



## Department of Energy

### Office of Science

ORNL Site Office  
P.O. Box 2008  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-6269

June 18, 2024

Ms. Kelley Reid  
Tennessee Historical Commission  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37214

Dear Ms. Reid:

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT, SECTION 106 COMPLIANCE –  
PROPOSED UNDERTAKING FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE TO GEORGE  
JONES MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, 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 to replace the George Jones Memorial Baptist Church roof and install a new gutter system 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 undertaking is designed to maintain the historic integrity of this structure. The enclosed project summary, *Section 106 Archeological Historical Review Repair and Maintenance to George Jones Memorial Baptist Church*, provides additional information pertaining to this proposed undertaking.

The proposed undertaking has been designed and planned in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 68, July 12, 1995) Federal Register) (Standards). The proposed undertaking would include removal of the existing metal roof and flashings, replacement with in-kind material similar to original roofing in historical photographs, and installation of a new gutter system. 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 undertaking 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. Kelley Reid

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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/enclosure:

Thomas W. Doty IV, SC-OSO

John C. Shewairy, SC-OSO

DOE Information Center

Ernest Ryan, UT-Battelle

Todd North, UT- Battelle

**ENCLOSURE**

**PROJECT SUMMARY**  
**SECTION 106, ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REVIEW (AHR)**  
**REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE TO**  
**GEORGE JONES MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory Site Office (OSO) proposes to replace the George Jones Memorial Baptist Church roof and install a new gutter system. In keeping with the original configuration of the Church, replacements material be in-kind to match the color and finish of the historic photographic evidence. These proposed actions are needed to prevent further deterioration of exterior, as well as protect the interior from water damage.

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

**DISCUSSION:**

George Jones Memorial Baptist Church was 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 is one of six structures that are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation. The George Jones Memorial Church represents nineteenth and early twentieth centuries rural life in Roane County, Tennessee before the Manhattan Project. Currently, the Church is used for annual reunions of church members and for visitors to learn about pre-war residents of Roane County who were displaced by the Manhattan Project.

The George Jones Memorial Baptist Church is a three-bay, rectangular plan brick church with wood cladding. The Church has a brick and stone foundation, gable roof of metal standing seam, interior brick flue and weatherboard siding over the brick and frame walls. The main (south) façade is composed of three bays while the rear façade has two bays and side facades are five bays. On the main faced is the primary entrance which has a 1990 solid metal door and original rectangular transom. The bell tower at the southwest corner of the building has a pyramidal roof of red asphalt shingles and is located above the entrance bay. On all four sides of the bell tower are rectangular vent opening which have been removed and the window openings have been covered by wood panels and reinforced wood casement shutters. The gable field of the main façade has a small rectangular louvered vent. At the rear façade is a secondary entrance in the basement level which has a 1990 solid metal door. There is a laminated sign in the gable field inscribed “George Jones Memorial Baptist Church, est. 1901, Wheat, Tenn.”

The proposed repairs and maintenance actions would be made with in-kind materials that closely duplicate the original features based on historic evidence. Note, the current roofing material does not represent the original design, please see enclosed photographs. Additionally, in efforts to eliminate ongoing/potential erosion, ground-water intrusions, and structural instability, a gutter and downspout system is being proposed for installation which would not represent historical

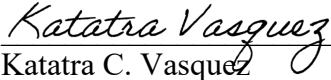
evidence but would provide long-term stabilization of the historic building. Below provides a description of the proposed action.

- Remove Existing metal roof system and flashings;
- Remove existing 2 layers of asphalt shingle roofing;
- Install 1 ply of high temperature underlayment to roof deck;
- Mechanically fasten roof panel matching color and profile of existing;
- Install new shingles and trim at steeple;
- Furnish and install Rake, Ridge, and drip edge trims per manufacturers requirements for warranty; and
- Furnish and install 24 GA prefinished gutter, gutter guard and downspout system.

The planned undertaking has been designed and planned in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (36 CFR Part 68, July 12, 1995 [Federal Register] [Standards]).

**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.a. (1) and Cultural Resources Exclusion, Section 5.1.2.Q, Repair and Maintenance of Buildings, DOE OSO has determined the proposed action would not have an adverse effect on the physical structure or visual appearance of the historic property.

  
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Katatra C. Vasquez  
DOE Cultural Resource Management Coordinator

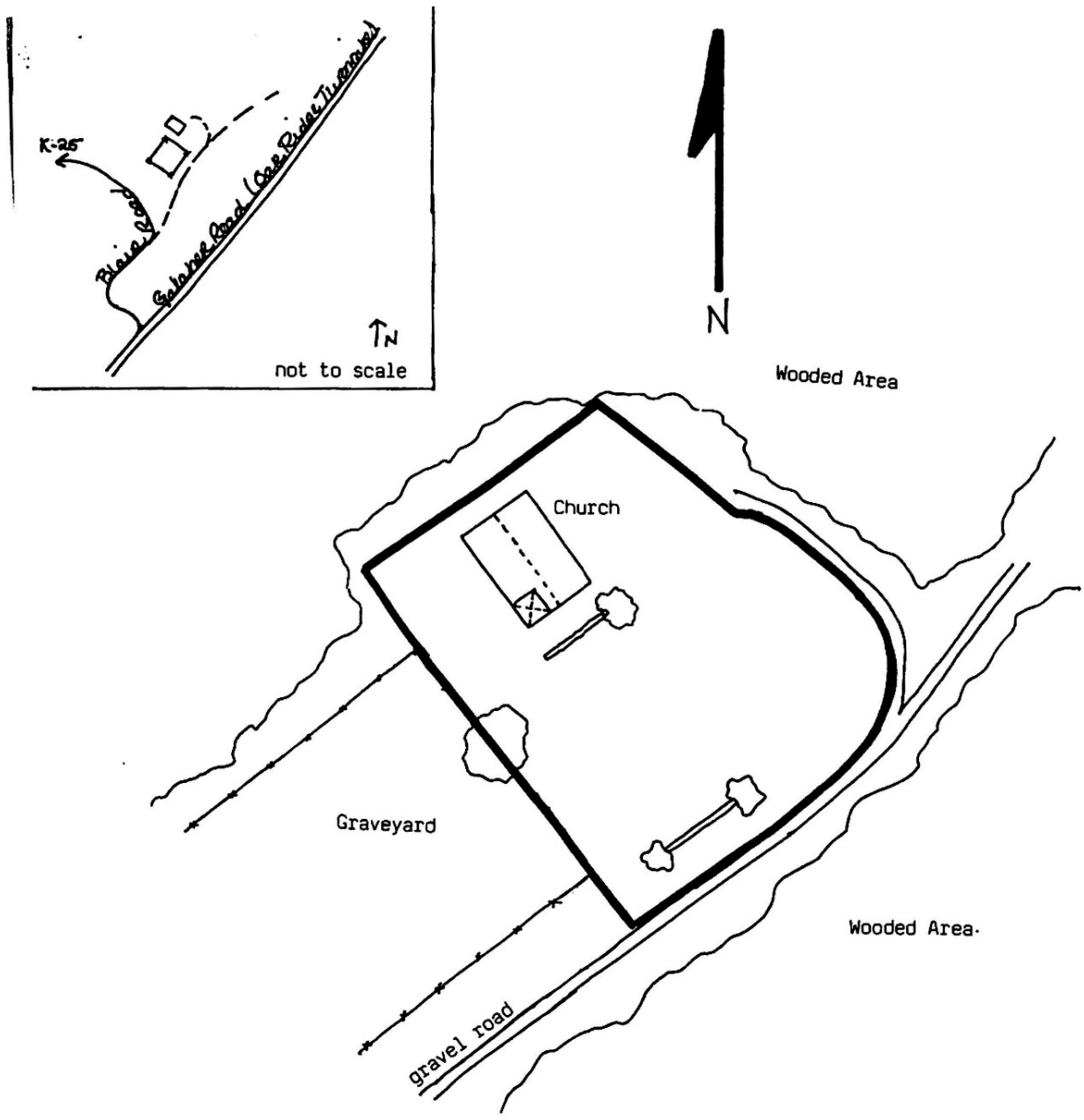
Date: 06/18/2024

**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*

*Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 68, July 12, 1995 [Federal Register] [Standards]).*



George Jones Memorial Baptist Church  
Blair Road  
Oak Ridge, TN  
not to scale

Figure 1-Map Showing the Location of George Jones Memorial Baptist Church