

# ARROWMONT

*school of arts and crafts*

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## **Ogle Cabin and More Settlement School Buildings Added to National Register**

Gatlinburg – In April Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts celebrated the National Park Service’s approval to include several significant buildings of the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School on the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places.

It just so happens that another celebration is in order as iconic buildings of Gatlinburg such as the Ogle Cabin (c.1807) and the Arrowcraft Shop (1940), have also been granted National and Tennessee Register of Historic Places designation.

“It is very timely that the Ogle Cabin along with so many other significant buildings of the Pi Phi Settlement School and Arrowmont have been designated on the national registry, and is a fitting tribute to Gatlinburg’s bicentennial celebration,” said Arrowmont Director, David Willard

These treasured buildings’ designation was officially approved July 11 along with the Jennie Nicol Health Clinic (1948), now Arrowmont’s business office; Arrowmont’s exhibit kiosks (1968); Early School Building, former Arrowcraft Shop and early arts and craft building (c. 1913, c. 1926, c. 1940)—now Cottage at the Creek, Thomas Kincaid Gallery; and the Craftsman’s Fair Grounds and School Playground, currently grounds of Pi Beta Phi Elementary.

The designation was part of the “Settlement School Community Outreach Historic District” nomination and included the property’s most publicly accessible buildings and resources associated with the settlement school facing the Parkway.

The community outreach district properties, which encompass about 7 acres, are associated with the oldest remaining craft school in Tennessee. Of particular significance is the inclusion of the Ogle Cabin, the oldest structure related to the school's property.

Regional history states that William Ogle, an early hunter, built the cabin in 1803 during a hunting trip to the mountains. He then returned to South Carolina to retrieve his wife Martha Jane Huskey Ogle and their children, but he died before ever returning. Martha Jane moved the family to Gatlinburg in 1807 to live in the cabin and establish a farm. Between 1922 and 1926, Evelyn Bishop and Phyllis Higinbotham of Pi Beta Phi set up the cabin as a museum of mountain life, a function that continues today. The cabin and its artifacts not only pay tribute to the first settlers of Gatlinburg; they also record the primacy of the craft tradition in the history of the region. The cabin was moved from its position between Arrowmont's Red Barn and Staff House to its present location on the Parkway c. 1969.

The process for both applications to the National Park Service was initiated and completed by Arrowmont Board of Governor's Vice President, Susan Knowles and Carol Van West, professor of history at Middle Tennessee State University and director of the Center for Historic Preservation.

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, established in 1912 as the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School, is committed to its mission of "enriching lives through art." For more information on Arrowmont's workshops, gallery exhibitions and events, visit [www.arrowmont.org](http://www.arrowmont.org) or call 865-436-5860.

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