DATA SHEET

Form 10-306 (Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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Floor: Present floor $5\frac{1}{2}$ "to 6"x1" sawn oak boards. Original floor was wide pine boards.

Walls: Yellow poplar, all logs split and hewn on two sides. Some logs are hewn on four sides to make width of chink uniform. Doors and windows were cut out after walls were laid up.

Chinks: Filled with short boards and pieces of log hewn to fit and driven tight, then dressed flush with inside of walls.

Ceiling: Sawn chestnut boards, hand dressed one side, 6"x1" and 8"x1".

Shingles: Rived oak, random-width.

Gable ends: Sawn poplar weather boarding.

Windows: There are a total of four windows. There are two each, on the east and west sides of the building. All sash and glass are missing. There was a window behind the teacher's desk on the south end of the building. This opening has been closed with logs sawn to fit.

All windows, except the one on the south, were enlarged and fitted with sash and glass in 1910.

Doors: There is one doorway in the structure. It is located in the north end of the building. It is a rectangular opening. The door is made of four white pine boards, braced top, center, and bottom with hewn, dressed hardwood 6"x1" boards. The door is swung by iron butt hinges, and is latched by a staple and hasp.

Chimney: Originally, there was a central brick chimney, and heat was supplied by first a cook stove, and later by a pot-bellied wood heater. An iron pipe led from the stove to the chimney.

Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	🔀 20th Century
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Communications	,Military	Theater	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Little Greenbrier School and Church Order of Significance: 3md

Construction was begun on Little Greenbrier School and Church in January 1882. The first classes were held in the fall of that same year, and continuously held, except for 1900, until 1936.

Along with school, church services were also held in the building by the Primitive Baptists.

The land on which the school stood was donated by Gilbert Abbott, and the poplar logs for the walls were donated by another member of the community, Ephraim Ogle. The logs were chosen so they could be split, and two logs thus made. They were hauled by oxen to the building site. Shingles for the roof were rived from oak, and when materials had been assembled, a date for a house raising was set. The date of the raising is unknown, but four of the participants were John N. Walker, Ephraim Ogle, John Abbott, who was also the local preacher, and his brother Gilbert Abbott.

The first classes started in the fall of 1882. The teacher was Richard Perryman, a Primitive Baptist preacher. Since neither the county or the state of Tennessee provided any assistance to the school, the teacher's salary had to be paid by the community. Since money was almost non-existent in the mountains of Tennessee in the late 1800's, he was paid by whatever commodity was at hand, or by boarding with families having children in school. It was a hard life, but he made a living which was about all anyone managed in the area.

All told, 39 teachers kept school in Little Greenbrier, for a total of 52 school years. The qualifications of the teachers often left much to be desired, but generally they could provide the rudiments of reading, arithmetic, spelling, and important to the Greenbrier community, religion.

(JO)	R BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	
	Historic American Buildings S	Survey, 1936, Survey # Tenn. 116.
	Interview with Mr. Jim Shelto August 30, 1950.	n, Wears Valley, Tennessee,

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

TATE	
Tennessee	',
OUNTY	
Sevier	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 1 1 19/6	

(Number all entries) Item #7 cont'd (1)

Interior Appearance: The interior walls are hewn, unpainted log. Vandals have defaced the interior, as well as the exterior. On the south wall, nine dressed planks were nailed to the wall and painted flat black to form a blackboard. Visitors have rubbed this with their hands until it is slick and greasy.

There are 29 hand-made school desks in the building. They show the hard use to which they were subjected by generations of bored children. They are heavily carved with initials, dates, and names. Recent visitors have also added their graffiti.



Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

TATE	
Tennessee	•
COUNTY	
Sevier	,
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 1 1 1976	

(Number all entries)

Item #8 cont'd (1)

No school was held in the building in 1900. Due to an error in the deed, the land on which the school stood was found to be the property of someone referred to only as "a negro" and a year went by with no school before the matter could be settled. Finally Sevier County came to the community's aid and purchased the land, and school was resumed in 1901.

The children who attended the school came not only from the Greenbrier section, but also from Meigs Mountain, nine miles away. They either walked or rode horseback over muddy, narrow trails and roads to reach the school, and then retraced the journey in the evenings. When they reached home they might be required to assist with the many chores around the mountain farm before they could rest or study.

Since the work to be done demanded all the hands a family could muster, often the children were kept out of school to help. This, coupled with the isolation of the families tended to shorten the school terms. Some years classes lasted only six weeks

The last school held in the building was in 1935. It was taught by Herman Matthews, who like Richard Perryman, the first teacher, was a Primitive Baptist preacher.

With the establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1935, the people of Greenbrier left the area. The building was vandalized, and fell into disrepair.

However, care has been taken in recent years to stabilize the building and make needed repairs, taking care to preserve the architectural integrity of the building, and to duplicate the craftsmanship.

