### District #1 Rep. Mendel Davis  
Form 10-300  
(United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service)

#### National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory – Nomination Form

**1. Name**  
**Common:**  
Indian Fields Methodist Camp Ground  
**And/or Historic:**  
Indian Fields

**2. Location**  
**Street and Number:**  
From intersection of Highway 78 in St. George, northeast on U.S. Highway 15 approx. 3 miles, turn left on S.C. Highway 73 for 7/10 mile  
**City or Town:**  
St. George vicinity  
**State:**  
South Carolina  
**Code:**  
45  
**County:**  
Dorchester  
**Code:**  
035

**3. Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category (Check One)</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Accessible to the Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>☑ Public</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>☑ Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Present Use (Check One or More as Appropriate):**  
- Agricultural
- Government
- Park
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

**4. Owner of Property**

- **Owner's Name:**  
  Charleston District United Methodist Church  
- **Street and Number:**  
  109-A Magnolia Road  
- **City or Town:**  
  Charleston  
- **State:**  
  South Carolina  
- **Code:**  
  45

**5. Location of Legal Description**

- **Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, Etc.:**  
  Dorchester County Court House

**Street and Number:**  
- **City or Town:**  
  St. George  
- **State:**  
  South Carolina  
- **Code:**  
  45

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

- **Title of Survey:**  
  South Carolina Survey of Historic Places Preliminary Survey  
- **Date of Survey:**  
  1969  
- **Depository for Survey Records:**  
  South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
  **Street and Number:**  
  1430 Senate Street  
  **City or Town:**  
  Columbia  
  **State:**  
  South Carolina  
  **Code:**  
  45
Exterior: Constructed in 1848, Indian Fields Methodist Camp Ground retains the nineteenth century layout of ninety-nine wooden cabins, or tents as they are called, which form a circle around a large, wooden pavilion, the preaching stand or tabernacle. Except for the installation of electric wiring and water pipes and replacements of some deteriorated planks, the fabric of Indian Fields remains unchanged.

Tents of unfinished weatherboarding are identical in basic design, although they may vary in details. Each has a shed roof supported by three rough-hewn wooden posts. There are two outdoor benches, one of which is attached to the posts, the second rests against the facade proper. Doorway varies in location from either extreme left or extreme right of the cabins. A window substitute is provided by wooden slats located about four feet from ground level, and measuring about one foot in width by six feet in length. Another source of light and ventilation, found on the second level, is a small rectangular opening set in the gable. Serving as a shutter is a hinged wooden casement.

Rear facade resembles main entrance having a shed roof supported by wooden posts. Doorway is located on either extreme right or extreme left (placed to correspond with location of front door), and a rectangular opening set in the rear gable lies on an axis with the gable opening of the facade. Behind the house is an outdoor stove of brick or cinderblock covered, in some of the tents, by a shed. Wooden logs are piled against the back of the rudimentary kitchen.

Side facades are of weatherboarding with no window or doorway openings.

Interior of the tents consists of two eight by ten rooms connected by an open passageway. (There is no inside door.) Passageway extends from front to rear entrance, providing ventilation for the small cabins. Some tents designated for larger families have two second story rooms and a first floor maid's room (six feet in width by eight feet in length) located under the rear roof. There are no floors; the bare ground is covered with straw during the summer camp meeting week.

The only cabin which varies significantly from the rest is the preacher's tent. Entrance, a four-panel, central door, is flanked on either side by two-over-two-light, evenly spaced windows. Although this cabin is one story, it has larger dimensions and a higher gable roof than the surrounding tents.

In the center of the tents is the tabernacle, a pavilion with open sides where services are held. Expansive gable hipped roof is supported by exposed rafters, beams, and square wooden posts. Overlooking three sections of wooden pews is a raised preacher's stand, located at northern end of tabernacle.

Surroundings: Wooded lots and small farms are prevalent in the area surrounding Indian Fields. Cars can be parked on either side of a paved road encircling the tents. Tin privies, located across the road, number one to a cabin.
Architecturally, the design of Indian Fields reflects its use as a setting for a collective religious experience. A sense of community is heightened by the circle of adjacent cabins. Both the center of this circle and the focal point of a revival meeting is the tabernacle. The simplicity of the rough-hewn cabins and the open tabernacle is a part of the unpretentious style of evangelism that attracted a popular following.

Religion and Philosophy: The original Indian Fields Camp Ground (located two miles from the present camp ground) was functional as early as 1810. In this year Francis Asbury, who led the organization of American Methodism through itinerant preaching known as "riding circuit", preached at Indian Fields. Even after many other stops on the circuits had become established churches, the meeting camp retained a tremendous influence on the development of religious life. Serving crowds too large for church buildings or homes, the camp ground responded to both religious and social needs. Tents were erected to allow people to stay more than one night, and the term remained although tents were gradually replaced by rough-hewn cabins as revival meetings became a strong tradition.

Surges of revivalism have been a recurrent phenomenon in United States history and one of the dominant strains in America's religious tradition. Revivalism depended on an emotional approach to faith which often opposed a more intellectual, doctrinaire outlook of the established churches. However it was "fire and brimstone" that attracted the greatest number of converts and was chiefly responsible for the lightning growth of Methodism, one of the strongest proponents of the evangelical method.

One of these nation-wide surges of revivalism occurred during the pre-Civil War years as the exhortations of evangelists inspired a rash of conversions and a growing attendance at religious meetings. Indian Fields was affected by this trend, and by 1848 crowds were too numerous to be accommodated at the original location. A new ten acre site about two miles away was deeded with the stipulation that a meeting be held once every two years.

The ambience of an antebellum camp ground such as Indian Fields was a unique part of the American collective experience. Emotional oratory and fervent hymn-singing produced a climate of expectancy. The fever pitch of excitement was maintained by both scheduled and extemporaneous praying. Participation by the crowd was a key element as they responded with shouted "amens" or sometimes longer testimonials. Although twentieth century camp meetings have lost the frenzied tone, the continuing use of Indian Fields

(see continuation sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

APPRAOXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9.98 ACRES

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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<thead>
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<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>80°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32°</td>
<td>45.9</td>
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</table>

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE: CODE COUNTY CODE
STATE: CODE COUNTY CODE
STATE: CODE COUNTY CODE
STATE: CODE COUNTY CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Caroline Dixon Historic Preservation Assistant
ORGANIZATION: S.C. Department of Archives & History
DATE: July 28, 1972
STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street P.O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [X] Local [ ]

Name: Charles E. Lee
Title: Director, South Carolina Department of Archives & History
Date: 

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Date: 3/26/73

ATTEST: Keeper of the National Register
Date: 3/26/73
INDIAN FIELDS METHODIST CAMP GROUND

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

recalls the impact of nineteenth century evangelism on American life and thought.
INDIAN FIELDS METHODIST CAMP GROUND

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Floorplan of a Typical Tent

**Upper Floor**

- Girls' Bedroom
- Boys' Bedroom

**Lower Floor**

- Porch
- Maid's Bedroom
- Parents' Bedroom
- Dining Area

Received Sep 13, 1972