

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

**Name:** Dooly County Campground

**Location:** 21 Parsonage Road, Vienna, Dooly County

**Description:** Dooly County Campground is a United Methodist Church camp-meeting venue situated in rural southwest Georgia, about three miles northwest of downtown Vienna. An artesian well on the bank of Sandy Mount Creek, which runs along the southern boundary of the property, led to the establishment of a campground at this location in 1874. At the center of the site is the large, open-air tabernacle, built of hand-hewn pine timbers and constructed using mortice-and-tenon joinery. In a circular pattern surrounding the tabernacle are four dormitories, the preacher's tent, and six extant family "tents" – a term harkening back to the earliest camp meetings when families traveled to a campground, pitched their tents, and joined in a week of religious sermons, singing, social interaction, and recreation. In addition to the tabernacle and tents, the campground evolved over time to provide additional facilities, such as a dining hall, restrooms, meeting spaces, basketball court, swimming hole, and swimming pool.

**Acreege & Boundary Explanation:** 22.54 acres, includes the contiguous, intact historic resources associated with the campground

**Period of Significance:** 1874-1972

**NR Criteria & Areas of Significance:** Criteria A and C, Religion, Social History, Community Planning & Development, Architecture

**Statement of Significance:** Dooly County Campground is locally significant under Criterion A, in the areas of Social History and Religion, due to its impact on the local community as a place to worship, socialize, and recreate. Camp meetings are an institutionalized feature of Georgia's religious history and remain an important and increasingly rare component of religious practice in the state today. The camp meeting served as a time to restore faith, revive worship practices, and promote the church through evangelism. The annual gathering usually lasted a week and served a critical part of the Methodist mission. The campground is also locally significant under Criterion C in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Architecture. With the tabernacle at the heart of the grounds, encompassed by a circular drive and rings of tents and support buildings emanating outward, the campground is a good, representative example of the circular community plan often employed at campgrounds in Georgia. Its 1875 open-air tabernacle with hand-hewn pine timbers and mortice-and-tenon joinery is an excellent example of a rare resource type in Georgia with a distinctive method of construction.

**Sponsor:** The nomination is sponsored by Dooly County Campground, Inc., and nomination materials were prepared by Lynne Cook.

