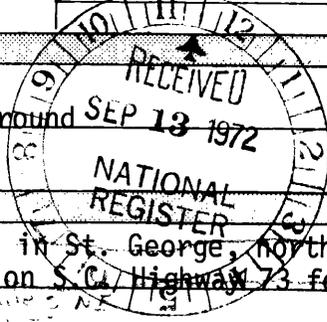


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina  
 COUNTY: Dorchester  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: MAR 30 1972



**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  
 CITY OR TOWN: St. George vicinity About 4 miles SW mile  
 STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45 COUNTY: Dorchester CODE: 035

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

**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  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street 11188 Capitol Station  
 CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

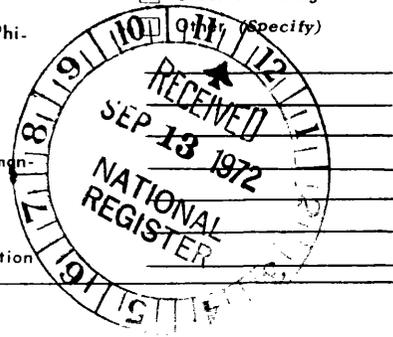
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1848**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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 INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Betts, Albert Deems. History of South Carolina Methodism, Columbia: The Advocate Press, 1952, 160-162.  
 Bucke, Emory Stevens (editor) The History of American Methodism, Volume II. New York: Abingdon Press, 1964, p. 310 and 610-611.  
 Johnson, Charles A. The Frontier Camp Meeting: Religion's Harvest Time, Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1955, pp. 208-229.  
 Sweet, William Warren. Methodism in American History, New York: Abingdon Press, 1954. p. 333.  
 (see continuation sheet)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32°	13'	22.6"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		80°	32'	45.9"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9.98 ACRES

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 STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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  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.

Robertson Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/30/73

ATTEST: Wm. M. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3-26-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Dorchester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 30 1973

(Number all entries)

INDIAN FIELDS METHODIST CAMP GROUND

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

recalls the impact of nineteenth century evangelism on American life and thought.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Dorchester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 24 1973

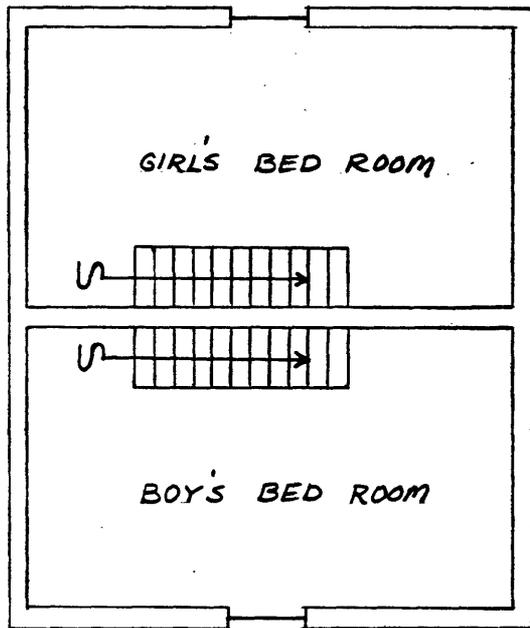
(Number all entries)

INDIAN FIELDS METHODIST CAMP GROUND

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

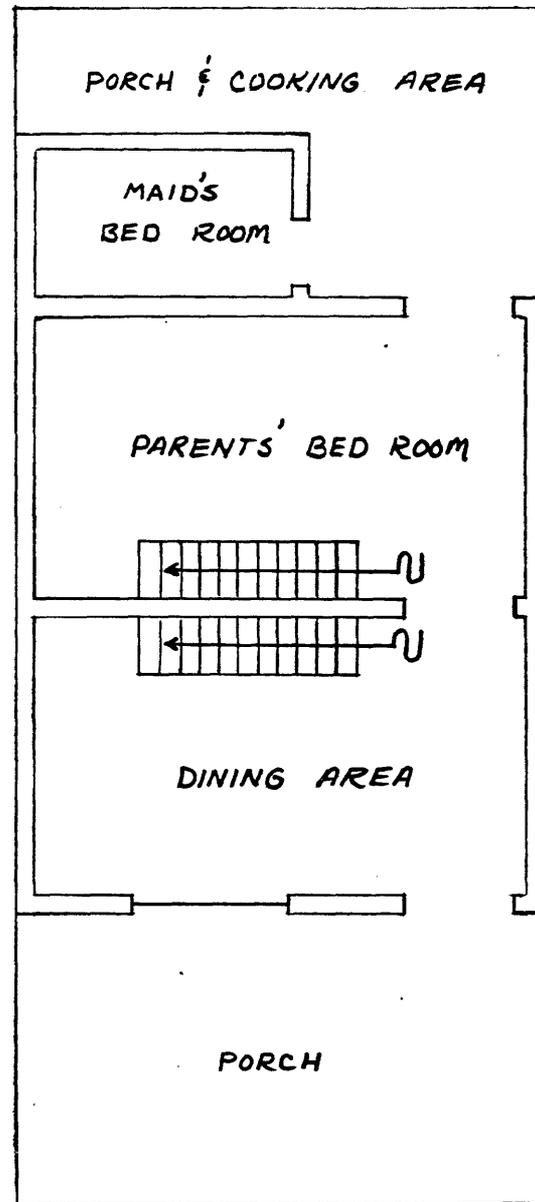
Sweet, William Warren. Revivalism in America; its Origin, Growth and Decline, Gloucester, Mass: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1944. pp.140-161.





UPPER FLOOR

FLOORPLAN OF A TYPICAL TENT



LOWER FLOOR