



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

September 21, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Husband
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, Median and Access Control on US 64 from US 276
to US 64 Business, R-5800, PA 18-01-0001, Transylvania County, ER 18-2188

Thank you for your memorandum of August 10, 2018, transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

We do not concur that the Oak Grove Methodist Church & Cemetery (TV0415) is National Register-eligible under Criteria A and C.

- The report states that, prior to the 1847 move to the Wilson property, the congregation held camp meetings a short distance away on the opposite side of US 64. It adds that that the church building was constructed ca. 1850-1852 “with nearly complete reconstruction ca. 1900-1910 after interior fire.” Later the report suggests that the original building may have burned in 1861, with a second structure dating to the period after the Civil War. This confusing chronology makes it difficult to understand when the first church might have been constructed. The interior features, including the Colonial Revival-style altar and the design of the doors and trim, support the assessment that the church’s current appearance dates to the first decade of the twentieth century. Thus, it is reasonable to state that the building, generally, does not date to circa 1850 or the 1860s. Even if portions of the building remained intact after the fire, the structure was so heavily rehabilitated/renovated that it most authentically represents its early-twentieth-century appearance.
- The evaluation under Criterion A is inadequate. While the evolution of the congregation might follow the common pattern of transitioning from camp meetings to a purpose-built church, the current building, which dates from the early-twentieth-century, does not actually represent this evolution. Instead, the earlier building (either circa 1850 or 1860s), or an earlier iteration of the current building, would be the structure to best demonstrate this change. Neither is the property significant for its demonstration of the “arrival of indoor plumbing to rural communities.” This was a common and fairly ordinary transition across western North Carolina and is not particularly significant.

- The evaluation under Criterion C is in error in its statement that the Oak Grove Methodist Church “may be the oldest remaining religious structure in Transylvania County.” That a building is “the oldest” or “the first” does not necessarily mean that it is significant. Furthermore, the 1872 McGaha Chapel (not included as a comparable property in the evaluation), which is located south of Brevard, is clearly older. For a property to be National Register-eligible under Criterion C requires that it retain integrity to its period of construction. If the Oak Grove Methodist Church was built during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, it does not retain sufficient integrity. If it dates to the first decade of the twentieth century, it does retain integrity, but it lacks the necessary significance.

There are two additional resources in the Area of Potential Effects (APE), which is defined to include properties adjacent to the proposed median and access control, which appear to warrant either NR evaluation or an explanation as to why they were not included. They are circled on the attached map.

Brevard College, or at least the Sims Art Center

We do not know the exact date of construction of the Sims Art Center, but by its architectural design, the building appears to date from the 1950s through the 1960s (see attached photos). The modernist building is constructed of brick and concrete and displays characteristics of the International Style of architecture. The report accurately indicated that the National Register-listed Brevard College Stone Fence and Gate are located outside the APE, but it does not discuss at all the fact that the APE includes the Brevard College campus. Two buildings on the campus are located in/adjacent to the APE. Of these, only the Sims Art Center appears to warrant consideration, for the Porter Art Center (located to the north of Sims) was recently constructed. The earliest buildings on the campus appear to be those that form the historic core of the college, just south of the Sims Art Center, and extend east-southeast from US 64 immediately outside the APE. It may be that the Sims Art Center is not old enough to warrant evaluation, but its architecture suggests otherwise.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Although tax records indicate that the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd was built in 1969, the congregation’s website states “Good Shepherd constructed its first building at the present location in 1960. The education wing was added in 1970, and the second sanctuary was added in 1984.” This modernist church is unusual in its architectural design, which features a brick-and-stone exterior capped by an unusual lantern at the crossing. Two photos are attached. That the modernist design appears to date from the 1960s, the potential for which is only made murky by the ambiguity in publicly posted construction dates, suggests that it is appropriate to consider addressing the building’s potential National Register eligibility.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Attachments: Map
Photos

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

mfurr@ncdot.gov









BREVARD
COLLEGE

NO
LEFT
TURN

NO
LEFT
TURN

Received: 08/24/2018

State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

ER 18-2188

August 10, 2018

Due -- 9/18/18

MEMORANDUM

TO: Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

FROM: Kate Husband
Architectural Historian
NCDOT Division of Highways

SUBJECT: R-5800 Median and Access Control on US 64 from US 276 (Fortune Cove Road) to US 64 Business (N. Caldwell Street), Transylvania County, PA 18-01-0001

ER 18-2188
9/14/18
RJE
H-
see Annie's
email for
attachments

Enclosed please find the Historic Structures Survey Report, survey site database, and additional materials for the above referenced project for your review and comment per 36CRF.800. Please contact me by phone (919-707-6075) or email (klhusband@ncdot.gov) if you have any additional questions or comments.

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1020 BIRCH RIDGE RD
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Historic Architectural Resources Eligibility Report
Median and Access Control on US 64 from US 2765 (Fortune Cove Road) to US 64
Business (N. Caldwell Street)
Brevard, Transylvania County, North Carolina
PA# 18-01-0001
TIP# R-5800
WBS# 44985.1.1

Prepared for:

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Human Environment Section
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Prepared by:

Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.
Virginia Office
1503 Santa Rosa Road, RM 127
Henrico, Virginia 23229

Historic Architectural Resources Eligibility Report
Median and Access Control on US 64 from US 2765 (Fortune Cove
Road) to US 64 Business (N. Caldwell Street)
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Laura R. Purvis, M.A.
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July 2018



S. Alan Higgins, Principal Investigator
Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.

7/2/2018

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

In May 2018, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA), completed an eligibility determination for (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in association with the proposed median and access control on US 64 from US 2765 (Fortune Cove Road) to US 64 Business (N. Caldwell Street, Brevard, Transylvania County, North Carolina (WBS No.: 44985.1.1). This project is subject to review under the Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NC HPO/FHWA, 2015). An NCDOT Architectural Historian defined an area of potential effects (APE) and conducted a site visit to identify and assess all resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. Only one resource (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) warranted an intensive National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility evaluation, and it is the subject of this report. NCDOT Architectural Historians determined that all other properties and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity. North Carolina defines that project's APE as all parcels adjacent to the proposed road widening project.

NCDOT architectural historians reviewed the properties recorded along US 64 from US 2765 (Fortune Cove Road) to US 64 Business (N. Caldwell Street, Brevard, Transylvania County, North Carolina and determined that one resource warranted further evaluation: (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415), located at 537 Asheville Highway. In May 2018, Laura Purvis, Architectural Historian for CRA, revisited the site for additional research and documentation. In addition to archival research, Purvis met with William Siniard, 92 years old, and Frances Siniard, 85 years old, who were caretakers of the cemetery from 1975 to 2017. The Siniards shared the church history and allowed Purvis to photograph the interior of the church.

Based on available research and documentation, CRA recommends that (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) is individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C.

Resource Name	Address	Site Survey Number	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation	NRHP Criteria
(former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery	537 Asheville Road	TV0415	Eligible	A, C

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METHODOLOGY

Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA) completed the investigation between May 6 and May 8, 2018 with a combination of archival research, visual investigations, and photographic documentation of the extant building and structures, including their contextual setting. CRA performed the historic architectural analysis in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974; Executive Order 11593; and Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 660-66 and 800 (as revised, 1999). The field research and report meet the requirements specified in the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation" (Federal Register 48: 190:44716-44742) (National Park Service 1983), as well as North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products (2015) and the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's (NC HPO) Architectural Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources and Digital Photography for Historic Property Surveys and National Register Nominations, Policy and Guidelines (2012).

Based on the nature of the proposed project and the character of the surrounding landscape, the area of potential effects (APE) for the historic architectural resource survey has been defined by the NCDOT to include properties adjacent to the proposed median and access control on US 64 from US 2765 (Fortune Cove Road) to US 64 Business (N. Caldwell Street, Brevard, Transylvania County, North Carolina in Brevard, Transylvania County, North Carolina (WBS No.: 44985.1.1). The APE took into account both direct and indirect effects for the proposed project. Before entering the field, CRA consulted the NCSHPO's Historic Preservation Office WEB GIS Service (HPOWEB) to confirm the presence of any previously-recorded properties located within the APE. While there are no previously recorded properties in the immediate vicinity of the project, there are two previously recorded resources just outside of the project area: TV0233, the Dr. John and Sarah McClean House, and TV0232, the Brevard College Stone Fence and Gate. Similar river stones comprising the gate and fence for the Brevard College Stone Fence and Gate (TV0232) are used throughout the (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) property, indicating a local trend.

This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). An NCDOT Architectural Historian defined an area of potential effects (APE) and conducted a site visit to identify and assess all resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. Only one resource, (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) warranted an intensive National Register eligibility evaluation, and it is the subject of this report. NCDOT Architectural Historians determined that all other properties and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

The project area is characterized by areas of moderate grade as US 64 travels through valley regions between peaks of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Pisgah National Forest. The APE is within a twentieth-century addition to the City of Brevard, which includes (former) Oak Gove Methodist Church and Cemetery. The property was previously within Transylvania County, and, prior to 1861, was part of Henderson County. The highway is now lined with modern commercial development and clusters of mid-1960s to early-2000s residential development as areas surrounding Brevard transitioned from agricultural hamlets and religious camps to bedroom communities for Brevard, Hendersonville, and Asheville. This relatively recent development activity is supported by Blue Ridge Community College, immediately across US 64 from (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery. Camp Carolina, a boy's residential

summer camp, continues to function nearby. The camp comprises land that was originally related to the Methodist camp grounds that preceded the establishment of (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415).

Archival Research

Prior to fieldwork, CRA conducted background research on Transylvania County’s development patterns and the role of churches, cemeteries, and campgrounds in western North Carolina’s religious and land use histories. CRA consulted the NC HPO’s online HPOWEB GIS Service to ascertain the level of existing documentation of the (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) or of other properties within the area that might share a similar context. There were 19 resources within HPOWEB that returned with the keyword “church” in Transylvania County (Table 1). Of them, St. Phillips Episcopal Church (TV0300) and Lake Toxaway Methodist Church (TV0506) are the only NRHP-listed resources with a comparable history or function. Additional comparable resources were documented in consultation with the Transylvania Public Library’s Local History Librarian, Marcy Thompson, through historic photographs and local research files. Those comparable churches are referenced in Table 2 within the Historic and Architectural Context section of this report.

Table 1: List of church resources located in HPOWEB GIS Service for Transylvania County.

Resource Name	County	Site Survey Number	NC HPO Status Code
St. Phillips Episcopal Church	Transylvania	TV0300	National Register Listed (NR)
Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church	Transylvania	TV0569	Survey Only (SO)
Woods Memorial Church	Transylvania	TV0140	Survey Only
(former) Pisgah Forest Baptist Church	Transylvania	TV0458	Survey Only
Whitewater Baptist Church	Transylvania	TV0121	Survey Only
Macedonia Baptist Church	Transylvania	TV0152	Survey Only
Blue Ridge Baptist Church	Transylvania	TV0493	Survey Only
Little River Baptist Church	Transylvania	TV0387	Survey Only
(former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery	Transylvania	TV0415	Survey Only
Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church Manse	Transylvania	TV0509	Survey Only
Lake Toxaway Methodist Church	Transylvania	TV0506	National Register Listed
Faith Missionary Baptist Church	Transylvania	TV0636	Survey Only
Selica Methodist Church (Gone)	Transylvania	TV0619	Survey Only, Destroyed (SD)
French Broad Baptist Church Cemetery	Transylvania	TV0471	Survey Only
Carr’s Hill Baptist Church	Transylvania	TV0205	Survey Only

Resource Name	County	Site Survey Number	NC HPO Status Code
Enon Baptist Church	Transylvania	TV0447	Survey Only
Mount Moriah Calvert Baptist Church	Transylvania	TV0078	Survey Only
Dunns Rock Baptist Church	Transylvania	TV0182	Survey Only
Cherryfield Baptist Church	Transylvania	TV0086	Survey Only

Archival research also included an investigation at the NC HPO Western Office and an inspection of archival resources, published histories, historical aerial images, topographical quadrangle maps, and historical map collections available through local facilities, such as the Transylvania Public Library, the North Carolina Maps Project and the North Carolina Digital Collections, a partnership between the State Library of North Carolina and the State Archives of North Carolina. CRA also researched available data for the religious and development history of Transylvania County and Western North Carolina.

United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographical maps and historic road maps were referenced in order to assess changes in the area. The 1905 USGS Pisgah Forest map indicates a building in the immediate vicinity of the current location for both the (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415). The 1935 USGS Pisgah Forest map similarly shows this resource, but additionally provides an approximate location of the cemetery. Both indicate the continued use of the site for both religious and funerary activities as well as community events.

CRA also completed extensive photographic documentation of the property according to NC HPO standards and guidelines. Digital photographs were taken of the site as well as of the contextual setting and the exterior of all buildings and structures. Emphasis was placed on capturing building forms, character-defining features, and changes that have occurred throughout the property's history.

Architectural Historian, Laura Purvis, called St. Timothy United Methodist Church, on May 2, 2018 and followed with a visit to the church's secretary office on May 7, 2018. She met with Mrs. Marcy Thompson of the Transylvania Public Library and set up a meeting to tour the interior of the church with Mrs. Thompson's assistance. Purvis met with Mr. William Siniard and Mrs. Frances Siniard, husband and wife, at (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery on May 8, 2018. Mr. and Mrs. Siniard opened the church for photographic documentation, discussed the church history, and shared information about several headstones within the cemetery.



Figure 1: Portions of the 1997 Pisgah NC and 1997 Brevard NC USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles showing the APE and location of TV0415

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

(former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery TV0415

Resource Name: (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery

Site Survey #: TV0415

Address: 537 Asheville Highway, Brevard NC 28712

PIN No.: 8586-96-0938-000

Construction Date(s): ca. 1850 with nearly complete reconstruction ca. 1900-1910 after interior fire. Cemetery dates ca. 1840-1860 to present.



NRHP Recommendation: Eligible, Criteria A and C

Property Description:

Setting: The 3.49-acre parcel for (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) is located along the northeastern city limits of Brevard immediately to the west of US 64, Asheville Highway. The western parcel edge is defined by a neighboring church. Parcels to the south are residential and recreational in character with one adjacent private cemetery along the southwestern corner. The northern boundary is defined by the driveway accessing the neighboring church parcel and residential properties. Portions of the City of Brevard boundary also follow this northern boundary. There are low river rock walls and cut stone embankment walls defining the property and the entrance from US 64, Asheville Highway.

The Oak Grove Methodist Church sits on a knoll overlooking the nearby highway and large sections of the cemetery. The parcel slopes dramatically down along the northern, western, and eastern boundaries. However, the parcel continues to rise to the southwest corner leading to the adjacent private cemetery not on the current parcel and above the elevation of the church site. The church is surrounded by large oak trees which oral tradition suggests are the church's namesake. A gravel driveway connects from US 64, Asheville Highway, to a parking area southeast of the church and a side drive roughly following the southern boundary. A former road bed appears to branch off from the side gravel drive leading in the approximate direction of the former camp grounds now occupied by Camp Carolina, formerly Wilson's Camp Ground, to the southwest.

The cemetery contains over 1,000 burials as documented in FindAGrave.com. Family plots are often marked with low river rock or concrete walls with a wide variety of headstones including granite, marble, concrete, soapstone, and unaltered river rock. The cemetery likely received the first burials in the 1840s and remains active today. There are established plantings throughout the cemetery including hemlock, boxwood, azalea, dogwood, and oak.



Figure 2: Overview of the church's entrance with accessibility ramp, looking northwest.



Figure 3: Overview of the church's entrance and side addition, looking north.



Figure 4: Aerial showing the location and parcel boundaries of (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415).



Figure 5: Overview of cemetery and church, with a large oak tree, looking southwest.



Figure 6: Overview of cemetery, looking northeast towards the church. US 64, Asheville Highway, is visible to the right through the trees.

(former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery TV0415 Buildings, Structures, and Objects

Church, exterior: The c. 1852 church with c. 1900-1910 and c.1965 renovations sits approximately 160 feet west of US 64, Asheville Highway. While elements of c.1852 structure may remain, the building appears to have been renovated in the 1900s or 1910s, likely after fire damage. (Siniard and Siniard, 2018) Newspapers indicate that the original church building dated to 1852 and “has the oldest building standing for worship in all this county...” (Brevard News 1917). However, a local history narrative housed in the archives at the Transylvania Public Library indicate that the church was not built in its current location until after the Civil War. The discrepancy in dates may rise from the congregation’s previous history as a camp ground that was burned in 1861 as North Carolina seceded from the Union (Thompson 2017). (Figures 2, 3, and 4)

This one-story, front gable church has one bay with a one-story, one-bay front gable entrance with double doors. This projecting entrance was added sometime after 1963, when a published photograph of the church in the Transylvania Times dated September 5, 1963 shows a double-leaf entrance with five wood panels on each door (Brookshire 1963). There is a low, semi-circular river rock wall with low posts flanking the former walkway to the entrance. The foundation plantings of azaleas post-date the 1963 photograph. The entrance was covered by a pediment with brackets at that time. The concrete stairs flanked by low brick walls were also visible prior to the installation of the modern wood accessibility ramp. The building sits on a stretcher-bond brick foundation and is wrapped in weatherboard siding. The corner boards are capped with a narrow ovolo and bead crown molding on both the main building and addition. The six-over-six, double-hung wood windows are set in plain molded surrounds with wood sills throughout. (Figures 5, 6, and 7)

The building is capped with a front-gable, asphalt-shingle clad roof with gable-end returns. The boxed eaves feature narrow, vertical wood boards and a plain vergeboard. The ovolo and bead crown molding marks the intersection of the boxed eaves with the weatherboard-sided walls. The roof is pierced by an interior-slope brick chimney with metal flashing at the base.

There is a two-bay, one-story ell addition to the west with a small rear porch and stair set on posts accommodates the change in slope from the main sanctuary to the side ell. The addition retains the same exterior treatments as the main structure, with the addition of a wood side door with a fixed, four-light window and three wood panels. The door is surmounted by a single-light transom. The porch features a shed roof clad in asphalt shingles with exposed rafter ends and a railing with plain pickets. Notably, there is a double end-return on the north elevation where the addition and original building meet. This feature does indicate a period of addition and renovation that followed the original construction period. Moreover, the foundation shows an alignment of brick along a joint that matches the vertical board interrupting the weatherboard siding above (Figures 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12).



Figure 7: View of church published in the September 5, 1963 issue of Transylvania Times.



Figure 8: Side elevation of church and ell, looking east.



Figure 9: View of addition with porch and outhouse, looking southeast.



Figure 10: The church's northern elevation with double gable end returns.



Figure 11: Side elevation of the church, looking west.



Figure 12: Detail of front façade with moldings and end-returns.



Figure 12: Detail of entrance stairs and modern wood accessibility ramp.



Figure 13: Overview of the sanctuary interior looking towards the altar.

Church, interior: From the small, c. 1963 vestibule with double metal doors and linoleum flooring, a second set of doors leads to the sanctuary. The five-panel interior doors appear to be the same as those featured in the c. 1963 photograph in the *Transylvania Times*, except two panels on each door have been replaced with glass. Pews, painted white, line each wall to create a central aisle to the altar. The floor is carpeted with modern, continuous low pile and the historic windows have modern wood valances with sheer curtains. The walls are plain plaster with thin crown molding. The altar table and podium remain roughly in their original location on the dias, with a pew for the choir immediately behind the sanctuary furnishings. The original divided three seat choir pew is now stored in the addition. The sanctuary is framed by a Colonial Revival-style broken pediment surmounted by a cross. The panels below feature thick moldings mimicking pilasters and frieze. Paneling surrounds the sanctuary from denticulated chair molding to the floor. Historically, the wood furnishings and details throughout the interior were left unpainted and the dias included a railing that was removed sometime after the congregation moved to St. Timothy United Methodist Church just north of the (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (Siniard and Siniard 2018). (Figures 13, 14, 15, and 16).

Facing west from the sanctuary is a partition of four, five-panel wood doors flanked by fixed panels. The ell addition has an entry room, serving both as storage and classroom space, that is the full width of the addition leading to a central hallway flanked by rooms on either side. The hallway terminates in an exterior door surmounted by a single-light transom. The southern room, accessible from two doors off the hallway, may have been divided into two rooms originally and now serves as an additional classroom and meeting space. The rooms to the north of the hallway remain divided. The bathroom with two stalls and modern tile is located closest to the exterior door. The adjacent room was locked during photographic documentation and could not be unlocked with the exterior keys. The hallway retains its original, narrow plank wood flooring. (Figures 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24).



Figure 14: Church interior, view from altar to entrance.



Figure 15: Altar and choir detail.



Figure 16: Detail of vestibule with original five-panel doors.



Figure 17: Detail of partition doors leading from the sanctuary to the addition.



Figure 18: Central hallway located in the church's ell addition. The classroom door is to the left and bathroom door to the right.

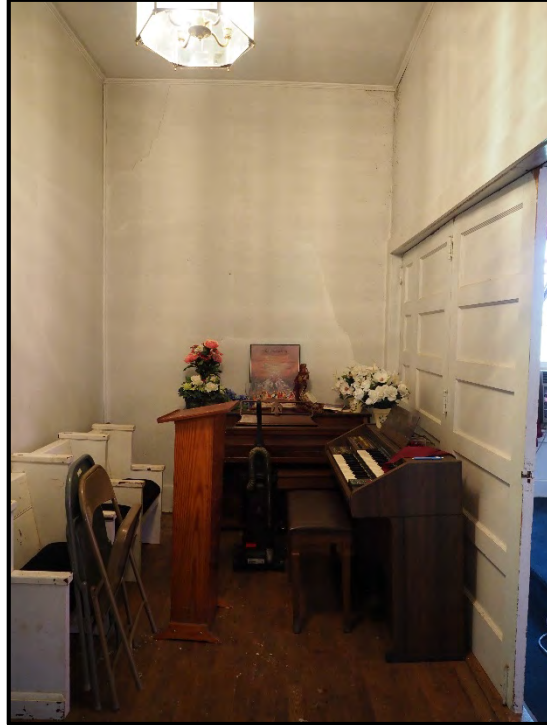


Figure 19: Detail of the first room of the addition accessible from the sanctuary. The room serves as a storage area and classroom.



Figure 20: Detail of the first room of the addition accessible from the sanctuary. The room serves as a storage area and classroom.



Figure 21: Detail of classroom in the church addition.



Figure 22: Detail of entrance to bathroom in the church addition.



Figure 23: Detail of bathroom sink and mirror located in the church addition.



Figure 24: Detail of addition hallway looking towards the sanctuary.

Memorial: A memorial five feet to the southeast of the church entrance was dedicated in 1961 and honors the memory of McDonald Siniard, a fourteen-year-old boy who likely contracted rabies from a dog bite. He was taken by train to Raleigh on the railroad spur that connected Lake Toxaway and Brevard to Asheville and points east (Sinard and Siniard 2018, Brevard News 1919). Treated at the Pasteur Institute, he died upon returning to Brevard from hydrophobia—the historical term for rabies—and was buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery. The memorial consists of a large, vertically placed stone with metal relief plaque inscribed “Remembering Methodism’s Progress/ Through God in Transylvania County/ By/ The Oak Grove Methodist Church/ 8-13-61/ In Memory Of/ McDonald Siniard.” (Figure 25).

Outhouse: This c. 1920-1940 one-story, frame outhouse sits approximately 8 ft from the northwest corner of the church addition. The building sits on a continuous concrete foundation and has a wood frame. The frame is clad in vertical board siding that terminates approximately six inches from the overhanging shed roof. The door, located on the eastern elevation, is comprised of two vertical boards fixed with cut nails to horizontal supports. Metal strap hinges connect the door to the wall approximately a foot from the top and bottom of the wall. The roof is clad in v-crimp metal that has significantly deteriorated. There is a single concrete seat with wood cover inside the building. (Figure 26)

Stone Walls, River Stone: The c. 1900-1920 river rock entrance walls line the entrance driveway and surround family burial plots throughout the cemetery. The entrance walls border the property’s eastern boundary and are taller than those lining family burials. Laid in uncoursed masonry with beaded joints, the entrance walls are divided by rock posts with pyramidal caps north of the entrance. The southern wall is capped with concrete. Ruby Tinsley, a student at Brevard Public School likely from 1909 to the mid-1910s, who married James Siniard in January 1918, assisted in fundraising for the rock walls by going door to door throughout the community (Siniard and Siniard 2018; Brevard News 1909, 1918). (Figures 27 and 28)

Stone Walls, Cut Stone Embankment Walls: The c. 1950 cut stone embankment walls line the driveway entrance from US 64, Asheville Highway. These walls function as retaining walls as the roadbed for US 64 is significantly lower than the church’s gravel parking area. The stones are laid in uncoursed bond with flush mortar joints. The wall is capped with roughly rectangular blocks creating the impression of coping. Each wall terminates in a stone pier and has a set of stone steps providing access to the cemetery lots above (Figures 29 and 30).

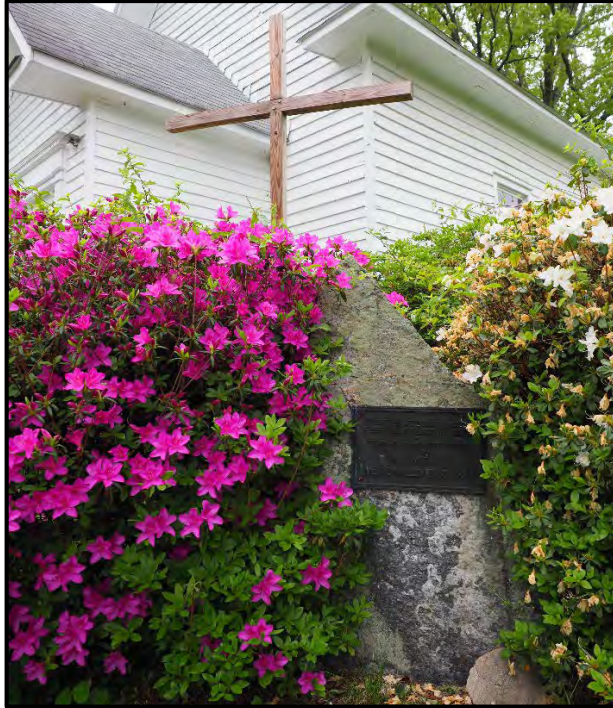


Figure 25: Memorial to McDonald Siniard.



Figure 26: Outhouse, looking west.



Figure 27: Stone walls constructed of river rock flanking the entrance drive.



Figure 28: Example of stone wall constructed of river rock surrounding a family burial plot.



Figure 29: Cut stone embankment wall beneath the river rock walls and along the entrance drive, looking northwest.



Figure 30: Cut stone embankment wall beneath the river rock walls and along the entrance drive, looking south.

(former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery TV0415 – Cemetery Features

Cemetery: The cemetery surrounding Oak Grove Methodist Church comprises approximately 2.9 acres of the 3.49-acre parcel. Markers range from unaltered field stones to highly finished obelisks. The cemetery markers represent not only the gradual shift from rural family burial plots to those associated with churches or municipalities throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but also the shifting technologies in grave markers from the mid-1800s to the present in western North Carolina (Little 1998). The documentation for Oak Grove Cemetery on FindaGrave.com lists 1,001 graves with more unmarked interments likely (Figures 31 and 32).

Family plots are inconsistently marked throughout the cemetery. Some are bounded by low river rock or concrete walls, while others roughly follow rows established by early grave markers. The highest concentration of unaltered river rock markers occurs in the northwestern quadrant of the cemetery, indicating either a consistent practice within that section or a significant loss of original markers. The oldest graves, dating to the 1860s, occur immediately south and east of the church in two different sections. While some markers tend to have modern granite replacement headstones, others retain their early soapstone or marble markers (Figures 32 and 33). Several stones in the cemetery feature relatively crude hand engraving with ruled lines (Figure 33).

Only one concrete marker was documented during the survey. The cross with the inscription “LOVE” stamped in verso on the front below a large, deeply impressed cross. The top of the cross is marked with an “M” and the back features four crosses and a symbol approximating the Masonic compass and square. The base of the marker features intersection Y-patterns, a single example on the rear, and eight arranged in a circular pattern on the front. This marker falls within the tradition of folk markers, but the meaning of the symbols could not be confirmed. The project architectural historian verified with Dr. Ben Steere of Western Carolina University’s Cherokee Studies program and Ms. Nelda Reid of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian that the unidentified symbols were not of Cherokee origin. As a result, this marker represents one example of a folk grave marker within the cemetery (Figure 34).

The cemetery remains open for burials and has been in continuous use as a community cemetery. Those buried in the cemetery did not need to be members of the church congregation. As a result, the headstones relate to local families including: Allison, England, Gash, Lankford, Liverett, Tinsley, and Siniard. This continuous use also has created the variety of headstones currently present (Figures 35 and 36).



Figure 31: Cemetery overview, looking northeast towards a concentration of the oldest interments adjacent to the church.



Figure 32: Cemetery overview, looking northwest.



Figure 33: Detail of soapstone marker with lightly incised inscription between ruled lines.



Figure 34: Detail of folk marker made of concrete.



Figure 35: Cemetery overview with historic markers and modern granite replacement markers, looking west.

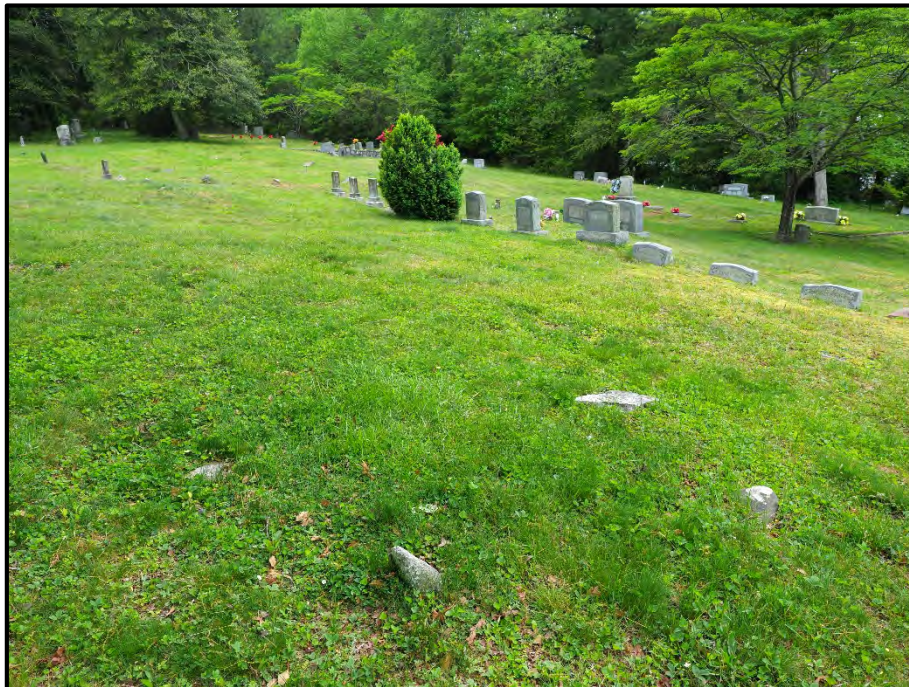


Figure 36: Cemetery overview with fieldstone markers in the foreground and modern granite markers in the mid-ground and rear, looking southwest.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

CRA examined property tax assessment records available online through the Transylvania County Tax Administration and deed records at the Transylvania County Register of Deeds and Henderson County Register of Deeds. Deed copies were also available at the Transylvania Public Library's Local History Room. CRA also contacted the property owner for the parcel, St. Timothy United Methodist Church, to request access to the interior of (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church. Deed searches reveal an initial 1847 deed from Samuel Wilson to area Methodists (Trustees, Oak Grove Methodist Episcopal Church South) who regularly held revival camps near Brevard, North Carolina. This deed of 11.5 acres, which included ready access to water, included the covenant that the property would revert back to Wilson should the Methodist church cease holding meetings for five consecutive years (Henderson County Deed Book 3; Page 778). An associated plat provides the approximate location and arrangements of tents on the property. Prior to their move onto Wilson's property, the Methodist camp met north of (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery, approximately in the location of a current residential community north of Blue Ridge Community College. These deeds establish the camp activity within the area, but the current parcel for the (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery remained outside of these boundaries. The (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery parcel was partially held by B.C. Lankford in 1856 and by Alexander Allison and Lorenzo Siniard in the early 1860s (Transylvania County Deed Book 2, Page 351-352).

Following the May 20, 1861 secession of most North Carolina counties from the Union, and the creation of Transylvania County from Henderson County that same day, violence escalated in the area. The camp was burned during the Civil War and the congregation moved to the parcel deeded by Allison and Siniard. The first congregation constructed the original church on this site.

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Churches and cemeteries are common features throughout the western North Carolina landscape. Many of the region's churches have origins in camp meetings with tents lots often assigned to families in the same arrangement each year (Thompson 2017). However, congregations grew rapidly at the beginning of the twentieth century and many churches throughout Transylvania County were replaced with new buildings starting in the 1940s, after recovery from the Depression, through the 1970s. Upon evaluating the church and cemetery resources listed in HPO Web, three previously surveyed resources approximated the setting, scale, and/or design of (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415): Lake Toxaway Methodist Church (TV0506), Macedonia Baptist Church (TV0152), and Dunns Rock Baptist Church (TV0182) (Figures 37, 38, 39, 40, and 41). A fourth resource, the former King Street Baptist Church, located at the corner of King and Railroad Streets in Brevard, is included in this context (Figure 42).

The architectural historian visited and photographed each comparable resource and conducted research confirming the construction dates and original plans of each church, as well as any associated cemeteries to evaluate (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415). The setting for each cemetery was noted as well, in particular as to its relationship to the immediate topography of the parcel. Only Macedonia Baptist Church (TV0152) featured cemeteries on two knolls overlooking the church. The Dunns Rock Baptist Church is associated with the Connestee Cemetery immediately adjacent, but at a lower elevation than the church. The cemetery functions as a community burial site, similar to Oak Grove Cemetery. Lake Toxaway Methodist Church (TV0506) and former Kings Street Baptist Church did not have cemeteries immediately associated with the church parcel.



Figure 37: Lake Toxaway Methodist Church, looking northwest.

Of these comparable resources, Dunns Rock Baptist Church (TV0182) and Lake Toxaway Methodist Church (TV0506) are the most similar to (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415). However, Lake Toxaway Methodist Church retains gothic features that are of higher architectural sophistication and Dunns Rock Baptist Church lacks many of the original exterior finishes prominent at Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (Table 2). Collectively, three properties represent the few examples of restrained, rural churches from the early twentieth century in Transylvania County while King Street Baptist Church is geographically the closest comparable example, despite its siting on a narrow city lot. Moreover, the majority of the building pre-dates its first use as a church in 1939.

Table 2: Resources comparable to (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery TV0415, located on HPO Web and in records held by the Transylvania Public Library Local History Room.

Comparable Resource	Date	County	Address	Site Survey Number
Lake Toxaway Methodist Church	c. 1912	Transylvania	174 Cold Mountain Road, Lake Toxaway NC 28747	TV0506
Macedonia Baptist Church	c. 1842, 1926	Transylvania	2700 Macedonia Church Road, Rosman NC 28772	TV0152
Dunns Rock Baptist Church	c. 1910-1925	Transylvania	316 Connestee Road, Brevard NC 29712	TV0182
(former) King Street Baptist Church	c. 1920-1930	Transylvania	231 King Street, Brevard NC 28712	n/a

Review of newspaper articles and documentation available through Digital NC reveals that many of the area's rural churches have been heavily altered or lost through fire or neglect. The rural late nineteenth to early twentieth century church and cemetery, while originally common throughout the landscape, are increasingly replaced. Moreover, this property retains an outhouse that demonstrates the later arrival of indoor plumbing in rural communities. These outbuildings rarely survive, particularly on properties of religious or community significance that are regularly maintained and improved over time.

Only one other Methodist Church, Lake Toxaway Methodist Church (TV0506), was located in the search for comparable properties. The church has a similar size and plan, while gothic in style. Lake Toxaway Methodist Church represents a religious structure with high artistic value and style. Meanwhile, Oak Grove Methodist Church is a vernacular building from which many additional congregations, including Lake Toxaway Methodist Church, grew. As a result, research indicates that Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery is a unique survivor among vernacular rural churches in Transylvania County.



Figure 38: Lake Toxaway Methodist Church, side elevation and rear addition.



Figure 39: Macedonia Baptist Church.



Figure 40: Macedonia Baptist Church cemetery.



Figure 40: Dunns Rock Baptist Church with sign and concrete drive.



Figure 41: Connestee Cemetery, immediately adjacent to Dunns Rock Baptist Church.



Figure 42: Former King Street Baptist Church.

NRHP ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

NRHP Recommendation: CRA recommends that (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) is NRHP Eligible under Criterion A and C. The proposed NRHP-eligible boundaries encompass the full extent of the cemetery to capture all character-defining rock walls and any unmarked burials, as well as the oak trees that are the building's namesake (Figure 43). The boundaries also preserve the terrain that retains the rural character of the church and cemetery despite now being within the City of Brevard.

Integrity:

The (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) has a high level of integrity, retaining integrity of location, design, materials, feeling, and association.

Location – The church and cemetery, while both expanding over time, have not moved from the current location since the formal establishment of the church in the 1850s or 1860s after the destruction of the former camp site. The cemetery may pre-date the church and has been in continuous use since the 1840s. Moreover, the large ell addition to the church is now historic in its own right and evidences the congregation's continued use of the site and growth throughout the early twentieth century. After the Methodist congregation moved to the newly constructed St. Timothy United Methodist Church in 1963, the church and cemetery continued to function in the community as both a meeting, religious, and funerary site.

Design – The church and cemetery have been altered over time, but retain their character-defining features from the early twentieth century and prior. The cemetery features both family burial plots and rows of graves that continue to be visible in the landscape. Moreover, these plots and grounds continue to function for both memorial and funerary purposes. The church has maintained its approximate floorplan and exterior features since the early twentieth century. While a c. 1965 vestibule has been constructed on the front of the church where a pediment supported by brackets formerly sheltered the entrance, this does not significantly alter the design of the church.

Setting – Residential and commercial development has intensified surrounding the (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) parcel, converting former farm land and camp grounds into development. In addition, the parcel is now included within the City of Brevard. The parcel did not have running water until becoming part of the city between 1965 and 1978. This shift is still evident in the presence of one outhouse immediately to the north of the church. As a result, development encroachment has decreased the integrity of setting although elevation and plantings throughout the site retain references to the formally rural character of the area.

Materials – The church and cemetery retain buildings and objects from the church's founding in c. 1850s-1860s and continuous use of the cemetery beginning c. 1840s. The church retains its historic siding, windows, brick foundation, and moldings from the early twentieth century renovations. Meanwhile, the cemetery retains a majority of its original markers, while some are significantly deteriorated. The replacement granite headstones throughout the cemetery do not detract overall from the variety of materials present in the cemetery grave markers.

Workmanship – The church and cemetery have been consistently maintained; however, the buildings and objects do not consistently demonstrate a high level of workmanship. The church has relatively plain features while the cemetery includes several markers that exhibit a high level of skill on behalf of the carver

and engraver. However, the majority do not feature particularly notable funerary symbols or other iconography in addition to carefully engraved text. The stone walls throughout the property demonstrate a high level of skill in laying uncoursed stone.

Feeling – The church and cemetery retain a high level of feeling due to the property’s surrounding trees and the overall preservation of the cemetery and church yard. The property maintains the solitude of a late nineteenth to early twentieth century rural church with views from the property only significantly altered in the vicinity of US 64, Asheville Highway, and Blue Ridge Community College. Mature trees, including oaks, are located throughout. In addition, the historic outhouse is a visual marker of the property’s rural past prior to being annexed by the City of Brevard.

Association – The church and cemetery continue to function in their original capacity as a religious and funerary property. In addition, the church serves as a community gathering space that is consistent with its past uses as a school. As a result, the property retains a high level of association as a historic place of worship, burial, and congregation.

Criterion A:

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion A, the resource must retain integrity and must be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, either at the local, state, or national level. In addition, religious properties must meet Criteria Consideration A. Criteria Consideration A outlines that religious properties must be significant for architectural, artistic, or historical qualities above and beyond their religious function over time. Similarly, cemeteries that are not otherwise significant under Criterion D must meet Criteria Consideration D requirements through significant age, design, or association with historic events.

The (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) contributes to broad patterns of history by demonstrating the transition from camp meetings to community churches in western North Carolina, the arrival of indoor plumbing to rural communities from the 1930s to 1970s, and development changes resulting from the Civil War. Transylvania County formed on May 20th, 1861, the same day North Carolina seceded from the Union. Subsequently, the Methodist camp grounds was destroyed by bushwhackers, and, while the main tent may have survived, the congregation was forced to begin planning for a new church. As a result, (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery represents significant development patterns within Transylvania County and western North Carolina. In addition, the (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration A by deriving its significance from architectural and historical qualities beyond its continued use as a religious building.

Because the cemetery similarly began at a pivotal moment as camp meetings were giving way to the formal establishment of churches, the creation of Transylvania County in 1861, and the formal declaration of North Carolina’s succession from the Union in May 1861, this portion of the resource meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration D for age. Therefore, (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) is eligible for listing under Criterion A.

Criterion B:

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, either at the local, state, or national level. Research has not revealed any associations with persons significant in our past in addition to preachers

from the Methodist circuit in western North Carolina. Therefore, (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) is not eligible for listing under Criterion B.

Criterion C:

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, possess high artistic values, or represent a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) may be the oldest remaining religious structure in Transylvania County according to newspaper records, and the building itself represents a once common rural church that retains outbuildings, including an outhouse. Outhouses largely vanished after indoor plumbing was introduced in rural western North Carolina, and the (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery outhouse is a rare survivor from that period. In addition, the church's interior remains largely intact with wood windows, original doors, and original hardware, including door handles. The cemetery features a significant collection of markers, providing information about historic patterns of cemetery development in Transylvania County and western North Carolina, but is not individually unique.

Both the church and outhouse are intact representatives of their increasingly rare rural types. The church building's addition has not adversely impacted the original rectangular plan. The addition at (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery was used as a classroom during the early to mid-twentieth century and represents a common expansion for rural churches to provide educational space. While the outhouse has siding deterioration, all character defining features remain intact, including the roof and door. Similarly, while the church has had a side addition and vestibule added, the original exterior and interior materials remain largely intact. Thus, (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) is eligible for listing under Criterion C.

Criterion D:

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion D, it must either have yielded or be likely to yield information important to prehistory at the local, state, or national level. Mid-nineteenth century churches with cemeteries featuring primarily Caucasian burial practices are relatively common across the state. As a result, the church and cemetery are not likely to yield any important historical information regarding prehistoric religious or burial practices. (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415), are, therefore, ineligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.

NRHP Proposed Boundary Description:

The proposed NRHP-eligible boundary for the (former) Oak Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (TV0415) approximately follows the tax parcel lines to the north and west. Meanwhile, to the south, the boundary encompasses the southern access road beyond the southern cemetery burials and additional plots just to the south of that former road. The eastern boundary reaches to the edge of the pavement along Asheville Highway, US 64, to encompass all associated stone walls.



Figure 43: Proposed NRHP Boundary

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