

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 13 1979
MAY 19 1980
DATE ENTERED

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
New Haven District Campground
AND/OR COMMON
Plainville Campground

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
268 Camp Street
CITY, TOWN
Plainville
STATE
Connecticut
STREET & NUMBER
268 Camp Street
CITY, TOWN
Plainville
STATE
Connecticut
VICINITY OF
1st- William Cotter
CODE
Hartford
COUNTY
003
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Plainville Campground Association, Inc. and multiple private
STREET & NUMBER
See Property Owners List
CITY, TOWN
STATE
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Town Clerk's Office, Plainville Municipal Building
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Plainville
STATE
CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
State Register of Historic Places
DATE
1979
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Connecticut Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN
59 South Prospect Street Hartford
STATE
CT
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Plainville Campground, a tight grouping of 89 late 19th-century cottages built for the campmeetings of the New Haven District of the Methodist Church, lies off Camp Street at the extreme western edge of Plainville, Connecticut, just south of Connecticut Route 6. The campground follows the traditional circular configuration of campmeetings, which originated as a circle of tents ringing a roughly-constructed preaching platform (Figure 1). At Plainville, a screened pavilion, (Photo 1), c. 1905, is surrounded by 19 large, 2-story, cottages, built by New Haven District churches to house their members attending the summer meetings. Along six avenues radiating from The Circle to the north are numerous, smaller, 1½- and 2-story individually owned cottages. Simple frame structures, the cottages all have gable roofs and 1- or 2-story porches and are decorated with fanciful lathe-turned and jig-sawn woodwork; most are sided either with vertical boards or tongue-and-groove paneling, though some have been re-sided with asphalt or asbestos shingles. Some cottages have been torn down on The Circle, and, more so, along the smaller avenues, but the majority remain in various stages of maintenance and the integrity of the grouping, in its setting, design, materials and workmanship, is intact. Set amidst 17 acres of woods, and inward-facing, the cottages retain a restful, rustic ambience, despite a 1960s elementary school immediately east on Northwest Drive and extensive tract-housing development west of Camp Street. North of the district lies a neighborhood of 1950s single-family houses, while the land to the south, which slopes down from the Campground, remains open and undeveloped.

In the Campground's earliest days, just after its founding in 1865, tents were pitched around a central platform which stood where the Auditorium now stands. One early permanent structure, completed several years after the Campground's organization, was the Association Building, a 2½-story structure with a 2-story porch, tongue-and-groove siding, decorative shingles, and pierced- and sawn-wood trim (Photo 7). In it, tents, stoves, benches, and other equipment were stored.

Soon after the Association Building was completed, individual churches began constructing cottages on The Circle. Eventually, 24 2-story cottages, with open sleeping quarters for men on one floor and women on the other, circled the platform. Of these, 19 remain and comprise the nucleus of the Campground. Typically, these cottages, built on brick stilts with no foundations, exhibit decorative lattice- and stick-work on the porches and gable. (Photos 2, 3, and 4). Many have wide double doors which, when open, served two purposes, to encourage people to enter and join in the prayer meetings held in individual cottages and to minimize the distinction between in- and out-doors, emphasizing the open-air, communal nature of campmeetings. The circular arrangement and close proximity of the cottages also reinforced the sense of community.

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Plainville Campground

CONTINUATION SHEET NR District ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

Property Owners List

Bristol Avenue:

- 2 S. Muriel Budd (Mrs. Harry C.)
1738 Yale Court, Wantagh, NY 11793
- 8 Olga Wilverding
Burlington, CT 06065
- 10 Verna Nichols/Evelyn Painter
Nichols Road, Middlebury, CT 06762
- 12 Irving and/or Florence Carroll
- 14 Lena Taylor
87 Waterman Street, Bridgeport, CT 06607
- 16 the Reverend Rawson Holgate
RFD, East Chatham, NY 12060
- 18 Bertha Kennedy/Barbara Sapp
Box 1412, Bristol, CT 06010
- 20 Robert and Shirley O'Connell
54 Litchfield Road, Watertown, CT 06795
- 22 Florence E. Taetsch
11 Highland Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095
- 24 Paula Fazzina
- 26 Helen Gernrick
192 9th Lane, Royal Garden Estate, Bradenton, FL 33505
- 3 Louis Mason/Mary Kolodziej
17 Liberty Street, Meriden, CT 06450
- 7 Clifford/Daisy Kennedy and/or Priscilla L. Chase
- 9 John/Gloria Yeo
61 Imlay Street, Hartford, CT 06105
- 11 Margaret D. Parsons
Phelon Road, Bristol, CT 06010
- 13 Marion B. Brockett
63 Donaldson Road, Rutherford, NJ 07070
- 15 Leroy Tonkins
222 Court Street, West Haven, CT 06516
- 17 M. Thornton McGee
11 Highland Avenue, Windsor, CT
- 19 Ruth B. Judd/Joyce Edgerton
247 5th Lane, Royal Gardens Estate, Bradenton, FL 33305
- 21 Clarence/Esther Morgan
12-14 119th Street, College Point, NY 11356
- 25 Earl C./Florence M. Foren
11201 Juno Avenue, North Palm Beach, FL 33403
- 27 M. Thornton McGee
11 Highland Avenue, Windsor, CT

*268
Camp St*

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Plainville Campground
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- 33 Elmer L./Alice F. Morann
2115 3rd Street, East Bradenton, FL 33505
- 37 Gilbert and Edna Gamblin

Camp Street:

- 268 Plainville Campground Association
c/o Mrs. Hale R. Colton, 51 Alexander Road, New Britain, CT 06053

The Circle (Circle Avenue):

- 4 Kenia Grainger
- 5 Francis and/or Ann Fazi
1716 Byam Road, Waterbury, CT 06705
- 6 Edward R./Mary A. Fox
- 9 Chatauqua Building- Plainville Campground Association, Inc.
- 12 the Reverend Richard/Julia N. Sand
9 Ellington Avenue, Rockville, CT 06066
- 13 Kenneth M. Clark
18 Susan Street, Beacon Falls, CT 06403
- 14 Ruth and/or William Clark (as above)
- 15 Elsie S./Oscar Rausch
843 Congress Street, New Haven, CT 06511
- 17 Karl and/or Martha Bierer
4 Murzan Lane, Plainville, CT
- 19 Karl Bierer
" " "
- 20 Martha Bierer
" "
- 24 Rollie/Helen Austin
- 25 Alexander Lefurgey

Clinton Avenue:

- 4 Mrs. Josephine Scofield FL 32269
RD 2 Box 172, Pound Ridge, NY 10576 or 809 Vermont Avenue, St. Cloud,
- 6 Warren Winkler

Gladding Avenue:

- 19 Gilbert and Edna Gamblin

Hartford Avenue:

- 2 Rosella MacDonald
- 4 Dorothy Stocking
205 South Highland Street, West Hartford, CT 06119
- 6 Stewart and/or Greta Fabrizio
- 8 Ardilla Martin
526 Hopmeadow Road, Simsbury CT 06070

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Plainville Campground
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- 10 Thomas Fabrizio
Powder Hill Road, Middlefield, CT 06455
- 20 Mrs. Harriet Eaton
Ripley Hill, Coventry, CT 06238
- 1 Joan Silva
- 5 Anne Scudder
6 Concord Street, West Hartford, CT 06119
- 9 Ralph/Catherine Williams
- 11 James and/or Eve Aparo
Lake Dora Trailer Park, Tavaris, FL 32778
- 15 James and Eve Aparo
" " " " " "
- 17 Oscar W. Larson
- 19 Stephen/Elizabeth Wolczuk
P.O. 62, Forestville, CT 06011

Manchester Avenue:

- 1 Plainville Campground Association, Inc. (showers)
- 6 Alice B. Barrett and/or Jean Holloran
223 South Rossiter Street, Mount Dora, FL 32759
- 7 the Reverend Carl J./Helen P. Webb
844 South Delaware Street, Apt. A, Tampa, FL 33606
- 9 Joan Silva
- 11 Plainville Campground Association, Inc.
- 16 Albert E. or Atheline Hand
- 17 Kenneth, Ruth, and William Clark
18 Susan Street, Beacon Falls, CT 06403
- 19 Richard/Cynthia Tracy
- 21 Richard DeWick
102 Brown Street, West Haven, CT 06516
- Plainville Campground Association, Inc. (Recreation Building)
- Forestville Library Association (Library), c/o Plainville Campground Association, Inc.
- Plainville Campground Association, Inc. (Adminstration Building)
- Plainville Campground Association, Inc. (Auditorium)
- Plainville Campground Assöciation, Inc.

Meriden Avenue:

- 4 Alice Morann
2115 3rd Street, East Bradenton, FL 33505
- 8 Willard/Audrey Shaw
Box 5891, 6505 Oregon Street, Bradenton, FL 33305
- 12 Stephen Chann
258 Vauxhall Street, New London, CT 06320

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CONTINUATION SHEET NR District ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 4

- 16 Mildred H. Johnson/William Hart
Paradise Bay Trailer Park, 24 3rd Street, Bradenton FL 33305
- 3 Michael Fabrizio
626 El Dorado Street, #12, Oakland, CA 94611
- 7 Anthony Pareli
840 West 17th Street, San Bernardino, CA 92405
- 11 Joseph Pareli
" " " " " " " "
- 13 Mrs. Margaret Colton (Mrs. Hale R.)
51 Alexander Road, New Britain, CT 06053
- 21 xCarl F. Weber
83 Linwood Street, New Britain, CT 06053
- 27 John C. Heney

New Haven Avenue:

- 2 Alfred Vincent
172 East Street, New Britain, CT 06051
- 6 xGene Barrett, Joan Lenahan, and Dorothy Barrett, or surv.
121-16 8th Avenue, College Point, NY 11356
- 8 Gene and/or Dorothy Barrett
" " " " " "
- 10 Gladys Bulger or Stephen and Lenita O'Neill or surv.
c/o Women's Club, 2 Lincoln Place, Ossining, NY 10562
- 12 Vincent/Patricia Mauheut
4316 167th Street, Flushing, NY 11358
- 1 the Reverend Richard/Julia N. Sand
9 Ellington Avenue, Rockville, NY 06066
- 13 James and/or Eleanor Hannafin
7-11 119th Street, College Point, NY 11356
- 17 Francis/Charlotte Marcheret

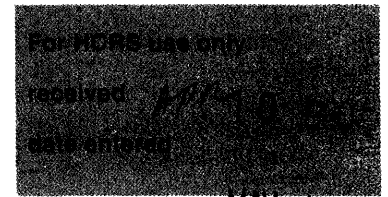
Plainville Avenue:

- 1 xGrace/Leonard Seaver
35 Vernon Terrace, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
- 2 Laura McFarland
78 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

___ Plainville Campground Association, Inc. (Chapel)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet New Haven District Campground Item number 4
Plainville, Connecticut

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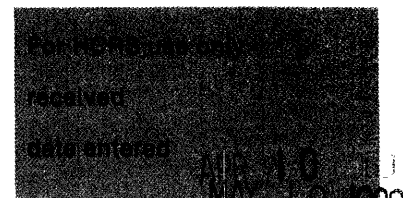
ADDENDUM

Corrected addresses of property owners:

<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner/Address</u>
1 Plainville Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓ Grace/Leonard Seaver Tompkins Terrace Apt. 14 Beacon, NY 12508
5 Hartford Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓ Anne Scudder 705 New Britain Avenue Hartford, Ct. 06106
8 New Haven Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓ Gene/Dorothy Barrett 7-40 130th Street College Point, NY 11356
8 Bristol Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓ Olga Wilverding 828 Locust Street Roselle Park, NJ 07204
3 Bristol Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓ Louis Mason/Mary Kolodziej 190 Liberty Street Meriden, Conn. 06450
21 Meriden Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	Carl Weber (Deceased)
11 & 15 Hartford Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓ James & Eva Aparo P.O. Box 495 Plainville, Conn. 06062
11 Bristol Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓ Margaret D. Parsons 3 Phalen Street Plainville, Conn. 06062
1 New Haven & 12 Circle Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓ Reverend Richard/Julia N. Sand 142 Milton Street Bristol, Conn. 06010
8 Hartford Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓ Ardilla Martin 461 Zion Street Hartford, Conn. 06106
10 Bristol Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓ Verna Nichols/Evelyn Painter 2171 E. Main Street Waterbury, Conn. 06705

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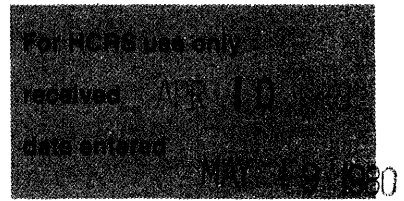
Continuation sheet New Haven District Campground Item number 4 Page
Plainville, Connecticut

ADDENDUM
Corrected addresses of property owners

<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner/Address</u>
26 Bristol Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓Margaret Parsons 3 Phelan Street Plainville, Conn. 06062
2 New Haven Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓Alfred Vincent 320 Camp Street Plainville, Ct. 06062
10 Hartford Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓Thomas Fabrizio Lyon Road Burlington, Conn. 06013
9 Bristol Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓John/Gloria Yeo 278 Camp Street Plainville, Conn. 06062
7 & 11 Meriden Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓Anthony Pareli 7 Young Street Plainville, Ct. 06062
13 New Haven Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓James & Eleanor Hannafin 320 Camp Street Plainville, Ct. 06062
4 Hartford Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓Dorothy Stocking 280 NW 4th Avenue Boca Raton, Fla. 33432
2 Plainville Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓Laura McFarland 357 Hubbard Street Glastonbury, Ct. 06033
3 Meriden Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓Michael Fabrizio Lyon Road Burlington, Ct. 06013
6 Manchester Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓Alice B. Barrett & Jean Halloran 325 S. Rossiter Street Mt. Dora, Fla.
4 Meriden Avenue Plainville, Connecticut	✓Alice Moran 330 Camp Street Plainville, Ct. 06062

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet New Haven District Campground Item number 4 Page 80
Plainville, Connecticut

ADDENDUM
Corrected addresses of property owners

Property

Owner/Address

8 Meriden Avenue
Plainville, Connecticut

✓ Willard & Audrey Shaw
RFD #2
Terryville, Connecticut 06786

21 Bristol Avenue
Plainville, Connecticut

✓ Clarence/Esther Morgan
281 Main Street
Farmington, Conn. 06032

19 Bristol Avenue
Plainville, Connecticut

✓ Ruth Judd/Joyce Edgerton
5301 4th Avenue West
Bradenton, Fla.

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Plainville Campground
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Preaching was in the open, with listeners gathered on benches set among the trees before the platform. Meals were prepared and served in a Boarding Tent at first and, later, in the 1-story Dining Room just west of The Circle. The present Auditorium was constructed c. 1905. The screened pavilion is basically a broad, hipped roof, with a shingled cornice and pedimented dormers (for ventilation), set on square posts (Photo 1). Inside is an open space with a dirt floor sloping down to a raised platform at the front.

Gradually, those families who could afford to do so began building private cottages along the narrow avenues radiating from The Circle, and the tents of the early years began to disappear. Smaller than the cottages on The Circle, the family cottages are generally 1½- or 2-stories tall, one room wide and two deep, with a gable roof. This floorplan, simple and open, echoes the open floorplan and living space of the larger cottages on The Circle. In almost all, a porch is incorporated and forms a decorative focal point. A few cottages have almost no embellishment, but most are ornamented with decorative features of a vernacular type loosely drawn from Eastlake, Stick Style, and Gothic Revival precedents, including gable stick- and lattice-work, ornamental bargeboards with pierced and applied details, lathe-turned posts, jig-sawn brackets, and decorative shingling. All of these elements are common to the summer cottages of the era, but, in their arrangement, the campground cottages differ.

One of the more exuberantly detailed cottages, 16 Bristol Avenue, is a 1-story, tongue-and-groove building, with a round-head door with engaged round-head windows flanking it. The porch echoes the round-head door with a rounded arch set into a diagonally-latticed gable. A heavy lathe-turned strut supports the arch. Jig-sawn brackets, fluted piers and scalloped shingles complete the fanciful facade. More whimsical decoration can be seen at 16 Meriden Avenue, where the porch of the 2-story cottage is decorated with cutout panels of Art Nouveau-like mushroom shapes. There is an unusual piece of woodwork, a hand-carved floral panel inscribed with the owner's name and the date "1890", set into the gable of the cottage at 4 Hartford Avenue (Photo 9).

Most of the cottages date from the 1880s through 1910, with a handful of structures (26 and 37 Bristol Avenue and 19 Gladding Avenue) which may date as late as 1925. Intended for summer use only, the cottages

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were not built to a high standard of structural integrity and some have been more carefully main tained than others. Some cottages are, therefore, in deteriorating condition. However, very few have been altered in any significant way, either through the removal of original fabric or the addition of incompatible modern elements. Of the 87 cot- tages at the Campground, approximately six have been winterized and are occupied year round. There are three structures on the Campground dating after 1925, two 1-story frame garages and a c. 1950, 1-story, concrete block structure with a hipped roof, housing the showers. These are designated non-contributing: all other structures are consi- dered to contribute tothe character of the district.

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Plainville Campground

CONTINUATION SHEET NR District ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Inventory:

Bristol Avenue:

- 2: 1½ stories, tongue-and-groove siding, 1 story porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, gable overhang with decorative shingles, 1 story addition, rear.
- 8: 1½ stories, tongue-and-groove siding, 1 story porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, gable overhang.
- 10: 2 stories, tongue-and-groove, 2 story porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, gable lattice-work.
- 12: 1 story, asphalt shingle, decorative shingles, gable wall, 1 story porch with turned posts, diagonal lattice-work, gable.
- 14: 1 story, tongue-and-groove, decorative shingles, gable wall, 1 story porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, gable stick-work.
- 16: 1 story, tongue-and-groove, scalloped shingles, gable wall, 1 story porch with fluted piers, sawn brackets, gable lattice-work with round arch, round-head door and flanking round-head windows.
- 18: 1 story, asphalt shingle.
- 20: 1 story, tongue-and-groove, 1 story porch with sawn brackets, gable stick-work.
- 22: 1½ stories, vertical boarding.
- 24: 1½ stories, tongue-and-groove, 1 story porch with turned posts.
- 26: 1½ stories, asbestos shingle.
- 3: 1½ stories, tongue-and-groove, decorative shingles, gable wall.
- 7: 2 stories, asphalt shingle, 1 story porch, gable overhang with decorative bargeboards, shingles.
- 9: 2 stories, cedar shingle, 1 story porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, gable overhang.
- 11: 1½ stories, asphalt shingle, 1 story porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, diagonal lattice-work.
- 13: 2 stories, tongue-and-groove, 1 story porch with sawn brackets, gable overhang.
- 15: 2 stories, vertical boarding, with 2 story porch with sawn brackets, gable stick-work.
- 17: 1 story, wood shingle, decorative shingles, gable wall, 1 story porch, gable stick-work.
- 19: 1½ stories, vertical boarding, gable overhang with decorative shingles, 1 story porch.
- 21: 1 story, vertical boarding.
- 25: 1½ stories, vertical boarding, 1 story porch with sawn brackets.
- 27: 2 stories, tongue-and-groove, 1 story porch with sawn brackets, turned posts, gable overhang with decorative shingles, bargeboards.
- 33: 2 stories, asbestos shingle.
- 37: 1½ stories, clapboarding.

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Camp Street:

268: 1 story, vertical boarding, with screened veranda, S and E walls.

The Circle:

- A: 2½ stories, tongue-and-groove, decorative shingles, gable wall, 2 story porch with sawn brackets, 2 story addition, rear.
 - B: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch, bargeboards.
 - D: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch with gable lattice-work.
 - E: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch with sawn brackets, gable lattice-work.
 - F: 2 stories, tongue-and-groove, 2 story porch, gable stick-work.
 - G: 2 stories, tongue-and-groove, 2 story porch, gable stick-work.
 - H: 2½ stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, gable overhang with decorative shingles.
 - I: 2½ stories, tongue-and-groove, 2 story porch, gable stick-work, bargeboards.
 - K: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch, gable lattice-work.
 - L: 2½ stories, tongue-and-groove and vertical boarding, 2 story porch with turned posts and sawn brackets, gable overhang.
 - M: 2½ stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch, gable stick-work.
 - N: 2½ stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, gable overhang with decorative shingles.
 - O: 2 stories, tongue-and-groove, 2 story porch with gable lattice-work, blind sunbursts.
 - P: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch with sawn brackets, sawn scrollwork, gable.
 - Q: 2½ stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch with sawn brackets.
 - R: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch, diagonal lattice-work, gable.
 - T: 2½ stories, tongue-and-groove, 2 story porch with sawn brackets, gable stick-work.
 - U: 2½ stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, gable stick-work.
 - V: 2½ stories, tongue-and-groove, 2 story porch with gable lattice-work.
- Auditorium: 2 stories, hipped roof with pedimented dormers, shingled cornice, open with screens.

Clinton Avenue:

- 4: 2 stories, tongue-and-groove, 1 story porch, gable overhang.
- 6: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 1 story porch with turned posts, sawn brackets.
- 16: 1½ stories, vertical boarding, 1 story porch with stick-work.

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Hartford Avenue:

- 2: 2 stories, tongue-and-groove, 2 story porch with sawn brackets, gable stick-work.
- 4: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch with sawn brackets, carved gable inset.
- 6: 1½ stories, vertical boarding, 1 story porch with sawn brackets, bargeboards with applied designs.
- 8: 1½ stories, asphalt shingle.
- 10: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch, gable stick-work, decorative shingles, gable wall.
- 20: 2 stories, asphalt shingle, 2 story porch.
- 1: 1½ stories, asphalt shingle.
- 5: 2 stories, vertical boarding, bargeboards, gable stick-work.
- 9: 2 stories, tongue-and-groove, 1 story porch, gable stick-work.
- 11: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch with sawn brackets, turned posts, decorative shingles, gable wall.
- 15: 2 stories, tongue-and-groove, 1 story porch, overhanging gable with decorative shingles.
- 17: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 1 story porch with sawn brackets, turned posts.
- 19: 2 stories, vertical boarding,

Meriden Avenue:

- 4: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch, decorative shingles, gable wall.
- 8: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 1 story porch, with sawn brackets.
- 12: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 1 story porch, decorative shingles, gable wall.
- 16: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 1 story porch with mushroom cutouts.
- 3: 1 story, vertical boarding, 1 story porch with gable stickwork.
- 7: 1 story, vertical boarding, 1 story porch.
- 11: 2 stories, clapboarding, 2 story porch with sawn brackets, turned posts.
- 13: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 1 story porch, gable overhang with decorative shingles.
- 21: 2 stories, asphalt shingle, 1 story porch.

New Haven Avenue:

- 2: 2 stories, vertical boarding, gable stick-work and decorative shingles, modern tongue-and-groove porch, 1 story.
- 6: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 1 story porch, gable overhang.
- 8: 1 story, vertical boarding, gable overhang, bargeboards.
- 10: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 1 story porch.
- 12: 2 stories, vertical boarding, gable overhang with decorative

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shingles.

- 1: 1 story, vertical boarding, decorative shingles, gable.
- 13: 1 story, vertical boarding, 1 story porch, gable overhang.
- 17: 2 stories, tar paper.

Manchester Avenue:

- a: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch, gable stick-work.
- b: 2 stories, wood shingles, 2 story porch, winterized.
- c: 2 stories, tongue-and-groove, 2 story porch with gable stick-work.
- d: 1½ stories, tongue-and-groove and wide horizontal boarding, L-shape plan, cobblestone 1 story porch with Doric columns.
- e: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch, gable stick-work.
- f: 2 stories, asphalt shingle, 2 story porch, gable stick-work.
- g: 1 story, tongue-and-groove, 1 story porch, gable stick-work, decorative shingles, gable wall.
- h: 2 stories, vertical boarding, 2 story porch, gable stick-work.
- 1: 1 story, concrete block, hipped roof. (showers, NC)

Plainville Avenue:

- 1: 1½ stories, vertical boarding, decorative shingles, gable wall.
- 2: 1½ stories, asbestos shingle, 1 story porch with sawn brackets.

Gladding Avenue:

- 19: 1½ stories, asbestos shingle, with 1 story frame garage.(NC)
- : 1 story, vertical boarding, garage.(NC)

- i: 1 story shed, vertical boarding.
- j: 1½ stories, asphalt shingle.

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 checked="" 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		

Criteria A, C Exception A

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Plainville Campground, a grouping of summer cottages, is a good example of the organized religious campgrounds of the 19th century (Criteria C). Every summer, from 1865 to 1957, Methodist campmeetings were held at the Campground; campmeetings, an outgrowth of 19th-century evangelism, provided a morally acceptable form of recreation (Criteria A). Presently run by a non-denominational association of cottage owners, the campgrounds are no longer used strictly for religious purposes. Though once a religious property, the Plainville Campground derives its primary significance as a substantially intact, architecturally distinctive complex of summer cottages, grouped in a circular fashion unique to religious campgrounds (Exception A). The Campground is historically important as a local example of a significant 19th-century institution (Exception A).

The sense of time and place at the Plainville Campground is particularly well-preserved. The Campground retains intact its setting within a wooded grove; despite development north, east, and west, the close spacing of the cottages (which face inward on each other, backs to the street), and buffering stands of trees at the lot's perimeters, prevent a visual connection with the surrounding suburban neighborhood. In addition, the cottages are linked by common design, materials, and workmanship; they are all simple frame structures, fancifully trimmed. Further, there are no intruding structures, though some cottages have been torn down.

Wherever possible, campgrounds were laid out in a circular pattern of, at first, tents, and later, cottages, surrounding a tabernacle where preaching, the essence of the campmeeting, took place. This pattern was followed at Plainville. The circle of tents reinforced the sense of community; the tabernacle on which the tents focussed represented both the physical center and spiritual force of a campmeeting. Later, the cottages (sometimes built on what were once tent floors), had wide doors and verandas, so that, despite private ownership, campground life could be openly shared within the community of like-spirited Christians. The close spacing of the cottages discounted privacy and emphasized a feeling of community. And the gay, decorative detail of the cottages expresses something of the pleasure people derived from the summer campmeetings, which were an important yearly social event. Further, the modest appearance of the cottages is a testament to the

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means of their middle-class owners.

Nationally, the campmeeting, which originated in Kentucky in 1799, was strongest and most revivalistic along the evolving western frontier. By the 1860s, when the Plainville Campground was organized, the campmeeting had passed from its primitive beginnings to a period when organized sites with permanent living quarters prevailed. Among the largest and most celebrated late 19th-century campgrounds were those at the shore, where the pleasant surroundings attracted thousands, such as at Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, Sea Cliff, New York, and Ocean Grove, New Jersey. However, even those sites with less spectacular natural beauty were popular, offering a rustic retreat from an increasingly urbanized world.

In fact, by the late 19th century, the campgrounds were not just organized revival meetings, though their spiritual purpose remained strong, but were part of a general concept of leisure and recreation that surfaced in the 19th century, occasioned by the rising material standard of the middle class. With that, and an improving network of transportation, a vacation away from home became both desirable and possible. Unlike their contemporaries, resorts such as Saratoga Springs and Newport, the religious campgrounds provided the middle classes with a moral use for one's leisure time, combining clean, outdoor living and high thinking. The Chataqua evolved from a similar spirit and, by the end of the century, many campgrounds, including Plainville, had a Chataqua.

Though employed by other Protestant sects, the campmeeting was first and foremost a Methodist institution, relying heavily on the Methodist tenets of a conversion experience and an itinerant clergy. Often, a District or Conference of the Methodist Church sought to organize its own campmeeting site. In 1865, the New Haven District of the New York East Conference, organized the Plainville Campground, more properly termed the New Haven District Campground. The only other Methodist campground in Connecticut, in Willimantic, was founded in 1860 by the Norwich District of the New England Southern Conference. Both Connecticut districts served a wide region in the state.

The reasons for the Campground's location at Plainville are unclear; the two local Methodist churches were neither firmly established nor

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regionally influential. Presumably, financial considerations and land availability, and the central location of Plainville within the District, dictated the decision of the New Haven District Camp Meeting Association to locate at Plainville. Of the two Methodist campgrounds in Connecticut, Plainville is preserved with fewer alterations and more closely follows the circular layout. There are also campgrounds, without any Methodist affiliation, in Canaan, Haddam, and Southington; any further National Register study should include these sites as well as Willimantic.

The Campground, a mile west of Plainville center, stands on land purchased from William Cowles and Isaac Alcott, local farmers. Until its development after World War II, the surrounding area remained farmland. During the Campground's heyday, the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad stopped a half mile down Camp Street at Camp Station (now demolished), specially built for the campmeetings. Local farmers drove wagonloads of people from the station up to the Campground and, on Sundays, when hundreds came to hear the preaching, the farmers kept parking lots in their fields.

The Campground stimulated local business in other ways: Plainville's butchers and grocers made daily rounds there to fill orders, dairymen ran ice cream concessions, and the Forestville constable, "Sim" Dutton, patrolled the grounds for pranksters and kept a shed where he sold lamp oil and straw for bedticks.

1. Richard Smeltzer, District Superintendent, Central Connecticut District, New York East Conference, United Methodist Church. Offices at Broadfield Road, Hamden, CT

FHR-8-300A
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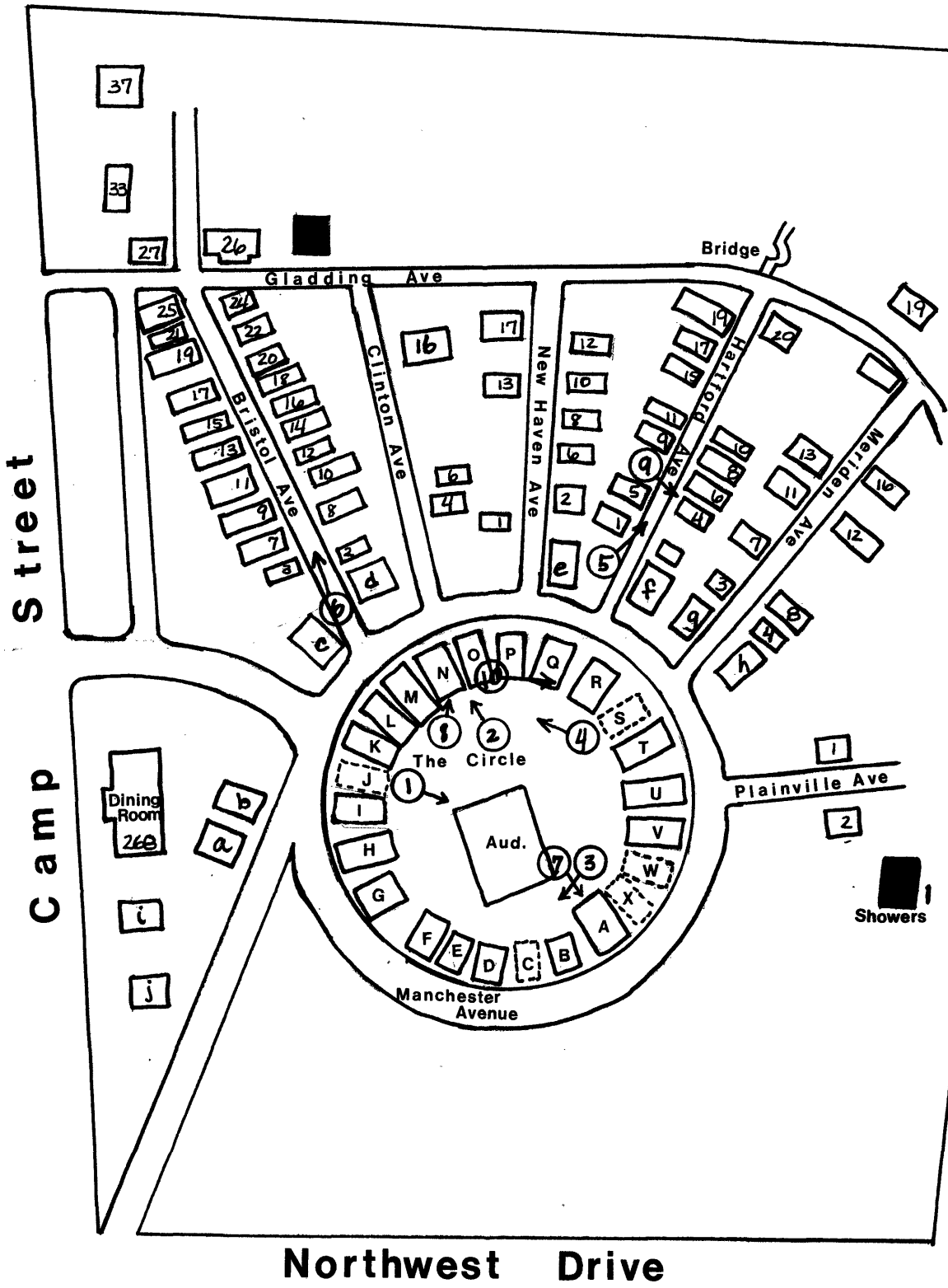
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ground National Register District

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the northeastern corner of the lot belonging to the Plainville Campground Association running southerly along the eastern property line which abuts property of the Town of Plainville to the southeastern corner of the lot at its intersection with Northwest Drive; thence west along Northwest Drive to the southwestern corner of the lot at the intersection of Northwest Drive and Camp Street; thence north along Camp Street to the northern property line of the Plainville Campground Association thence east to the point of beginning.

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- A Association Bldg.
- B Cheshire
- C Wethersfield
- D Thomaston
- E Library
- F Wallingford
- G Naugatuck
- H East Pearl St., New Haven
- I North Hartford
- J Middlefield
- K Simsbury
- L Bristol
- M St. Paul's, Waterbury
- N Woodbury
- O Grace New Haven
- P St. Paul's, Hartford
- Q Chataugua
- R East Berlin
- S 1st Church, Meriden
- T 1st Church, New Haven
- U New Britain
- V 1st Church, Waterbury
- W South Park St., Hartford
- X Torrington

PLAINVILLE CAMPGROUND

Plainville Connecticut

c: open box nc: solid box ☉: photos

