

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

JAN 10 1977

DATE ENTERED

1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Farmer's Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Township Hall

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*SE corner of Hainesport-Mt. Laurel Rd.*  
South eastern corner of Hainesport-Mount Laurel Road  
and the Moorestown-Mount Laurel Road<sup>s</sup>

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mount Laurel, New Jersey

VICINITY OF Moorestown

6th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Jersey

Burlington

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Township of Mount Laurel

STREET & NUMBER

100 Moorestown-Mount Laurel Road

CITY, TOWN

Mount Laurel

VICINITY OF Moorestown

STATE

New Jersey

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Burlington County  
Clerks Office 49 Rancocas Road

STREET & NUMBER

49 Rancocas Road

CITY, TOWN

Mount Holly

STATE

New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Labor and Industry Bldg.

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

N. J.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Farmer's Hall is a simple, rectangular plan, two story building with a one room leanto extension in the rear of the first floor, (north side). The hall is entered on the east side through a central door with a pent hood roof, on framing principals. The large first floor space is made irregular by the presence of small rooms on the southeast and northwest corners. The north side of the building has a stair hall which runs the entire width. At the west end of the stair hall is the leanto, which contains two closets and a small room.

The stair hall has a central exterior door, in the north side of the building, which has a pent hood similar to the front door. At the ends of the stair hall are quarter turn winding stair cases, which are formed in the northeast and northwest corners of the building. The second floor consists of one large meeting room with a stove near the east wall. The exterior weather boarding has corner boards. The cornice has gable end returns in the provincial Greek Revival mode. The shallow pitched roof features a semicircular plaque on the north gable with lettering which reads, "MOUNT LAUREL 1866."

The second floor has sets of 3, full length 6 over 6 windows with 3 panel shutters, on the east, north and west sides of the building. These form bays on the respective facades. The only windows on the first floor are 2, 6 over 6 type with 2 panel shutters, which occur on the main entrance facade, (either side of the door). This gives the main facade an elegant classical articulation and proportioning.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Architectural

In addition to its agreeable proportioning and articulation, Farmer's Hall is a fine example of Local Quaker Architectural conservatism.

Its simple Greek Revival design is in sharp contrast to the visual ornateness, normally associated with the late 1860's. In this it is an almost unaltered prototype which is indicative of a people, more than a style or period.

The setting is significant in view of its location, (directly across from Evesham meeting house, which dates from 1760.) It is also adjacent to the original Quaker school. (now altered) Farmer's Hall retains much of its original environment, owing to the continuing rural character of the area.

### Historic

As the one time town hall, Farmer's Hall embodies much of the history and growth of the town of Mount Laurel between 1866 and 1969. That year its doors closed and the new municipal opened. In its day it served as a meeting place for the Lodge of Good Templars and the Mount Laurel Pursuing and Detection Society the town's first form of policing.

The property on which Farmer's Hall is built was donated to the township by David Parnell, one of the founders of the Farmer's Protective Club, which built the hall.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Burlington and Mercer Counties by Hagawan and Woodward Laurelite Centennial Edition, March 10, 1972.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8
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5	0	9	2	2	0
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B 

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D 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*Block 211, Lot 7 (107' x 110') (local tax assessor's records)*

SEE ADDRESS

*7-6-79 JFT*

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

STATE New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Burlington CODE 005

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jonathan C. Fricker, Architectural Historian

12/20/75

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Labor and Industry Building

609-292-2023

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Trenton

New Jersey

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL XX

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

TITLE Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE March 10 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST: James H. Gilmore

DATE 8.11.79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7/29/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 14 1979
DATE ENTERED	AUG 1 1979

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

Farmers' Hall/ Old Town Hall  
Mount Laurel, New Jersey

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

Farmers' Hall/ Old Town Hall of Mount Laurel, New Jersey, was built in 1866 by the Progressive Farmers' Club of Burlington County. The Progressive Farmers Club sponsored two annual exhibitions --- a crop show in September and a poultry show in December. A committee of sixteen men visited each member's farm during the year and put together an impartial report of their findings with particular attention to improvements and statistics. They also must have had an agricultural library, as a librarian is listed among the officers. By 1874 the club listed 85 life members and 110 in 1875. The organization also sponsored the cooperative purchasing of supplies such as coal and fertilizer.

Farmers' Hall housed other local organizations in addition to the Farmers' Club. In 1904, the building was donated to the township to serve as the Town Hall, which it did until 1969 when Mount Laurel municipal offices moved into a new complex of buildings two miles "up the road" toward Moorestown.

Since 1969, Farmers' Hall has been unoccupied. It was in danger of being demolished in 1975, but was saved by local residents. The Hall is presently leased from Mount Laurel Township by the Historical Society of Mount Laurel which is gradually restoring the building to prevent further deterioration and allowing it to be functional again.