

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATA SHEET

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NOV 22 1977

DATE ENTERED

APR 26 1978

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Cypress Methodist Camp Ground

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER From junction US 78 East on S.C. Highway 182
for approximately one mile; campground is on left

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ridgeville

VICINITY OF

#1

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

South Carolina

045

Dorchester

035

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE (COM-plex)

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

plex)

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. H. M. Blanton, Chairman, Trustees of Cypress Methodist Campground

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 123

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Ridgeville

VICINITY OF

South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

St. George

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

S. C. Department of Archives & History

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Columbia

South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cypress Methodist Camp Ground consists of approximately thirty-four cabins called "tents." They are arranged in a large rectangle in the center of which is located a shed-like structure known as the "tabernacle." On one edge of the campground is a church and its cemetery.

The tents are all approximately the same size, one and one-half stories and of rough hewn lumber. (One exception is two stories high). The tents feature small shed-type porches and gable roofs, most of which are covered by tin. Windows originally were mere openings, but today standard windows with glass are increasingly being used.

The typical floor plan of a tent features a hall extending the length of the structure with as many as three rooms on the opposite side. Floors are earthen. The second story is accessible by a small stairway or ladder.

In the center of the rectangle is the tabernacle, an open-sided wooden structure where services are held. This structure features a hipped roof, a raised platform for the preachers and choir, and simple wooden pews.

Offset to the west side of the campground is a modern church of concrete block construction (ca. 1940s). It replaced an earlier structure and hence has historical associations. It is not, however, significant architecturally. The adjacent cemetery contains graves from the early 1800s.

The rectangle is encircled by a private road on the other side of which are the outdoor privies.

Surroundings: Cypress Methodist Camp Ground is located in rural Dorchester County and is surrounded by woods and farmland.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cypress Methodist Camp Ground, located in rural Dorchester County, is one of only a few campgrounds in South Carolina which continue to host annual week-long camp meetings--a vestige of the Great Awakening in American religious life in the 19th Century. Cypress is significant for its association with Francis Asbury, pioneer of American Methodism, and for its long, uninterrupted use as a site of revivalism for almost 200 years.

Architecture: The design of Cypress Camp Ground reflects its use as a setting for a collective religious experience. It is in the general shape of a rectangle of 34 "tents," or cabins, made of rough-hewn lumber. These cabins, rectangular-shaped, are generally 1 1/2 stories and contain earthen floors. In the center of the rectangle is the tabernacle, an open-sided wooden structure which is the focal point of these revival meetings.

Religion/Philosophy: Cypress Camp Ground was functional as early as 1794. In that year Francis Asbury, who led the organization of American Methodism through itinerant preaching known as "riding circuits," recorded in his journal: "Sunday 19, Rode to Cypress, where I could not rest without giving them a little sermon."¹ Similar references are found in his journal in 1799, 1801 and 1803. In 1825 Cypress was the site of the Conference of Local Preachers for the Charleston District. It was reported that "During the Conference, public worship will be performed day and night as at a camp meeting."²

Serving crowds too large for church buildings or homes, the campground responded to both religious and social needs. Tents were erected to allow people to stay overnight, and the campground term remained even though the tents were gradually replaced by rough-hewn cabins. Week-long camp meetings are still held annually at Cypress Methodist Camp Ground.

¹The Journal of the Rev. Francis Asbury, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, August 7, 1771 to December 7, 1815. Vol. II. New York: N. Bangs & T. Mason, 1821, p. 183.

²The Wesleyan Journal, Vol. I, No. 4, October 22, 1825, n.p.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

one

The Journal of the Rev. Francis Asbury, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church,
Vol. III. New York: Bangs and Mason, 1821, pp. 47, 90.

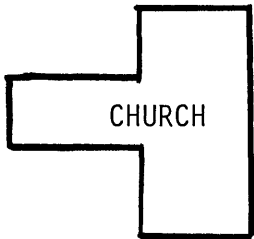
The Wesleyan Journal, Vol. I, No. 4, October 22, 1825, n.p.

Telephone Interview with Mr. Herbert Hucks, Archivist, Wofford College, Spartanburg,
South Carolina, June 23, 1977.

Sketch map of
CYPRESS METHODIST CAMPGROUND
Dorchester County
South Carolina
(Not to scale)



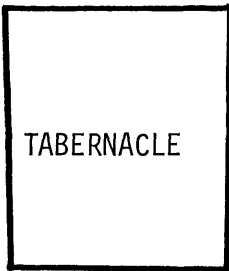
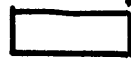
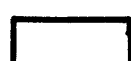
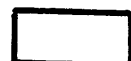
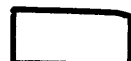
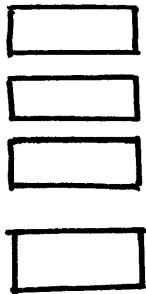
CEMETERY



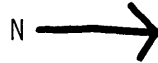
CHURCH



STORE



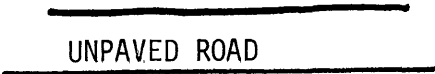
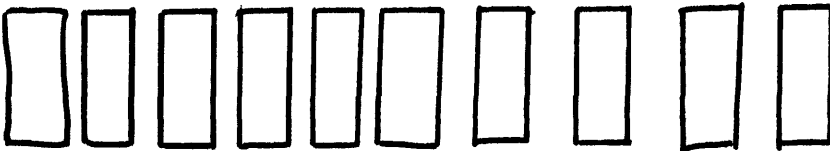
TABERNACLE



UNPAVED ROAD

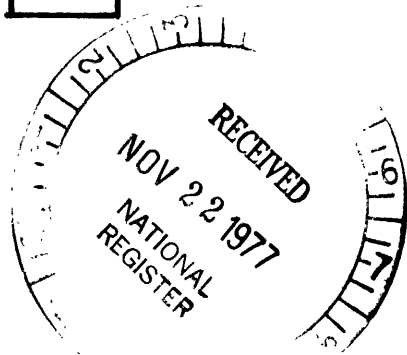
(OUTHUSES)

"TENTS"



UNPAVED ROAD

(OUTHUSES)



UNPAVED ROAD
(OUTHUSES)

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