

VLR-4/22/92 NRHP-10/15/92

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name CROCKETT'S COVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
other names/site number Cove Brick Church DHR File No. 95-27

2. Location

street & number State Route #600 not for publication
city, town Wytheville vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Wythe code 127 zip code 21382

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Joseph C. Miller 8 Sept '92
Signature of certifying official Date
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Crockett's Cove Presbyterian Church, Wythe County, Virginia

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone

walls Brick

roof Metal: Tin

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Crockett's Cove Presbyterian Church, a landmark since its construction in 1858, is a one-story, Greek Revival-style building located twelve miles from Wytheville on Virginia Route 600, which is locally known as the Cove Road. This place is tranquil, simple, and imposing, nestled in a grove of large oak trees to the east (probably there since the clearing of the land for the church building in 1858). Boxwood on either side of the steps grace the entrance to the church while blooming shrubs and more boxwood exist to the west. It is a simple church with no stained glass windows or crystal chandeliers; however, the building is as stately today as when it was constructed; and the same key that unlocked the door then unlocks it now. The Civil War Marker was erected in the western corner of the church yard August 25, 1990. This is the non-contributing object in the church yard.

Originally the tract of land on which the church was built contained two acres and was split by Route 600. The northern and southern tracts have both served as a cemetery since 1888. To the north directly across the road from the entrance of the church is the Crockett cemetery. The first grave was that of Clara Stone Crockett in 1891. To the south directly behind the church are unmarked graves of Union soldiers who died in the church.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1858

Significant Dates
1858

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Wesley Johnson of Wytheville was
the builder.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Crockett's Cove Presbyterian Church, which was constructed in Wythe County in 1858, is a significant example of a brick, vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. The building is the oldest surviving church in the county and within the bounds of the old Abingdon Presbytery. Nearby, at Cove Mountain, Union and Confederate forces fought an engagement on 10 May 1864; the church served as a Union hospital afterwards.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

About 1770 John Crockett, the eldest son of immigrant Samuel and Esther Thompson Crockett, settled in that part of Wythe County called Crockett's Cove. The Crockett's Cove, north of Wytheville, is a long narrow, winding valley, practically enclosed by mountains--Walker Mountain to the north and Cove Mountain to the south. John Crockett and his wife Elizabeth Montgomery Crockett had eleven children. Their second son, John Crockett, Jr., married Nancy Agnes Graham in 1801. She was the daughter of Robert Graham, a Presbyterian elder who had come to Virginia from Ireland before the revolutionary war, arriving in Wythe County in 1782. Nancy Agnes Crockett came as a

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property 0.9 acres

UTM References

A 17 196670 1097570
 Zone Easting Northing

B _____ _____ _____
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____ _____ _____

D _____ _____ _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The lot containing Crockett's Cove Presbyterian Church is calculated to be 0.968 acres in size, being 211.5 feet along the north border (the fence line of State Road #600), 171.7 feet on the east border, 218.4 feet on the south border and 180 feet on the west

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the church lot that has been historically associated with the nominated property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Agnes Crockett Davis, Joseph C. Kelley, Stephen A. Moore, ATA,
 name/title Nancy Crockett, Susan C. Pollard, June A. Helton and others.
 organization Private date December 3, 1991
 street & number Route 2, Box 687 telephone 703-637-3216
 city or town Wytheville, Virginia state Virginia zip code 24382

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Wythe County, VirginiaARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Crockett's Cove Presbyterian Church is an excellent and well-preserved example of a simple religious structure built of locally available materials in 1858. Eloquent in its simplicity, symmetry, and texture of materials, the church reflects the Greek Revival style in its form, massing, and simple detailing.

As is typical with Greek Revival forms, Crockett's Cove Presbyterian Church has a low-pitched gable roof with the northern gable end oriented to the front. While the structure lacks Greek-inspired columns and pilasters, its temple form and plain trim are hallmarks of the Greek Revival style. The front elevation consists of a single double-door entrance capped by a single heavy wooden lintel and two windows symmetrically arranged slightly above and to the left and right of the entrance. Each side is punctuated by two double-hung windows approximately five feet by ten feet in size.

The rear elevation matches the front elevation except that it lacks fenestration and doors and contains a simple flush chimney that penetrates the ridge of the gable.

While completely lacking pedimented gables, the structure exhibits characteristically simple cornice moldings and horizontal wooden lintels over masonry openings.

The foundation walls are composed of limestone exposed above grade to a height of eight to sixteen inches. The exterior walls consist of brick that were handmade and fired on site. The walls are approximately sixteen inches thick laid in five-course American bond. Three brick pilasters measuring twenty-four inches wide and

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sixteen inches thick were added to the east and west walls in 1959, apparently to prevent further splaying of these walls outward at the top as the structure settled. This alteration could probably be easily reversed to return the exterior to its near original appearance.

The exterior louvered shutters, with the exception of those on the north elevation, have been replaced with solid shutters to reduce vandalism. These too, could easily be replaced with shutters matching the original. The windows are double-hung with a simple twelve-light upper sash and eight-light lower sash. The window casings are original, having had only minor repairs, but the sashes on the east and west walls have been replaced because of decay and vandalism. The sashes have, however, been faithfully reproduced to match the original.

The roof is presently a pre-finished metal type that was installed in the 1980s to replace the standing seam metal roof that was apparently installed in the 1940s. The original roof was probably covered with oak or hickory shakes as evidenced by the wood scraps in the attic and the shakes seen under the metal sheathing.

The church is entered through a pair of doors that open into the vestibule. The doors are original and each features four flat panels.

The vestibule occupies the northern end of the structure, (approximately one-sixth of the total building area) and its walls support the sloping floor of the balcony above. To the right of the entrance a wood stair winds upward to a balcony that was traditionally known as the slave gallery. Under the stair a closet conceals the exposed

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stair structure.

From the vestibule, single four-panel doors leads to the sanctuary. The sanctuary originally contained a high Scottish pulpit that was replaced in the 1940s. The exterior walls are plaster on brick and the interior walls are plaster on wood lath. The original flat ceiling was plaster on wood lath and, though reportedly in poor condition, is still intact under an applied acoustical tile. All of the plaster could be restored to its original condition.

Many repairs were made in 1940-41. A new pulpit was built to replace the fallen and decayed high Scottish-type pulpit. For the first time electric lights were installed, replacing oil lamps. The present pendant fixtures, from a Wytheville Main Street building, were hung in the church in 1940. In 1958 pilasters were built of colonial brick to support the exterior walls. New floors were laid in 1961. Because of decay, the existing wood floor and floor beams were replaced in 1961 with floor joists and oak strip flooring, while much under planks were used originally, the floor represents reasonable and appealing alterations to the original floor. At the same time a new raised altar was added to the center of the south walk. In 1987, a metal roof replaced the one that had been put on the building in 1940.

The original hand-planed hardwood pews were refinished in 1968. The pews are constructed of simple board planks twenty inches wide and twelve feet long.

The attic reveals heavy ceiling joist that are hand hewn, and roof rafters of stripped

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poles indicating that they were constructed on the ground and erected in pairs. The markings assured easy assembly once they were at roof level.

Of note are the north windows, the openings of which is approximately ten inches above the ceiling and are even with the top of the ceiling beams. Whether a mistake or a way with dealing with the limited space in the balcony, it has been treated effectively by turning the finished ceiling up at the exterior walls along the face of the ceiling beams.

The existing flue located on the south wall of the church has been abandoned and plastered over to make way for the new altar (a square raised platform two risers high). The original stove or stoves have been replaced with propane gas heaters that are vented on the outside to the east and west walls.

No record of the original lighting is available, however, it is probable that the original fixtures were oil. The sanctuary is presently lighted by four simple pendant fixtures hung from the ceiling.¹

ENDNOTE

1. The pendant fixtures once hung in the Barnett Funeral Home and Hardware Store located on Main Street in Wytheville. In 1940 the building was occupied by Latana Sutherland Restaurant and was demolished to make a site for a new Leggetts Store. The fixtures were given to the church at this time.

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Crockett's Cove Presbyterian Church
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bride of seventeen to the Cove where she reared a large family of eleven children and lived the remainder of her life in a two-story log cabin.

Nancy Agnes Graham Crockett, a woman of strong mind and cheerful disposition, was devotedly pious. At her death in October 1853, she left funds to the church. In her will, written twenty years earlier, after making other bequests, she gave "all the balance of my estate toward the building of a Presbyterian church on a portion of William Crockett's land." This land was in the very heart or center of the Cove. Here the church was built using the balance of Nancy Agnes Crockett's estate, \$1,152.96. Wesley Johnson of Wytheville was the contractor. The bricks for the structure were hand-made on the site.²

After the church was completed in 1858, the congregation was organized by the Reverend Robert Graham and Reverend F. M. Lewis. The first sessional records were of a meeting on April 24, 1858, at which Samuel R. Crockett and Robert Raper were elected the first elders. The dedication of the building was held September 25, 1858.

Lewis Miller, a Pennsylvania folk artist, who made several trips to Virginia, attended the dedication and sketched the church.³ His caption of the sketch reads as follows:

September 25, 1858 the consecration of a new church, in Wythe County, Virginia 12 miles from Wytheville near Mr. Rapeirs, Rev. Mr. White, Lewis, Brown, Miller, Graham. A Presbyterian Church.

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Kegley's Corner "Bits of the Past" by Mary Kegley, copyrite 1986 published in the Southwest Virginia Enterprise, reveals the following:

At first glance it appeared to be the Cove Presbyterian Church in Crockett's Cove, but the architecture did not match the drawing done by Lewis Miller in 1859. There was another brick church about twelve miles from Wytheville located near Galena Church, but that brick church was a Union Church and no description or picture of it survived. It was torn down and another building was erected in its place. It took further detective work by Mrs. Alice Kelley to prove that in fact the church pictured by Miller was intended for the Cove brick Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Kelley was able to provide further information about the church which tied in with the notes made on the drawing by Miller. Miller dated the drawing September 25, 1859 and noted that the church was located near a Mr. Rapers. Many of the Rapers were located in the east end of the county not far from the other brick church, but this one apparently lived in the Cove. Miller added the names of the ministers--White, Lewis, Brown, Miller and Graham, and noted that the church was new, and had just been consecrated.

Mrs. Kelley learned that the church was organized by the Reverend Robert Craig Graham and the Reverend F. N. Lewis in October 1859 with two elders Robert Raper and Samuel R. Crockett, Sr. who were instrumental in the beginning of the church as provided for in the will of Mrs. Agnes Crockett. Graham was a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and devoted much of his life to teaching, but was also instrumental in promoting the work of the Presbyterian Brick Church in the Cove, having served that church for many years.

In his drawing, Miller omitted two windows over the front doorway and added pillars, and the pitch on the roof was less than pitch on the actual church roofline. In spite of his "artist's license" he did present important information about the church and the community.⁴

Though Nancy Agnes Crockett specified that the Cove Church would be Presbyterian the Methodists freely shared the building for fifty years until they constructed their own

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church. The sharing of a church building by different denominations was a common practice in Virginia during the nineteenth century.

On May 10, 1864, Union and Confederate forces fought at the Battle of Cove Mountain with about 2500 men on each side.⁵ The Federal forces, commanded by Brigadier General William W. Averell and Brigadier General Alfred N. Duffie marched through Bland County and were met just north of the gap of the Cove by a Confederate regiment. Colonel William L. Graham and General John Hunt Morgan successfully defended the gap, thus stopping the Union army's advance to Wytheville. Averell withdrew after dark. During its retreat the Union army passed the Crockett homestead where the soldiers were fed cornmeal hooecakes by Mrs. Sallie Carpenter Crockett and her negro cooks. The army continued its hasty retreat up the Cove, galloping through orchards, and throwing rail fences out of the way. At William G. Crockett's springhouse the soldiers grabbed up crocks of milk, drinking it as they rode. As the army reached the Cove Brick Church the wounded and dying soldiers were placed in the church. The women who lived near the church did what they could for the wounded men, some bringing them food and water to drink and dressing their wounds. Seventeen soldiers died in the church. Bloodstains from the soldiers left there by the retreating Union army remains in the church today. A slave called "Uncle Peter" led the Union army out of the Cove by the way of Crab Orchard, across Little Walker Mountain.⁶

Concerning the Union soldiers who were killed in battle, a Cove resident reported:

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The late Mr. William Graham of Bluefield, a very prominent citizen, whose father commanded the Confederates at the Gap of the Cove, told me a number of times that his father said that on the morning after the battle they buried 117 Union soldiers in the Cove. This fits in with the report of the Union Commander to the War Department. Where these graves are in the Cove, I do not know, and I do not think anyone else knows. I know several soldiers died in the Brick Church and were buried back of it.

A Confederate major, Nathan Parker, of the Fourth Regiment Kentucky Cavalry, was killed in the Battle of Cove Mountain. His funeral was held in the Cove Presbyterian Church the next day, May 11, 1864. Colonel Henry L. Giltner sent orders that Lieutenant Colonel M. T. Pryer, Fourth Kentucky Cavalry, was to superintend the military ceremonies commencing at 2:30 p. m. at the Presbyterian Church. Parker's burial took place in a small cemetery near where he was killed. In June 1866 his remains were moved to a family cemetery at Redford, Kentucky.⁸

As a tribute to all the soldiers who fought in the Battle of Cove Mountain, May 10, 1864, a memorial marker was erected and dedicated on August 25, 1990, in the southwest corner of the churchyard. This marker was placed by Wythe Grey Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy. It stands 36 inches high, 20 inches deep and 24 inches wide. The marker is granite with a bronze tablet. The words that are inscribed on the plaque are as follows:

War Between the States Marker. The Battle of Cove Mountain
May 10, 1864. The two sides met at the Gap of Crockett's
Cove about two miles southwest of here. When the darkness
fell General W. W. Averell and his Union troops retreated,
leaving 114 dead and wounded. Seventeen of the wounded were

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left at this church where local families found them and attended to their injuries. There are no documented accounts of the number of Confederate casualties. Erected by Wythe Grey Chapter, UDC, August 25, 1990.⁹

After the war the Cove Brick Church was used as a school until 1889.¹⁰ A school building, Sunnyside, was built across the road from the church in 1891, but the school burned in 1950. The first grave in the cemetery at the Brick Church was that of Clara Stone Crockett, wife of Pierce Crockett, who died in September 1891.

The church was closed in 1907 and stood unused for many years. Restoration began in April 1940. To renew the Cove Church, the Crocketts in the congregation of the Wytheville Presbyterian Church, which numbers sixty-one descendants of Nancy Agnes Graham, Crocketts in the Cove community, and Crocketts from a distance, shared their interest, their time, their money, and their efforts. For the first service on August 3, 1941, returning members of the Crockett family numbered six generations, age one to eighty-seven. A group of African-American citizens gathered in the balcony originally erected for the use of Negro slaves.

The Crockett's Cove Presbyterian Church is a simple but excellent example of the small rural churches that were erected in the nineteenth century. Although it reflects a number of influences, the most dominant is the Greek Revival, with its simple brick work, symmetry, and temple form. The builders' pattern books available during this time probably helped dictate its style.

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The Cove Church has the distinction of being the oldest Presbyterian Church building in Wythe County. Its doors are open at all times for weddings and funerals. Services are held on every third Sunday evening, and are conducted by the minister of the Wytheville Presbyterian Church. There are always special services at Christmas, Easter, and on other occasions. A special worship service was held at the church during the celebration of the Wythe County Bicentennial in 1990. For almost a century and a half the Crockett's Cove Presbyterian Church has sustained the spiritual life of the Cove community.

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2. Whitman, John A. Historical Facts About the Churches of Wythe County, Wytheville, Virginia, 1939 p.49.
3. Nolan, J. Bennmett, Lewis Miller, A Carpenter of York County, Pennsylvania. Antiques, October, 1935
4. Kegley, Mary, Kegley's Corner, Bits of the Past, copyright 1986, published in Southwest Virginia Enterprise
5. Battle of Cove also known as the: Battle of Crockett's Gap, Battle of the Gap of the Cove, Battle of Cove Mountain Gap, Battle of Queen's Knob, Battle of Grassy Lick, Battle of Crockett's Farm.
6. Eckert, Edward, Amanto, Micholas, Ten Years in the Saddle, The Memoirs of William Wood Averell, Presideo Press, London, 1978, p.395. Duke, Basil W. Morgan's Cavalry Neale Publishing Company 1909, p.382
7. Crockett, Joseph M. Some Speeches of Joseph M. Crockett, privately printed 1958, p.32
8. A. Private papers of C. V. Butler, Waldorf, MD., prepared by George Newby 1962, great-grandson of Major Parker.
B. Mosgrove, George Dallas (Edited by Bell Irvin Wiley), Kentucky Cavaliers in Dixie, 1957, McCowat-Mercer Press, Inc. Jackson, Tennessee.
9. Southwest Virginia Enterprise, September 1, 1990.
10. As told by William O. Crockett those who taught at the school were: G. J. Holbrook, Miss Calfree, Miss Susie St. Clair, Miss Clara Oewel, Miss Kate Whittaker, Mr. L. Alexander Smith (whose name and date 1884, is written on closet wall of church).

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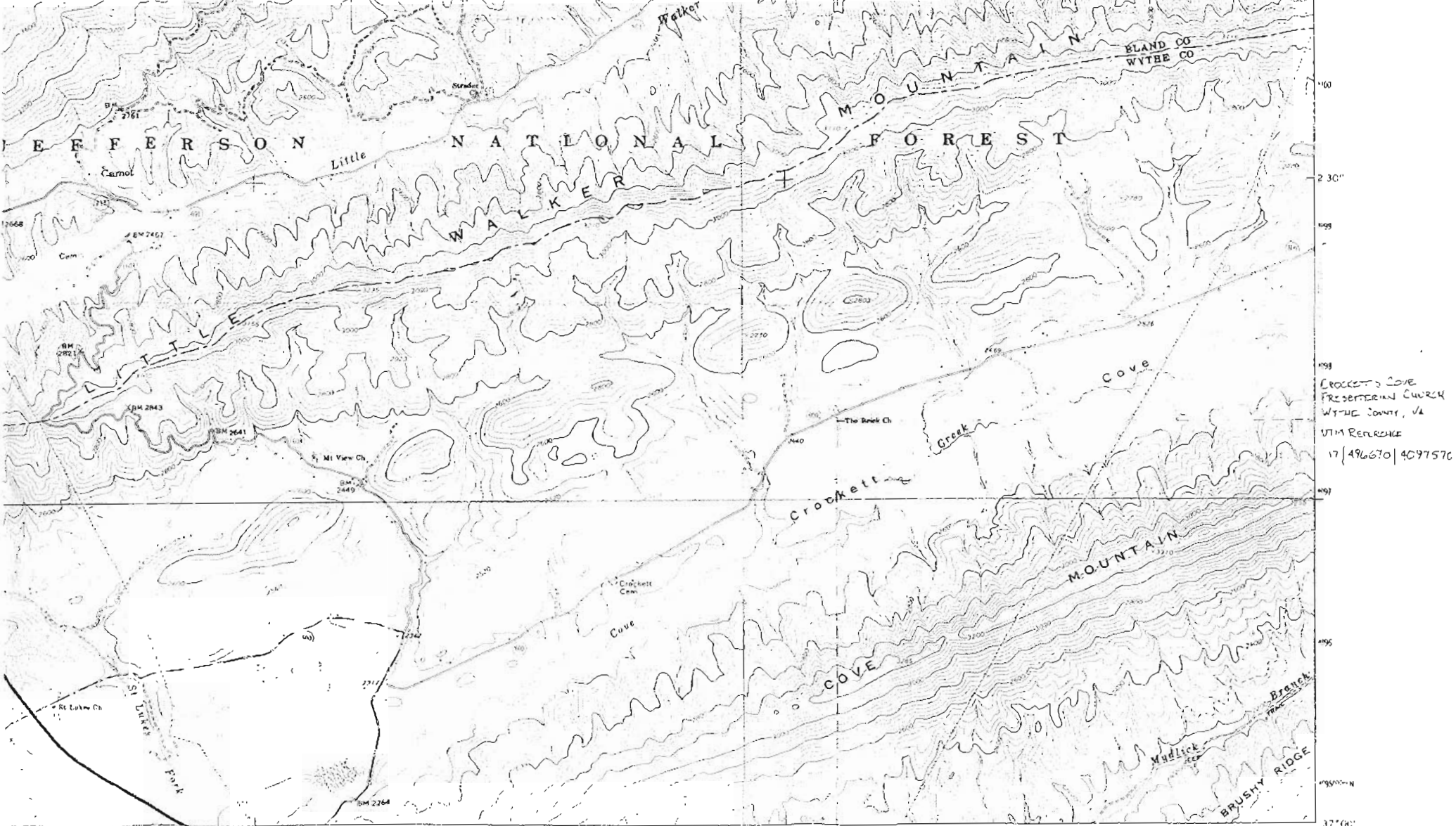
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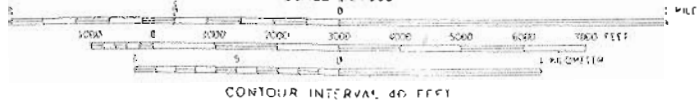
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CROCKETT'S COVE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WYTHE COUNTY, VA
UTM REFERENCE
17(496670|4097570)



WYTHEVILLE
42571 NE
SCALE 1:24,000

MALCOLM BLUE PRINT
P. O. BOX 1178 - 24006-1178
632 2nd ST. S.W.
ROANOKE, VA 24011
703-342-6703

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

MAX MEADOWS
2021