

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Loudon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 12.147.0001	DATE 1/7/72

1. NAME

COMMON:
National Campground (Congressman John Duncan)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Union Campground

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route #1

CITY OR TOWN:
Greenback

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Loudon CODE: 105

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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:
Trustees of National Campground, c/o Mrs. Inez Hartsell, Sec.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route #1

CITY OR TOWN: Greenback STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Loudon County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Loudon STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

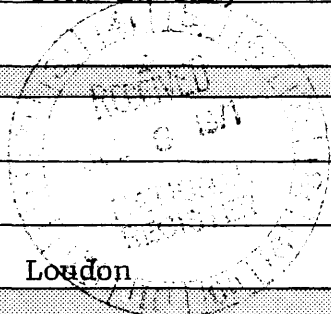
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

Located in a woodland of large trees about five miles west of Greenback in Loudon County is the National Campground consisting of about five acres of land with a large tabernacle shed, a ministers' house, and a shed used for cooking and boarding. Two springs nearby furnished water.

The first service was held under a large tent, at which time trustees were appointed to construct a permanent meeting-place. The tabernacle completed in 1874 at a cost of \$600.00 is a large, simple shed-type structure with huge wooden posts supporting the rafters, over which is a tin roof. There are no side walls. The front end wall behind the pulpit and choir stall is covered with weatherboarding, while the back end wall is covered approximately half-way down. The pews are roughly-constructed benches, most of them without backs, - built directly on the ground. Several hundred people can be seated in the tabernacle. The only addition to the building has been the addition of electric lights.

Nearby is a two-story frame building with a tin roof which was constructed as ministers' quarters. There are no windows on the front or back, but each side has two windows on each floor, covered by crude, solid shutters. A one-story shed porch is constructed across the front supported by four posts. The building is covered with weatherboarding which has never been painted. There is also located several hundred feet in front of this structure a frame, shed-type building which was built for cooking and boarding purposes. It, too, has a tin roof and is covered with unpainted weather boarding. The attic-type second floor has living quarters, while the first floor was used to prepare and serve food.

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6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1874

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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The National Campground, typical of the type of religious meeting places common in rural Tennessee, is significant because it is probably the only one of its kind left in the state at which annual camp meetings are still being held. Greenback was affected by the great religious revival in Tennessee and Kentucky in the early and middle nineteenth century. As a result of the great interest generated, representatives of several denominations joined together to organize a camp-meeting place in 1873. It was a union organization composed of the Presbyterians, Cumberland Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodist Episcopal Church, Friends, and Methodist Episcopal Church, South, incorporated under the laws of the state with a governing board consisting of two trustees from each of the denominations.

The first meeting in the tabernacle shed was held in the fall of 1874, and was conducted by Rev. W. B. Brown, a Presbyterian minister known locally as Parson Billy Brown.

The corporation in its early days had its own mayor and policeman and other officers, who enacted the laws of the corporation, arresting and sentencing violators. Among the various ordinances were those which prohibited the bringing in of intoxicating beverages and the destruction of trees and shrubbery on the grounds. The grounds were not permitted for use for any other purpose than worship, religious purposes, and educational meetings.

Meetings were held day and night for two weeks and the congregation camped on the grounds in tents and wagons. Attendance numbered in the thousands. Meetings are still held for two weeks each summer, but only at night. In August of 1970, the 97th consecutive annual session was held. The various denominations continue to alternate for the services of the visiting preacher. With convenient transportation facilities of today, the congregation no longer camps on the grounds.

National Campground is a unique link with the past in rural Loudon County that is worthy of preservation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lenoir City News-Banner, August 27, 1970.
 Loudon Journal, August 15, 1874; August 28, 1874.
 Minutes of the National Campground Association.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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	° ' "	° ' "	35°	41'	15"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	84°	13'	24"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Herbert L. Harper, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION: **Tennessee Historical Commission** DATE: **6/23/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

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 Stephen S. Lawrence
 Stephen S. Lawrence *SS*
 Executive Director
 Title Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 6/23/71

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

Ernest A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
JAN 7 1972

Date _____

ATTEST:
William M. Mouton
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **DEC 13 1971**

NO
 LHM
 CD
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS