UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY
NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet | Item Number | Page

Name Historic Camp Welfare

Common

Location East Side of County Road 234; 4 miles southwest of County Road 55

Classification Buildings

Owner c/o F.R. Gladden
Route 2, Box 96
Winnsboro, S.C. 29180

Representation in Existing Surveys South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1983

Description Camp Welfare, founded shortly after the Civil War by the African Methodist Episopal Church, is located in an isolated portion of northeastern Fairfield County. Located on its present site since at least 1876, the camp is a collection of approximately 100 one-story, frame, weatherboarded cabins called tents. The gable-roofed tents, probably constructed around the turn of the century, have one room and a center front entrance sheltered by a shed-roofed porch; some of the tents have been altered with the addition of corrugated metal or plywood siding. A few of the more modern tents are constructed of concrete block.

The tents were designed for sleeping only; cooking was done outdoors and there were community bath houses. The cabins are arranged in a double U shape. The focal point of the camp is the arbor. Originally a true brush arbor, the arbor is now a rough, gable-roofed, *

Significance Camp Welfare was founded shortly after the Civil War. The trustees of Camp Welfare acquired the present property, which had been their meeting place since at least 1876, from L.G.H. McMaster in 1878. The meeting was held annually during the last week in August, traditionally "lay-by" time, the time between final cultivation of cotton and corn crops and harvest time.

Several religious services were held in the arbor each day and were the focal point of the meeting. Only slightly secondary to the religious services was fellowship with friends and family. Many of the families who attended the camp continued to attend through several generations, passing their tents down through the family. The camp meeting was **

Acreage 11 acres

Verbal Boundary Description The boundary for the nominated property is shown in red on the accompanying Fairfield County Tax Map #63, drawn at a scale of 1 inch equals 400 feet. It includes the church, the tabernacle, and the tents, and excludes any non-significant buildings.

UTM Reference Point

A. 17/504470/3816425
B. 17/504618/3816225
C. 17/504420/3816110
D. 17/504380/3816370

Other Information

*wooden shelter with wooden benches. Also located at the camp is Zion Church. Probably built ca. 1930, the church is a frame building sheathed in asbestos siding with a gable roof surmounted by a belfry. A front-gabled porch supported by wooden pillars on brick piers shelters the double-door, central entrance.

Camp Welfare is an excellent example of a black religious campground. Despite alterations to some of the cabins, the collection retains sufficient integrity to convey what such a campground was like.

**often a time for family reunions with relatives from other states returning for the meeting.[1]

Camp Welfare is significant as an excellent example of a black religious campground. It is one of the few historic properties identified in Fairfield County associated with the large black population.

[1]Book AE, pp. 617-618, Fairfield County Deeds, County Records on Microfilm, S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.; South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State (New York: Oxford University Press, 1941), p. 356; Elkin and Elkin, Map of Fairfield County.