

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Fayetteville

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Camp Ground Methodist Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Camp Ground Road

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fayetteville

— VICINITY OF

7th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

037

Cumberland

051

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Camp Ground United Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER

Camp Ground Drive

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fayetteville

— VICINITY OF

North Carolina 28304

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 2039

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fayetteville

North Carolina 28302

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Linda Jasperse, Principal Investigator, City of Fayetteville

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

March 31, 1982

STREET & NUMBER

Division of Archives and History

TELEPHONE

919 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Camp Ground Methodist Church, built between 1858 and 1862, is located approximately four miles west of downtown Fayetteville on a site overlooking Beaver Creek. With origins in the revival movement of the early nineteenth century, the congregation was served by itinerant ministers after the sanctuary was erected. The building follows the vernacular architectural traditions of mid-nineteenth century North Carolina church forms with its gable-front construction, double front entrances, interior plan, and simple Greek Revival finish. Though moved a few yards to make room for new construction, the original building is a reminder of Camp Ground's early-to-mid nineteenth century origins and reveals the devotion which the founders had for their first permanent church home.

The weatherboarded walls of the church, which follow a rectangular floor plan, are four bays across and five bays deep. The front facade is dominated by a plain pedimented gable front, which is reminiscent of the Greek temple form and one feature often exhibited by structures built during the Greek Revival period. Single entrances with four-recessed panel doors are found in front facade's outer bays, while windows containing 6/9 sash are found on the lower level, 6/6 sash on the upper. The rear facade bears several ghost marks indicating a small center gable extension (possibly an apse) and two former doors which originally led to the balcony. Capping the entire edifice is a standing seam tin-covered gable roof with a continuous boxed cornice.

The interior of the church follows the traditional plan of narthex, sanctuary or nave, and raised chancel, with the addition of a gallery along three sides. The gallery, accessible via two half-turn staircases placed at the narthex ends, is adorned with horizontal panels along its face and supported by chamfered posts with octagonal capitals. Simple handmade pews are still found on the upper level and have legs cut to fit the slope of the floor.

Three additional chamfered posts with lamb's tongue rise from the sanctuary floor to meet a central summer beam running the length of the room. Modern lighting fixtures are suspended from it as well as the balcony underside. Beyond the beam is a decorative pressed tin ceiling which was probably applied subsequent to initial construction. The ceiling is coffered with concentric rectangles in the center and carries a finishing border along the edges. The border is comprised of a stippled band separated from the ceiling by a decorative band and from the side wall by a coved cornice which bears an acanthus motif. Side walls are not as ornamented, but bear single original baseboards and wainscot.

On the main floor, center pews graced with curved arms extend a continuous fifteen feet; those under the balcony overhang are considerably shorter. Toward the front of the sanctuary is a bible box on a table, as well as the pulpit--massive, heavy, and recessed paneled--with kneeling bench surrounding. The pulpit is said to have been fashioned by Mr. Ruffin Vaughn, brother of Christopher, member and one attributed builder of the Camp Ground Methodist Church.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL

_____ STATE

 X LOCAL

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 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		

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

James Christopher Vaughn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of the present-day Camp Ground Methodist Church was originally used for camp meetings or revivals in the antebellum period. As the nineteenth century progressed, religious practices and meetings at the location were formalized and the familiar, frame church was built between 1858 and 1862. It echoes vernacular North Carolina church architectural forms with a rectangular floor plan, double front entrances, and pedimented front gable. The fine execution exhibits the craftsmanship of local builders, Christopher (also a member of the congregation) and Ruffin Vaughn. The Camp Ground Church was served by circuit riders until the 1950s when it became an established congregation with a full-time pastor. Although a new edifice has been built, the old remains intact just a few yards from its original site and is still flanked by the cemetery. It is a well-preserved reminder of the congregation's nineteenth-century origins.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. As its name implies, the origins of the Camp Ground Methodist Church were in religious meetings or revivals held during the antebellum period at the site, which firmly links it with the religious development of Fayetteville and the development of North Carolina Methodism in general.
- C. The late 1850s, early 1860s edifice reflects vernacular church architectural forms of North Carolina with its gable-front wood frame construction and double front entrance, which suggests that the builders--members of the congregation like Christopher Vaughn--were familiar with other such edifices in the area.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Methodism gained a firm foothold in the Upper Cape Fear Valley with the establishment of the first church of the denomination in Fayetteville c. 1800. Gradually, other Methodist churches with pastors of their own--most notably, the Hay Street Methodist Church est. 1834--appeared. Methodism had a strong appeal in both town and county locations, and converts were won, Sunday Schools were established, and the church hierarchy of circuit-district-conference became firmly established. Increasing diversification, organization, and sophistication characterized denominational development.

The Camp Ground movement flourished alongside the above-outlined chain of events. Camp Ground meetings or "revivals" took place in rural areas where established churches were often unavailable. The Rev. Thomas Smoot gave an indication of how important these meetings were to the Methodist movement:

...Little wonder that we Methodists, with all of our foundations laid in revivals, find it difficult to dissociate our future as a church from those great spiritual movements that fill the soul with an awful sense of condemnation before God on account of a mighty hand, fling the trembling body down at the mourner's bench.¹

Evidence of camp ground meetings being held in the Fayetteville area appeared as early as 1833.² In 1834, the following question was posed to members of the Hay Street Methodist Episcopal Church: "Shall there be a camp meeting at Beaver Creek, near Fayetteville, in the course of the present summer?" These meetings were viewed as an acceptable means to reach persons living in remote areas and to gain converts.

An 1858 deed to the property gives numerous clues as to what originally stood on the site and who had an interest in religious activities there. Archibald McKay is shown transferring ownership to E.S. Hobbs, John Buie, Jesse Ellis, Arch. Buie, and Thomas Owen, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South at Beaver Creek Camp Ground. The tract was situated on the east side of the creek, and contained a church, graveyard, and arbor.⁴

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please see continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.23

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,7 | 6,8,4 | 8,6,0 | 3,8 | 8,2 | 24,0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

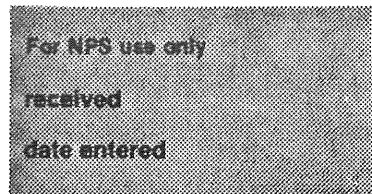
C | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of lot 39, Block 308, Map 36.4, Seventy-first Township, as outlined in red on map. See map section.

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National Park Service



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Interestingly, mention is made of a church on the grounds. This predates the frame structure standing. Evidence suggests that Archibald McKay built a log structure on the site sometime during his period of ownership. He was dedicated to the advancement of the Methodist cause and the camp ground effort, as is evidenced by a resolution of respect written shortly after his death.⁵

Shortly after the Beaver Creek parcel was obtained, efforts to construct a new church were set in motion. First quarterly conference minutes review action taken and progress made. Although the actual date of completion is not noted, a reference is made to the Camp Ground Church (as opposed to merely Camp Ground) in 1861. No doubt Civil War activities disrupted and stalled building efforts, but mention is made by 1874 that "At the Camp Ground we have a most excellent Church finished off in good style".⁶ Notes indicating that funds for furnishing and improvements were raised in the intervening years.

Tradition holds that James Christopher Vaughn (1834-1917), member of the congregation, was responsible for building the church, and that his brother, Elijah Ruffin Vaughn, made the pulpit and pews. Robert Clark, great-nephew of the Vaughn brothers, has been able to substantiate with documents and oral tradition that the Vaughns were indeed woodworkers. But it seems likely that the church was built by members of the congregation in house-raising fashion, and then possibly decorated by the craftsmen. The pews--some made of lengths of pine up to fifteen feet long and fifteen inches wide with gracing curved arms--are handmade, as is the pulpit. The church is not dissimilar from the styles exhibited by other rural churches, like Longstreet Presbyterian, Big Rockfish Presbyterian, and old Bluff Presbyterian, which may indicate that members of Camp Ground Methodist may have drawn inspiration from them.

As soon as a permanent facility was erected, the Camp Ground Church was served on a regular basis by itinerant preachers running the Fayetteville circuit. This practice continued until the mid-twentieth century. It appears as though Camp Ground took a leading role in supporting the circuit rider, both by meeting their quota for his salary and providing for him a place to live.⁷ A parsonage lot at the corner of Arsenal and Broadfoot avenues was deeded to the circuit in 1908; but because of their generosity in paying for it, Camp Ground Church eventually obtained title deed.⁸ The congregation participated in purchase of another circuit parsonage, but in the 1950s they issued a call for a full-time minister and built their own parsonage for him on Chicken (now Cliffdale) Road.⁹

Today, the Camp Ground Methodist Church still houses a vital, active congregation. The original frame church has been moved to the rear of the grounds and is overshadowed by a spacious modern edifice built in the mid-twentieth-century neo-Georgian/Colonial mode. Also occupying the site is a concrete block hut built in the post-World War II period as need for more space became evident. An ever-present reminder of Camp Ground Methodist Church's link with the past is the nearby cemetery where prominent early members of the congregation--like James Christopher Vaughn--are buried.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Reference Notes:

¹Thomas A. Smoot, Rev., "Early Methodism on the Lower Cape Fear", in Historical Papers of the North Carolina Conference Historical Society and the Western North Carolina Conference Historical Society (Greensboro, N.C.: North Carolina Christian Advocate, 1925), 22.

²Elizabeth Lamb, Historical Sketch of Hay Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Fayetteville, N.C.: 1934), 26, hereinafter cited as Lamb, Hay Street Methodist Church.

³Lamb, Hay Street Methodist Church, 27.

⁴E. S. Hobbs and others to Archibald McKay, 5 January 1858, Cumberland County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, Book 54, Page 260, hereinafter cited as Cumberland County Deeds.

⁵Quarterly Conference Record Book, June 29, 1872, as cited in "Centennial of Camp Ground Methodist Church 1862-1962" (Fayetteville, North Carolina: 28 October 1962), 7, hereinafter cited as "Centennial Booklet".

⁶"Centennial Booklet", 8.

⁷"Centennial Booklet", 8-9, 12-15.

⁸Cumberland County Deeds, Book 155, Page 356; Book 307, Page 568.

⁹Cumberland County Deeds, Book 625, Page 546.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
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Camp Ground Methodist Church Bibliographical

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Cumberland County Records: Deeds.

Lamb, Elizabeth, Historical Sketch of Hay Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Fayetteville, N.C.: 1934.

Quarterly Conference Record Book, June 29, 1872. Quoted in
"Centennial of Camp Ground Methodist Church 1862-1962". Fayetteville,
North Carolina, 28 October 1962.

Smoot, Thomas A. Rev. "Early Methodism on the Lower Cape Fear" in Historical Papers of the North Carolina Conference Historical Society and the Western North Carolina Conference Historical Society. Greensboro, N.C.: North Carolina Christian Advocate, 1925.

