Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PH0678147

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 14 1979
DATE ENTERED MAY 10 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Campground

AND/OR COMMON
Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Campground

2 LOCATION

S of Lancaster

STREET & NUMBER State Highway #19, 500 yds. south of #19's intersection with State Highway #620

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Lancaster X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5th

STATE South Carolina CODE 045 COUNTY Lancaster CODE 057

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S) (com-plex	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	XX YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME A.M.E. Zion Church Conference

STREET & NUMBER
Dept. of Records and Research, P.O. Box 1401

CITY, TOWN Charlotte __ VICINITY OF STATE North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lancaster County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
116 West Dunlap Street

CITY, TOWN Lancaster STATE South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE 1973 (update) __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN Columbia STATE South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in rural Lancaster County, Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Campground is significant as a compact religious encampment which has been in continuous use since the late 1860s. Founded as a part of the post-Civil War growth of independent black congregations, the form of the Mount Carmel Campground exemplifies one of the typical shapes of 19th Century religious encampments.

Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Campground consists of a complex of structures located in the general form of a rectangle. A line of approximately fifty-five small "cabins" or "tents" and a brick church lie along the outer edge of the rectangle, creating a large open area in the center. An open-air "arbor" is located in this area. Although the significance of the site is primarily historical and not architectural, the design of the campground does reflect its use as a setting for a collective religous experience.

There is little uniformity in the design of the small "cabins" or "tents" of the campground. These "tents" were originally small log cabins built directly contiguous to each other and oriented towards the center of the rectangle. With the continued use of the campground, the log cabins were gradually replaced. At present, the majority of the cabins are small frame or concrete block structures which are still situated directly along side of each other and oriented towards the center of the rectangle. Many of these "cabins" or cabin sites have been used by the same families for generations--with each family being largely responsible for the building form and upkeep. Many of the cabins are in dilapidated condition, while some are well maintained.

Located near the center of the rectangle is the "arbor", an open-sided structure whose wooden posts support a tin gable roof. The original dirt floor has been replaced by concrete, and plain wooden pews have replaced raised planks in all sections of the arbor except one, where the original planks remain. Tradition indicates that this arbor is over one-hundred years old. It continues to serve as the center for religious activities at the annual campground meeting.

On the southern side of the campground is Mt. Carmel A.M.E. Zion church, a brick structure with belfry and gable roof. Said to be the fourth church on the site, it has strong historical associations with the campground although it is not architecturally significant. Located on the northern side of the campground is the church cemetery where many of the church founders and subsequent generations are buried.

Surroundings

Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Campground is located in a rural setting and is surrounded by woods and open fields.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY) Black history
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Church and Campground is one of the earliest sites in South Carolina associated with the establishment of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Founded ca. 1866, Mt. Carmel A.M.E. Zion Church and Campground was part of the widespread growth of independent black churches which occurred in the South during the post-Civil War era. Mount Carmel is also among the state's few surviving campgrounds where annual gatherings continue to be held. Additionally, the rectangular design of the campground is significant in itself, exemplifying one of the typical shapes of 19th Century religious encampments.

Religion/Black History

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in New York City in 1796. The church grew out of the Methodist Episcopal Church, retaining much of its doctrine and form of government. This church was originally centered in the north as few separate black churches existed in the south during the early 19th Century. Following the Civil War, however, the church spread south as blacks began to form their own congregations.

Organized as a part of this growth, Mount Carmel was founded ca. 1866 by Isom Caleb Clinton (1830-1904), a former slave. In the following year, 1867, the South Carolina Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church was organized, and Clinton was ordained a deacon. Among the primary leaders of the church in the state, Clinton became General Steward in 1888, and 1892 was consecrated bishop. Under Clinton's leadership, the A.M.E. Zion Church in S.C. grew and in 1890 was composed of 130 congregations. (Clinton Junior College, founded in 1894 and located in Rock Hill, South Carolina, was named in his honor.)

Frederick Albert Clinton (1834-1890), younger brother of Isom C. Clinton, was also instrumental in the growth of Mount Carmel. An organizer and lifetime trustee of the church, he was also involved in local political affairs. He attended the South Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1868 and served in the South Carolina Senate from 1870 to 1877. He is buried in the graveyard at Mount Carmel.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"A.M.E. Conference." Yorkville Enquirer. November 25, 1899, p.2.

"A.M.E. Conference." Yorkville Enquirer. November 29, 1899, p.2.

Anderson, Herman L., General Secretary-Auditor, African Methodist Episcopal

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.4 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17	520240	3828120	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at U.S. Highway 19 the property line proceeds north for 594.37 feet; thence proceeds northeast for 96.38 feet; thence proceeds east for 426.15 feet; thence proceeds south for 766.25 feet until reaching U.S. Highway 19; thence proceeds west along U.S. Highway 19 for approximately 390 feet until reaching the point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Kappy McNulty, Julie Burr
Historic Preservation Division
Tanzella Gaither, Catawba
Regional Planning Council

ORGANIZATION South Carolina Department of Achives and History

DATE Jan 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 11, 669, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE (803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN Columbia

STATE South Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ✓ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Charles E. Lee

TITLE Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2/9/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. Herrington for

DATE 5.10.79

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~ KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Bill Wheeler

DATE May 8, 1979

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

Since its organization, Mount Carmel has been considered a landmark in and around Lancaster County. Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Church and Campground is especially significant as the historical site of an annual camp meeting. This annual camp meeting is held every September and is conducted under the auspices of the A.M.E. Zion Church. It is interdenominational in scope and is considered to be an important religious and social event which draws participants from several states. Today, Mount Carmel is one of the few places in South Carolina where the tradition of the annual camp meeting is maintained.

Architecture:

The design of the Mt. Carmel campground reflects its use as a setting for a collective religious experience. While individual buildings within the campground are not significant architecturally, taken as a unit, the campground itself reflects a distinctive design. The campground is in the general shape of a rectangle of approximately 55 "tents" or cabins. Near the center of the rectangle is the "arbor", an open-sided structure which is the focal point of the revival meetings. The two other campgrounds in South Carolina that are listed in the National Register- Cypress Methodist and Indian Fields Methodist Campgrounds, both in Dorchester County-bear strong similarity in design to Mt. Carmel.

Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina. Telephone interview. February 2, 1978.

"Attempt Made to Put Mt. Carmel on Register." Lancaster News, August 31, 1977.

Bicentennial Project Editorial Board. S.C. Blacks and Native Americans. Columbia: State Human Affairs Commission, 1976, pp.93-94.

Floyd, Viola C. Lancaster County Tours. Lancaster: Lancaster County Historical Commission, 1956, pp. 21, 118-119.

"Here and There: September is Camp Meeting Time in Lancaster." Lancaster News, September 6, 1978, p. 3-B.

Johns, Charles A. The Frontier Camp Meeting. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1955. pp.31-33, 43, 67, 68, 83, 95.

Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas. Pleadings and Judgements, Book G, p. 60.

McMurray, Marjorie C. "At Mount Carmel," TAP Journal, S.C. Arts Commission, No. 4, Spring 1978.

McMurray, Mrs. Marjorie C., member Mount Carmel, and Mrs. Viola C. Floyd, county historian, Lancaster, S.C. Interviews, June-July, 1977.

Reynolds, E.B., and J.R. Faunt. Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of South Carolina. Columbia: S.C. Archives, 1964, p. 197.

Taylor, Alrutheus Ambush. The Negro in South Carolina During the Reconstruction. 1924; reprint ed., New York: AMS Press, 1971, p. 115.

Tindall, George Brown. South Carolina Negroes: 1877-1900. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1952, pp. 186-187, 191.

Transcript of Interview with Mrs. Marjorie McMurray. August 23, 1978, Lancaster, S.C.

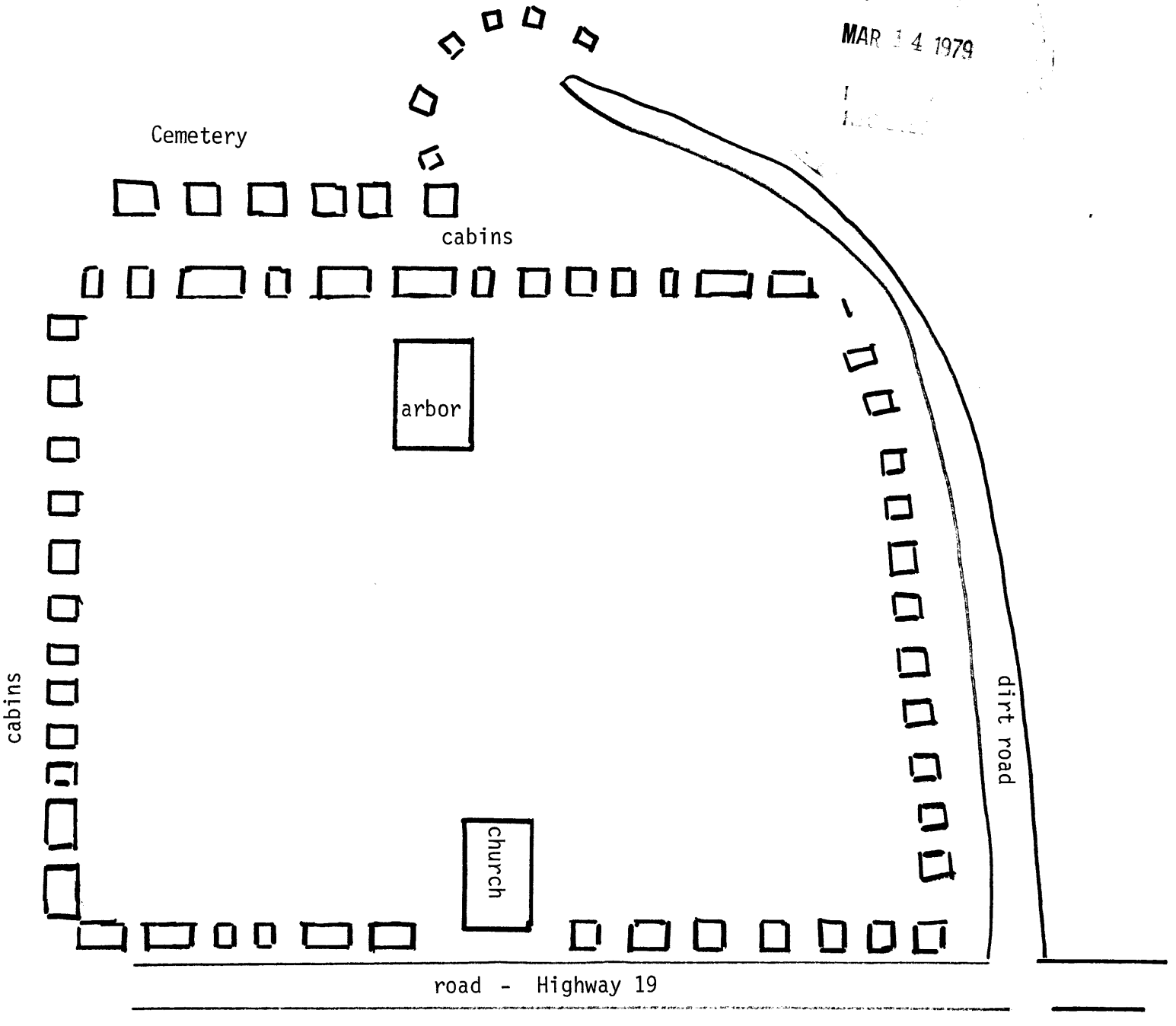
Walls, Bishop William J. The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Charlotte: A.M.E. Zion Publishing House, 1974, pp. 196, 209-210, 279, 319-321, 538, 582-583.

Williamson, Joel. After Slavery: The Negro in South Carolina During Reconstruction 1861-1877. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967, p. 191.

MOUNT CARMEL A.M.E. ZION CAMPGROUND
SKETCH MAP (LANCASTER COUNTY)

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

MAR 14 1979



Supplemental Enclosure
Site plan of Mount Carmel A.M.E.
Zion Campground, Lancaster County
South Carolina S.C. Dept. of
Archives & History 1979