



Department of Energy

Office of Science
Consolidated Service Center

9800 South Cass Avenue
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P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

February 24, 2020

Ms. Claire Meyer
Tennessee Historical Commission
Department of Environment and Conservation
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442

Dear Ms. Meyer:

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT, SECTION 106 COMPLIANCE,
UNDERTAKING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF MEMORIAL MARKER, GEORGE
JONES MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY, OAK RIDGE RESERVATION,
ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

As required in 36 CFR Part 800, this correspondence is official notification to the Tennessee Historical Commission of a proposed U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory Site Office (OSO) undertaking for the placement of a memorial marker in the George Jones Memorial Baptist Church located within the boundaries of the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation. The George Jones Memorial Baptist Church and Cemetery are included in the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1901, this Church and associated cemetery are the sole remaining structures of the community of Wheat which pre-existed the World War II Manhattan Project. The proposed action is to honor Elias Rebecca, Zacchaeus, and Nancy Roberts who settled in the area known as Wheat in the 1700s.

The proposed undertaking has been reviewed in accordance with requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C § 306108) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Policy Statement on Controversial Commemorative Works. The proposed action would include placement of a marker on the grounds of the George Jones Memorial Baptist Church. The enclosed project summary, *Section 106 Archeological and Historical Review Memorial Marker Placement, George Jones Memorial Baptist Church* provides additional information pertaining to this proposed undertaking. DOE has determined that the proposed action would not have an adverse effect on the physical structure or visual appearance of the historic property. The proposed project would be conducted as maintenance action in accordance with the *Cultural Resource Management Plan, DOE Oak Ridge Reservation, Anderson and Roane Counties, Tennessee* (DOE/ORO-2085).

Ms. Claire Meyer

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February 24, 2020

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT, SECTION 106 COMPLIANCE,
UNDERTAKING FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT, GEORGE
JONES MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, OAK RIDGE RESERVATION, ROANE
COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

DOE requests your concurrence with this determination. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (865) 576-0835.

Sincerely,



Katatra C. Vasquez
Cultural Resources
Management Coordinator

Enclosure

cc w/enclosures:

Christopher Wilson, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
DOE Information Center
Amy Fitzgerald, City of Oak Ridge
John Shewairy, SC-OSO
Johnathan Sitzlar, M-3, SC-CSC
Tom McDermott, TS-42, SC-CSC
Scott McGill, SC-OSO
Johnny O. Moore, SC-OSO
Karl Moro, TS-40, SC-CSC
Dr. Kenneth Tarcza, M-1, SC-CSC
Mildred Lopez-Ferre, TS-421, SC-CSC

Enclosure

PROJECT SUMMARY
SECTION 106, ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REVIEW (AHR)
MEMORIAL MARKER PLACEMENT
GEORGE JONES MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

PROPOSED ACTION: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory Site Office, (OSO) in coordination with a representative of the Roberts family propose to erect a memorial marker on the George Jones Memorial Baptist Church Site. The proposed action has been requested to honor Elias, Rebecca, Nancy and Zacchaeus Roberts. The dimensions of the memorial stone are 7ft., 7in. by 3ft., 11in. by 2ft. thick, at the widest point. The narrowest end will be concreted into the ground approximately 3ft allowing the remaining approximately 4ft., 7in. to be above ground to mount the granite tablet with the inscription. The proposed undertaking would involve ground disturbance in a *previously disturbed* area and the new disturbance would not exceed the depth and extent of previous ground disturbance in the area.

LOCATION OF ACTION: George Jones Memorial Baptist Church Cemetery is located within the boundaries of the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation, in Roane County, Tennessee, near the East Tennessee Technology Park.

DISCUSSION: George Jones Memorial Baptist Church and associated Cemetery were built in 1901. The Church is the sole remaining structure of the community of Wheat which pre-existed prior to the land being acquired by the federal government for the World War II Manhattan Project. The Church and associated cemetery are one of six structures that are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation.

Ralph Martin of Andersonville, Tennessee, claims to be a decedent of Elias and Rebecca Roberts. Elias and Zacchaeus Roberts were born in Brownsville, Pennsylvania. Elias Rebecca, Zacchaeus and Nancy Roberts moved to the area known as Wheat in 1794 and are considered among the first Caucasian settlers in Tennessee. Elias and Zacchaeus Roberts both fought in the Revolutionary War in 1776. Mr. Martin contacted the Tennessee Historical Commission and the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Office concerning concurrence on placement of a historical marker at the George Jones Memorial Baptist Church Site for Elias Rebecca, Nancy and Zacchaeus Roberts.

The George Jones Memorial Church represents nineteenth and early twentieth centuries rural life in Roane County, Tennessee, before the World War II Manhattan Project. Currently, the Church is used for annual reunions of church members and an Interpretive Center for visitors to learn about pre-war residents of Roane County who were displaced by the Manhattan Project.

DETERMINATION: Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5 and in accordance with the *Cultural Resource Management Plan, Doe Oak Ridge Reservation Anderson and Roane Counties, Tennessee*, DOE /ORO - 2085, Section 5.1.1.3.A.2.b. (1) DOE ORO has determined the proposed action would not have an adverse effect on the physical structure or visual appearance of the historic property.

REFERENCES:

Cultural Resource Management Plan, DOE Oak Ridge Reservation, Anderson and Roane Counties, Tennessee, DOE/ORO-2085, July 2001.

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation/Return Sheet; Requested Action: Nomination; Property Name: George Jones Memorial Baptist Church, Accepted by Keeper on May 6, 1992

FIGURES:

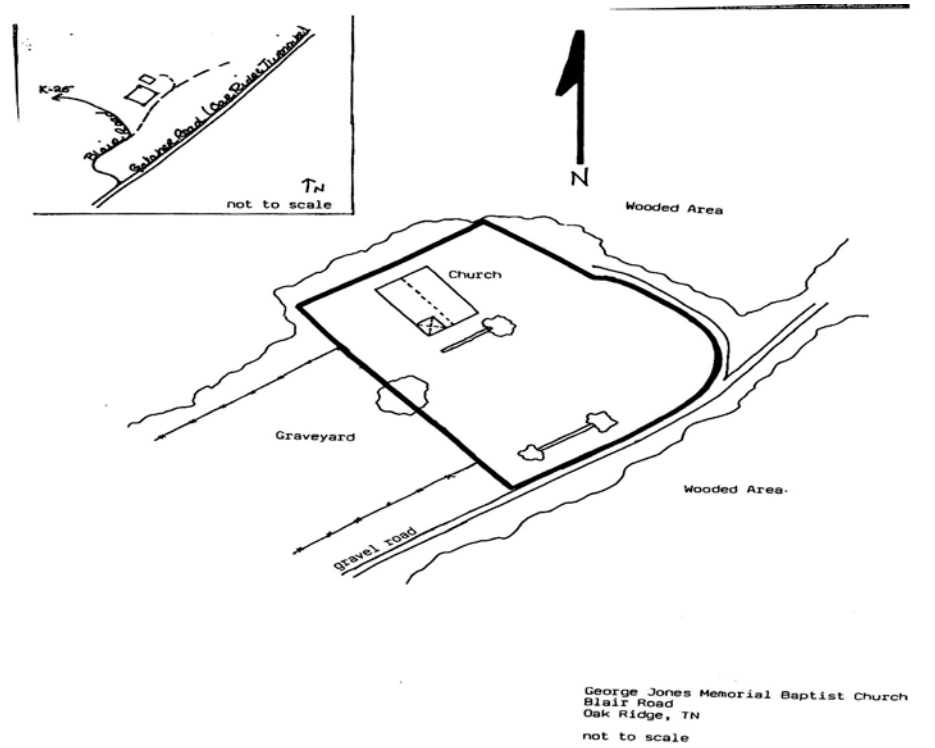


Figure 1 - George Jones Memorial Baptist Church and Cemetery Site Map



Figure 2 - George Jones Memorial Baptist Church and Cemetery



Figure 3 - George Jones Memorial Baptist Church Cemetery Proposed Marker Placement, Front Left of Cemetery Entrance



Figure 4 - Proposed Marker Stone Image



Figure 5 - Proposed Marker Stone Image

