

Reverend W. M. Alden  
Box 2

DIVISION  
THE COMMISSION ON  
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA



Judge H. W. Bertram  
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Mr. B. O. Lee  
Smith River

Mr. Lee!

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tinued use of the property should be found inconsistent



June 16, 1934

Reverend W. H. Maiden  
Route 2  
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of June 15th, and I take pleasure in making prompt reply to your inquiries.

As to the use of the two churches you mentioned in your letter, one at Swift Run on the west side of the Blue Ridge and the other at the intersection of the Skyline Drive and the Spottswood trail (#82 and #168 as shown on the County Ownership Map in Rockingham County), it is not the purpose or intention of the Commission to disturb the Trustees or other authorized church authorities in the use and control of their church properties for church purposes, to which they were entitled when these churches and lands were condemned, pending the conveyance of the Park lands to the U. S. Government, and we are advised that the U. S. Director of Parks will respect permits issued by the Chairman of the Commission to the owners of these lands to continue their use down to November first, 1934, at least, and that upon direct application to him, extension of such permits may be secured, unless the continued use of the property should be found inconsistent with the development of the Park project.

If the Trustees will submit a request for a permit to continue the former use of these church properties to Mr. W. E. Carson, Chairman of the State Commission on Conservation and Development, care the Shenandoah National Park Office, Front Royal, Virginia, with a statement showing that they are the Trustees who had control of these properties for church purposes at the time when they were condemned, a formal permit will be issued authorizing the use of the property until November first, 1934.



After the land has been turned over to the United States, the Trustees can apply to the Director of National Parks, Interior Department, Washington, D. C., for an extension of the permit.

As to your inquiry with regard to removal of church furnishings, pulpit, pews, carpets, organs, &c., I may say that of course you can remove at any time, carpets, organs, pews or pulpits not actually built into the church buildings; and further that even where these are more or less built in and attached, the policy of the Commission would be extremely liberal in permitting the church trustees to remove such fixtures. Indeed, if the Trustees desire to remove any such fixtures before the land is conveyed to the United States, Mr. Wm. E. Carson, will on request, issue the necessary permits to do so, perhaps for some very nominal consideration, such as your undertaking to look after the buildings until they are turned over to the U. S. Government.

As to the question of removal of the church buildings themselves, the Commission would also be willing to grant permits for that purpose to the Trustees on some such nominal consideration as their undertaking to remove these properties without damage to the lands, and to leave the sites of the churches in reasonable fair condition, removing all old lumber, bricks, etc.

But after the land has been turned over to the U. S. Government, which will be in the course of a few months, permits for removal will have to be secured from the U. S. Director of National Parks.

As to your question in regard to building in the original proposed Park area, but outside the boundary of the lands heretofore condemned and acquired by the Commission by payment of the awards into the custody of the court, you may feel perfectly safe in doing so, insofar as the condemnation proceedings are concerned.

You will find in the Clerk's Office in Rockingham County, the order of the court dismissing the proceedings as to these lands.

Hoping this information will be of service, I am

Very truly yours,

A. C. Carson  
Of Counsel

P. S. I am sending copy of this letter to Judge Bertram as I gather from your letter that you have consulted with him in this connection.