

2/12/73

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Lincoln County	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>OCT 18 1972</b>	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Tucker's Grove Camp Meeting Ground

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *North of Machpelah*  
on SR 1360 .15 miles from junction with Highway 73 and SR 1360

CITY OR TOWN:  
Machpelah (Ninth Congressional District, The Hon. C. R. Jonas)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Lincoln	CODE 109
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Western North Carolina United Methodist Church c/o Bishop E. G. Hunt, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
310 Cole Building, 207 Hawthorne Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Charlotte	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Lincoln County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lincolnton	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

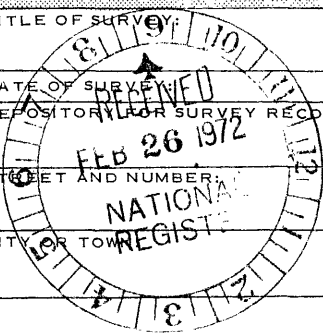
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina  
COUNTY: Lincoln  
ENTRY NUMBER: OCT 18 1972  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

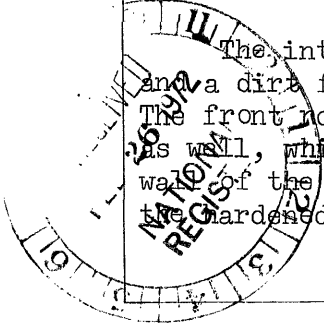
Tucker's Grove Camp Meeting Ground is a meeting complex located in an oak grove near a spring. It consists of a central structure called an "arbor," set in a large oak grove. Surrounding the arbor are frame structures called "tents" which form an almost continuous enclosure, roughly square in form, with alleys at the corners and in the centers of some rows.

The arbor is an open rectangular shelter with a deep pyramidal roof supported by an open truss system of pegged rafters and covered with three tiers of standing-seam tin. The roof is elevated on unhewed tree trunks, with a rough brace extending from each post to the roof. The pulpit platform is centered beneath the arbor at the north end. At the front of the platform is a long wooden bench known as the mourner's bench, "seeker's bench" or "anxious seat." It extends the length of the platform base and from the center of the back rises the pulpit. Three short rows of choir seating occupy the rear half of the platform, and three sections of pews, separated by two aisles, occupy the south half of the arbor. The pews consists of wide plank seats supported at either end by a continuous beam which rests on the hard clay straw-covered ground. The backs are formed by narrow planks supported by vertical braces attached to the ground beams.

The tents are built in one complete square and a second partial concentric one. The west and part of the south sides represent the oldest and densest areas of tent emplacement. These tents share party walls, while the other sides are lined with independently standing tents spaced more widely apart. The east side tents burned recently, and newly constructed ones are beginning to fill in this flank. Each tent is a frame structure owned by an individual family and used only once a year. As the name indicates, the tent evolved from the original makeshift tents of cloth, pine bark, and other materials which were used during the early camping period by the settlers who gathered in the forests in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries to attend the protracted services. As the temporary tent evolved into a permanent building, the form became standardized. Each tent at Tucker's Grove, constructed by an individual family, exhibits minor variations. The typical tent is a one-story frame structure with a gable roof. It usually has a flush-sheathed facade and weatherboarded sides and rear, with large gaps often left in the siding of the lower walls and beneath the eaves for ventilation. A shed porch, formed either by the extended eaves of the standing-seam tin roof or existing independently, is supported by plain brackets or by unhewed tree trunks or rough posts. The front entrance is usually unprotected but is occasionally sheltered by a vertically sheathed door, and a plank bench is bracketed out from the wall. The typical tent has a shed room attached to the rear which is covered by an extension of the main roof or by a separate roof.

The interior of the typical tent is treated crudely, with unfinished walls and a dirt floor. Few have garrets, for in most the gable roof is left open. The front room contains a low wooden platform, often with an upper platform as well, which serves as bases for sleeping pallets. An opening in the rear wall of the main cabin leads into the shed addition. Straw or sawdust covers the hardened clay floors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

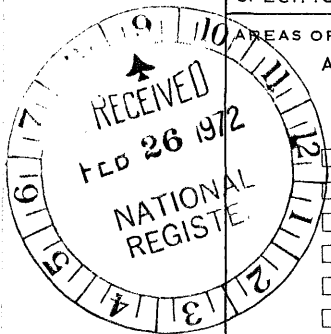
The religious fervor which attended the camp meeting movement that played a significant cultural role during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in western North Carolina was by no means limited to the white settlers. Bishop Francis Asbury, the Methodist missionary who preached and ministered to frontier Methodist congregations throughout North Carolina from 1780 to 1816, was concerned about the religious welfare and the general education of the Africans whom he encountered. An 1809 entry in his journal lamented the educational deprivation of the blacks. "Who will take the pains to lead them into the way of salvation, and watch over them that they may not stray, but the Methodists?" he wrote. He lamented that their masters refused to grant them freedom to attend Methodist religious services.

Tucker's Grove Camp Meeting Ground, founded in the first half of the nineteenth century by the Methodist Episcopal Church, is an early fruit of this Methodist crusade to reach the slave population. The camp meeting was continued after the abolition of slavery and has been operating continuously since 1876 as an A. M. E. Zion camp meeting site under the direction of a board of trustees. The oak grove within which the camp meeting complex is located was donated to the trustees by Mary E. Tucker in 1879.

Tucker's Grove Camp Ground, although smaller than its counterparts, is nearly identical in both general plan and structural type to nearby Rock Springs Camp Ground in Lincoln County and to the other religious camp meeting complexes in western North Carolina. Each, however, has evolved independently through an adaptation of regional vernacular building types to fulfill the minimal needs of shelter and assembly.

The communal plan of the complex, with individual shelters enclosing a common space containing a sacred core, has been basic to man's social instincts throughout human evolution. The plan recalls in America, not only Indian camps, for even in the late nineteenth century wigwam pole frameworks with cloth coverings were utilized at religious camp meetings, but also the circular formation of wagon train encampments, fulfilling the needs for both safety and fellowship. The deep roof of the Tucker's Grove arbor symbolizes a protective umbrella held over the congregation assembled in the grove.

Religious camp meetings play a very significant role in the history of Lincoln County, for an open air religious gathering in Lincoln County in 1794 was perhaps one of the earliest manifestations of the Revival movement which swept the South and Midwest in the first half of the nineteenth century. Tucker's Grove Camp Ground is probably the oldest continuously operating black campground in the state.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Carroll, Grady L. E. Francis Asbury in North Carolina. Nashville, Tennessee: The Parthenon Press, no date.  
 Graber, Paul Neff. The Romance of American Methodism. Greensboro: The Piedmont Press, 1931.  
 Johnson, Guion Griffis, "The Camp Meeting in Ante-Bellum North Carolina," The North Carolina Historical Review, Vol. X, No. 2, April, 1933.  
 Lincoln County Records, Lincoln County Courthouse, Lincoln, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroup: Deeds).  
 Lincoln County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroup: Deeds).

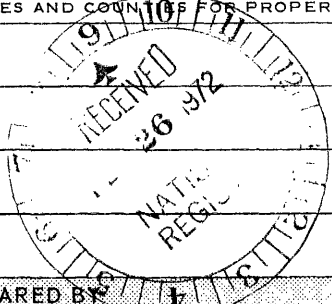
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		35 ° 28 ' 03 "	81 ° 05 ' 00 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Five Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 17 February 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>H. G. Jones</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, State Department of Archives and History</u></p> <p>Date <u>17 February 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u>                  Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>10/18/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William M. Country</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>10-16-72</u></p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS