain Talk*, August 23, 2014, 13A.

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George Shults (known as 'Brooksie,' to distinguish him from several other family members named George). Born in 1848, Shults had nine

children.¹² He passed away in 1915, only a year after the church's construction, but his descendants attended church at the location for the following decades.

The church was originally known as Shults Grove Methodist Church. There were several small Methodist congregations in Sevier and nearby Cocke County, known as the Pittman Center circuit. In the early twentieth century, Shults Grove utilized lay ministers and travelling pastors who would attend services at multiple locations in a day. Samuel Scott Wilson worked as a schoolteacher, farmer, and rural mail carrier, and presided over the church worship services when a pastor wasn't available. Wilson, too, had a Shults connection; he was the son of Rachel C. (Shults) Wilson.¹³ Other pastors involved in the church included the Reverends John Lindsey, Joseph A. Shults, Benerige Branam, Eli Branam, Ralph E. Cline, and the current Reverend Alta Raper.¹⁴

On August 4, 1938, a strong storm demolished the nearby Rock Springs Church of Christ, ripping the building from its foundation. Workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps were assisting with construction projects in the nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and approximately fifty men used the Shults Grove churchyard as a temporary headquarters while assisting with rescue and rebuilding operations.¹⁵

The church closed in 1953, due to declining membership and financial challenges. Before re-opening in February of 1965, a letter from a parishioner details some of the minor improvements that were made. The basement was dug out and a coal furnace installed to replace the old wood stove. The church reopened on February 14, 1965, but several improvements were made over the next weeks. The exterior was painted and the tin roof was replaced, alongside the construction of an outhouse, the concrete steps leading to the door, and the installation of new pews.¹⁶ The Northern and Southern Methodist Churches reunified in the 1960s, so the new church was known as Shults Grove United Methodist Church.

In the early 1990s, the church was featured in Sevier County native Dolly Parton's film *Heartsong*, which depicts the scenery and residents of the Great Smoky Mountains area for audiences at Dollywood, an amusement park in Sevier County. The congregation celebrated the church's 100-year anniversary in August 2014. Today, the church maintains an active community parish with weekly services officiated by Reverend Alta Raper.

Architecture

Shults Grove Methodist Church is representative of the trends of early twentieth-century religious architecture, adapted to a rural vernacular context. Prior to approximately 1830, the construction of religious buildings was not a high priority for the burgeoning towns of Tennessee. This was due to numerous factors,

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

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including relatively relaxed religious practices in the late eighteenth century, and the high number of Tennesseans residing in distant rural areas. While church architecture evolved slowly in Tennessee's village

centers throughout the mid- to late-nineteenth century, the countryside was host to a high number of small meetinghouses.¹⁷ Drawing on both religious inclinations and financial necessity, meetinghouses were originally simple structures built with modest detailing. However, influences such as Gothic Revival style were distilled and spread throughout the countryside as more examples were constructed in cities such as Nashville and Knoxville. Shults Grove Methodist Church stands in the tradition small country churches in rural areas of East Tennessee, featuring a modest interpretation of the Gothic Revival style.

The Gothic Revival style originated in Tennessee with Episcopal churches constructed under Bishop James Harvey Otey in the 1830s. With examples first constructed in Nashville, Franklin, and Columbia, the Gothic Revival style spread westward and south over the following two decades. In 1845, St. John's Episcopal Church of Knoxville was among the first iterations of the style east of the Tennessee River.¹⁸ The style grew in popularity after the Civil War, in the latter half of the nineteenth century. High style representations of the Gothic Revival style demonstrate an emphasis on verticality with steeply pitched roofs, spires, and detailed towers. Pointed arch windows, often referred to as Gothic arches, are used consistently and often elaborated with stained glass.¹⁹ The style also spread through residential architecture in the mid-nineteenth century, promoted by the pattern books of Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing. Both designers promoted the style to best fit rural areas, describing it as compatible with the natural landscape. One substyle of the Gothic Revival, with a form of construction more accommodating to the construction materials of East Tennessee, is the Carpenter Gothic. Residences and churches built in wood frame were often covered with horizontal cladding or vertical board-and-batten siding, featuring detailing in wood instead of brick or stone.²⁰

Constructed in 1914, Shults Grove Methodist Church was built decades after the peak of the Gothic Revival style. The delayed appearance of Gothic Revival detailing is indicative of its location in a rural area of Sevier County. In the community referred to by residents as Rocky Grove, Shults Grove is three-and-one-half miles southwest of Cosby, Tennessee. The church is over fifteen miles southeast of Sevierville, and over thirty-five miles from Knoxville. Like other country churches in East Tennessee, Shults Grove was constructed to serve a small residential population from the surrounding rural area. Instead of drawing immediate influence from contemporary, high-style churches in a city, rural church builders could select specific details that would be easy to enact on a small scale and would fit with the congregation's modest surroundings. The inherently religious nature of Gothic Revival style makes it a natural fit for church details; the pointed arch windows with Y-tracery that adorn Shults Grove Methodist Church align it with a broad tradition of religious building.

¹⁷ James Patrick, *Architecture in Tennessee: 1768-1897*, Contemporary Photography by Michael A. Tomlan (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1981), 105.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 112.

¹⁹ Carroll Van West, *Tennessee's Historic Landscapes: A Traveler's Guide* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995), 78.

²⁰ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Random House, 1984), 200.

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The Gothic Revival details of pointed arch windows and a bell tower with a spire are combined with a modest, rectangular-plan church form to result in the humble, vernacular building of Shults Grove Methodist Church. Other than the windows and the bell tower, Shults Grove is a simple church, with a rustic stone

foundation and unadorned cornices. The materials of wood and local stone align it with its wooded, rural surroundings.

Several other modest examples of Gothic Revival detailing exist in Sevier County. Murphy's Chapel, constructed outside of Sevierville in the late 1880s, features a similar form as Shults Grove, with a front-gable roof, a weatherboard exterior, and a bell tower on the façade.²¹ This chapel is one of the earliest examples of a modest Gothic Revival style in the area. The Middle Creek Methodist Church is known as "Sevier County's best example of a Gothic Revival style church building," built in 1901 by Cisco Williams, a Sevierville carpenter.²² The Middle Creek Methodist Church features elements typical of the style, such as Gothic-arched window and door openings and a highly ornate corner tower. A more modest example can be found in Headrick's Chapel (NR-listed, 7/19/2001), a small church located approximately twenty miles southwest of Shults Grove, in Wears Valley. Headrick's Chapel is a similarly simple, rectangular church building, also clad in wood weatherboard siding on a stone foundation. An open belfry with a cross gable roof is located along the façade, similar to the bell tower of Shults Grove. The belfry, the only decorative element of Headrick's Chapel, was added in 1908.²³ Similar to the other Gothic Revival-style churches in Sevier County, the Shults Grove Methodist Church demonstrates select details of the academic style, adapted to its own specific context, fitting in well with its surroundings as a rural community church.

Integrity

The Shults Grove Methodist Church retains a high level of historic integrity as defined by each of the seven aspects of integrity. As the church building remains where it originally constructed, the church retains integrity of **location**. The church has high integrity of **design**; where alterations have occurred, they are minimal and do not affect the overall form, plan, space, structure, and style of the property. The church is nearly identical to its original design; the only exterior alteration is the modification of the stone foundation to create an entrance the basement and furnace room on the west elevation (c.1965). Interior alterations are limited to the addition of a carpet over the original wood floors and a patched portion of ceiling. Shults Grove Methodist Church also retains integrity of **setting**. Only a few changes have been made to the site, including the construction of a small outhouse (c.1965), the addition of wood steps up the hill (c.1985), and a pavilion constructed in the early 2000s along Rocky Flats Road. Two gravel lots were also installed on the east and west portions of the property. An early photograph of the church (c.1915-1925) shows the church in an open space, lacking dense vegetative cover (*see Figure 4*). Today, the church benefits from dense, mature-growth trees on its north side. However, these modifications do not detract from the overall setting of the church. Originating as a country church in a rural residential area, the area surrounding Shults Grove remains highly residential, featuring modest houses, consistently set back from the street, and surrounded by wooded areas. Historic **materials** are largely intact, other than the few modifications that removed a portion

²¹ Jones, *The Historic Architecture of Sevier County*, 258.

²² *Ibid.*, 258.

²³ National Register of Historic Places, Headrick's Chapel, Sevier County, Tennessee, National Register #01000756.

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of the stone foundation. The church retains its original weatherboard cladding, stone foundation, wood window sashes, and bell tower structure. The well-preserved, long-lasting nature of such materials reflects the church's strong integrity of **workmanship**. These attributes combine with the wooded, rural

surroundings of Sevier County to generate a strong integrity of **feeling** and **association** that remain true to the roots of Shults Grove Methodist Church.

Benefitting from the preservation of its original design, materials, and surroundings, the Shults Grove Methodist Church is strongly representative of its origins in the early twentieth century. The building's details represents a vernacular, modest adaptation of the Gothic Revival style that was utilized around the county for religious architecture. The church was constructed in a period when rural crossroads communities were thriving throughout Sevier County, and it continues to serve as a community church for a small local congregation.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

- Jones, Robbie D. *The Historic Architecture of Sevier County*. Sevierville: Smoky Mountain Historical Society, 1996.
- McAlester, Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Random House, 1984.
- Patrick, James. *Architecture in Tennessee: 1768-1897*, Contemporary Photography by Michael A. Tomlan. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1981.
- Sevier County Register of Deeds. Book 23, page 142; book 28, page 74.
- Sims, David Lee. *In the Forks of the Little Pigeon River: A History of Sevierville's Business and Residential Districts*. Sevierville, TN: Nandel Publishing Co., 1988.
- United States Geological Survey. Jones Cove 164-SE Quadrangle, Tennessee. 1:24,000, 7.5 Minute Series. Reston, VA: United States Department of the Interior, USGS, 1940 (photorevised 1978).
- Van West, Carroll. *Tennessee's Historic Landscapes: A Traveler's Guide*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously listed in the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	designated a National Historic Landmark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	<input type="checkbox"/>	University
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository: Sevier County Archives	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.73 acres **USGS Quadrangle** Jones Cove, TN – 164 SE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 35.78385

Longitude: -83.296064

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for Shults Grove Methodist Church begins at the northeast junction of Rocky Flats Road and East Ball Hollow Road. From this point, the boundary runs northeast along East Ball Hollow Road approximately 275 feet, northwest along the edge of a gravel parking lot and terminating in a wooded area, southwest along a dense concentration of trees, and returns southeast along Rocky Flats Road back to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The boundary represents the 0.73 acre parcel on that has been historically associated with the Shults Grove Methodist Church.

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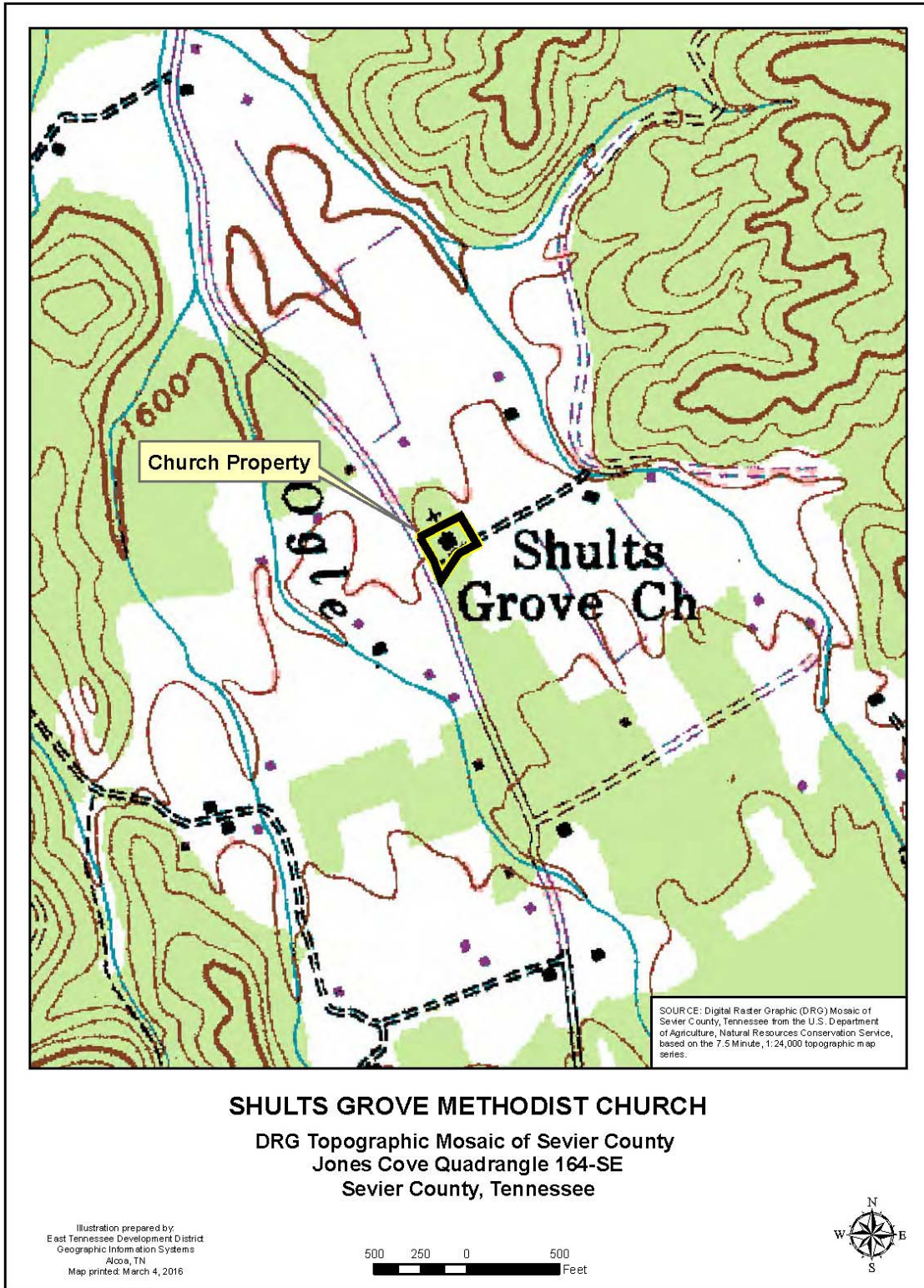


Figure 1: 2010 USGS Topographic Map, Jones Cove Quadrangle, 164-SE.

Shults Grove Methodist Church
Name of Property

Sevier County, TN
County and State



Figure 2: Parcel Boundary for Shults Grove Methodist Church.

Shults Grove Methodist Church
Name of Property

Sevier County, TN
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name Lindsay Crockett, Historic Preservation Planner

Organization East Tennessee Development District

Street & Number 216 Corporate Place Date June 2016

City or Town Alcoa Telephone (865) 277-6003

E-mail lcrockett@etdd.org State TN Zip Code 37701

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

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.

Shults Grove Methodist Church
Name of Property

Sevier County, TN
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Photo Log

Name of Property: Shults Grove Methodist Church
City or Vicinity: Cosby
County: Sevier State: Tennessee
Photographer: Lindsay Crockett; Caroline Eller
Date Photographed: March 16, 2016; October 6, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 25. Façade (southeast elevation). Photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 25. Southwest oblique. Photographer facing north.
- 3 of 25. Southwest elevation. Photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 25. Northwest elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 25. Northeast elevation. Photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 25. Southeast oblique. Photographer facing west.
- 7 of 25. Transom and stone panel facade detail. Photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 25. Foundation detail, north corner. Photographer facing southeast.
- 9 of 25. Furnace entry, southwest elevation. Photographer facing northeast.
- 10 of 25. Bell tower detail, southeast elevation. Photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 25. Bell tower detail, east oblique. Photographer facing southwest.
- 12 of 25. Interior view of entry, ladder, and bell pulley. Photographer facing southeast.
- 13 of 25. Interior view of pulpit. Photographer facing northwest.
- 14 of 25. Interior oblique view of sanctuary. Photographer facing south.
- 15 of 25. Interior side view of sanctuary. Photographer facing southwest.
- 16 of 25. Detail, bullseye molding. Photographer facing west.
- 17 of 25. Outhouse. Photographer facing northwest.
- 18 of 25. Outhouse. Photographer facing west.

Shults Grove Methodist Church
Name of Property

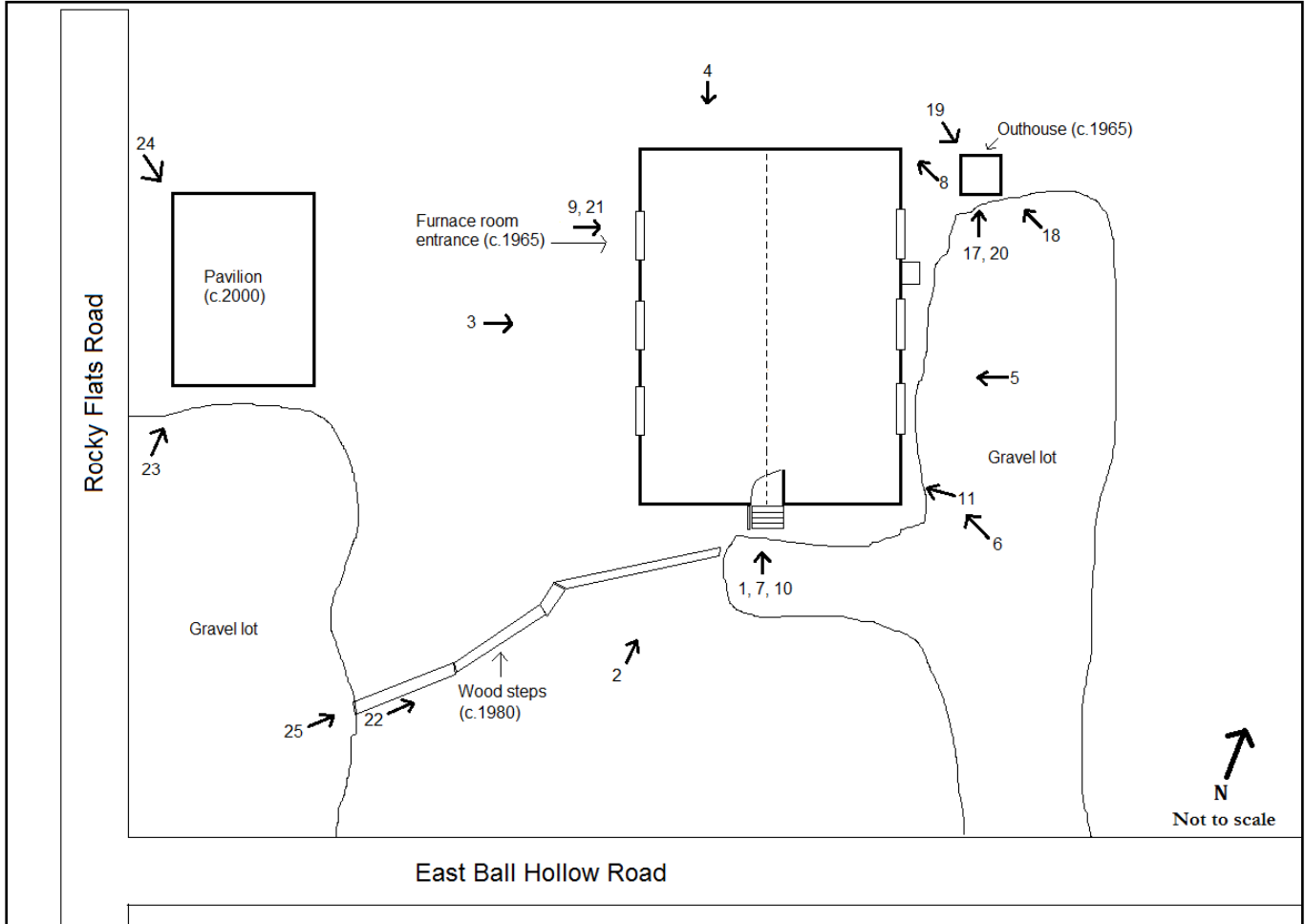
Sevier County, TN
County and State

-
- 19 of 25. Outhouse. Photographer facing southeast.
 - 20 of 25. Interior view of outhouse. Photographer facing northwest.
 - 21 of 25. Interior view of furnace room. Photographer facing northwest.
 - 22 of 25. Wood steps on site. Photographer facing northeast.
 - 23 of 25. Pavilion on site. Photographer facing north.
 - 24 of 25. Pavilion on site. Photographer facing east.
 - 25 of 25. Overall view of church and site features. Photographer facing northeast.

Shults Grove Methodist Church
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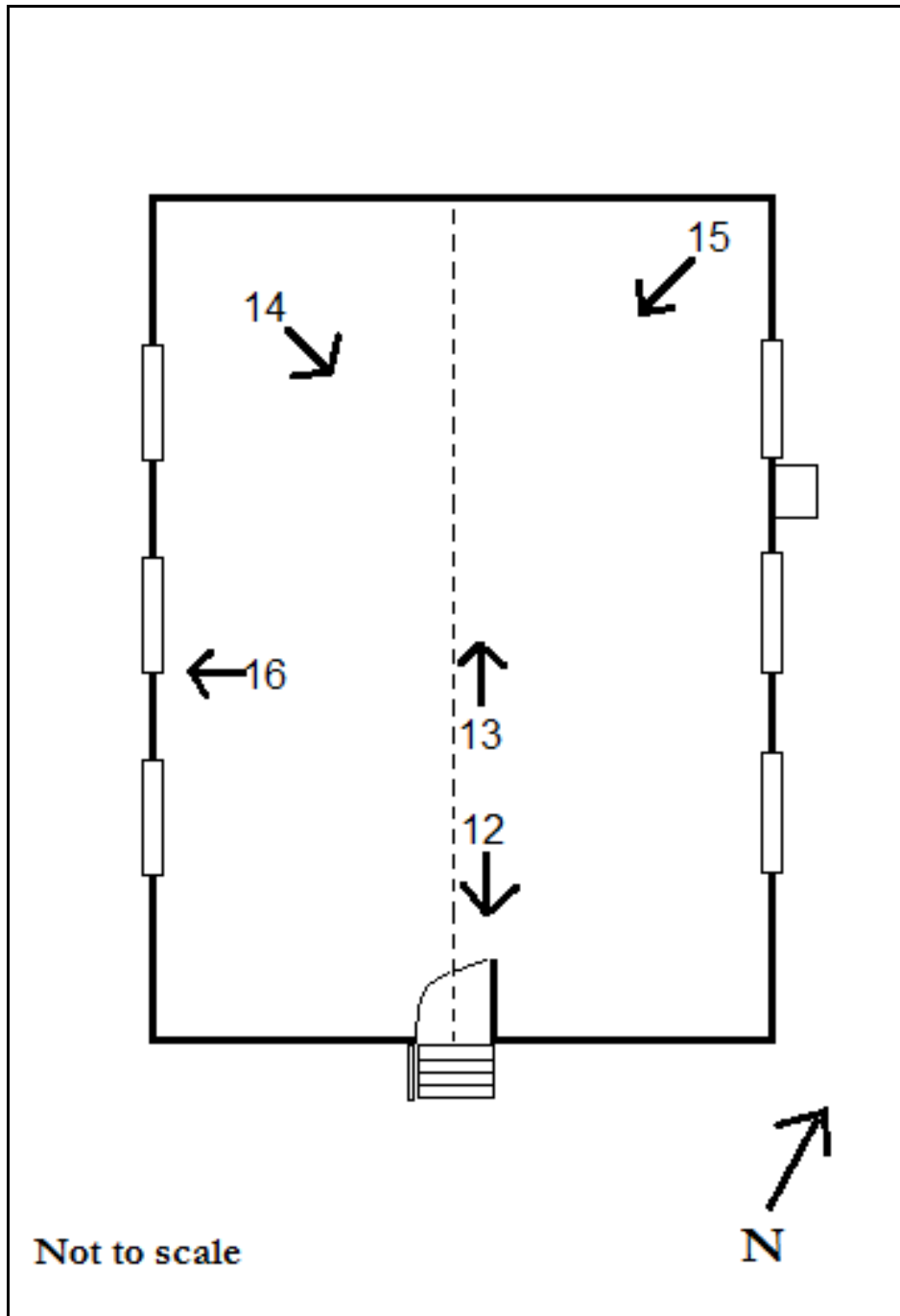
Site Plan and Photo Key (not to scale)



Shults Grove Methodist Church
Name of Property

Sevier County, TN
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Floor Plan and Photo Key (not to scale)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Shults Grove Methodist Church
Name of Property
Sevier, TN
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number images Page 23



Figure 4: Photograph of Shults Grove Methodist Church (c.1915) from Sevier County Archives. Photographer facing southeast from Rocky Flats Road.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Shults Grove Methodist Church

Name of Property

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number images Page 24



Figure 5: Artist rendition of Shults Grove Methodist Church (c.1990) from Sevier County Archives.

Property Owner:

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name	Shults Grove United Methodist Church: Alta Raper, pastor		
Street & Number	505 E. Ball Hollow Road	Telephone	865-436-1662
City or Town	Cosby	State/Zip	37722













SHULTS GROVE
M.E. CHURCH.
1914.















THE 10th COMMANDMENTS
Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Honor thy father and thy mother.
Thou shalt not kill.
Thou shalt not commit adultery.
Thou shalt not steal.
Thou shalt not bear false witness.
Thou shalt not covet.























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Shults Grove
United Methodist Church
Sunday School - 2PM
Worship Service - 3PM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Shults Grove Methodist Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Sevier

DATE RECEIVED: 10/07/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/22/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000790

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11.22.2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Automatic Listing Due to Delayed Federal Register notice

Reviewed and okay

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER L. Gabbart DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/ see attached SLR Y/

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Claudette.Stager@tn.gov
(615) 770-1089



October 4, 2016

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register and National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

National Register Nomination Shults Grove Methodist Church, Sevier County, Tennessee

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct nomination for listing of the *Shults Grove Methodist Church* to the National Register of Historic Places. We received no comments on this nomination.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Holly Barnett at (615) 770-1098 or Holly.M.Barnett@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:hb

Enclosures(3)