

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 14 1986  
date entered MAR 27 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Farmers Institute

and/or common Farmers Institute Friends Church

**2. Location**

street & number 4626 W.660 South N/A not for publication

city, town Lafayette  vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Tippecanoe code 157

**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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Farmers Institute Friends Church

street & number 4626 W. 660 South

city, town Lafayette  vicinity of state Indiana 47901

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Tippecanoe County Courthouse

city, town Lafayette state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Farmers Institute is the main building of a small campus located in a seven acre grove near Lafayette. The Institute faces south, and lies within a cluster of three other buildings, including the original boarding house of the school, which has been reduced in size but still maintains its architectural integrity.

The Institute is a simple, two-story building of frame construction, and exhibits Greek Revival elements in its design. The building is rectangular in plan. The foundation is low and is constructed of granite boulders. Local timber was used to construct the building, and exterior walls are clapboard painted white, finished with pilaster corner boards. Wood moldings above the first story level of the corner boards provide physical evidence of the later addition of the second story, which occurred in 1864-65.

The south facade, a gable end, contains three bays on the first story with the entrance in the center bay. The entrance has double paneled wooden doors and newer wooden storm doors with eight lights each. A wide rectangular transom with four lights is above the doors, and plain molding surrounds the doors and transom. There is a stoop at the entrance. The windows are double-hung with nine-over-nine lights, and are trimmed with plain molding and sills. There are two windows on the second story of the main facade. These are identical to those on the first story and are directly above them. It is believed that the building originally had shutters; however, early photographs do not document their presence.

The east elevation is symmetrical, containing four windows on the first level with four windows directly above them on the second level. These windows, equally spaced across this elevation, are identical to those on the main facade, and are surrounded by plain molding and sills. The west elevation is identical to the east elevation.

The roof is gabled, with the eaves and gables being trimmed with a wooden fascia. Also, the roof is trimmed on the gable end with a simple raking cornice. The original roofing material was cedar shingles, but these have been replaced with modern materials. On the south end of the roof is a small, square, louvered belfry, which has a hipped roof trimmed with a wooden cornice. An interior brick chimney is near the south end of the building, behind the belfry. The chimney is small and rectangular-shaped, and is crowned with a metal cap.

The building was originally laid out in four rooms: two large rooms, one above the other, measuring 50' x 30'; and two smaller rooms on the south end of the building, also one above the other, measuring 11'6" x 30'. These two smaller rooms were further subdivided. On the first floor the division resulted in a room 19'6" x 11'6", where the original library of the school, and later the township, was housed. Many original volumes of this early library are still shelved here. This room also served as the vestibule. The walls are finished with plain, horizontal wainscoting, and there are two bookcases which have double paneled doors on the bottom, and double, ten-light casement windows above. (Photo 5.) The other room formed by the subdivision was perhaps used as a cloak room in addition to housing the stairway to the second floor.

The smaller room on the second floor was subdivided into rooms 13' x 11'6" and 17' x 11'6", which were originally used for school offices but are currently used as a kitchen and pantry.

The meeting room contains the original pews and furniture. The floors are hardwood, and the walls are finished with a chair rail and wide baseboard. (Photos 7-9.) The double paneled doors leading from the vestibule into the meeting room are topped with a three-light, rectangular transom. (Photo 6.) The windows and doors of the meeting room are trimmed with

## 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 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 checked="" 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** 1851, 1864

**Builder/Architect** Area farmers

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Farmers Institute is important for its association with the development of higher education in Tippecanoe County, having housed the first rural high school in the county, the first public high school in the township, and also the first public library in the township. The Institute is also one of few Quaker academy buildings extant in the state, and is significant as a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century meeting house.

Quaker farmers came from South Carolina into the Northwest Territory where slavery was banned. They formed the Elk Monthly Meeting in 1805 at West Elkton, Ohio. After the New Purchase from various Indian tribes, a government land office was opened in Crawfordsville, Indiana, in 1824. A number of families from the Elk Meetings purchased land in what is now Tippecanoe County in heavily timbered land adjacent to several prairies. The area became known as Quaker Grove, and a log meeting house was constructed and sided.

One of the abiding concerns of the Friends was for education. In 1851 they built the first rural high school in Tippecanoe County and named it Farmers Institute, locating it in the middle of Quaker Grove, as their community was known. The Lafayette Daily Courier carried the announcement in 1851, "The school will be taught in a large new and commodious house in a beautiful location, furnished with a new and complete philosophical, chemical and astronomical apparatus. . . together with a new and elegant mannikin. Also, . . . geographical maps." The new equipment cost more than \$1,000. Tuition was three to seven dollars for a four month term; boarding students paid one dollar a week more. Students came from throughout the county and other areas of the state, as well as Ohio, Illinois and Iowa. In 1865, a second story was added to the main building.

With the school, the area became better known as Farmers Institute, after the academy. A post office was established under that name and a number of houses in the area formed a small community. The school continued successfully until 1874. From 1874 to 1882 the building was used only as a Quaker Meeting House. In 1882 a subscription academy was opened, which became the first public high school in the township the next year, and served assuch until 1889. The building served also as the first public library from 1883 until 1889, when the entire facility reverted back to the Friends Meetings. It has been under continuous use ever since as the Farmers Institute Friends Monthly Meeting. The Institute ceased being a Quaker school when public demand for tax-supported education, partly led by Quakers themselves, opened rural schools for the first time.

The buildings and the original seven acre grove have been well maintained over the years. The property's appearance is much as it has always been; the long use of the structure has produced few changes or additions. Original furniture is still in use much as it was when the building was first used as a meeting house in 1874. The monthly meetings of Friends continue to use the Institute, still known today as Farmers Institute Friends Meeting.

In 1980 the Institute received the Tippecanoe County Historical Association's Founders Day Preservation Award. It has had an historical marker since WPA days and is currently on the Chamber of Commerce's tourist map of the area.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Romney, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	5	0	0	7	2	0	4	4	6	3	2	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Baugh

organization N/A date June 23, 1985

street & number 624 South Street telephone 317/742-6831

city or town Lafayette state Indiana 47901

# 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 *John T. Costello*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 2-10-86

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

*Jayne M. McPherson* Entered in the National Register date 3/27/86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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date entered

Continuation sheet Farmers Institute

Item number 7, 9, 10

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two types of molding: painted plain trim surrounded by varnished architrave trim. Two painted beams span the width of the room and are supported by chamfered posts at the rear, and a larger plain post in the center towards the front. Original coal oil lamps are present throughout the building, but electric fixtures have been added.

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Item Number 10

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Beginning at the southwest corner of the Farmers Institute Friends Meeting House, thence 144'5" south to the northern right-of-way of County Road 660 South, which is the point of beginning; thence east 59' along the right-of-way; thence north 212'5"; thence west 82'; thence south 212'5" to the north right-of-way of the road; thence 23' east to the place of beginning.

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Item Number 9

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Biographical Record & Portrait Album of Tippecanoe County, 1888. Chicago, Illinois:  
Lewis Publishing Company.

DeHart, Gen. R. P. Tippecanoe County History, Vol. I, 1909.

Heritage 75 & 76, The Commemorative Book of Tippecanoe County, 1826-1976.

Hooker, Brainerd. A History of Tippecanoe County Schools.

Jay, Allen. Minutes of the Greenfield Monthly Meeting of Friends, Autobiography.

Journal & Courier, November 27, 1976.

Lafayette Daily Courier, November 4, 1851.