

PH0678147

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 14 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAY 10 1979

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 Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Campground

AND/OR COMMON

Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Campground

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *S of Lancaster*
State Highway #19, 500 yds. south of #19's intersection with
State Highway #620

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster *SC*

VICINITY OF

5th

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Lancaster

CODE

057

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) (COM- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE (plex)	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME A.M.E. Zion Church Conference

STREET & NUMBER

Dept. of Records and Research, P.O. Box 1401

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lancaster County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

116 West Dunlap Street

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

STATE

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973 (update)

--- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Located in rural Lancaster County, Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Campground is significant as a compact religious encampment which has been in continuous use since the late 1860s. Founded as a part of the post-Civil War growth of independent black congregations, the form of the Mount Carmel Campground exemplifies one of the typical shapes of 19th Century religious encampments.

Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Campground consists of a complex of structures located in the general form of a rectangle. A line of approximately fifty-five small "cabins" or "tents" and a brick church lie along the outer edge of the rectangle, creating a large open area in the center. An open-air "arbor" is located in this area. Although the significance of the site is primarily historical and not architectural, the design of the campground does reflect its use as a setting for a collective religious experience.

There is little uniformity in the design of the small "cabins" or "tents" of the campground. These "tents" were originally small log cabins built directly contiguous to each other and oriented towards the center of the rectangle. With the continued use of the campground, the log cabins were gradually replaced. At present, the majority of the cabins are small frame or concrete block structures which are still situated directly along side of each other and oriented towards the center of the rectangle. Many of these "cabins" or cabin sites have been used by the same families for generations-- with each family being largely responsible for the building form and upkeep. Many of the cabins are in dilapidated condition, while some are well maintained.

Located near the center of the rectangle is the "arbor", an open-sided structure whose wooden posts support a tin gable roof. The original dirt floor has been replaced by concrete, and plain wooden pews have replaced raised planks in all sections of the arbor except one, where the original planks remain. Tradition indicates that this arbor is over one-hundred years old. It continues to serve as the center for religious activities at the annual campground meeting.

On the southern side of the campground is Mt. Carmel A.M.E. Zion church, a brick structure with belfry and gable roof. Said to be the fourth church on the site, it has strong historical associations with the campground although it is not architecturally significant. Located on the northern side of the campground is the church cemetery where many of the church founders and subsequent generations are buried.

Surroundings

Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Campground is located in a rural setting and is surrounded by woods and open fields.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Church and Campground is one of the earliest sites in South Carolina associated with the establishment of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Founded ca. 1866, Mt. Carmel A.M.E. Zion Church and Campground was part of the widespread growth of independent black churches which occurred in the South during the post-Civil War era. Mount Carmel is also among the state's few surviving campgrounds where annual gatherings continue to be held. Additionally, the rectangular design of the campground is significant in itself, exemplifying one of the typical shapes of 19th Century religious encampments.

Religion/Black History

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in New York City in 1796. The church grew out of the Methodist Episcopal Church, retaining much of its doctrine and form of government. This church was originally centered in the north as few separate black churches existed in the south during the early 19th Century. Following the Civil War, however, the church spread south as blacks began to form their own congregations.

Organized as a part of this growth, Mount Carmel was founded ca. 1866 by Isom Caleb Clinton (1830-1904), a former slave. In the following year, 1867, the South Carolina Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church was organized, and Clinton was ordained a deacon. Among the primary leaders of the church in the state, Clinton became General Steward in 1888, and 1892 was consecrated bishop. Under Clinton's leadership, the A.M.E. Zion Church in S.C. grew and in 1890 was composed of 130 congregations. (Clinton Junior College, founded in 1894 and located in Rock Hill, South Carolina, was named in his honor.)

Frederick Albert Clinton (1834-1890), younger brother of Isom C. Clinton, was also instrumental in the growth of Mount Carmel. An organizer and lifetime trustee of the church, he was also involved in local political affairs. He attended the South Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1868 and served in the South Carolina Senate from 1870 to 1877. He is buried in the graveyard at Mount Carmel.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"A.M.E. Conference." Yorkville Enquirer. November 25, 1899, p.2.

"A.M.E. Conference." Yorkville Enquirer. November 29, 1899, p.2.

Anderson, Herman L., General Secretary-Auditor, African Methodist Episcopal

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.4 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 520240 3828120
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at U.S. Highway 19 the property line proceeds north for 594.37 feet; thence proceeds northeast for 96.38 feet; thence proceeds east for 426.15 feet; thence proceeds south for 766.25 feet until reaching U.S. Highway 19; thence proceeds west along U.S. Highway 19 for approximately 390 feet until reaching the point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE <u>Kappy McNulty, Julie Burr</u> <u>Historic Preservation Division</u>	<u>Tanzella Gaither, Catawba</u> <u>Regional Planning Council</u>	DATE <u>Jan 15, 1978</u>
ORGANIZATION <u>South Carolina Department of Achives and History</u>		TELEPHONE <u>(803) 758-5816</u>
STREET & NUMBER <u>P.O. Box 11, 669, Capitol Station</u>		STATE <u>South Carolina</u>
CITY OR TOWN <u>Columbia</u>		

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Charles E. Lee

TITLE Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1/9/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: <u>Bill [Signature]</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>5.10.79</u>
	DATE <u>May 8, 1979</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Since its organization, Mount Carmel has been considered a landmark in and around Lancaster County. Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Church and Campground is especially significant as the historical site of an annual camp meeting. This annual camp meeting is held every September and is conducted under the auspices of the A.M.E. Zion Church. It is interdenominational in scope and is considered to be an important religious and social event which draws participants from several states. Today, Mount Carmel is one of the few places in South Carolina where the tradition of the annual camp meeting is maintained.

Architecture:

The design of the Mt. Carmel campground reflects its use as a setting for a collective religious experience. While individual buildings within the campground are not significant architecturally, taken as a unit, the campground itself reflects a distinctive design. The campground is in the general shape of a rectangle of approximately 55 "tents" or cabins. Near the center of the rectangle is the "arbor", an open-sided structure which is the focal point of the revival meetings. The two other campgrounds in South Carolina that are listed in the National Register- Cypress Methodist and Indian Fields Methodist Campgrounds, both in Dorchester County-bear strong similarity in design to Mt. Carmel.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina. Telephone interview. February 2, 1978.

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Johns, Charles A. The Frontier Camp Meeting. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1955. pp.31-33, 43, 67, 68, 83, 95.

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McMurray, Mrs. Marjorie C., member Mount Carmel, and Mrs. Viola C. Floyd, county historian, Lancaster, S.C. Interviews, June-July, 1977.

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Transcript of Interview with Mrs. Marjorie McMurray. August 23, 1978, Lancaster, S.C.

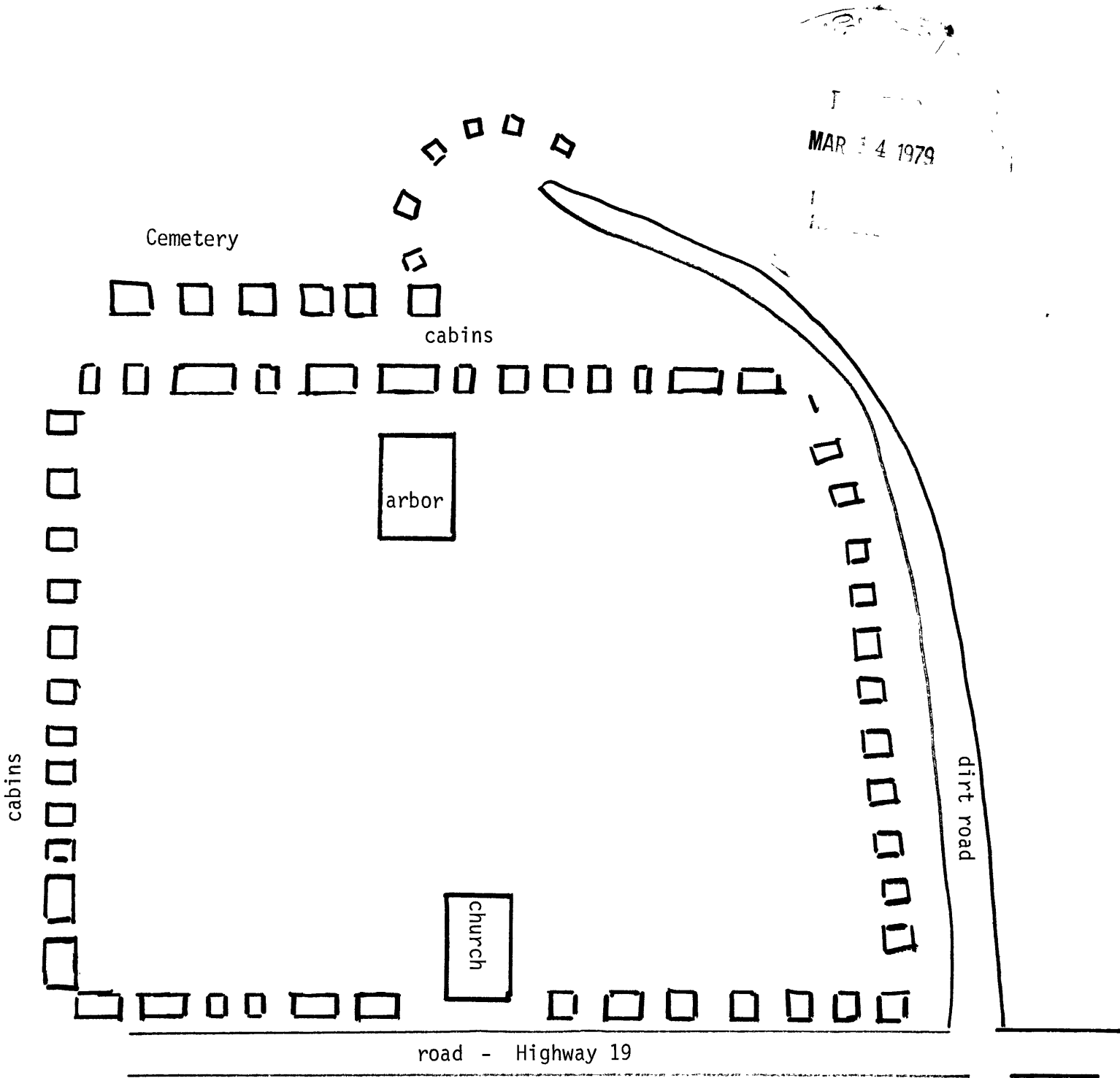
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MOUNT CARMEL A.M.E. ZION CAMPGROUND
SKETCH MAP (LANCASTER COUNTY)

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

MAR 4 1979



Supplemental Enclosure
Site plan of Mount Carmel A.M.E.
Zion Campground, Lancaster County
South Carolina S.C. Dept. of
Archives & History 1979