

PH0062430

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Hancock
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: DEC 2 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Camilla-Zack Community Center District
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1
CITY OR TOWN: Mayfield
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Hancock CODE: 141

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One): [X] District, [ ] Building, [ ] Site, [ ] Object
OWNERSHIP: [ ] Public, [X] Private, [ ] Both
STATUS: [ ] Occupied, [X] Unoccupied, [ ] Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: [X] Restricted, [ ] Unrestricted, [ ] No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): [X] Other (Specify) Center for community activities; infrequently used.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple Owners
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE: Georgia CODE:

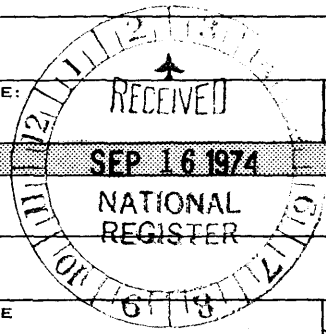
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk of Superior Court of Hancock County
STREET AND NUMBER: Broad Street
CITY OR TOWN: Sparta
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Georgia Heritage Trust
DATE OF SURVEY: [ ] Federal [X] State [ ] County [ ] Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Georgia Heritage Trust, Dept. of Natural Resources
STREET AND NUMBER: 270 Washington Street, S.W.
CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

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

The Camilla-Zack Community Center District incorporates an area that was once a thriving regional center for rural blacks in Middle Georgia. The community, which at its height included a cooperative store, health center, school, teacher's cottages, and community center, was dedicated to providing a more satisfying life for Negroes on the farm. Located on a dirt road leading to Powellton, Georgia, the District is bounded on the west by the county road leading to Route 22, and continues .6 miles east on the dirt road. South of the dirt road, the boundary extends 400 yards, while north of the road, the boundary continues far enough to include the community church.

The Camilla-Zack Country Life Center, as it was originally called, was the focal point of the district and was symbolic of the spirit of the community. Built in 1932 of pine logs taken from the surrounding forest and native granite from the county, the structure resembles a log cabin and blends in well with the surrounding countryside. With its 550 pine logs and 150 tons of granite, the building, including porches, contains over 2,500 square feet of usable space.

The exterior of the structure was carefully maintained to retain a rustic appearance. The creosoted logs were unpainted, natural granite bases supported the columns of the gabled porch roof, blue and white trim surrounded the windows, and the roof of the Center was covered with slate and asbestos shingles.

The interior of the one-story building is in keeping with the rustic appearance of the exterior of the structure. All of the rooms are trimmed with natural pine in the form of rustic moulding and exposed timber. The doors are of oak and the walls are either of stained plywood and composition board, as in the community room, or of plaster. A huge granite fireplace is the focal point of the large central community room, and natural cedar posts are used as supportive columns in the library and on the front porch. The interior includes, in addition to the main community room, two wings which contain a kitchen and dining room, library, bedrooms, and a bath.

Surrounding the Center were many subsidiary structures and sites, all of them contributing to the welfare of the farm community. Approximately 300 yards to the rear of the Center was a stream with a spring of clear water. Adjacent to the stream, a cement swimming pool was built. Summer camps for children utilized this site.

In addition, several buildings, set in the cleared area of the pine forest, served the needs of the community. A small cooperative store, built from the stone of nearby fields, was constructed in 1930, the first in the immediate area. It was located at the entrance of the dirt road, about one-half mile from the Camilla-Zack Center. A cafeteria frequented by students of the nearby school, was constructed next to the store. Cottages for teachers, located near the community school, were also built, the architecture in keeping with that of the Center. Next to the Center an attractive frame health building, painted white, took care of the health requirements of the community. Several chicken houses and a dairy barn were also located in the area. A church, built c.1879, by the Hubert brothers, served the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)

**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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><u>Black History</u> |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Camilla-Zack Community Center District is remarkable, and perhaps unique in that it was a community that thrived during the Depression and, most importantly, was built solely by black people for the benefit and betterment of themselves and other rural Negroes. While the rest of the country was suffering in the throes of the Depression, these blacks in Hancock County, Georgia, were quietly prospering through hard work on the land and a sense of community spirit that bound them together. Through their collective efforts, they provided themselves and each other with everything from a cooperative store to a woman in charge of Home Beautification.

The seeds of the community began just after the Civil War when three young freedmen, all brothers--Zack Hubert, David Hubert and Floyd Hubert--bought 165 acres of land for which they paid \$1,650.00 in three year's time. They were the first Negroes in Middle Georgia to purchase land after the War. After establishing a farm, the brothers led in building a church, which is still in use, and a public school. From the example set by these men, other Negroes followed and by 1940, 27,000 acres of land were owned by blacks in Hancock County.

The descendants and friends of these pioneer blacks continued the tradition set by their fathers. The Camilla-Zack Country Life Center was constructed early in the 1930's and named in honor of Zack and Camilla Hubert, who were instrumental in encouraging other blacks to become land-owners and to educate themselves. Built by the Hubert sons and directed by Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State Industrial College at the time, the Center was a monument to the perseverance and hard work of these and other ex-slaves.

The Center, in addition to providing a valuable community service, symbolized all that the blacks in the area hoped for, the continued success of themselves and of their children. The members of the community were dedicated to making a fuller life for everyone and to furthering ways in which farming and farm life could be made more satisfying. An elaborate program was set up whereby all members of the community were involved in productive and educational classes and conferences. Wholesome and happy farming was their goal. To this end, a five-year program was set up to improve farm methods, with a man to be in charge of general instruction, in addition to a year-round program of gardening and poultry and dairy projects carried on at the Center. Conferences were also held periodically to suggest improvements in both economic and social aspects of the community.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Log Cabin' Idea Fast Becoming State-wide", The Savannah Journal, August 25, 1934.  
 "Making Farm Life More Satisfying" Reprint from Norfolk Journal and Guide, May 21, 1932.  
 Hubert, Dr. Willis, preliminary National Register form.  
 Macgregor, Elizabeth Z., personal inspection, Spring, 1974  
 Stavrolakis, Kristalia, personal inspection, July, 1974

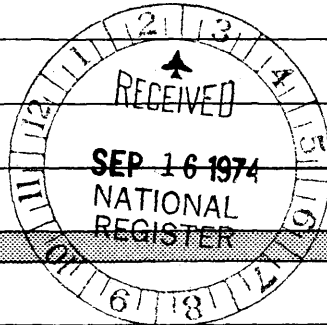
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	33	25	23	82	56	45			
NE	33	25	23	82	55	32			
SE	33	24	15	82	55	32			
SW	33	24	15	82	55	32			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 165 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



HB  
NO  
NTM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Kristalia Stavrolakis  
 ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Dept. Natural Resources  
 DATE: August 13, 1974  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 270 Washington Street, S.W. Room 703-C  
 CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

**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

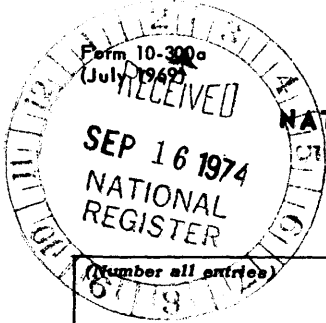
Name: Joe D. Turner  
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Date: September 6, 1974

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

Arthur W. ...  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/2/74

ATTEST:  
George E. Emery  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Date: Nov. 25, 1974



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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description (continued)

religious needs of the community. Scattered throughout the countryside were the well-kept homes of the farmers who patronized the various services offered by the establishments in the District.

The Camilla-Zack Community Center District thrived during the years of the Depression and throughout the 1940's and 1950's. Recently, however, it has fallen into disuse, as many of the small farms failed in the wake of modern developments. Many of the buildings in the district, once picturesque and attractive, have fallen into decay; and some, such as the health center and the school, are no longer in existence.

8. Significance (continued)

It was hoped that every man who worked on a farm could eventually own his own property.

For several years, the District was the site of a summer school for black rural teachers. For a one-month period, the teachers learned how to direct the community life of their people. The group included teachers from as many as twenty surrounding counties.

The Camilla-Zack Community better known as the Log Cabin Community, received high acclaim from both black and white leaders on State and regional levels and was visited by various dignitaries including Governor Herman Talmadge. The District was pointed out as an example to Southern rural blacks of what was possible with hard work and a will to succeed.

The Camilla-Zack Community Center District represents a significant development in the history of blacks in the South. With a desire to help themselves and with a belief in the benefits of community involvements, these blacks in Hancock County formed a close-knit, practically self-sufficient community. The goal of the community, to provide for all aspects of country life--social as well as economic--was realized with careful planning by the leaders of the group. The Camilla-Zack Community deserves recognition as a prosperous and satisfied rural black farm district that was able to succeed at a time when so many blacks, as well as whites, were unable to maintain a satisfactory standard of living.

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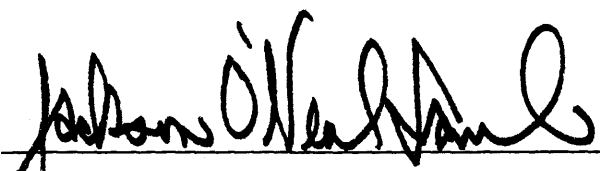
CAMILLA-ZACK COMMUNITY CENTER DISTRICT

Boundary Clarification:

Camilla-Zack Community Center District is located northeast of Sparta via State Road 22 to road S2131. This district area, comprising approximately 165 acres, begins at the intersection of road S2131 and continues for .6 mile approximately 1/2 mile on either side of an unnamed dirt road that leads eastward to Powellton.

Elizabeth Z. Macgregor  
Architectural Historian  
Historic Preservation Section  
Department of Natural Resources  
270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703C  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

October 21, 1974

Name 

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date October 22, 1974

↑ To White Plains

☐ church

↑ .2 miles

Cooperative store



☐ cafe

ruined teacher's cottage



frame house (new)



cottage



→ .6 miles

→ to Powellton

☐ ruined teacher's cottage



☐ Dairy barn



chicken houses

☐ Camilla-Zack center



☐ former teacher's cottage



☐ former health center (ruined)



☐ cottage

☐ Former School Site



Pool + springs



CAMILLA-ZACK COMMUNITY CENTER DISTRICT