

1246

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Camp Bethel

other names/ \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 124 Camp Bethel Road not for publication N/A

city or town Haddam vicinity N/A

state Connecticut code CT county Middlesex code 007 zip code 06438

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally  statewide  locally . (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official  
Karen Se nich, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism  
State or Federal agency and bureau

10-25-07  
Date

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**Camp Bethel**  
Name of Property

**Middlesex, CT**  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*Ben*  
Signature of the Keeper Elson H. Beall Date of Action 12.11.07

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)  
 private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)  
 building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>56</u>	<u>18</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	<u>1</u> structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>56</u>	<u>19</u> .Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
RELIGION/religious facility/campground  
RELIGION/religious facility/chapel

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
RELIGION/religious facility/campground  
RECREATION/CULTURE/outdoor recreation  
RELIGION/religious facility/chapel

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
OTHER/seasonal cottage/Gothic (influence)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>concrete/stone</u> piers _____
walls	_____ weatherboard _____
roof	_____ asphalt _____
other	_____ wood shingle _____

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Camp Bethel, Haddam, Middlesex County, CT**

**Section 7 Page 1**

**Description**

Camp Bethel is located on a wooded bluff high above the Connecticut River in Tylerville, a village in the Town of Haddam. The campground is set well back from the entrance gate on Camp Bethel Road and accessed by an unpaved 500-foot roadway. The buildings occupy a roughly triangular area on the eastern side of the 46-acre property that extends along the edge of the bluff for more than 1200 feet (see Exhibits A & B for site plans). The panoramic view from the grounds, which encompasses the rolling hills directly across the river to the east and extends for several miles downriver, features the East Haddam swing bridge and the Goodspeed Opera House to the southeast. The tracks of the historic Connecticut Valley Railroad run along the river bank at the foot of the bluff.

Camp Bethel contains 75 resources, of which 56 contribute to its historic character. Contributing residential resources include 45 of the 49 member-owned cottages, a caretaker's cottage (the only year-round residence), two boarding houses owned by the Camp Bethel Association, and three of the small cabins that were constructed on the periphery of the historic campground from the 1940s through the 1990s. Also in the contributing category are the larger wood-frame community buildings, which include the chapel, a memorial hall, the preacher's stand, and a small pump house. The dining hall, a 1992 replacement for an earlier building destroyed by fire, is the only major non-contributing resource. For a complete listing of resources see the inventory at the end of this section.

The seasonal cottages were among the first permanent buildings at Camp Bethel. Construction began in 1889 and was substantially complete by 1920. Some of the earliest examples are found in the semicircle facing the preachers' stand (Photograph 1), or lined up along the bluff overlooking the river (Photographs 2, 3). Others are located around a small open grassed area called Fairview Park (Photographs 4, 5). Erected on the original tent sites and often on the actual tent platforms, they vary in width from 12 to 15 feet and from 20 to 28 feet in length. Apparently designed to resemble the tents they replaced, these one- and one-and-one-half-story cottages have steeply pitched gable roofs and vertical plank walls, and several retain the original double-leaf front doors. Some cottages are now sheathed with wood shingles or clapboard. Gables and porches are embellished with scroll-sawn bargeboards, brackets, and other decorative detailing often associated with the Carpenter Gothic style (Photographs 6, 7, 8).

First-floor porches have a hip or gable roof, or they may be sheltered by an extension of the attic level. Cottages situated along the bluff often have two-level porches on elevations that face the river (Photographs 9). By 1915 cottages took on the broader massing and form of a bungalow. Roofs are less steep and may extend out over a front or side porch (Photograph 10). Most of the later modern cabins also have low gable roofs and they rest on concrete slabs (Photograph 11).

Three association buildings, Boyd Memorial Chapel (1892) and the two boardinghouses, were constructed with gabled roofs and vertical plank walls. The chapel, which was enlarged in 1927, has a shed-roofed front porch (Photograph 12). It is detailed with bracketed turned posts on either side of an arched entranceway and a delicate spindle course. The steeple was rebuilt in 1978. Six-over-six sash windows have vertical board shutters, hinged on one side. Wall framing, which is exposed on the inside, resembles the braced bent type of construction used in barns and other large wooden buildings in the late 1800s (Photograph 12a). A two-story facade porch and a decorative gable truss distinguish Bethel Hall, the 1907 boardinghouse just north of the chapel (Photograph 13). Helping Hand, its 1892 counterpart, is located to the southeast at the head of the southern row of cottages along the bluff (Photograph 14).

The first preacher's stand stood near the center of the campground facing the inner circle of tents. The present structure was built in 1898 on about the same spot (Photographs 15, 13) and, like the original 1878 stand, it faced an open

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Camp Bethel, Haddam, Middlesex County, CT**

**Section 7 Page 2**

auditorium space to the northeast. Changes over time have included the addition of a canvas roof over the seating area, which is now on a concrete slab, and, more recently, the installation of a permanent roof. At various times a bookstand, temporary living quarters, and a history room have been located in the addition at the south end. The 1974 restoration of this rear section included the elaboration of the gable peak with a decorative brace and pointed-arch window.

Two other community buildings, Memorial Hall and the new Dining Hall and Lounge, are located on the south side of the grounds (Photograph 16). At the north end of Memorial Hall, which was erected as a lodging house in 1890, there is a large exterior fieldstone fireplace and an open seating area with benches. The 1992 dining hall next door features an extended gable peak detailed with a shaped bargeboard. The lounge is located in the east wing and the present historical room is in the basement. Directly across the road, the 1915 pump house, which has a flared hip roof capped with a miniature house, stands near the edge of the bluff (Photograph 17). A nearby wooden staircase with rope hawser railings leads down to the river bank.

In the following inventory list, resources are identified by Camp Bethel's internal numbering system. Assigned numbers are found on the buildings and used on the schematic plan of the grounds (Exhibit B). In general, named buildings are owned by the association. Member cottages are only identified by number. Construction dates were taken from building plaques or estimated in the field. Contributing buildings (C) were built during the period of significance 1877- c. 1950; more recent buildings are considered non-contributing (NC).

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Section 7 Page 3

Inventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Resource #	Name, Building Type, Date of Construction	C/NC	Photo #
1.	BIBLE COTTAGE, 1926, enlarged 1953	C	
1A.	BEECH, cabin, 1993	NC	
1B.	bathroom, 1993	NC	
1C.	MAPLE, cabin, 1993	NC	
2.	BIBLE COTTAGE, 1965	NC	
2A.	HEMLOCK, cabin, 1993	NC	
2B.	bathroom, 1993	NC	
2C.	HICKORY, cabin, 1993	NC	
3.	Storage building, c. 1990	NC	
4.	Pool bathroom, 1964	NC	
5.	Swimming pool, 1964, replaced in 2004	NC	
6E.	PUMP HOUSE, 1915	C	17
6W.	Pool pump house, 1964	NC	
7 & 8.	DINING HALL & LOUNGE, 1992	NC	16
9.	MEMORIAL HALL, 1898, additions, 1945	C	16
10.	BIRCH, cabin, c. 1945	C	11
11.	CEDAR, cabin, c. 1945	C	11
12.	LODGE, cabin, 1992	NC	
13.	PINE, cabin, 1992	NC	
14.	OAK, cabin, 1992	NC	
15.	INFIRMARY, 1992	NC	11
16.	HELPING HAND, boardinghouse, 1892	C	16
17.	Cabin, 1971	NC	
18.	Cottage, c. 1960	NC	

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19.	Cottage, 1895	C	2, 7
20.	Cottage, 1908	C	2
21.	Cottage, 1912	C	2, 3
22.	Cottage, 1903	C	2, 3
23.	Cottage, 1906	C	2, 3
24.	Cottage, c. 1895	C	2, 3
25.	Cottage, c. 1895	C	3, 8
26.	Cottage, 1911	C	
27.	Cottage, c. 1950	C	
28.	Cottage, 1908	C	
29.	Cottage, 1893	C	
30.	Cottage, 1916	C	
31.	Cottage, 1916	C	
32.	Cottage, 1914	C	
33.	Cottage, c. 1920	C	
34.	Cottage, 1900	C	
35.	Cottage, c. 1920	C	
36.	Cottage, c. 1920; remodeled 1961	C	
37.	Cottage, c. 1920	C	14
38.	Cottage, 1889	C	4
39.	Cottage, 1891	C	4
40.	Cottage, c. 1890	C	5, 4
41.	Cottage, c. 1895	C	5
42.	Cottage, 1896	C	5
43.	Cottage, c. 1905	C	
44.	CARETAKER'S COTTAGE, 1913	C	

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45.	Cottage, 1889	C	
46.	Cottage, 1901	C	
47.	Cottage, 1889	C	
48.	Cottage, 1889	C	
49.	Cottage, c. 1889	C	9
50.	Cottage, 1895	C	9
51.	Cottage, c. 1900	C	9
52.	Cottage, 1895	C	9
53.	Cottage, 1918	C	
54.	Cottage, 1896	C	6
55.	Cottage, 1891	C	6
56.	Cottage, 1896	C	
57.	Cottage, 1907	C	
58.	Cottage, 1904	C	
59.	Cottage, 1915	C	
60.	Cottage, 1915	C	13
61.	BETHEL HALL, boardinghouse, 1907	C	13
62.	PREACHER'S STAND & BOOKSTAND, 1898, rebuilt 1927, restored 1974	C	13, 15
63.	BOYD MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 1892, addition 1927, steeple rebuilt in 1978	C	12, 12a
64.	Cottage, 1915	C	
65.	Cottage, 1898	C	
66.	Cottage, 1920	C	10
67.	Cottage, 1931	C	10
68.	Cottage, c. 1920	C	10
70.	Cottage, c. 1980	NC	

Camp Bethel  
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

**G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing

(36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

RELIGION

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1877- c. 1950

**Significant Dates**

1877

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Historical Center, Camp Bethel

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Camp Bethel, Haddam, Middlesex County, CT

Section 8 Page 1

### Statement of Significance

Camp Bethel is historically significant as a representative example of the camp meeting, an enduring form of American evangelical religious expression that originated on the frontier during the Second Great Awakening (Criterion A). One of the few surviving permanent campgrounds of this type in New England, it has been in continuous operation since its founding in 1877. Camp Bethel contains a significant cluster of vernacular cottages embellished in the Carpenter Gothic-style, which, together with the layout of the grounds, illustrate architectural conventions and cultural norms historically associated with the camp meeting tradition (Criterion C).

### Historical Background and Significance

The Second Great Awakening was a defining period in American culture. From about 1790 well into the 1840s, this populist revival transcended established Protestant denominational traditions and became a catalyst for widespread sectarian diversity and social welfare reform. With the demise of a central Protestant consensus, Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians gained in strength and new evangelical sects proliferated. Rejecting the Calvinist theology of predestination, charismatic evangelist preachers promoted a gospel of personal redemption and salvation that had a broad appeal. The camp meeting, loosely modeled on the seasonal "outdoor communions" of the Scottish Presbyterian Church, was an integral part of the "new religion." By the late 1800s camp meetings were thoroughly institutionalized and incorporated into evangelical Christian calendars.

Thousands were converted at these emotionally charged gatherings, which stoked revival fires throughout the Appalachian Bible Belt even before the turn of the century. By the 1830s upper New York State's "burned over district" (so-named because of its many revivals), as well as the Midwest had come under the influence of famous revivalists, like Charles Grandison Finney, who was known for his ability to stir large crowds to an emotional pitch. By the end of the revival period, the camp meeting tradition had spread even into staid New England, where the biblical prophecies of William Miller (1782-1849), a lay Baptist preacher, caused considerable social unrest. With a powerful message that Advent, the Second Coming of Christ, and the end of the world were imminent, Miller attracted large crowds in Boston and other major cities, and at his week-long camp meetings.<sup>1</sup> Although his followers, known as Millerites, were denounced from establishment pulpits and set upon by mobs incited by the press, many sold off all their possessions to prepare for the fateful day in October 1844, including a number in Connecticut.<sup>2</sup> The Millerites laid the foundation of the Advent Christian movement, which includes several of today's established millenarianist denominations. Among them are the Seventh-Day Adventists, the Advent Christian Church, officially founded in 1860, and the Life and Advent Union, the founders of Camp Bethel.

The Life and Advent Union was organized in 1863 at the Advent Christian campground in Wilbraham, Massachusetts. It was composed of a group of ministers and laymen who had split from the main body of the Advent Church over doctrinal differences. They founded the *Herald of Life*, a weekly newspaper, to publish their views on salvation and held their own camp meetings at various Advent campgrounds in New England. In 1873 a committee was appointed to find a new campground just for the Union in the Connecticut River Valley. With the river and the railroad nearby, this wooded site in Tylerville, known as Clark's Grove, was an ideal location. Once the site was leased from Mr. Clark, a local farmer, the first annual camp meeting was held in August 1877 near the present entrance gate on Camp Bethel Road. By then there were 120 campgrounds in the United States, including two in Connecticut: an Advent Christian camp in Southington, founded in 1869, and another at Willimantic (denomination not known), which dated back to before the

<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that Miller and his surrogates preached at 100 camp meetings annually and more than 10,000 were converted between 1842 and 1844. See Kenneth O. Brown, *Holy Ground...* (New York: Garland Press Publishing, Inc., 1992), p. 29.

<sup>2</sup> A family of believers in Cromwell prepared for Judgement Day by building special houses and making garments for the event. Many gathered in fields or on hillsides, the case in Berlin, or in churches, such as the newly formed Boston Temple of the Second Advent, which was organized in 1842 by Miller and his major sponsor, the Reverend Apollos Hale, a former Methodist minister.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Camp Bethel, Haddam, Middlesex County, CT**

**Section 8 Page 2**

Civil War.<sup>3</sup> The Life and Advent Camp Meeting Association, which was incorporated in the State of Connecticut in 1887, acquired the Clark property in 1889 and purchased additional acreage in 1909.

Preparations for a more permanent campground near the bluff began in 1878 with the construction of a preachers' stand, a simple wooden structure with a roof and space for a choir. Doctrine was discussed at the Book Stand, which was attached at its south end. A chapel tent was erected just beyond, in line with the preacher's stand, and a large round mission tent north of the access road was equipped with enough wooden benches to seat 1000 people. Individual tent sites were laid out and selected by the members. Twenty-seven tent frames were erected that first year. The most desirable locations, the semicircle facing the preachers' stand, were chosen by the leading elders, members of the committee that ran the campground and scheduled events. They met every morning in the committee tent, which stood nearby. Lots set aside for "strangers' tents" were located on the eastern edge of the grounds and a boardinghouse with an attached kitchen was situated to the south (see Exhibit C for the historic layout of the grounds.)

Member families came from all over the Northeast to attend the annual week-long meetings. Some were members of associated churches in Connecticut at New Haven, New Britain, and New London, and in New York City. Attendees also included members of other Life and Advent Union camps in Maine. Half-price fares were available for those who arrived by rail. To reach the campgrounds from the Tylerville Depot, they either walked the tracks and climbed the bluff or came around the "back way," presumably along the path of present-day Camp Bethel Road. Families coming from New Jersey and New York often traveled by train to New York City, where they took horse cars to the docks to board steamboats for the long trip up Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River. After docking at Goodspeed's Landing on the East Haddam side at 2 o'clock in the morning, they still had to be ferried across the river to Tylerville in small boats, a custom that continued until the river was bridged in 1912.

The campground was supplied with the basic amenities. Provisions, lunches, and candy could be purchased at concession stands just outside the gate. Local farmers delivered milk and fresh straw to fill the mattress and pillow covers brought by each family. Food was stored in underground boxes outside each tent and, until the new pump house was installed on the bluff, water had to be brought up in pails from an earlier pump next to the railroad tracks on the river bank. At the present time, the campground has its own internal water supply system, which is piped to all the buildings.

A closed community during the special camp meeting week reserved for members, Camp Bethel was opened to the general public for Sunday services, which first were held in the large mission tent. By the 1890s Thursdays were reserved for Temperance Day, another public event, which was run by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Middlesex County and Henry B. Brown and his wife, Genevra, local temperance advocates. The Browns lived across the river in East Hampton; Brother Henry was also secretary of the camp association. So many people attended these events, special trains were added to the Connecticut Valley line and off-duty policemen were hired for crowd control. Members recall that a shed, called the "lock-up," was built on the grounds to isolate troublemakers, but that it rarely was needed.

The Life and Advent Union supported several institutions, including Aurora College, an Advent Christian seminary in Illinois, which was founded in 1893. One of Camp Bethel's elders, Theodore P. Stephens, became president of the college in 1932. Missionary work in the Far East included establishing the Bethel Mission Home in China in 1916 and a hospital there the following year; the buildings were donated by Helen Lockward, wife of Lynn G. Lockward, vice-president of the camp association from 1907-1925. Camp Bethel women also contributed to the development of the grounds. In 1890 they founded the Helping Hand Society, the support group which raised the funds to build the

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<sup>3</sup> Brown, *Holy Ground*, pp. 21-28 and 141. A third and probably later example, The New Haven District Campground in Plainville, was listed on the National Register in 1980.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Camp Bethel, Haddam, Middlesex County, CT

Section 8 Page 3

boardinghouse of that name, and women also funded the later Bethel Hall in 1907. More recent development on the campground, which is mainly associated with the growth of new outreach programs, such as the summer Bible school and the Young Peoples Institute, founded in 1942, includes the modern cabins and associated recreational facilities.

In 1964 the Life and Advent Union Camp Meeting Association was renamed Camp Bethel Association, Inc., a non-profit, non-denominational organization. Today, the association, which has 145 members from 15 states (about half are residents of Connecticut), continues to support missionary work at home and abroad. With a new focus on urban centers, the association is actively involved in missions in Paris, France, Jacksonville, Florida, and in Bridgeport and Middletown, Connecticut. Member cottages, often handed down through several generations, are occupied for all or part of the six-month summer season. In addition to the annual camp meeting week, a custom since 1878, religious services are held weekly during July and August and campground facilities are made available to other groups for summer youth camps, retreats, and Bible studies.

**Architectural Significance**

The Camp Bethel campground is significant on several levels. In its architectural evolution, Camp Bethel incorporated and preserved many of the time-honored organizational principles and architectural elements that distinguished the American camp meeting. The historic heart of the community, sacred ground in religious terms, is virtually unchanged, appearing today much as it did in 1927, the fiftieth anniversary of the camp's founding. Then as now, it embodies the essentially democratic ideology of its evangelical founders.

There is considerable historical precedent for the layout of Camp Bethel. Much of the pictorial evidence is in the Library of Congress.<sup>4</sup> One of the earliest examples, a site plan of an 1809 frontier revival meeting drawn by Benjamin Latrobe (architect of the U.S. Capitol), could have served as a model for the plan of the campground at Haddam. In watercolors and lithographs of other revivals in the collection, a key element is the preacher's stand, invariably depicted with a raised platform sheltered under a shed roof. Closely spaced tents were erected in a semicircular open horseshoe pattern around this structure on more permanent campgrounds, which always were set in wooded groves. Such a traditional arrangement, reminiscent of the pioneer days at the Camp Bethel campgrounds, appears in c. 1840 woodcut of the Methodist camp meeting on Martha's Vineyard.<sup>5</sup>

Certainly the Camp Bethel cottages can be classified as vernacular architecture, as it is generally defined, but here they represent a specific building typology. Exhibiting exceptional similarities of form, scale, and siting, these buildings exemplify the "Campground cottage," a generic type that evolved from the tent form. According to the historians of Martha's Vineyard, the Campground cottage originated at the Methodist gatherings on the island and "...spread about to other sites around the country where vestiges of Chatauquas, camp meetings, and that era's resort developments are still in evidence."<sup>6</sup> Among the common characteristics of the earliest of these one-story structures are plank walls, steep peaked roofs, and balconettes and porches, features of the majority of the cottages at Camp Bethel. Also typically, they were built without a kitchen, since communal dining facilities were provided, as was the case here.

Camp Bethel cottages reveal other tent-like characteristics. In historic photographs of the transition period at Camp Bethel, which depicted new cottages standing side-by-side with original tents, the form and scale of both appear to be nearly identical. Although the pitch of the roof and other features can be attributed to the architectural conventions of the

<sup>4</sup> Images are available for viewing on the Internet. See *Religion and the Founding of the American Republic* (website address in bibliography).

<sup>5</sup> *A Centennial History of Cottage City*, (Martha's Vineyard: Oak Bluffs Historical Commission, n.d.), p. 33.

<sup>6</sup> For this quote and the following description of the cottage type, see *A Centennial History*..., p. 54.

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**Camp Bethel, Haddam, Middlesex County, CT**

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Gothic Revival, they also reinforce the tent analogy. More specifically, the double-leaf front doors echo the original wide tent entrances that once were secured by canvas flies. Another comparison can be made between the ornamental cornices and other gable detailing, the defining style features of the Carpenter Gothic, to the scalloped canvas pelmets trimmed in red braid that once hung from tent eaves.

**Conclusion**

As the history and the architecture of Camp Bethel has revealed, over time collective choices were made to preserve a highly organized, non-hierarchical setting that embodied the democratic sensibilities of the community. Even though the property was large enough to accommodate a more dispersed arrangement, in the 1890s, the first cottages were built on the original tent sites, a custom followed in later years. Furthermore, unlike the Victorian class culture of the outside world in which architecture could be a status symbol, in this seasonal retreat, the cottages conformed to the established communal norms. Regardless of their role in the community, elders and lay persons built similar cottages embellished within a limited range of quite modest architectural detail. Even today with the subtle accretions of age, these buildings, together with the traditional plan of the grounds, still convey the democratic cultural values and evangelical spirit of the founders.

Camp Bethel  
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 46.7

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1				3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By:**

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant

organization Cunningham Preservation Associates, LLC date 5/2007

street & number 37 Orange Road telephone (860) 347 4072

city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

**Property Owners**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Camp Bethel Association

**Mailing Address:** c/o Chester Apy, 67 Rivers Edge Drive, Little Silver, NJ 07739 732 747 4155

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Camp Bethel, Haddam, Middlesex County, CT**

**Section 9/10 Page 1**

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

Albanese, Catherine L. *Republic of Mind and Spirit: A Cultural History of American Metaphysical Religion*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2007.

“Bethel Bulletin” (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition), Vol. XII, No. 2, July 1978.

Brown, Kenneth O. *Holy Ground: A Study on the American Camp Meeting*. New York: Garland Press Publishing, Inc., 1992 (includes an extensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources).

(A) *Centennial History of Cottage City*. Martha’s Vineyard: Oak Bluffs Historical Commission, n.d.

Cunningham, Janice P. and Elizabeth A. Warner. *Portrait of a River Town: The History and Architecture of Haddam, Connecticut*. Middletown, Connecticut: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, 1984.

*Fifty Years After—An Anniversary and an Historical Sketch*: Golden Jubilee, 1877-1927. Life and Advent Union, 1927.

Findlay, Helen T. “History of Camp Bethel” (timeline).

*Religion and the Founding of the American Republic*, Section VII (Exhibition Overview). Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress ([www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/re107.html](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/re107.html)).

Scott, Donald. *Evangelicalism, Revivalism, and the Second Great Awakening*. National Humanities Center. Queens College, City University of New York ([www.nhc.rtp.nc.us/tserve/nineteen/nkeyinfo/nevanrev.htm](http://www.nhc.rtp.nc.us/tserve/nineteen/nkeyinfo/nevanrev.htm)).

**10. Geographical Data**

**UTMS:**

1. 18 710920 4592200
2. 18 711270 4592420
3. 18 711450 4591860
4. 18 711230 4591770
5. 18 710970 4591980

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The boundaries of the property are described in Volume 79, Page 432 (7/18/64) of the Haddam Land Records, being the same property shown on Haddam Tax Assessor’s Map 49 as Lot 13.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries encompass all the contributing buildings and the campgrounds historically associated with Camp Bethel during its period of significance.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Camp Bethel, Haddam, Middlesex County, CT**

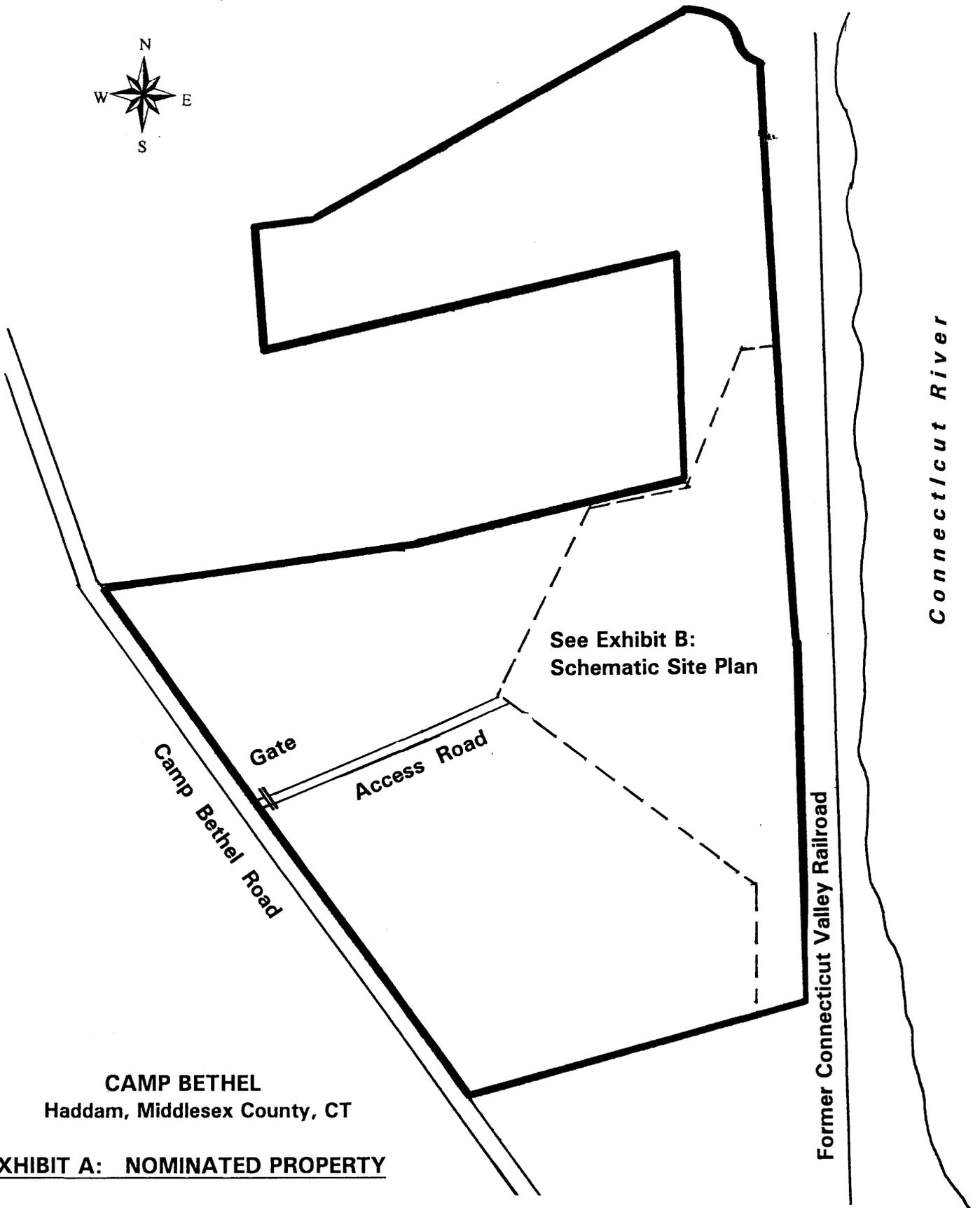
**Section Photo Page 1**

**List of Photographs**

Photographer: Cunningham Preservation Associates

Negatives on File: SHPO, Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism Date: 11/06; 5 & 6 /07

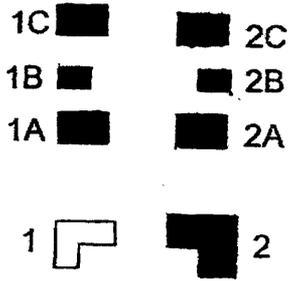
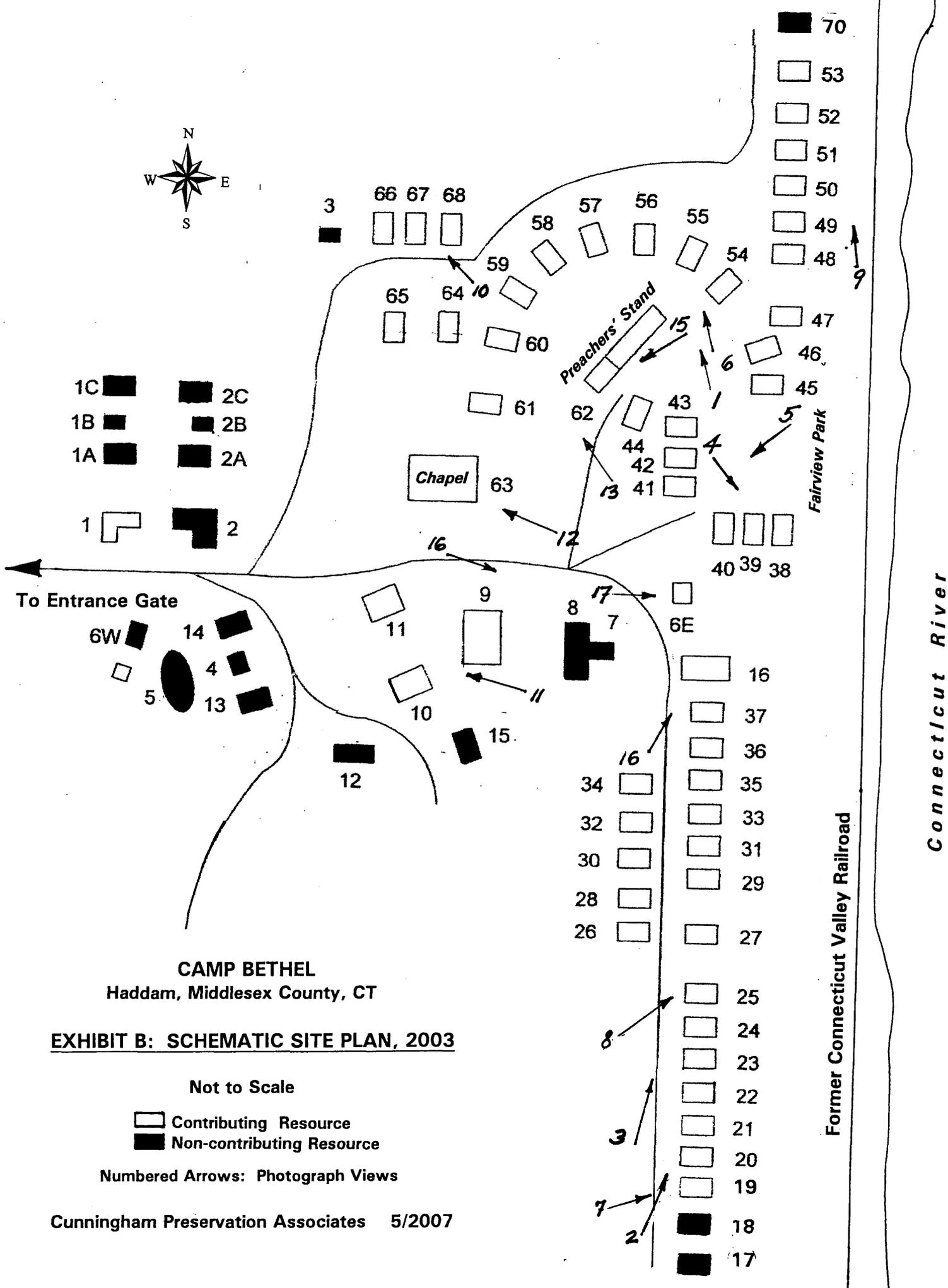
1. Camp Bethel, Cottages 46, 54, 55, 56, 57 (R-L), camera facing NW
2. Camp Bethel, Cottages 19 - 24 (R-L), camera facing NE
3. Camp Bethel, Cottages 21 - 25 (R-L), camera facing NE
4. Camp Bethel, Cottages 38, 39, 40 (L-R), camera facing SE
5. Camp Bethel, Cottages 40, 41, 42 (L-R), camera facing SW
6. Camp Bethel, Cottages 54, 55, camera facing N
7. Camp Bethel, Cottage 19, camera facing NE
8. Camp Bethel, Cottage 25, camera facing NE
9. Camp Bethel, Cottages 49-52 (L-R), camera facing N
10. Camp Bethel, Cottages 68, 67, 66 (R-L) camera facing N
11. Camp Bethel, Infirmary (15) & Cabins 10, 11 (L-R), camera facing SW
12. Camp Bethel, Boyd Memorial Chapel, camera facing NW
- 12a. Camp Bethel, Interior of Chapel, camera facing W
13. Camp Bethel, Bethel Hall (63), Cottage 60, & Preachers' Stand (62), S elevation (L-R), camera facing NW
14. Camp Bethel, Helping Hand (16) & Cottage 37 (L-R), camera facing NE
15. Camp Bethel, Preachers' Stand (62), chapel at rear, camera facing SW
16. Camp Bethel, Memorial Hall (9) & Dining Hall (8), camera facing SE
17. Camp Bethel, Pump House (6E), camera facing E



**CAMP BETHEL**  
Haddam, Middlesex County, CT

**EXHIBIT A: NOMINATED PROPERTY**

*Scale: 1" = 400'*



- 70
- 53
- 52
- 51
- 50
- 49
- 48

- 16
- 37
- 36
- 35
- 33
- 31
- 29
- 27
- 25
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- 20
- 19
- 18
- 17

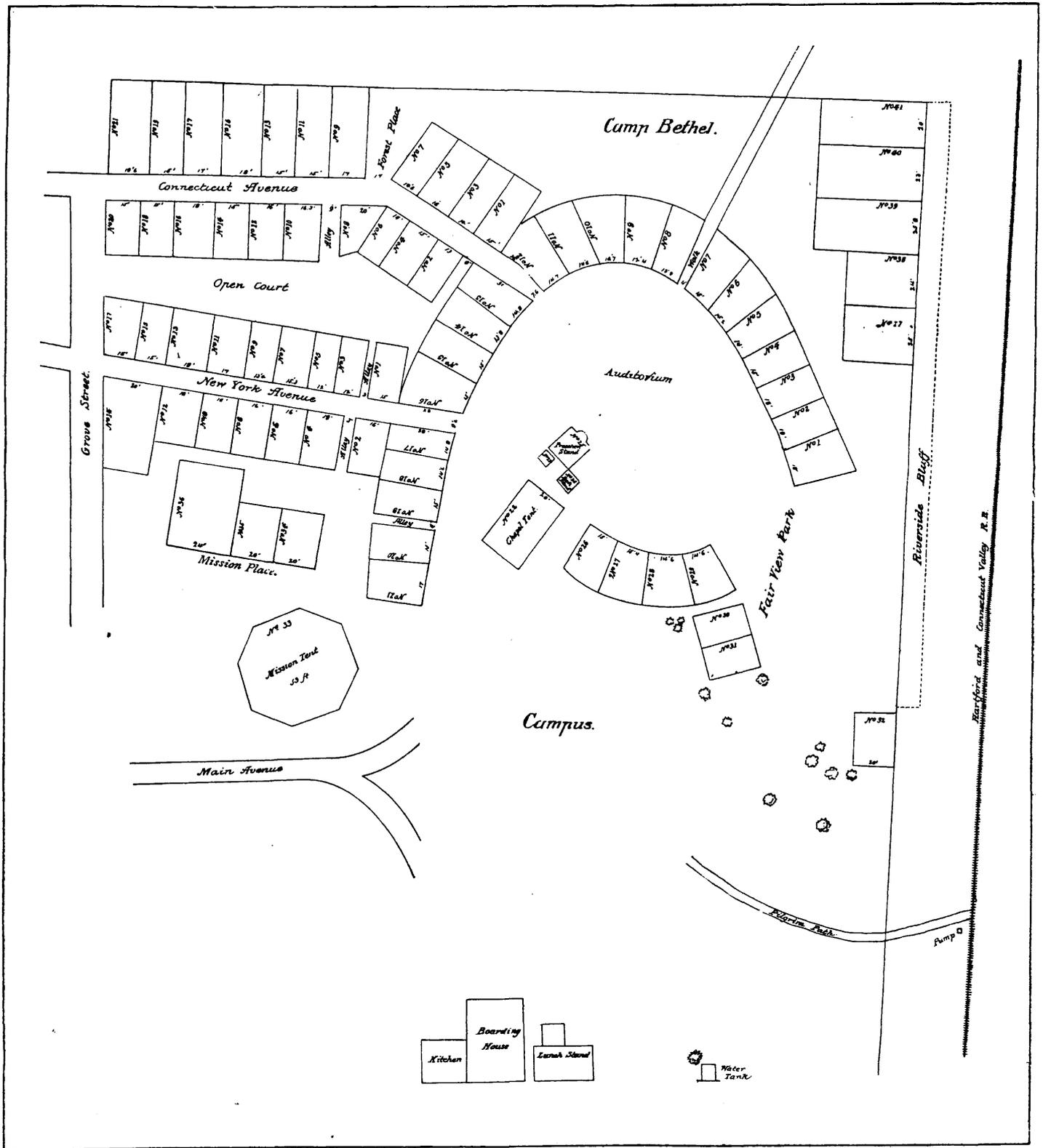
**CAMP BETHEL**  
Haddam, Middlesex County, CT

**EXHIBIT B: SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN, 2003**

Not to Scale

- Contributing Resource
- Non-contributing Resource

Numbered Arrows: Photograph Views



**CAMP BETHEL**  
 Haddam, Middlesex County, CT

**EXHIBIT C: CAMPGROUND PLAN, c. 1880**

Scale: 1/64" = 1'