

PH000 1586

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| STATE: Delaware | |
| COUNTY: Sussex | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | MAR 14 1972 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Carey's Camp Meeting Ground

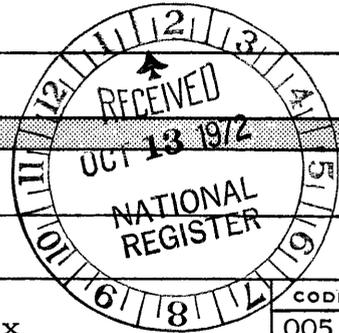
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
W of Millsboro off Del. 24

CITY OR TOWN:
Philipps Hill Millsboro, vic.

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: Sussex CODE: 005



3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | 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 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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Carey's United Methodist Church, camp committee

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Millsboro STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Sussex County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

MAR 14 1972

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Carey's Camp Meeting Ground is situated in a grove of oaks, adjacent to Carey's United Methodist Church, near Philips Hill, Delaware. The campground is defined by a circle of 47 cabins, called tents, that face inward; a large open frame structure, called the tabernacle, occupies the center of the circle.

The tents are frame buildings, two stories high. On the first floor of each tent are two rooms: the kitchen in the rear is fully enclosed, but the front room is open on the side that faces the tabernacle. Most of the tents have open porches that serve as extensions of the front rooms. The upper floors of most tents are occupied by a single sleeping room, in which the beds are sometimes built into the frame of the structure. The upper floors generally are left unfinished, but the front rooms downstairs often are finished in plaster, panelling, or other wallcoverings. During camp meetings, the front rooms are separated from the porches by small curtains. A stair between the two first-floor rooms provides access to the upper story. Some of the smaller tents were built as much as eighty years ago; one was built during the summer of 1972. This newest tent is sheathed in corrugated metal, but the older tents all are clapboarded.

Most of the tents are owned by individual families, although the camp committee owns the boarding tent, the preacher's tent, and a few others. Tents may be bought and sold, but the camp committee exercises certain control, and has the privilege of first refusal when a tent is offered for sale. Food is served in the boarding tent, as well as in the sleeping rooms, and in a confectionery outside the circle.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
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(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)---

The tabernacle is a cruciform structure, built of frame and set on posts. A low plywood wall encloses its perimeter, and the upper halves of the outside walls are composed of hinged plywood shutters that are kept open during the camp session. Three wings of the tabernacle provide seating for the congregation, while the fourth wing serves as a chancel. At the crossing is a kneeling bench, where new converts kneel at the climax of a revival service. The tabernacle was originally a long shed, to which the side wings were added to accommodate a larger congregation. Outside, between the arms of the cruciform shelter, are benches where overflow crowds can be seated.

The first tabernacle at Carey's was a temporary affair of oak boughs, lighted by burning pine knots. Around 1910, the pine knots were replaced by gas lights, which yielded in turn to electric lights.

A horse pound that stood on the rear of the site has been replaced by a parking lot, and some families now are bringing self-contained camper trailers to the meetings, but the atmosphere of the camp meeting has not been appreciably altered by modern improvements.



5. SIGNIFICANCE

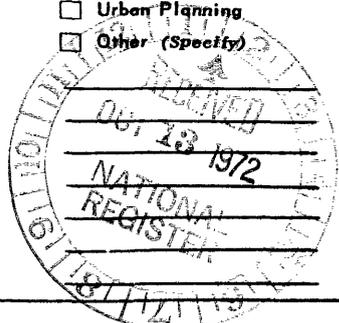
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <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) **1888**

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Camp meetings are among the oldest institutions in the Methodist Church, dating to the era when itinerant ministers preached in the open air to large congregations who sometimes travelled long distances to hear services that often lasted several days. Such bush meetings were held under temporary shelters made of boughs lashed together. As the bush meetings became institutionalized annual affairs, camp meeting grounds were established. Permanent tabernacles were erected, and regular members began to build structures to accommodate their families. The first camp meeting tents were rude temporary structures, as the name implies, but they soon were replaced by the permanent cabins.

During the last half of the nineteenth century, camp meetings could be found in all parts of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where the Methodists were the dominant religious body. The camp meeting at Rehoboth Beach formed the nucleus of the present resort city.

Today there are only three active camp meetings in Delaware, of which Carey's is the most vigorous.

Except for such amenities as refrigeration, electricity, garbage collection, gas ranges, and running water, the basic pattern of camp

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clarence Wilkins, 1965/Glimpses of History. Millsboro: Carey's Camp, 1965.

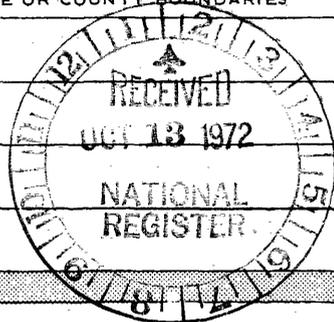
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 75° 33' 31" | 75° 22' 01" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Ten

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: 8/16/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

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 Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date 10-6-72

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

Robert K. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/14/73

ATTEST:

W. M. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3.8.73

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)---

meeting at Carey's is little changed from the early years of the movement. Rural families from the neighborhood move into their tents the first day of the meeting, and stay there throughout the ten-day session, even though improved transportation has eliminated the need for most families to stay overnight. Days are occupied with household chores, socializing, and religious instruction. In the evening, an evangelistic service is held in the tabernacle, climaxed by a call for converts. The principal service of the day traditionally is held in the evening, because the men of the camp usually go home during the day, if they live nearby, to tend their farms and businesses.

Carey's Methodist Church was built in 1886, on ground at The Oaks deeded in 1884 by Elijah W. Carey to the Shortly Circuit M.E. Church. A bush meeting apparently had been held for some years in the grove adjacent to the church yard, and provided the impetus for the establishment of both the church and the camp meeting. Since its formal establishment in 1888, the camp committee has been the governing body of a distinct camp meeting organization, even though its officers generally are the same as those of the church.

