

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Mathews
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 21 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Methodist Tabernacle

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Methodist Tabernacle

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *SE of Mathews on VA 611 at Jct with VA 644*  
South side of Route 611; .1 mile southeast of intersection  
of Route 611 and Route 644.

CITY OR TOWN: *Mathews vic*  
(Tabernacle vicinity)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First (Thomas N. Downing)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Mathews	CODE 115
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### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>not in use</u>
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Robert C. Hutson and Kathleen P. Hutson

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Diggs

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
51

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Mathews County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Mathews

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
51

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

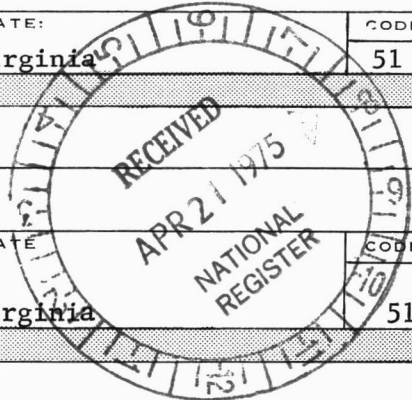
STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Mathews
ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 21 1975
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

The Methodist Tabernacle stands in a flat, cleared field amidst the woods of Mathews County. It is surrounded by a shallow ditch that helps to drain the low-lying land, and in addition reputedly prevented worshippers from driving too close to the building. A large, open pavilion, it was built in 1922 to cover the meeting area and replaces an earlier structure erected around 1879.

The hipped roof of the tabernacle is slightly longer than it is wide, is covered by asphalt shingles, and is surmounted by a hipped clerestory monitor with wooden shutters which might be opened to allow the heat to escape. The whole is supported on square wooden posts set in the ground and steadied by angle braces. There are twenty-one rows of wooden benches on the dirt floor, arranged along three aisles. These aisles are expressed on the facade by three light wooden arches between the posts and three corresponding steeply pitched gablets along the eaves above them.

At the opposite end of the building is the speakers platform which stretches the full width of the building and is faced with vertical matchboard. A central pulpit in a recess is flanked on each of three sides by four ascending tiers of pews for the choir and other participants. Latticework screens close the outside edges of the platform which can be reached by two flights of stairs at the rear.

The interior of the Tabernacle is painted white throughout. The whole is in a good state of preservation, and all of its accoutrements are intact. The new owner intends to make necessary repairs and then return the building to religious uses.

DTU

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) 1922

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/ <del>XXXX</del> | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <del>XXXX</del>   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Methodist Tabernacle in Mathews County is a rare example in Virginia of an early twentieth century revival meeting facility. It is especially noteworthy for having been preserved with its original furnishings and its rural setting intact.

Revivals have been a recurrent feature of American social history since the First Great Awakening of the 1740s. These were believed to be spontaneous divine gifts, however, and it was not until the Second Great Awakening of the early nineteenth century that the possibility of creating a revival by "the right use of constituted means", in the words of one leading proponent, was recognized. Camp meetings grew out of this movement to create revivals. The early meetings consisted primarily of exhortations by a number of preachers, often holding forth simultaneously at different locations throughout the encampment, along with some congregational hymn singing.

The Methodists were among the first and most enthusiastic supporters of the revivals, and as the nineteenth century wore on and the practice grew more routine and more institutionalized, they easily adopted "protracted meetings" as a regular feature of Methodist life. In the later years of the century, many revivalists had become highly polished performers. Some accomplished preachers like Dwight L. Moody and, in the early twentieth century, Billy Sunday staged elaborate productions featuring such amenities as professional choirs.

The Methodist Tabernacle in Mathews is a product of this era. Revivals were no longer either surprising, as in the eighteenth century, or infrequent products of itinerant evangelists, as in the nineteenth century, but rather regularly scheduled events. Thus, it was reasonable to build a permanent structure to house them. This building has a platform which is really a stage with the preacher placed at the center and his choir arranged in tiers on three sides of him. There is a "mourners' bench" along the front of the platform, a feature conceived by the Methodists during the Second Great Awakening. Finally, because the Tabernacle is a product of the automobile age, there was no need actually to live at the site. So many people drove, in fact, that it was necessary to construct a ditch around the building to keep them from driving right to the threshold, as they did at the nearby Holiness Tabernacle, no longer extant.

DTU

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

History of American Methodist, Vol. II. Nashville, 1964.  
 Johnson, Charles. The Frontier Camp Meeting. 1954.  
 McLoughlin, William G. Modern Revivalism. 1959.  
 Sweet, W. W. History of Virginia Methodism. Richmond, 1955.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

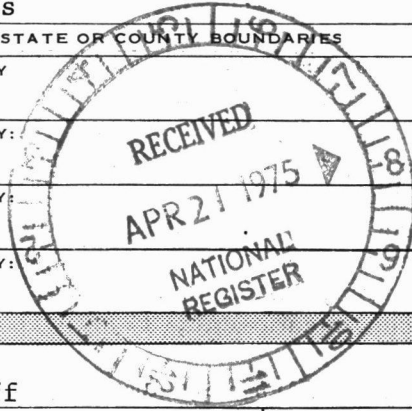
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds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

UTM References:  
18/385260/4142260

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: April 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

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

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:

National  State  Local

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.  
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: APR 15 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Cannally  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: MAY 21 1975

ATTEST:  
W. M. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5/20/75

Property Methodist Tabernacle

75002024

State Virginia

Working Number 4.21.75.723

Mathews

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 1  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

cm  
OK 4.23.75

**HISTORIAN**

Accept  
E. Smith  
4-30-75  
below  
["other"]

This is probably "a rare example in Virginia" of 20th century revival structure. Calder Loth of the state staff says this is the only structure of this type architecture left in the state. There is an older

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

I DON'T THINK IT IS ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT, THEREFORE

DEFER TO HISTORIAN  
LEBOVICH  
4-29-75

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

revival facility in the far corner of ~~western~~ Southeastern Virginia, but it is not of this type construction.

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
5/12/75

**BRANCH CHIEF**

accept  
Hurst  
5.19.75

**KEEPER**

Wh  
5/20/75

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 7-1-75

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAY 21 1975

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

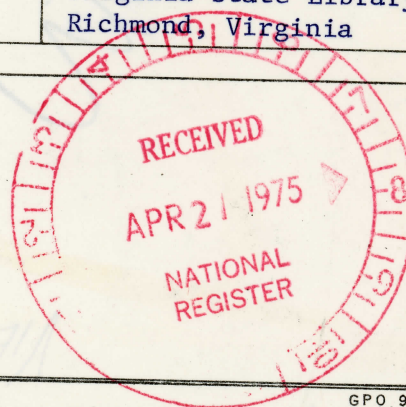
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Methodist Tabernacle	Methodist Tabernacle	MAY 21 1975
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Virginia	Mathews	(Tabernacle vicinity)
STREET AND NUMBER		
South side of Route 611; .1 mile southeast of intersection of Route 611 and Route 644.		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	1970	Virginia State Library Richmond, Virginia
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View from northwest.

#1081



GPO 932-009

VA. HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

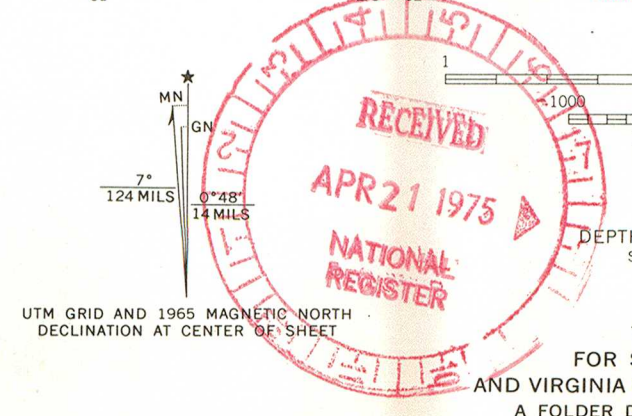
#1081



0014-057-102; PE101

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Mathews, Va. 1965  
METHODIST TABERNACLE, MATHEWS COUNTY  
UTM References:  
18/385260/4142260

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Virginia Fisheries Commission  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1963. Field checked 1965  
Supersedes USC&GS map dated 1946  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 494 and  
534 (1964). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

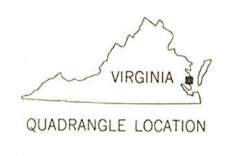


CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1.6 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
	State Route



MATHEWS, VA.  
NE/4 MATHEWS 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3722.5—W7615/7.5  
1965  
ANS 5758 IV NE—SERIES V834

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



MEMBERS

FREDERICK HERMAN  
Chairman

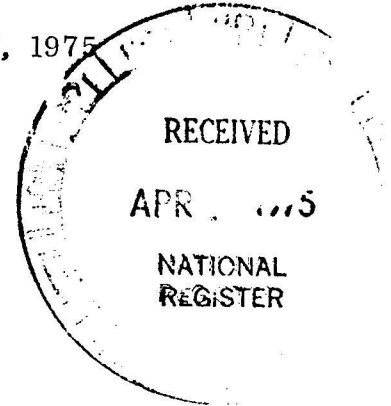
JOHN M. JENNINGS  
Vice Chairman

STANLEY W. ABBOTT  
A. SMITH BOWMAN  
ELBERT COX  
DONALD R. HAYNES  
FREDERICK D. NICHOLS  
JAMES R. SHORT  
MARVIN M. SUTHERLAND

JUNIUS R. FISHBURN  
Executive Director  
221 GOVERNOR ST.  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA  
TELEPHONE 770-1111

VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS  
COMMISSION

April 17, 1975



Dr. William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
18th and C Streets, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

We would appreciate it very much if you would give the following five enclosed reports your immediate attention for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, as the owners of these properties are interested in procuring matching funds through the Grants-in-Aid Program:

- Methodist Tabernacle, Mathews County
- Monticello Arcade, Norfolk
- Rose Hall, Virginia Beach
- Washington Historic District, Rappahannock County
- Weems-Botts House, Prince William County

In addition, we request the expedition of consideration of the Thomas Wallace House, Petersburg (report enclosed) for nomination to the National Register, for this house is in immediate danger of demolition.

Thank you so much for your assistance in these matters.

Sincerely,

Corrine S. Pellegrin  
Registrar

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      **VIRGINIA**

Date Entered      **MAY 21 1975**

Name

Location

**Monticello Arcade**

**Norfolk (city)**

**Back Creek Farm**

**Dublin vicinity  
Pulaski County**

**Methodist Tabernacle**

**Tabernacle vicinity  
Mathews County**

Also Notified

**Hon. Harry F. Byrd, Jr.  
Hon. William L. Scott  
Hon. G. William Whitehurst  
Hon. William C. Wampler  
Hon. Thomas N. Downing  
Regional Director, Mid Atlanti  
Region**

**State Historic Preservation Officer  
Dr. Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219**

PR      MMott/row      5/22/75

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: Reviewer INITIALS: *KP*  
NR , DOE *5-21-75*

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: *10* METHODIST TABERNACLE

OTHER NAMES:

## LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: *SE of Mathews on VA 611 at jct. with VA 644*  
CITY, TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_  
VICINITY OF: *Mathews* COUNTY: *first* code: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: *Virginia*

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) *PRIVATE* STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline): \_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME): \_\_\_\_\_  
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC *MID ATLANTIC* SOUTHEAST MIDWEST  
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## FEATURES:

INTERIOR:  Substantially intact-1  
           unknown - 4  
           not applicable - 7  
EXTERIOR:  Substantially intact-2  
           unknown - 5  
           not applicable - 8  
ENVIRONS:  Substantially intact-3  
           unknown - 6  
           Not applicable-9  
-Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0  
CONDITION -  EXCELLENT  DETERIORATED  UNALTERED  ORIGINAL SITE  
           GOOD  RUINS  ALTERED  MOVED  
           FAIR  UNEXPOSED  Reconstructed  Unknown  
           Unexcavated  Excavated  
ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted *No access* Unknown

historic district? YES *NO*  
WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES *NO*  
IF YES, NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES *NO*  
IF YES, NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADAPTIVE USE: YES *NO* Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)  
then- *camp meeting ground*  
now- *not in use*

## SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

## Claims

"first" YES *NO* "oldest" YES *NO* "only" YES *NO*

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *N/A*

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

*1922*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

*LA Hist. Landmarks Comm.*

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

*6 acres*

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

*supported by square posts,*

~~Frame, 1 story,~~

*Frame open-sided structure, 1 story, rectangular,*

*hipped roof with 3 small front gables; large rectangular hipped*

*platform; ~~with~~ wooden benches.*

*One of the state's rare examples of an early 20<sup>th</sup> C. revival*

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

*meeting facility<sup>ies</sup> with furnishings<sup>#</sup> and*

*rural setting intact.*