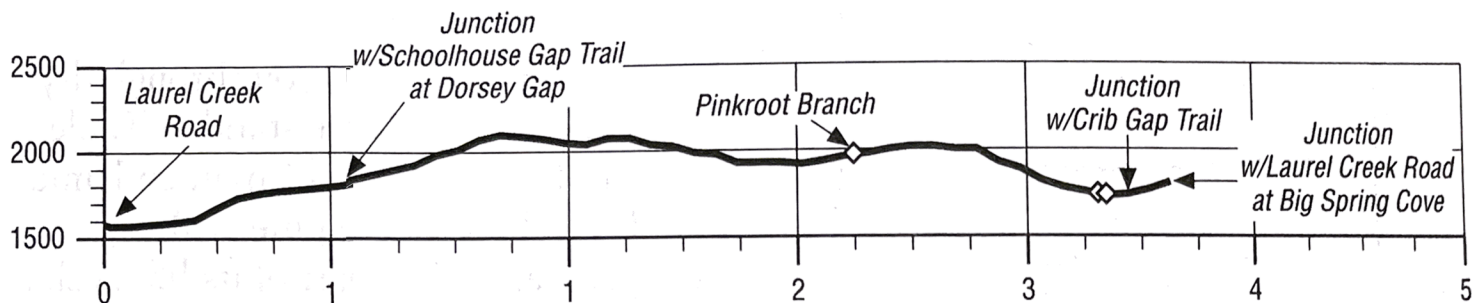


Schoolhouse Gap (1.1) & Turkeypen Ridge Trail (3.4)



Parking: head toward Cades Cove on Laurel Creek Rd from the Townsend Y for 3.9 miles - look for large paved parking area on the right.

Schoolhouse Gap Trail (1.1/2.1 miles)

(1840s) Dr. Isaac Anderson, first president of Maryville College, wanted a road to connect East TN to the area for missionary work & commerce. He pushed forward a plan for North Carolina to build a road over Haw Gap to Spence Field, and he would build "Anderson Road" from Schoolhouse Gap and up Bote Mountain. He payed Cherokees one yard of calico cloth for each day of labor to build the road; it was never completed.

- first 1.1 m climbs Spence Branch, intersects w/ Turkeypen at Dorsey Gap, named for civil war veteran & farmer of the area Anderson Dorsey
- past Dorsey Gap is a narrow manway (1.2 m) leading to Whiteoak Sink, a valley once home to about 10 families

Turkeypen Ridge Trail (3.4 miles)

- weaves in and out around the eastern face of Turkeypen Ridge
- briefly runs along a level ridge northwest of Whiteoak Sink (first mile)
- Pinkroot Branch offers "beautiful wet weather cascades"
- last crossing of Pinkroot Branch has a picturesque ledge of layered rock
- end of the trail has several small piles of rock from old mountain farms; farmers piled them up - "this land grows more rocks than anything else"
- old home site to the right just before crossing Laurel Creek Branch



Places to eat in Townsend after:

- Little River Pub & Deli (paninis, craft beer, has a Mt. LeConte sandwich) (7503 W Old Hwy 73)
- Apple Valley Mountain Village (burger bar)
- Townsend Abbey (7765 River Rd)
- Peaceful Side Social

